

STAYING IN TOUCH

August



Issue No 728 Sunday 10th August 2025



KEITH HURLEY

It is with deep sadness we announce that Keith died early yesterday morning. Keith was a long time and very popular member of Sandal Methodist Church and he will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this unhappy time.

CIRCUIT  COMMUNION

9.30 am at Trinity Wakefield every Thursday
14th August Rev'd Kim Williams

A Word from the Manse....

Dear Friends,

During our recent holiday in



Cyprus, Jean and I were delighted to discover a beautiful little Greek Orthodox Church, nestled on the shoreline just up above where we were staying. **Saint Nicholas Church**, as it was named, was a parish church for the people in the local area, but clearly it was also a magnet for curious holiday makers, who freely entered the unlocked building to gaze in wonder at the most beautiful iconography of saints and biblical scenes.

On one of our visits, we discovered a remembrance tree near to the Church - at the base of the tree numerous small rocks had been lovingly placed as a permanent reminder of loved ones present and past! It was touching indeed to read the lovely messages that had been inscribed on these rocks of remembrance - messages of fond regard and loving memory to parents and grandparents. At the heart of these messages was a simple but profound act of remembrance in which **heartfelt thanks** were expressed for special loved ones near and far.

At the heart of the Christian faith there is a strong invitation to **express thanks** to God and thanks for the many blessings that come to us in body, mind, and spirit. The centerpiece of Christian worship, from the time of the Apostles to the present day, is the sacrament of Holy Communion, in which we break bread and share wine, elements that are invested with the grace of God. You will recall that at the heart of any celebration of Holy Communion is the **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving** in which we rehearse and proclaim all the wondrous acts of God - from Creation to Redemption in Christ.



All of this suggests to me that **thanksgiving and gratitude**, are key virtues in the life of Christian discipleship - they are *not* optional extras, but *fundamental requirements* for authentic living, particularly for those who are seeking to follow Christ and be attentive to the living God. What if we were to start and end each day with a moment of quiet

reflection in which we pause and give thanks to God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. An opportunity to recall and give thanks for the gifts of our life, our loved ones, and our world. Interestingly, it has been suggested by psychologists, who have



conducted empirical research, that those who practice gratitude and thanksgiving enjoy a higher level of happiness and contentment.

Over this next week, practice making space and time for gratitude and thanksgiving - not only is it a Christian virtue after the manner of Christ, but also a way of life that brings joy and fulfillment,

With love and best wishes, Julian



JACKIE OGILVIE would like to thank all her friends for their kindness and sympathy during the unhappy time of her daughter's death

Paul Glass Lectionary Leaning

Hebrews 11. 1-3, 8-16 Keep Going in Faith



It's such a basic thing to say that it feels odd voicing it.
But sometimes we need to be reminded of the bedrock stuff.
The simple fact that sometimes faith is easy and everything falls into place.

Believing is straightforward and feels right.

It's good.

Other times...how to put this?

It's not.

There are times when everything seems to go wrong, when God feels far away, when the big questions of 'why' and 'where' loom very large indeed.

There are clinging on times.

Faith needs to run deep times.

Dry and dusty and lonely times.

Alone in the desert times.

Times when it's hard to see rhyme or reason.

Times when it would be so easy to give up...

to turn our backs on all of this.

When God seems to ask too much...

Or it's impossible to see the way ahead.

There are times when we need to breadth deep and just do the next right thing.

Head down...into the wind...

one faltering step at a time.

Allow others to gather and hold and lift.

Admit how hard it is.

Sometimes what is asked of us seems too much.

We don't feel capable at all...

just tired and inadequate and lonely.

There are times when we just need to keep on.

In the belief that the days will get better, that there is an end in sight...

that this too will pass.

And eventually we will realise...

even though it cannot be seen or felt now...

that we are not...and never have been...

even in the darkest times... alone.

DANCING SUNFLOWERS....



Racing, in the turbulence.
The turbulence of the wild winds.
Usually, they're seen, very calmly turning,
so gently towards the sun.

Today is different however, as
Storm Iris creates havoc.

The storm, named after the most elegant
and beautiful flower, the Iris.

Has caused the Sunflowers to race, and now they
appear to be chasing each other.

Bending backwards and then forwards,
as if in a trance.

A frenetic Sunflower dance!

But when Iris finally decides to leave,
they will settle.

And so will I and all around.

The sound of Iris will be just a memory.

The Sunflowers will remember however,
the day they couldn't stay still.

Perhaps! written by Maggie Leyshon



CANDLES AT THE CASTLE

Remember someone special this
summer with **WAKEFIELD HOSPICE**

SANDAL CASTLE

Saturday 16th August 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Donate and make your dedication to see your
loved one's light shine bright this summer

Make your dedication at

www.wakefieldhospice.org/castle

01924 331400

**FREE TO ATTEND EVENT – LIVE MUSIC FOOD
& DRINK – MEMORY DISPLAY**

CHINA RAMBLINGS

Sunday 18th May

The day began after breakfast with an introduction to
our local guide in Beijing



who outlined the days
program starting with a
visit to **Tiananmen
Square**. We were told
to mentally prepare
ourselves for this visit to
the most important place
,and given a whole spiel

about how wonderful a
place China is and an
ideal place to live (not
sure myself). Security
was very obvious and
felt quite intimidating
though the square was
certainly impressive, in its size, cleanliness and
gardens. Photo opportunity for a group shot in front
of Chairman Mao's Memorial Hall where his body is
displayed. After a time to explore the square, we
passed into the Forbidden City where we had an
orientation talk and were told to meet in the Imperial
Garden at an appointed time. It was fascinating
wandering round the buildings and we made sure to be
in the garden in plenty of time. After waiting well
beyond the time and five people still missing it was
thought that maybe they had left the garden past the
point of no return. This was indeed the case, and we
were reunited. After dinner we were taken to another
theatre for a mesmerising Chinese acrobatics
performance. The various acts had all won major
international awards and put on a spellbinding show.

written by **Graham Lee**



The next JOTTINGS will be
Issue No 729 Sunday 17th August 2025