



Hebble Trail - March 2026

Getting there and parking

Start at the entrance of Stoney Royd Cemetery, Swan Bank Lane, Halifax. HX3 9HR. Street parking.

Other Information

Moderate ability - Mainly good paths and roads, one short muddy path, includes two main inclines and uneven cobbled paths.

Distance 3 or 3.75 miles (option to shorten as it is a figure of 8 walk)

No facilities except at the Shears Inn on the route.

Walking boots advised. Poles could be useful on downhill cobbles.

Route Details and Reflections

Enter into Stoney Royd Cemetery. After 100 yards, as you reach the stepped path on your left, turn left and head uphill up the curved path with the railing on your left.

As you reached the T-junction turn right.

Bear left uphill following the track.

History - Cemetery and Spire



History -The cemetery opened in 1861. Two chapels were built: one each for Church of England and Nonconformist funerals. The Church of England one was a cruciform Gothic Revival building with a tower, broach spire and polygonal apse. In 1973 the Department of the Environment made it a Grade II listed building. In 2007 its roof collapsed in a storm, and Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council obtained listed building consent to demolish it. The tower and spire survive.

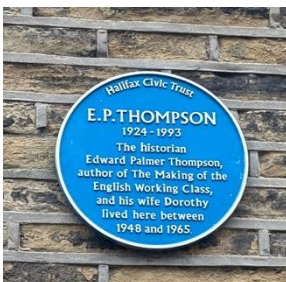
The cemetery contains monuments for 76 war dead, under the care of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

As the track reaches a junction with several exits, keep straight ahead on the tarmac and avoid the cobbled offshoots.

Follow the track continuing round to your left uphill. As it starts to arc round to the left, take a muddy track towards the gate to your right and exit in front of the houses.

On exiting the gate onto South View, turn right down the cobbled lane.

History - Plaque



- *Today during our reflections we are thinking about the people of Halifax. Most of the graves we have just walked past would be for people who, may have not been born in Halifax, but died here.*
- *This plaque commemorates a local Historian, Edward Palmer Thompson, and his wife who used to live in this house. He wrote 'The Making of the English Working class'. It was placed 30th in the 'Modern Library 100 Best Nonfiction books of the 20th century'. Who knew?*
- *Halifax is a town seeped in history but it is the people of Halifax that we are thinking about, reflecting on and celebrating today.*

Shortly you reach a road, at which point turn left uphill (Siddal Top Road).

Reflection 1 - Halifax



- So we are thinking about the people of Halifax. How much of Halifax can we see from this view today?
- The population of Halifax was estimated in 2024 at 92,000. How many of those people do you know? A small fraction?
- The greatest commandment is to love God and to love your neighbour as yourself. And it's not just in the bible, it's in the DNA of every religious tradition, every moral system. Every Christian/Jew/Buddhist/Muslim/Hindu/humanist. Even the Beatles knew that 'love is all you need'.
- 'Love your neighbour' but do we know who are neighbours are? I wonder if the people in the street in front of us know who lives on their street?
- Just pause to think about your neighbours, the people on the street, and the commandment 'love your neighbour as yourself'. How easy is it to love your neighbour?

JORNEY ON

As the lane reaches the corner opposite BW Recycling, head right down the lane.

At the bottom of Phoebe lane turn left along Brick Row.

As you reach the wooden fence on your right, turn right down Siddal Street.

At the bottom of Siddal Street, by the pub, turn left.

As you reach the bottom of Cinderhills Lane, turn right on a 180 and go down a cobbled street called Bottoms.

As you reach Bottoms Bridge at the bottom, turn left along Hebble Brook.

Reflection 2 - Myrtle Cottage



- This cottage dates back to approximately 1750 but there is no history that I could find on the internet (other than its sale listing)...but of course it has a history of over 275 years!
- Who do we think would have lived here in the past? Why build down here?
- Who is their neighbour? When no one lives literally next door, it begs the questions, who is our neighbour? It is the person who lives 100 metres from your door, or can it stretch to 100 miles.
- We pause to consider, what's the mileage limit on the question 'who is your neighbour, that you are to love as yourself'?

JOURNEY ON

Turn back around and return along the path.

As you arrive back at Bottoms Bridge continue ahead along the cycle path.

As you exit the cycle path onto the road, keep straight ahead walking towards Halifax Airgun Club (white sign ahead).

Follow the road passing the club and cross Hebble Brook. Continue straight ahead up a cobbled footpath ('Calderdale Way Link Path' marker).

As the path joins the road, continue ahead to your right.

As you reach a cobbled path on your right, head down the walled cobble pathway heading towards the Shears PH (white building down to your right below).

Pass the Shears on your right hand side and continue up along the cobbled road to turn right after 75 yards along Whitegate Road.

Reflection 3 - Chimney and Shaw Lodge



History - We can see the chimney of Shaw Lodge Mill. The first mill on this site is dated to 1830 and this chimney to 1855. The firm of John Holdsworth & Company was founded in 1822 by John Holdsworth, whose family were already woollen textile manufacturers and merchants in Shibden then in Halifax. They specialised in worsted cloth, produced by hand loom weavers, but developments in mechanised spinning led to John Holdsworth establishing his first worsted spinning mill.

The firm had invested in Jacquard looms and in 1851 won a medal at the Great Exhibition for their worsted cloths. There ended up being 3 mills on this site with branches also in Bradford and London. The firm continued to operate up to 2008. The buildings now have a wide variety of uses, with small businesses, an art gallery and an indoor football complex replacing the looms.

- Almost 200 years of history in this place. Ordinary people - who have worked in this building, from operating the looms, to refereeing the football matches.
- We may have family that have worked over the years in the local mills. Do you have any stories to share?
- To 'love your neighbour as yourself' means to remember that you and they are, essentially, the same—not identical, but substantially the same.

- I wonder if the factory owners treated their employees as if they were essentially the same as themselves. Do we treat others the same as we would want to be treated? Because that's the golden rule - 'Do to others as you would have them do to you'. (Luke 6:31). It's in the DNA of every religious tradition and every moral system.
- We pause to consider what that looks like to us.

JOURNEY ON

At the end of the bridge, turn left in front of the zinc fencing (near side) to a little track. This can be muddy.

As you exit the path turn left across a bridge (note - the foot path ahead is closed for safety reasons) and continue up the hill.

Be wary of traffic when passing underneath the bridge as there is not a lot of room.

At the top of the hill, turn right to join the main road walking along the footpath.

As you reach the mini roundabout, just ahead of the Shay Café Bistro, turn right down Water Lane.

[Note - you can return to your car here (straight ahead on Water Lane). 3 miles completed or continue the instructions to increase the walk to 3.7 miles and complete the Hebble Trail.]

As you cross the bridge over the beck, turn left onto Waterside.

As you reach the bridge (at the end of the green railings on your right-hand side) take the first right. Notice the split in the stream - see image. You are walking on the right-hand bank of this stream.



Reflection 4 - Nestle



Halifax is the home to Quality Street, the world famous chocolate assortment and Christmas favourite. Quality Street was invented in 1936 by Harold Mackintosh, the son of John and Violet Mackintosh who in 1898 opened the world's first toffee factory.

Nowadays Quality Street is made by Nestlé in the same Halifax factory (we will see a plaque later explaining that in 1988 John Mackintosh and Sons became part of Nestle UK).

Quality Street sweets have been made here for over 80 years and its where around 12.5 million individual Quality Street sweets are made every day during peak season. Nestlé Halifax is also home to Easter Eggs, After Eight and Butterfinger Cups.

But that's' the more modern history. John Mackintosh and his wife to be, Violet, bought a pastry shop in Halifax with their joint savings of £100 in 1890. Violet, who had been a confectioner's assistant before her marriage, ran the shop and her husband continued to work at a cotton mill. To attract customers, they decided to sell a special toffee. Violet developed a recipe which blended the traditional, brittle English butterscotch with soft, American caramel. The rest is history as Halifax became known as 'Toffee town'. Mackintosh went on to develop, as mentioned, Quality Street (1936) but also Rolo (1938), Caramac (1959) and Toffee Crisp (1963).

- Do you know anyone who used to work here, or still does?
- Let's pause to celebrate all the wonderful people in Halifax who have worked in the mills and the factories. The unsung heros, even Violet, who developed the toffee recipe, yet it is only her husband that many remember.

- We have also considered today, who is our neighbour, who is it that was are to love as ourselves? No one should be excluded. So it would be remiss of us to not pause to think about the current situation in the Middle East and to say a short prayer.

God of peace, we bring you our concerns for the world and we especially pray for peace in the Middle East.

We pray for all who are caught in the crossfire

- for children woken by fear,

for families holding one another through the night,

for those grieving, injured, displaced, and for all whose fear is growing because of what may come next.

We pray that you break the cycle of retaliation.

Disarm the hands that reach for vengeance.

Silence the voices that profit from hatred.

Give wisdom and courage to those with power to pause this - to choose restraint, protection, and dialogue.

And make us people who do not look away but act with compassion.

Lord, may your words of peace and love rule in these places and conflict cease. Amen

JOURNEY ON

On reaching Navigation Road and Beacon Hill Viaduct, turn left under the Viaduct to see the coal shoots on the left.

History - Coal Drops



The Coal Drops date back to 1874, when Halifax was rapidly industrialising and coal was needed to power its textile mills. The drops consisted of 15 wooden bunkers supported between stone piers and an open shed built into the sloping hillside. Each bunker has two metal doors which were raised on an iron ratchet geared pulley system.

Return back under the viaduct and continue up the hill onto Bailey Hall Road. Noticing the plaque on the building.



As you reach the brow of the road, continue ahead downhill as it merges into Swan Bank Lane to return to the start.