

OAKWORTH



METHODIST CHURCH

*Golden Jubilee Year*



# December 2009 Newsletter



**A tranquil scene  
on the Circuit Canal Walk**

*Clap your hands, you rivers; you hills, sing together with  
joy before the Lord, because he comes to rule the earth.*

*Psalm 98: 8-9*

# Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

I write this as Christmas begins to loom large! The season of Advent is when we in church properly prepare for Christmas. There will be many extra services in our churches at this time but all of them ones to look forward to because the message of Christmas is basically positive. Any child's birth is special but for us to remember the birth of Jesus is surely a great joy.

However many times we have celebrated the story, it never ceases to hold an appeal which captivates young and old alike. It is sad that for many



younger folk today the story of the birth of Jesus is not as familiar to them as it was to us when we were children. All the more important therefore to take every opportunity to share what Christmas is really about.

For us adults I wonder whether we might ponder deeper aspects of the story. I would suggest that in these difficult times we are being called to be faithful and to find confidence in "the babe of Bethlehem" who became "the boy of Nazareth" who became "the man of Galilee" who became "the Christ of Calvary" who is for us "the same yesterday, today and forever".

Christmas reminds us that our creator God not only brought the universe into being but also entered our human experience in the life of Jesus. This is a mind-blowing truth! And as John reminds us in his gospel it was because God so loved the world that he gave us Jesus.

So in wishing you a good Christmas let us reflect that a good Christmas is when Jesus is born into our hearts and lives as if for the first time!

Peace & Love,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hudson".

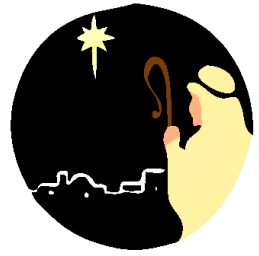
**Minister: Rev John Hudson**

☎ 01535 602669

e-mail: [john.316@virgin.net](mailto:john.316@virgin.net)



# Happy Christmas



## to all our readers

IS THE CHURCH  
ON YOUR  
CHRISTMAS LIST?



Please place your Gift Envelope  
on the collection plate at church  
or let David have it. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS  
CARDS

Instead of writing Christmas  
Cards to everyone at church,  
would you like to write just one  
card and add it to the display at  
church for all to share?

The money you save could go in  
your Gift Envelope. ✨



## and a Peaceful New Year





# Airedale Methodist Circuit

A very busy three months started in September with the **inauguration** of our new **Airedale Circuit** at Keighley Victoria Hall, followed by a **Circuit walk** along the Leeds Liverpool Canal on the best Saturday we've had all year. Two memorable occasions!



The following weekend, we all enjoyed a concert by the **Cobbydale Singers** organised by our Ladies' Group.





# Harvest Festival



September also marked the start of the celebrations for our Golden Jubilee Year. The first of our special Services was the **Harvest Festival** and Rev Charlotte Common led our All Age Worship Service. It was her first visit to Oakworth and she endeared herself to everyone straight away. She told a story about an owl which had us all in fits of laughter! We all look forward to her next visit!

This is the third year we have served soup and cake for 500 people after the **Yorkshireman Off-Road Marathon** at Haworth. There is a great team spirit at the event and we are very grateful to the organisers for their donation of £750 to church funds for the service we provide.



# Sunshine Bags



Maureen would like to thank everyone who came with their **Sunshine Bags** and stayed for Morning Coffee and a chat in early October. As always, we enjoyed a lovely time of fellowship together. We now have the proof that the sun did not shine as much this year - there was a little less in your Sunshine Bags! We are very grateful for the £230 that the bags yielded. If anyone else would like a bag - see Maureen.



The Autumn programme at **Wednesday Club** started with an enjoyable Musical Evening at John + Kath's accompanied by David Bury. Chrissie and David also performed a sketch together.

In October we had a lovely meal at the Grouse and last month we welcomed Mercury Movie Makers to church, where we watched some of their excellent home made films on our giant screen.



We now look forward to a double bill this month - our annual visit to Keighley Playhouse to see their Christmas production, "*A Kick in the Baubles*" and our bonus Carols Evening at David + Chrissie's. Then we have our regular January fixture at AMF Bowling in Keighley.

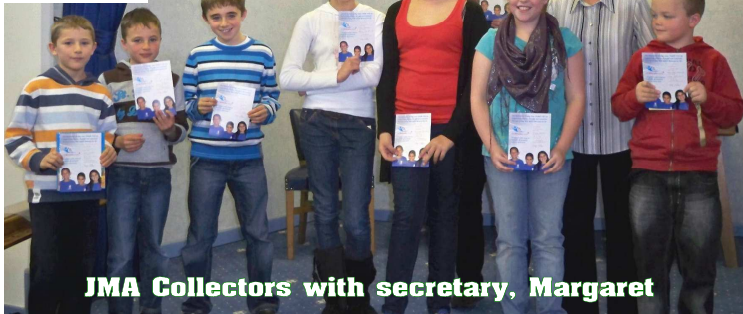
Do join us - we have a great time!







# Prize Giving Praise



**JMA Collectors with secretary, Margaret**



**Sunday School & Junior Church Staff and Children with their prizes**





# *Golden Jubilee Year 1960-2010*

Next April, it will be 50 years since our present church building opened and we are celebrating our Golden Jubilee Year with a whole variety of special services and events, involving as many people as possible.

Three successful events have already taken place and the next three pages give a flavour of them. Those who have responded to invitations to share in these events, either as guests or helpers, have been genuinely pleased to be asked. The overwhelming feeling is that it is good to be able to celebrate our Jubilee Year in this way, enabling people to renew links from years gone by and to meet new friends.

Previous ministers have been delighted to accept invitations to lead special monthly Jubilee Services.

Peter and Val Fletcher have recently moved down to Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire but were very happy to make the journey back to be with us in October. Peter was our minister from 1992-97 and it was good to see them both looking so well.



Michael and Eileen Appleyard were both ministers in our Circuit - Michael was our minister from 1984-92 - and they travelled over from their retirement home in Brighthouse to be with us in November.

We look forward to seeing Gordon and Janet Webb at the Carol Service and Marc and Olive Pattern will be here in January. John Hudson leads our Jubilee Covenant Service later this month and Alf Waite will take the February Jubilee Service.

The Anniversary weekend itself is on 10th & 11th April when an exhibition is being arranged tracking our history over the last 50 years. Please let Rodney know if you have any items we could include. Peter Whittaker, Chair of the District, will be leading the Golden Jubilee Service on the Sunday.

The grand finale event will be a Flower Festival in June and Margaret and Brian Christopher hope to join us for that occasion.

Thank you to those who have donated to the Jubilee Fund, set up to cover the expenses of Jubilee special events. We have already received £1,120 - and so far spent £345.

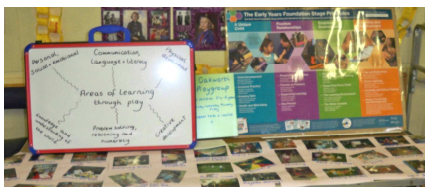


# *Jubilee Celebration of Marriage*

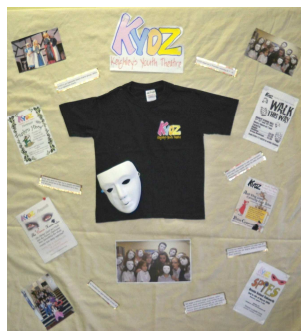




# Treasures Revealed Open Day

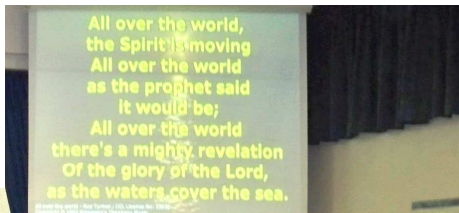


All the groups who use our premises contributed to the displays for our **Open Church Day** in October and the Morris Men entertained us with some of their dances during the afternoon. Those who braved the weather and came, enjoyed looking round.





# Hallelujah Party

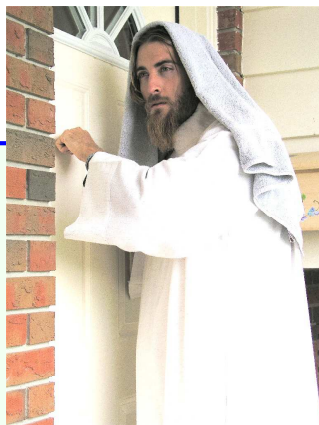


The ecumenical Hallelujah Party attracted equal numbers from Christ Church and the Methodist Church - of all ages - and everyone joined in the games organised by Helen. The newspaper fancy dress competition was great fun! We then had tea together, sang worship songs with Living Waters and finished the day with a Veggie-Tales video. A great event!



# Word Search

A new minister was visiting the homes of his congregation. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks on the door. Therefore, he took out a card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and popped it through the letter box.



The stewards found the card on the collection plate the following Sunday and passed it to the minister. Added to it was this cryptic message: "Genesis 3:10". Reaching for his bible to check the quotation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked."

Find all the blue words from the passage above in the grid opposite and then read the message hidden in the unused letters!

S	U	O	I	V	B	O	I	K	C	A	B	L	S	D	F	G
F	R	K	N	O	C	K	S	F	A	C	E	D	E	N	N	R
O	E	K	O	R	B	Y	O	O	I	T	R	T	N	I	S	E
L	T	E	C	H	E	U	A	T	T	A	A	R	T	U	R	A
L	S	N	S	O	N	M	P	E	W	E	E	I	N	C	N	C
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W	N	I	I	V	R	G	T	E	E	I	A	E	S	D	I	I
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N	M	A	E	C	E	D	A	E	A	K	E	S	S	N	C	G
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S	T	O	E	H	I	N	E	P	E	A	B	D	O	O	L	R
C	O	U	G	O	G	P	O	D	P	D	T	I	H	R	L	E
A	I	Q	N	W	I	A	L	E	O	O	D	I	B	L	O	W
R	E	T	H	G	U	A	L	A	M	O	P	A	O	L	C	S
D	L	C	O	W	R	O	T	E	T	O	R	M	E	N	E	N
I	N	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	S	E	S	E	M	O	H	A

# Good News

## Congratulations

To Ellis Wright on completing 40 years service as Accompanist for Keighley Vocal Union. In recognition of this he was presented with a gift at the Annual Choir Dinner in October.

The next KVV Event will be the Carol Service at Keighley Shared Church with Eastburn School Choir and Elland Youth Band on Thursday 17th December at 7.30 pm

## Family News

Janet and Raymond Armstrong are extremely pleased to tell you that their eldest daughter, Dr Ruth K Armstrong BSc MBChB MRCPCh (UK) FRACP (Aust) has been offered and has accepted a post as Consultant Neonatologist (Intensive Care of the New Born) at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia. She will take up this post in Summer 2010. We are very proud to be her Mum and Dad.

We are also delighted to confirm the engagement in October of younger daughter, Elizabeth to Martin Batty from Thornton, Bradford. They are to be married early next year.

Congratulations too to Lizzie's twin sister Rebecca and Phil on the birth of their baby last January, Lloyd William, a brother for Myles.



## Painting

A big thank you to Harriet Shires for her gift to the church of this painting, to complement her earlier work (the Dove) which has been hanging on the opposite church wall for two years. The boldness of the colour and texture in her interpretation of the Cross is inspired.

## Church Calendar

We have sold 26 of the 2010 Church Calendars so far this year, netting almost £100 for church funds. It is not too late to order one from David, price £3.50. All the scenic photographs in the calendar have been taken at church related events or outings.

**As long as we know in our hearts what Christmas  
ought to be, Christmas is." Eric Sevareid**



# Autumn Fayre



The **Autumn Fayre** was very well supported this year - we were kept busy the whole morning! There was a lovely atmosphere as folks browsed around the stalls and chatted over cups of coffee.

The "Win-a-Mini" competition was popular - won by Joe Procter. The mini is celebrating it's 50th anniversary this year - just as we are!

A good number stayed for lunch as well - over £250 was taken on lunches alone!

The grand total of £850 was raised by the time we closed and our thanks go to everyone who supported and helped to make this such a successful event.





# Remembrance Sunday



# Update on Timothy

This is the latest Progress Report on Timothy - dated November 2009.

Timothy and the rest of the family members are well. The conditions of living remain as previously reported. Timothy is doing well in School; he wants to become a doctor in future. He loves his school and hopes to pass his end of year exams well.

*Catherine Anuso - Social Worker.*

Timothy's last letter dated 20 August 2009 was received a couple of months ago:

Dear Mrs Shires,

How are you these days? I think you are fine. For me, I am fine. But let me tell you, I love you so very much and I want to see you face to face and tell you all my problems at school and at home. But let me tell you some of my problems. I come late at school, reason being that I live far away from my school. I thank you for paying my school fees and buying for me text books for improving on my performance in class. I will try my best to do well in class. God bless you.

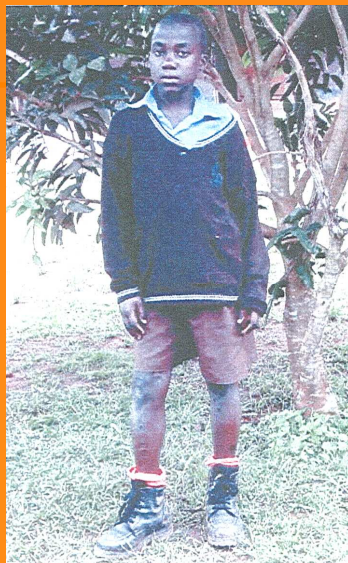
From your lovely son,  
*Kaweesa Timothy.*

We will continue to provide information on Timothy as it is received from Uganda.

Sponsor No. W-03-2006-69



TIMOTHY KAWESA



Our annual fundraising for Timothy TV Game Show took the format of **Family Fortunes** this year. Peter programmed a scoreboard from scratch and Andrew produced the questions. 100 staff and pupils at South Craven School were then surveyed for the answers!

Everyone enjoyed the fun night out at the Quiz Show as we raised the wonderful sum of £260 - enough to support Timothy for the next 12 months. Thank you for your support.

The Super Scouts achieved the highest score of the evening - winning four free pantomime tickets.

Some of the photos are opposite.



Spurgeons  
74 Wellingborough Road  
Rushden  
Northamptonshire  
NN10 9TY  
Tel: 01933 412412  
Reg charity no 1081182





# News Snippets

## Ash Wednesday

This Newsletter starts with Advent (preparing for Christmas) and ends with Lent (preparing for Easter)! There will be a United Ash Wednesday Service of Holy Communion on Wednesday 17 February, 7.30pm at Christ Church. This service will also include the simple but meaningful ceremony of “ashing”, customary on this day throughout the ages.

## Lent

There will be a United Lent Study Group - following the 2010 “York Course” entitled “When I Survey ... Christ’s Cross & Ours” - with contributions from General Sir Richard Dannatt (former Head of the British Army), Rev John Bell (Iona Community), Rev Dr Colin Morris (Writer & Broadcaster) & Canon Dr Christina Baxter (Principal of St John’s Theological College, Nottingham).

Make a note of the dates and venues:

Wed 24 Feb @ Methodist Church  
(Leader: John Rogers)

Wed 3 March @ Christ Church  
(Leader: John Hudson)

Wed 10 March @ Methodist Church  
(Leader: John Rogers)

Wed 17 March @ Christ Church  
(Leader: John Hudson)

Wed 24 March @  
Methodist Church  
(Leader: John Rogers)  
All at 7.30pm



## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January)

The theme for 2010 is: “*You are witnesses to these things*” (Luke 24:8)

There will be a United Service of Holy Communion at Christ Church on Sunday 31 January at 6.00 pm with a focus on Christian Unity.

## Pantomime News

Rehearsals are now well under way and all the song and dance routines are set. As always, there’s a wide variety of music in there - something for everyone - and our young people are working really well together. Judith, our choreographer, is working wonders with them and we are very grateful for her commitment and enthusiasm - especially as she is choreographer for Keighley Amateurs pantomime as well this year!

Work has already started on the costumes, scenery and special effects, all of which will go towards making this our best show yet!

Tickets go on sale in the New Year - details on page 20.- and you have eight performances to choose from this year! Don’t miss this action-packed, spectacular show. See you there!

## Summary of Oakworth Methodist Church Accounts 2008-2009

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Collections	10,598.43	Circuit Share	13,950.00
Property/Lettings	7,721.60	Radio Mic Equipment	4,806.73
Fund Raising	7,230.00	Property Maintenance	4,444.20
Project Income/Grants	4,950.00	Utilities	4,203.81
Tax Recovered	3,366.35	Project Costs	3,308.07
Donations/Gift Appeals	1,030.00	Cleaner's Wages	3,016.00
Mission Collections	852.24	Mission Donations	1,752.24
Investment Income	222.23	Sunday School	346.37
Sundry Receipts	998.77	Sundry Payments	1,028.16
	<b>36,969.62</b>		<b>36,855.58</b>

### Treasurer's Report

Praise God for the very positive set of figures in the above accounts! We are grateful to you all for your support over the last twelve months.

#### Receipts

**Collections** were £740 up on the previous year and the amount of **Tax recovered** on Gift Aided collections and donations also increased by £1,050 - thanks mainly to your response to the appeal for help that year.

Following the full review 18 months ago of income received from the many groups using our premises, **Property/Lettings** income shows a substantial £1,720 increase. Special thanks again to the Playgroup for their response.

**Fundraising** income was a healthy £730 up on last year but, as you would expect with the economic conditions, **Investment income** was down.

The Donations/Gift Appeals figure reflects your response to the Christmas Gift appeal and other donations, for which we give thanks.



### Payments

Our **Circuit Share** was slightly less than the previous year by agreement.

Thankfully, we had no problems with boilers last year and **Property Maintenance** costs were down £1,480.

**Cleaner's Wages** and **Utility** costs increased with inflation but **Sunday School** and **Sundry Payments** were both down..

**Project costs**, including the **Radio Microphone Equipment**, have been well documented during the year and we are really delighted with what has been achieved.

### Summary

Thanks again for all your support last year, including your response to the various appeals to support **Mission** causes.

We pray for your continued support in this special **Golden Jubilee Year**. We have no extra property projects planned - the emphasis is firmly on celebration this year!

May God bless you all.





# OAKWORTH METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL

presents another  
Brand New  
Action-Packed  
Pantomime Adventure

**13th - 20th  
February 2010**

**7.00 pm Evening Shows:**

**Saturday 13,  
Monday 15, Tuesday 16,  
Wednesday 17,  
Friday 19, Saturday 20.**

**2.00 pm Matinees  
on both Saturdays.**



Tickets available in January from:

Janet Armstrong, 77 Providence Crescent, Oakworth, ☎01535 642625  
or book on-line now at [www.OakworthMethodists.org](http://www.OakworthMethodists.org)

Tickets will also be available at Oakworth Methodist Church  
at rehearsal times or from members of the cast

**Adults £5.50, Senior Citizens £4.50, Children £3.50**  
- including refreshments -

Please return this **BOOKING FORM** by 31st January to:  
Mrs Janet Armstrong, 77 Providence Crescent, Oakworth, Keighley, BD22 7QU

I would like to book the following tickets for **PUSS IN BOOTS**:

..... Adults, ..... Senior Citizens, ..... Children, for the show on  
(please delete or circle) [Sat 13 Matinee] [Sat 13 Evening] [Mon 15 Evening]  
[Tue 16 Evening] [Wed 17 Evening] [Fri 19 Evening] [Sat 20 Matinee] [Sat 20 Evening]

I enclose £ ..... in payment. (Cheques payable to Oakworth Methodist Church)

Send tickets to: (Name+Address) .....



# PUSS IN BOOTS



Here comes our 24th action-packed extravaganza, another brand new pantomime adventure presented by our 41 enthusiastic kids who can't wait to entertain you once again.

Puss in Boots has found renewed fame in recent years through his starring role in Shrek, but for many centuries he has been well known as one of the most cunning cats in all fairy tale literature.

Our story-line follows the classic fairy tale and, as always, the stunning scenery, special effects, costumes and lively routines really bring the story to life, helping our young people to give of their best in a show of pure magic!

The local miller has died and his youngest son, Peter, has been thrown out of his home by his two scheming but bungling brothers, Caspar and Hector. His only possession is the loyal and elderly Puss. However, with the support of the Supergirls, Mother Superior (Fairy Godmother to all) uses her magical powers to transform Puss into a rapping and streetwise Puss in Boots who, with the help of Jack and Jill, promotes Peter to the status of a Marquis. Meanwhile Peter and his friends have to deal with the evil Gruesome, his people-eating master, Grugg the 'Orrible Ogre and his sons, the Little Ogres. Nevertheless, Peter still finds time to fall in love with the beautiful Princess Miranda and, as always, all turns out well in the end.

Along the way, you will be treated to some superb song and dance routines by the Villagers, Supergirls, Little Ogres and Soloists. You'll join in some marvellous comedy routines with the eccentric Queen Franny and her madcap pageboy Freckles, the brothers Casper & Hector and the Ogre's useless servants Grind & Crunch; and BOO yourselves hoarse when Gruesome is around! But just wait until you see what's lurking beneath the Ogre's Castle in our popular UV Scene this year!

Last year, we had to turn a lot of people away because all tickets were sold several days in advance. So this year, for the very first time, there are eight shows for you to choose from. Monday and the first Saturday evenings are likely to be quietest so please support those shows if you can.

Witness for yourselves the suspense and excitement of another thrilling, fun-packed, spectacular adventure. Book early to avoid disappointment! Enjoy the show!!

# Sunday Worship & Young People



*A warm welcome awaits you as we worship together*

- Dec** 6 10.30 am Rev Alan Sharp  
13 10.30 am Rev Gordon Webb - **All Age Carol Service**  
20 10.30 am Louise, David + Young People -  
**All Age Christmas Praise Service**  
6.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor  
27 10.30 am Rev John Hudson - **Jubilee Covenant Service**
- Jan** 3 10.30 am Mrs Irene Mitchell - Readers' Service  
10 10.30 am Church Stewards - **Songs of Praise**  
17 10.30 am Rev Kenneth Beardsley - **Holy Communion**  
7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church  
24 10.30 am Rev Marcus Pattern - **Monthly Jubilee Service**  
6.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor  
31 10.30 am Rev Alan Sharp  
6.00 pm Rev John Rogers - **United Holy Communion** -  
at Christ Church
- Feb** 7 10.30 am Mr Brian Whitcombe - Readers' Service  
14 10.30 am Rev Alan Raine - **Holy Communion**  
21 10.30 am Mr Dewar Wishart  
7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church  
28 10.30 am Rev Alf Waite - **Monthly Jubilee Service**  
6.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor
- Apr** 11 10.30 am Rev Peter Whittaker (West Yorkshire District Chair)  
- **Golden Jubilee All Age Church Anniversary**

***Sunday School / Junior Church also meet at 10.30 am***

All Children and Young People are welcome  
Creche facilities are available when required



Details of Circuit Events and Services can be found  
in the Circuit News section of this Newsletter



# Diary Dates



**Tuesdays** 11.30 am Senior Citizens' Pre-lunch Fellowship  
 12.15 pm Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club  
*(closed 8th, 15th, 22nd + 29th December and 9th + 16th February)*

## DECEMBER 2009

Tue 1 12.15 pm Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch  
 Wed 2 11.00 am Monthly Prayer Time - in church  
 Sat 5 2.00 pm Village Society Christmas Fair - Holden Hall  
 Sat 5 6.30 pm Big Sing + Pie & Pea Supper - Long Lee Methodist Church  
 Tue 8 1.45 pm Ladies' Group Christmas Party - Lounge  
 Wed 9 7.30 pm Wednesday Club - *A Kick in the Baubles* - Playhouse  
 Sun 13 11.45 am **Jubilee Christmas Lunch - after Carol Service**  
 Wed 16 7.30 pm Wednesday Club Carols Evening - 22 Waterwheel Lane  
 Sat 19 6.30 pm Carols in the Barn + refreshments - New House Farm  
 Sat 19 8.00 pm K+WVR Carol Train + Brass Band - Oakworth Station  
 Thu 24 10.30 pm Christmas Eve Mince Pies + Fruit Punch - Lounge  
 Thu 24 11.15 pm **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion - in church**  
 Sun 27 1.30 pm Stage erected in church for pantomime preparations

## JANUARY 2010

Wed 6 11.00 am Monthly Prayer Time - in church  
 Wed 13 7.30 pm Wednesday Club Bowling Night - AMF Bowling  
 Tue 19 1.45 pm Ladies' Group - *Gardening* - Steve Thorpe - Lounge

## FEBRUARY 2010

Wed 3 11.00 am Monthly Prayer Time - in church  
 Sat 6 6.30 pm Big Sing + Pie & Pea Supper - Cross Hills Methodist Church  
 Sat 13 to Sat 20 **Jubilee Pantomime - Puss in Boots**  
 Wed 17 6.00 pm Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service - Christ Church  
*Information for March Newsletter to David this week please*  
 Tue 23 1.45 pm Ladies' Group - Harlequin Design Hand Made Gifts - Lounge

## MARCH 2010

Mon 1 7.30 pm Church Council  
 Tue 2 7.30 pm Jubilee Committee - Marwell, Providence Lane  
 Wed 3 11.00 am Monthly Prayer Time - in church  
 Tue 9 1.45 pm Ladies' Group - *Yeadon Bellringers* - Lounge  
 Wed 10 7.30 pm Wednesday Club Planning Meeting  
 Sat 13 10.30 am **Jubilee Grand Auction - Viewing 9.45 am**

Further details and information can be found on our  
**Website: [www.OakworthMethodists.org](http://www.OakworthMethodists.org)**



# Christmas Services



## *Traditional Carol Service*

**Sunday 13th December**  
at 10.30 am

**All Age Worship**  
**led by Rev Gordon Webb**

**followed by**  
**Christmas Lunch**

Please sign the list in the porch  
If you would like to stay to Lunch

## *Village Carols in the Barn*

**New House Farm, Oakworth**

**Saturday 19th December**  
at 6.30 pm

*K+WVR Carol Train*

**calls at Oakworth Station**  
at 8.00 pm

**Christmas Praise Service Sunday 20th December 10.30 am**

**All Age Worship Led by the Young People Don't miss it !!**



**the**  
**Bethlehem**  
**Challenge**



## *Christmas Eve* *Candlelight Communion*

**Thursday 24th December**  
at 11.15 pm

**led by Rev John Hudson**

**Join us for fruit punch and**  
**mince pies from 10.30 pm**

## *Covenant Service and* *Re-dedication of* *Pastoral Visitors*

**Sunday 27th December**  
at 10.30 am

**led by Rev John Hudson**



**Editor: David J Howarth** ☎ 01535 215784

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