

**OAKWORTH**



**METHODIST CHURCH**



# **March 2012 Newsletter**



Ma, Milly, Polly and Robinson - all set to sail into another wonderfully successful pantomime which was enjoyed by all - picture gallery inside.

# Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

'I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the centre of the market place as well as the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on a town garbage heap; at a crossroad so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew, Latin and Greek (or should we say in English, Pakistani, Farsi and an Eastern European Language? – SEW), at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died. And that is what he died about.....'

George MacLeod



How sanitized the cross has become for us. Some in our time, in an attempt to evoke in us the horror and revulsion the cross would have had in Jesus' day, have dwelt on the extreme suffering and violence of crucifixion. A few years on from first seeing Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of Christ', that is still my overwhelming impression of the film, whatever else may be said in its favour.

The trouble is, of course, the human race is forever inventing more torturous ways of slowly putting one another to death. Paul knew that the shock of the cross was not how badly Jesus suffered – after all there were those who lingered on the cross for days. Rather the question we need to ask alongside Paul, is what makes **this** cross, among all the other cruel and violent deaths, world- changingly significant?

Part of the answer is that **this is where God has chosen to be**. God, in Christ crucified, has chosen to be with the slave, the non-citizen, those who have no power or rights, those who are the object of fear, hatred and violence that lurk deep within each of us.

'Here is where God has chosen to be. Here is where the barriers are broken down between God and the darkest places of the human mind; and so here too is where the barriers are down between human beings.' Rowan Williams

So the cross challenges us to ask where do we stand and with whom. Can we, dare we, stake ourselves in the places where God chooses to be today?



Shalom  
Sandie

**Minister: Rev Sandie Exley-Watts**

☎ 01535 602669

e-mail: [sandie.exleywatts@airedalemethodists.org](mailto:sandie.exleywatts@airedalemethodists.org)

# Robinson Crusoe



Robinson Crusoe sailed off into the sunset with Polly, his bride, and another fantastically successful pantomime has concluded! Some of your wonderful comments are reproduced on this page and I would just like to add my thanks to everyone who contributed to yet another triumph. The kids on stage worked really hard and it was great to see the smiles on their faces as they brought the story to life in front of eight very appreciative audiences. Scenery, costumes, choreography, music and special effects all enhanced their efforts - it was a magical week - and it raised over £4,000 for the church! Brilliant!

For the first time in many years, we have invited the cast to show us what other hidden talents they have at a workshop evening. We will then reveal who has been given which part in next year's pantomime to support Emily Moses in the title role of Snow White and Katie Wortley as her Prince. The evening was a great success and some good ideas for the script came out of it!

## Snow White

Our next pantomime:  
16-23 February 2013  
Don't miss it!



This is truly a wonderful place for you to be right now ... You will never ever forget these days ... I don't! ... and I miss them very much ... but that's a sad old Dame for you! We were so impressed with you all on Saturday so give yourselves a good old pat on the backs! Have a fabulous week!

**Julie and Emma**

What a super performance today from all the young people in the show and all of you behind the scenes who organise this ... super super, we had a wonderful time! See you next year.

**Pauline Crossley**

Don't forget to order your DVD of  
**Robinson Crusoe** - only £8

Last week saw performances by the children of the village which again surpassed all expectation. All aged 18 or under, these children work hard to provide a week of entertainment for the villagers - and many people travel long distances to attend too.

Acting, singing and dancing from tiny tots to teenagers was as good as it has ever been, with few, if any slip ups. Scenery, painted by church members was, if anything, better than ever before and the play itself, devised by David Howarth, was hilarious.

With the Crusoe family, two rival pirate bands and King Neptune and his retinue to help things along, the addition of a gorilla lusting after Ma Crusoe had the audience in stitches just by the tilt of his head or the lift of an eyebrow. The actor has to be commended for his talent.

Some of these actors who will be too old to participate next year will be sadly missed but I note that there are already others ready to step into their shoes. Long may this event continue to entertain the people of Oakworth.

**Jackie McGinnis**





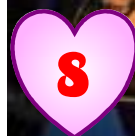
















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# CIRCUIT NEWS

No. 11

## March - May 2012

Circuit Staff: (All Tel. codes 01535 except as marked)

Rev Jacky Hale	652353	Rev M Ruth Parry	01274 563227
Rev Sandie Exley-Watts	602669	Rev Charlotte Common	635140
Rev John Peet	634369	Mrs Claire Voss (Children's Worker)	669575
Rev Dr Lewis Burton	646287	Mrs Tanya Short (Pastoral Worker)	657819
Mr Edward Pennick (Circuit Administrator)	600338		

**Airedale Methodist Circuit will welcome all and serve all in the name of Christ, by increasing an awareness of God and declaring His love.**

**From: Rev Charlotte Common**

*'Never look down to test the ground before taking your next step, only he who keeps his eye fixed on the far horizon will find his right road.'*  
(Dag Hammarskjöld)

Dear Friends,

Lent is a time to meditate on the life and teachings of our Lord. As I sit under the cross a drop of blood falls into my hand, precious blood poured for the transformation of the world. Not long ago we heard Christmas songs on the radio and perhaps some of us hummed along cooking the Christmas lunch 'Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas....' I paused as I peeled the potatoes. Isn't it selfish to 'have yourself a merry little Christmas'? Meditating on the cross is not selfish at all. God chose ordinary people like you and me, shepherds and fishermen to introduce the new world of love and justice in a profound way. Divine experiences of individuals tell the story of a powerful God with his people.

Although we are a predominately Christian society Christmas becomes more and more commercialised. The true meaning is hidden underneath elaborate gifts, food and debts. So what are we as Christians doing about it? Meditating on the Christ light and the cross we have a powerful story to tell. God saw the suffering through oppression and he intervened. He didn't just join a society. He came to influence individuals. Jesus healed, taught, encouraged, inspired, brought light to people sitting in darkness and ... He walked away when he realised that the seed fell on stony ground because his continuous grace was rejected.

The General Secretary of the Methodist Church has spoken about the importance of the stories we tell. He encouraged us to engage with the reality of our situations and let the new stories unfold. The story still told today: 'Our Church, Sunday School used to be full ...' is no longer relevant. It does not fit and does not serve our Lord today.

In order to change our story we might have to change the way we think, use different words. During a recent trip to South Africa I had the privilege of engaging with people from a variety of backgrounds. The stories from the very poor were heart breaking, but their faith in a God who provides and loves, heart-warming. One Sunday I was invited to a Church service in a garage. Simple garden chairs and a keyboard were all this group had. 50 young people, the oldest 46 including their minister had broken away from a traditional Church, which they felt had lost the focus on God. These young people experienced God in their lives and could not cope with superficial worship and entertainment in the Church any longer. They needed to tell the story, longed to celebrate God in deep gratitude. This experience moved me deeply. Here was a group of people who were willing to open themselves up as individuals, each a drop of Jesus' blood in their hands, brave and trusting in its transforming power, and telling others about it, bringing glory and honour to God.

The words worship and faith are so often heard in Church. I wonder whether they actually speak to us of a truly powerful God. Aren't the words curiosity, courage, integrity and willingness to learn far more challenging and inspiring?

Jesus' resurrection, eternal life, the light of Christ through our darkness is the horizon. It is a journey of continuous learning. The Lord who suffered for each one of us is an immensely trustworthy, deeply loving and exciting God. He gave his all and deserves our all. Perhaps the word 'all' needs to be added to. What does it mean for each individual to give our all to God. Looking back and down we might just be like chickens flapping their wings and never taking off. However, looking up to the Lord will help us to rise like eagles and see that God is making all things new as he promised.

Jesus was mocked, as he was different from those who served traditions. In the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross it seemed as if he had lost the battle, that he was stuck, unable to move. Although he suffered deeply Jesus knew all along that the spell away from the crowds in darkness was to prove that God was with him. The crowds who stoned him did not win. God was the winner.

My time here is coming to an end as I follow God's call to new horizons. My hand is stretched out not only to hold the Lord's but also to carry the drop of the Lord's blood with affection, gratitude and integrity. I can do no differently. I must tell the world his story.

May the God of possibilities embrace each one of you!

With love,

*Charlotte.*

*These three remain - Faith, Hope and Love, and the greatest of these is Love  
- what a Gift of God - to be able to LOVE*

# **WORSHIP**

## **HAWORTH WEST LANE**

Rev Alf Waite will be visiting on Sunday 6th May to lead the Sunday School Anniversary services at 10.30 am and 6.00 pm. Rev Alf is looking forward to being among us again and an invitation is extended to all his friends from around the Circuit. We hope you will be able to join us on this 281st celebration. Tea and coffee will be served at the close of the morning service.

Please remember our mini market on Easter Monday 9th April when coffee will be served from 10.30 am, and hot and cold lunches later. We hope to have our usual stalls and look forward to seeing you there.

## **LEES METHODIST CHURCH – ‘Singing God’s Praises’**

Lees are very fortunate to have been presented with copies of ‘Singing the Faith’, in memory of Mrs Nellie Day. We are going to use them for the first time at the Cafe Church at 1.00 pm on Sunday 22nd April. Ann Fox has agreed to be our guest organist on this occasion, and the Auty family will help lead the singing. Cafe Church is held in the hall, and as it is a meal that is offered it would be helpful if we have some indication of numbers – a phone call to Maurice/Judith Baren (01535 643100) would help our catering. Why not come and discover what wonders are in the new book, and sample Cafe Church!

## **WELCOME LOUISE MAKIN – A FULLY ACCREDITED LOCAL PREACHER**

After five years of study and testing we welcome and recognise Louise as a fully accredited Local Preacher. Do come and support Louise at this important service at 5.30 pm at Oakworth Methodist Church on Sunday 11th March.

# **LEARNING AND CARING**

## **ELDWICK CHURCH**

The friends at Eldwick invite us to the annual Circuit Quiz to be held on 31st March at Bingley Methodist Church starting at 6.00 pm. The cost is £5 per head, including a light supper and tea and coffee.

They would like every church to be represented by a team of six, but in addition to this, individuals are welcome to come along and join with others to make even more teams - there will also be room for some spectators (at the same cost), but these places may depend on demand. For catering purposes they need to know numbers coming and wanting supper by Monday March 19th. Please let Debbie Ashton know by phone on 01274 561045 (Eve) 07986663705(day), or email [ashtondebbie@hotmail.com](mailto:ashtondebbie@hotmail.com)

The quiz will be light-hearted, with several rounds covering a wide range of topics. Think 'Weakest Link', not 'Mastermind'!



## **ILKLEY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH CHOIR**

The choir will perform Maunder's Cantata 'Olivet to Calvary' on Good Friday at 7.30 pm, with Steven Robinson, conductor, Sylvia Singleton at the organ, with Alan Parkinson, tenor, and David Bainbridge, baritone. Your support will be much appreciated.

## **PLEASE HELP ISOBEL!**

Isobel is a 16 year old schoolgirl, who has been selected by the Bristol Schools Exploring Society to take part in an Arctic Odyssey expedition in July. To help fund this she is holding a coffee morning at Silsden Methodist Church on Saturday 28th April from 9.30-12.30.

## **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND** by Steve Clayton, Farnhill Chapel

Sixteen members of Silsden, Farnhill, Bingley and Eldwick churches set off on 16th January for the Holy land on a pilgrimage tour entitled 'In the Steps of Jesus'. The trip was arranged by McCabe Pilgrimages in London and led by Jacky & Frank Hale.

Our first 6 days were based in a good quality hotel in Jerusalem overlooking the old city walls, and from there we visited the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa, the Temple Mount and many other religious and historical sites in the old city as well as Bethlehem, Bethany and other nearby villages. We were very fortunate to have the services of a superb guide named Dawoud, whose knowledge and dedication were astonishing. He really made the ancient sites come alive.

We had a day visiting the Dead Sea, including the mandatory dip', or should I say float - it was impossible to do anything but lie on one's back! The famous Herodean fort of Massada with its spectacular views of the dead sea and surrounding desert filled the rest of that day, and what a day it was!

The next four days were spent in the Galilee region, staying in a luxurious hotel on the lakeside of Tiberias. We had wonderful visits to Capernaum, the Mount of the Beatitudes and Nazareth as well as ancient synagogues, and huge Roman ruins at Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast.

My abiding memories will be of our Communion services in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the shore of Lake Galilee, but the whole trip will a fund of memories for many years to come. Many thanks again to Jacky and Frank for an unforgettable experience!

## **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

We are pleased to report that in December we collected £412.60 in December, but were not able to collect on the second day at that time, so in January we did our second day and collected a further £394. Action for Children described these amounts as 'fantastic - they will certainly make a difference to many children's lives, so thank you so much'. We are very grateful to all those who helped to collect, those who gave, and to the very helpful staff at Sainsburys.

## J.M.A. NEWS

There will be a walk in aid of JMA and World Mission on the 12th May, starting at Silsden at 10.15 am, to walk to Farnhill, and then back to Silsden, returning there by 2.30 pm.

A Beetle Drive will also be held at Keighley Shared Church on Saturday 22nd September, starting at 2.30 pm. Hot dogs, savories, and refreshments will be served, and it will end at 4.00 pm.

## WELCOME TO SETH

It is good to hear that Fiona and Les Allan now have a new member of their family, Seth, a brother for Meena. He was born on the 22nd December and weighed just under 8 lb. Having returned from their work in Bangladesh we wish them all joy and peace back in the UK.

However, as Les and Fiona have said:

*'We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed'* (I Cor 15: 51)

## CREATING SAFER SPACE - A Questionnaire!

Can you answer **YES** to **all** of these questions?

- Do you know what policies and procedures the Methodist Church has in place to provide a caring and safe community?
- Do you know that safeguarding covers adults as well as children and young people and we all have the potential to be vulnerable at some time in our lives?
- Do you know what types of abuse there are? - There are more than 7
- Do you know what signs to look for?
- Would you know what to do if you see or are told something that concerns you.

If you have answered **NO** to **any** of these questions then a two-and-a-half hour Creating Safer Space Safeguarding Awareness session is the place for you.

The Methodist Church is committed to providing a high standard of safeguarding work throughout all areas of church life and the wider community and for people to have an understanding that safeguarding and creating safer space is everyone's responsibility and an integral part of being church.

It was with this in mind that Connexion has begun to roll out a programme of safeguarding awareness training. If you recently received an invitation to attend a training you have been identified as in the 'required attendance group' and therefore you are asked to book a place and attend.

Everyone who attends the training will have different experiences in this area and we can therefore all learn from each other as well as the trainers. If you have received an invite please book a place.

If you would like to attend but did not receive an invite, please contact Eileen Jowitt (01535 657256) to see if places are available. The dates and venues are listed in Diary dates on the Circuit website.

## **TANYA SHORT - CANDIDATING FOR THE MINISTRY**

On 4th February Tanya, and other candidates met the District Committee. Although it was a long day, exhausting and emotionally draining, it was also supportive, nurturing and positively affirming. At the end of the day Tanya learnt that her call to ministry was affirmed, so next is the Connexional Candidates Committee in the week beginning 12th March in Hertfordshire.

Tanya thanks the circuit for kind encouraging words, and for our prayers - 'they have meant a great deal and been a wonderful support', she says.

## **BINGLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

In 2010 this church committed to a Christian Aid Partnership Scheme to raise £5,000 to help with farming projects in Bonthe and water projects in Pujehun in Sierra Leone. Now that £5,000 has been raised the European Union will make that £5,000 into £20,000

As there was a surplus left over, and some fundraising still in progress, we have taken out another £5,000 Partnership Scheme, this time to help hospitals in the Kailahun District in Sierra Leone care for mothers and babies. Stephanie Cooper from Christian Aid Leeds is coming to our church on 3rd March at 4.00pm - you will be welcome!

On Saturday 24th March at 7.30pm we are holding an Evening of Music, with Silsden Town band and Shipley Musical Union Male Voice Choir. Tickets £5, or pay on the door - all proceeds for the Sierra Leone Project. Yet another date 19th May - a Fundraising Lunch!

## **SERVICE**

### **CHANGES TO STAFF**

We are preparing to welcome three new members of staff to the circuit in August. Rev Rosemary Nash will be joining us from Middlesbrough with her husband Paul and son Joshua. They originally hail from Ilkley, so are familiar faces in the area, and during their visit to the circuit recognised some familiar names and faces among our members.

Deacon Claire Gill is currently serving in Chelsea, and we are blessed that she has agreed to move to Airedale where we will benefit greatly from her talents to support our mission work. Initially, she will be exploring how she can support the community care projects for the elderly at Oxenhope, Haworth and Lees.

Saidu Kanu (known as Kanu) is a probationer Minister currently studying at Wesley House in Cambridge. He originally comes from Sierra Leone, and has lived in England for ten years, most of that time living and working in Hackney. He comes to us full of ideas and enthusiasm and has a particular passion for encouraging young people into the church.

These are exciting times for the Airedale Circuit, and I trust you will join with the Leadership Team in making our new staff feel welcome and at home among us.

*Debbie Ashton*



We are also pleased to report that Rev Ruth Parry is moving to Ripon where she will be Superintendent Minister, whilst Rev Charlotte Common is initially going out to Mauritius - our thoughts and prayers will be with them in this time of re-adjustment to a new life.

## **A HYMN FOR TIMES OF CONFLICT, SUFFERING AND DOUBT**

When circumstances make my life  
too hard to understand,  
no doubt or fear, no pain or strife,  
can snatch me from God's hand.

In valleys where the path is steep,  
with shadows dark and long,  
I know the Shepherd leads his sheep -  
his grace will keep me strong.

Though sorrow and perplexity  
are often what I feel,  
Gethsemane and Calvary  
affirm God's love is real.

It is enough for me to know  
God's promise and God's care:  
wherever on life's path I go  
my Saviour will be there.

*(Hymns of Faith 641 Martin Leckebusch)*

## **STOP PRESS - ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

I have just received a communication from Andrew Harris, the Director of Fundraising and Appeals at Action for Children, telling us that they are relaunching the League of Light. Last year, through the Home Collecting Boxes, they raised £500,000! Many people in the Circuit have over the years taken such a box into their homes and then had it opened either half-yearly, or when it was full - many still do. Do you? Would you be willing to do so?

There are so many children in our land who are in danger, vulnerable, having not even the bare necessities of life. Back in 1932, when the boxes were first launched the country was in an economic depression, and now eighty years later we are again in the same situation. As there was great need then, so the circumstances have not changed. Even if you only put in your coppers, or 5p's it all helps.

Will you take a box? Do please help! If you would like a box please complete this slip and return to Judith & Maurice Baren at 4 Branwell Drive, Haworth BD22 8HG, or phone 01535 643100

Name ..... Telephone .....

Address ..... Church .....

# “No, not any” Word Search

The manager of the Garden Centre came out of his office to hear Jenkins, one of his most trusted assistants, saying to a lady customer, “No madam, we certainly haven’t had any for some time and who knows when we will get any.”

When the customer had gone, the manager tackled him. “I heard that Jenkins,” he remonstrated, “and I must say that I am surprised at you. Never admit to a customer that we can’t get them something. That’s what we’re here for. If it’s out of stock, tell her you’ll get it for her soon. Now, what was it the lady wanted?”

“Rain”, said Jenkins simply.



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

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# Local Preacher Recognition



Louise Makin was Recognised and Admitted as a Local Preacher at a special service this month, supported by a full church of friends from all round the Circuit. Before the Service, we shared fellowship over tea and buns and were invited to look around the displays she had created as part of her final Local Preacher study module. We all then joined in the inspiring worship during which Louise was presented with the bible pictured.





# News Snippets

## It's a boy!

Janet and Raymond Armstrong are proud to announce the safe arrival of grandson Luca Deven Narayanan, a son for their daughter Ruth out in Australia. Congratulations to you all.

## Music in Worship

We warmly welcome Glen Berry to our fellowship and give thanks for his offer to play his violin to further enhance worship. Thanks too to David Bury who is now playing the organ once a fortnight on average. They either play together or one of them plays solo - or the digital hymnal leads the singing.

## Sanctuary Flowers

A big thank you to all who provide and/or arrange flowers for worship each week. The 2012 flower calendar is now up at church - please check your dates have been correctly recorded. There are a few dates spare if anyone else would like to be included.

## Manor Services

With friends from Christ Church, we lead a short service at Oakworth Manor on the 4th Sunday afternoon of each month and some of the residents really look forward to this. We thank those who have already offered to help on the rota this year but we would welcome more offers of help - it only works out at once or twice each a year! The rota is at the back of church - please speak to Kath or Ruth if you would like more information or you would like to offer to go on the rota. Thank you.



## Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has responded to recent appeals / events:

- Christmas Lunch was excellent as always - raising £150. A special thank you to all the kitchen staff .
- The Christmas Gift envelopes brought in £135 this year.
- The Ladies' Group Brunch at the end of January was well supported again, raising £194.
- There was a very good response to the appeal for items to sell at the Grand Auction earlier this month - it is two years since the last one - and we are very grateful to Richard Atkins who acted as Auctioneer again, knocking the items down for a very creditable £500.

## Wednesday Club

*"The Flint Street Nativity"* was this year's Christmas offering at Keighley Playhouse and it was very much enjoyed by all. The Bowling Evening in January didn't quite go to plan for Peter! After retaining the trophy for a number of years, he was out-bowled this year by Robin Nolan. The trophy and our congratulations go to Robin.

The programme for the next year was put together last week - followed by a wonderful supper hosted by Andrew and Jane. Do join us for a meal at the Grouse next month (see Joyce) or on the Bluebell Walk in May.

## Church Cleaner

We welcome Cassandra Britain as our new Church Cleaner and hope she feels the role to be fulfilling as she gets to know us better.

Thanks again to Sharon for her extended period of service during the recruitment of Cassie.

# Ecumenical

## Lent Meetings

Instead of joining with Christ Church friends for Lent study sessions this year, we were invited, with them, to share in a series of larger meetings at Keighley Shared Church organised by Keighley Churches Together. Topics under discussion have included 'Helping Asylum Seekers become part of our family', 'Sharing Hospitality', 'Death, dying and bereavement' and 'Faith and Mental Health'. The final session this week is on 'Faith and Sexuality'. The meetings have been ably facilitated by Church leaders from around the area and stimulating discussion has been enjoyed by those who attended.

## Weekend Away in Scarborough

Friends at Christchurch have invited us to join them at their Parish Weekend Away at Green Gables in Scarborough from Friday 28th (Evening Meal 7.00) to Sunday 30th September. Full board accommodation: Adults £98, Children: 5-12 half price; under 5 free. The whole event is fairly relaxed with sessions Friday evening and Saturday morning and Worship/Eucharist on Sunday morning. The rest of the time is free time to enjoy Scarborough. The theme will be 'Hospitality' and sessions will be led by Revd Canon Denise Poole (Bishop's Chaplain).

If anyone else wants to join the 9 Methodists and 60+ Anglicans who have already signed up, please let David know very quickly and pay £20 deposit, as the numbers have to be confirmed this month.

# Strategy for the Future

Consideration of our strategy for the future continues at two different levels: firstly in the context of how we see our mission in the community developing and how this might help us in promoting Christian discipleship; and secondly in connection with the building proposals presented by Peter last year.

Sandie has been with us for six months now and she aims to spend some time after Easter giving serious thought to the first of these areas in the light of what she has learned about us since becoming our Minister. She will then work out how we can take these thoughts forward together as a church to see where the Spirit may be leading. This area will more than likely be the major topic of discussion at the General Church Meeting (open to all) in May.

Meanwhile, questions asked at the October Church Council made us realise that maybe the feasibility study authorised last year was not complete after all. Advice was taken from a Methodist specialist regarding what further work needed doing to complete it. This work has now been authorised by Church Council, to be paid for from funds already donated towards whatever strategy work is finally agreed on the buildings.

Further donations or pledges towards this exciting project will be welcome!

Please continue to hold all these matters in your prayers as we seek to discern God's will.



# Timothy in Uganda



We continue to support Timothy Kaweesa with his education in Uganda.

Timothy lives with his mother, three brothers and sister. The family are grateful for the support they receive which enables Timothy to attend school. At home Timothy helps with all the household chores, including looking after the animals and carrying water. At school Timothy is doing quite well and his favourite subject is English. He is really happy to have completed his PLE (Primary Leaving Examination) and loves riding a bicycle.

Timothy is now 13 and attends St Peter's SSS Nsambya, a catholic Secondary School in Kampala. He recently wrote this letter to us:

"How is life there in your country? But for me it is rainy in our country. I have written this letter to you to inform you that I joined Senior One at St Peter SSS Nsambya, and I am glad to inform you that I also got aggregates 8 in my PLE. I have also written to you to thank you for paying my school fees and to thank you for everything you have ever given me. And also to ask you whether you are fine in your country. I also want to thank you for the Christmas Gift you gave me during the last Christmas time and also to thank you for taking me to study in a good school in Kampala. I have also written to you to tell you that I and my brothers, sisters and mum are fine at home and I would also want to ask you whether you and your family are fine. God bless you."

Kaweesa Timothy



Responsibility for the childcare and development work in Kenya and

Uganda by Spurgeons has now been transferred to Global Care, which is an international Christian charity providing dynamic support, relief, development and education through its programmes for vulnerable children worldwide.

In their welcome letter, they write:

"We are very grateful you have decided to continue your support of this work through the child sponsorship programme and are looking forward to working with you and our international partners in continuing to develop this work - especially in developing aspects of self-sustainability which will help protect its long-term future.

Our very first child sponsorship and development work started in Uganda nearly 30 years ago and we hope that as you learn more about us, you will recognise the real passion which drives us to reach out to vulnerable children and communities and equip them with the skills and opportunities they need to learn to look after themselves.

In keeping with our cycle of management visits and project reviews, we have requested updated photos and progress reports from our partner projects. We aim to have these by the end of April."



# Special Events & Services

## ***Spring Market***

**Saturday 31st March 10.00 - 1.00**

**Lots of stalls to buy from**  
**Easter gifts, birthday presents!**

**Have a Coffee and a chat**

**Stay for Meat & Potato Pie and Pea Lunch**

**Please sign the list in the porch**



**Share fellowship  
as you spend!**

## **Mothering Sunday** All Age Praise & Parade Service



**Sunday 18th March 10.30am**

**Led by Louise & the Young People**  
**with music, dance, drama,**  
**lots of participation and**  
**daffodils for all the mums!**

## **Maundy Thursday**

**Hot Cross Buns &**  
**Holy Communion Service**

**Thursday 5th April 7.30 pm**

**led by Rev Sandie Exley-Watts**



## **Sunday School Anniversary**

**Sunday 13th May 10.30 am**

**All Age Praise Service**

**Led by Louise**  
**and the Young People**



**13**



# Sunday Worship & Young People



*A warm welcome awaits you as we worship together*

- Mar** 4 10.30 am Rev Alan Raine  
 11 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - **Holy Communion**  
     5.30 pm Louise Makin Local Preacher Recognition/Admission Service  
     7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church  
 18 10.30 am Louise Makin + Young People -  
     **Mothering Sunday All Age Praise Service**  
     3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor  
 25 10.30 am Mrs Irene Mitchell - **Reader's Service**
- Apr** 1 10.30 am Mr David Miller - **Palm Sunday**  
     **Thu 5** 7.30 pm Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - Maundy Thursday -  
     Hot Cross Buns + Holy Communion Service  
     8 10.30 am Mr Alan Somerville - **EASTER SUNDAY** -  
     **Church Anniversary All Age Worship**  
     6.00 pm Easter Day United Section Service - Exley Head  
 15 10.30 am Church Stewards - **Songs of Praise**  
     7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church  
 22 10.30 am Mr Maurice Baren  
     3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor  
 29 10.30 am Rev Alan Sharp - **Holy Communion**  
     6.00 pm Revs Sandie Exley-Watts & John Rogers -  
     **United Holy Communion Service** - Methodist Church
- May** 6 10.30 am Mr Terry O'Shaughnessy  
 13 10.30 am Louise Makin + Young People -  
     **Sunday School Anniversary All Age Praise Service**  
 20 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - **Holy Communion**  
     7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church  
 27 10.30 am Mrs Janet Clark  
     3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor

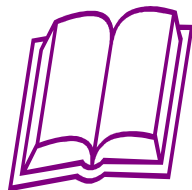
*Sunday School / Junior Church also meet at 10.30 am*

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 Pre-lunch Fellowship (alternate weeks)  
12.15 pm Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club

*(closed 10th April for Easter and 5th June for Queen's Diamond Jubilee)*

## MARCH 2012

Thu 1 to Sat 3 KYDZ Youth Theatre Spring Show - on stage in church  
Fri 2 2.00 pm **Women's World Day of Prayer Service - Methodist Church**  
Wed 7 11.00 am Monthly Prayer Time - church lounge  
Wed 7 7.30 pm Lent Meeting - Sharing Hospitality - Keighley Shared Church  
Sat 10 10.30 am **Grand Auction - Viewing from 9.45 am - in church**  
Mon 12 7.00 pm Manor Meeting; 7.30 pm Church Council - lounge  
Wed 14 7.30 pm Wednesday Club - Planning Meeting - Milner Bank  
Wed 14 7.30 pm Lent Meeting - Death, Dying & Bereavement - KSC  
Thu 15 7.30 pm Ladies' Group - *Good Health with Aloe Vera* + Ex Head  
Mon 19 6.00 pm Pantomime Workshops for Snow White  
Tue 20 1.45 pm Ladies' Group - *Life as an MP and after* - Ann Cryer  
Tue 20 7.30 pm Circuit Meeting - Cowling Methodist Church  
Wed 21 7.30 pm Lent Meeting - Faith & Mental Health - KSC  
Mon 26 6.00 pm Pantomime Party: DVD, Food, Games  
Wed 28 7.30 pm Lent Meeting - Faith & Sexuality - Keighley Shared Church  
Sat 31 10.00-1.00 **Spring Market + Lunch - in church**

## APRIL 2012

Wed 4 11.00 am Monthly Prayer Time - church lounge  
Wed 18 7.00 pm Wednesday Club - Meal out at The Grouse  
Sat 21 2.00 pm Touchstone Hooray Day - at 32 Merton Road, Bradford  
Tue 24 1.45 pm Ladies' Group - AGM - church lounge  
Sat 28 10.00 am District Synod - Baildon Methodist Church

## MAY 2012

Wed 2 11.00 am Monthly Prayer Time - in church  
Sat 12 10.00 am Circuit JMA Walk - Silsden to Farnhill and back  
Mon 14 7.30 pm Annual General Church Meeting (open to all) - lounge  
Wed 16 7.00 pm Wednesday Club - Bluebell Walk in Middleton Woods  
*Information for June Newsletter to David this week please*  
Sat 26 11.00 am Pentecost Praise - Keighley Bus Station

## JUNE 2012

Wed 6 11.00 am Monthly Prayer Time - in church

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



# Christmas Services



**Editor: David J Howarth** ☎ 01535 215784  
e-mail: [DHowarth@OakworthMethodists.org](mailto:DHowarth@OakworthMethodists.org)