



June 2013 Newsletter



Prayer candles led us to the cross decorated with colourful spring flowers by the congregation as we celebrated the risen Jesus on Easter Morning.

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends.

Some of you know that very recently I went for a week's Silent Retreat. I shared with a few people before I went, that I was beginning to find the idea a bit scary as I hadn't done a whole week before. Then it came to me that, just as when I know my grown-up children are coming home, I make all sorts of preparations and plans in anticipation of the precious time we will have together - would not our heavenly Father be



similarly waiting to welcome me with delight. That removed all fear and reminded me 'who God is'.

Being reminded 'who God is' and 'who I am' are the essentials for a retreat. In fact, they are essential to the life of discipleship but in the busy-ness of everyday life we can so easily lose touch with that. So our guide for the week, wisely and gently, helped us to re-connect with who we are. In the silence we took the time to remember and reflect upon the fact that we are known to God by name, loved from before our birth, chosen and precious. We were encouraged to see ourselves in every Gospel story:

Jesus raises me, in the person of the woman called 'sinner', from where I have been discarded by others. Jesus seeks me and finds me in the person of an unpopular tax collector as I try to hide from him. Jesus reveals a parent, who embraces me each time I come home to him, unceasingly letting me know that I am loved unconditionally for just being ME.

Then there was the tremendous gift of *time and space* to slow down and become fully aware of God's gifts in creation. I spent a lot of time in the beautiful garden or walking slowly in the orchard ablaze with spring flowers, or in the woods and fields of the retreat centre's grounds, truly looking, listening and touching, for everything in creation has the potential to 'speak' to us of God and his ways.

This is not a 'recharging of the batteries' as you might do on holiday. This is something more subtle, more powerful. For when we become still and silent inwardly as well as outwardly, then we open ourselves to the truly transforming power of God. We allow God to change us – not to become a different person, but to more fully become the person God created us to be.

Not everyone has the opportunity to take a week's silent retreat as I did. It wouldn't be a good idea to start with a week anyway! Far better to try a day's retreat with smaller periods of silence. So I am offering you the opportunity to do just that! Watch this space for details of an Autumn Quiet Day.



Shalom, Sandíe

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Vision for the Future



Accessible worship continues to be the theme for the Vision Group:

- J.I.G.S.A.W. (Jesus Is Great Super And Wonderful) formerly Sunday School continues to meet the needs of our young people on a Sunday morning.
- Crossing the Bridge is there for our teenagers on Sunday evenings once or twice a month and their quarterly café style Youth Services are very popular.
- The first of our "Messy Church" sessions aimed at young families who would not normally attend church on Sunday went really well see back page.
- Singing for Fun attracted good numbers of older people before the Luncheon Club on a Tuesday morning until Easter. We are now working on another new idea which we hope could attract a wider age range. Still based around the Singing for Fun idea - and led by Glen Berry and David Bury - the sessions could be one evening monthly in church, set out café style - an evening of popular music, food and fellowship with a short Christian message linking the theme of the day at some point - similar to the original Café Church idea.

Strategy for the Future update

Now the work of the Vision Group is bearing fruit, a small group has been formed to look again at the building plans under consideration as part of our Strategy for the Future. Andrew, David, Peter, Richard and Kath studied and discussed the completed feasibility study and concluded that the plans submitted by the architect and property consultant would greatly enhance the church's mission in the community as well as meeting the needs and aspirations of the church and community groups who currently use it. Church Council have authorised the small group to invite representatives from the community to join it - to help us to gauge the level of support for the plans, to consider what other benefits they may offer and to begin to look at how the funds might be raised to complete the ambitious project if it were to proceed. The results of their deliberations will be fed back to the Church Council in October.

Thanks for all the positive responses to my plea through Church Council and the last Newsletter for help to avoid a shortfall this year – especially for the substantial donation received last weekend. Our finances are now almost back on track - but do please support the fundraising events over the summer to keep them that way!

We record with sadness the death of Joan Jones last week. Since moving to Oakworth five years ago she has been a part of all our lives - and she was always so full of zest and enthusiasm! She will be missed.





Mothering Sunday Parade





Louise and the young people led the Mothering Sunday Praise & Parade Service again this year and to underline the theme of celebrating mothers, some of the Scouts helped with the distribution of daffodils to ladies in the congregation. Thoughts and prayers were jotted on flags and then tied together and brought to the foot of the cross in the Sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday

Rev Terry Porter led the Maundy Thursday Service which commenced with fellowship over hot cross buns and concluded with Holy Communion - which



reminds us of the final meal the disciples shared with Jesus.













Sunday School Anniversary





Our Sunday School Anniversary fell on Christian Aid Sunday this year and Louise used a lot of their 'Bite Back at Hunger' resources in the All Age Praise Service. The children decorated biscuits to illustrate the theme!

News Snippets

Spring Market

Thank you to all who supported the Spring Market at the beginning of April. Sadly, due to the extended winter weather, we were unable to have the plant stall but we still managed to raise £655 for church funds - more than we raised last year! Plants will be on sale at an event later in the year instead.

Wednesday Club

The new season started in April with a meal at the Bronte Hotel in Haworth. There was a good number of us enjoying the food and fellowship!

Last month, we visited the new Civic Centre in Keighley, where we toured the Police Museum in two groups, each with a guide, before retiring upstairs for sandwiches and cake! It was another popular evening and an educational experience.

Don't forget to order your DVD - only £8 - Peter is hoping to run them off and deliver them in the next few weeks.

Don't miss our next Pantomime adventure:



What if ... Word Search



What would happen if we treated our Bibles in the same way as we treat our mobile phones? What if we wore our Bible on a belt or carried it in our handbag or pocket? What if we flipped through it several times a day? What if we used it to receive messages from the text? What if we treated it as something we couldn't live without?

Unlike a mobile phone, we don't ever have to worry about the Bible losing its connection or having to be recharged. I hope this message prompts you to open your Bible today ... and tomorrow ... and the day after ...

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. He put a note under the windscreen wiper that read, "I have circled the block ten times. If I don't park here I will miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES."

When he returned, he found a ticket from a traffic warden together with this note: "I've circled this block for ten years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION."

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



Special Events



Oakworth Ladies' Group present

The Ritardandos

WITH A PROGRAMME OF MUSIC, HUMOUR AND FUN

Friday 7th June at 7.30 pm

for Meningitis Trust & Church Funds







At Oakworth Methodist Church on Saturday 29th June at 2pm or 4pm £6 per person; £3 children 10-15; young children by donation Booking advisable Please ring Kath 643592 for 2pm sitting to avoid disappointment or Chrissie 640876 for 4pm sitting

An afternoon of elegance and relaxation in pleasant surroundings with delicious food and beautiful music



Village Gala

Saturday 6th July

2.00 pm: Procession leaves Lane Ends

2.30 pm: Entertainment in Victoria Road Playing Field (includes children's sports)

> Please see Ruth if you can help in the Refreshment Tent

Special Events & Services



Pantomime Praise Service Sunday 7th July 10.30 am All Age Worship

Featuring excerpts from the Pantomime, our Youth Praise Band and Singers

Keighley Youth Theatre KYDZ

present: "Holes"

Louis Sachar's stage adaptation of his celebrated American children's novel

Thurs / Fri / Sat 11-13 July 7.30 pm

Tickets £5/£4 from @ 01535 219705





Barbecue

Sunday 14th July from 1.00 pm Milner Bank, Newsholme

Cream Teas

Sunday 4th August from 2.00 to 5.00 pm Lower Scholes, Pickles Hill

Enjoy the view, the garden and the hospitality



Sunday Worship & Young People



A warm welcome awaits you as we worship together

- **Jun** 2 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts
 - 9 10.30 am Mrs Ann Fox All Age Worship
 - 16 10.30 am Rev Dr Lewis Burton
 - 7.30 pm Ecumenical Heartbeat Service Christ Church
 - 23 10.30 am Rev Barbara Walls Holy Communion
 - 3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor
 - 30 10.30 am Church Stewards Songs of Praise
 - 7.00 pm Louise Makin & Crossing the Bridge Youth Service
- Jul 7 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts, David + Young People All Age Pantomime Praise Service
 - 14 10.30 am Mr Dewar Wishart
 - 21 10.30 am Mrs Patricia Henny
 - 7.30 pm Ecumenical Heartbeat Service Christ Church
 - 28 10.30 am Mr Michael Webster
 - 3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor
 - 6.00 pm Circuit Farewell Service for Rev Jacky Hale

& Mrs Claire Voss - at Silsden Methodist Church (Tea, coffee and cake from 4.30 pm)

- Aug 4 10.30 am Rev Kenneth Beardsley Holy Communion
 - 11 10.30 am Deacon Claire Gill
 - 18 10.30 am Church Stewards Songs of Praise
 - 7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service Christ Church
 - 25 10.30 am Rev Jennifer Lunn
 - 3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor
 - Fri 30 7.30 pm Circuit Welcome Service for Rev Ruth Crompton at Silsden Methodist Church



J.I.G.S.A.W. also meets at 10.30 am

Closed for Summer Holidays 21 July - 1 September

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 12.15 pm Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club (closed from 23 July for Summer - Reopens 10 September)



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3	7.30 pm	Meeting to arrange Tea at the Ritz - Church Lounge
6	2.00 pm	Messy Church Planning Meeting - Lounge
7	7.30 pm	The Ritardandos in concert - Ladies' Group
12	7.30 pm	'Emmaus' Bible Study/Fellowship: Jesus the Jew - Manse
16	7.00 pm	Crossing the Bridge Barbecue & Social
19	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club Walk
24	7.30 pm	Planning Meeting for Keighley Show Marquee - Manse
26	7.30 pm	'Emmaus' Bible Study/Fellowship: Jesus the Jew - Manse
27	3.15 pm	Messy Church - in church hall
29	2.00 pm	Tea at the Ritz - in church
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JULY 2013

Sat	6	2.00 pm	Village Gala - Victoria Road Playing Field
Wed	10	7.30 pm	'Emmaus' Bible Study/Fellowship: Jesus the Jew - Manse
Thu	11	to Sat 13	7.30 pm KYDZ Youth Theatre Summer Show - Church
Sun	14	1.00 pm	Barbecue - Milner Bank, Newsholme
Wed	17	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club - Garden Visit
Wed	24	7.30 pm	'Emmaus' Bible Study/Fellowship: Jesus the Jew - Manse
Thu	25	3.15 pm	Messy Church - in church hall

AUGUST 2013

Suli	4	2.00 pm	Cream reas - Lower Scholes, Pickles mill
Wed	21	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club - Surprise Evening at Milner Bank
		Information	n for September Newsletter to David by this week please

SEPTEMBER 2013

Sat	7	all day	Keighley Show - Marley Playing Fields
Sat	7	10.00 am	District Synod - Brighouse Central Methodist Church
Sun	8	all day	Yorkshireman Off-Road Marathon - Haworth
Sun	15	10.30 am	Harvest Festival All Age Worship
Tue	17	7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting - The Eldwick Church
Wed	18	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club - Visit to Keighley Star Centre
Thu	26	3.15 pm	Messy Church - in church hall
Mon	30	7.30 pm	Pastoral Committee - Lounge

Check our website for further information: www.OakworthMethodists.org

















18 children and 11 adults came to the first

session of Oakworth Messy Church. Everyone enjoyed learning about the theme of The Creation through craft activities, acting out the story and singing. The children shared together in a meal of pizza and nibbles, followed by fruit kebabs which they had made themselves. After some very positive comments from those who attended and those who helped to make it a success, the next two Messy Church sessions will go ahead on Thursday 27th June and Thursday 25th July.



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