



December 2013 Newsletter



This attractive display was the Harvest Festival centrepiece in September. JIGSAW children created the 'Thank You' banner. More photos inside.

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

'Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.' Isaiah. 40:4-5.

What tremendous words of hope, familiar to many of us through Handel's 'Messiah'!

Advent is a season of hope, a time of joyful expectancy. But we don't have to close our eyes to what is happening around us in the world in order for this hope to be ours. These words of Isaiah were spoken to a broken people in exile. Everything looked hopeless, but the prophet envisages God commanding a highway to be built through the steep, rocky terrain between Babylon and Palestine so God's people may return home. It seems impossible, foolhardy even. Yet God has spoken and keeps his promise.

Jesus comes into this world offering hope. This hope is not based on chances that things will get better or worse. The hope he brings is built upon the promise that, whatever happens, God will stay with us at all times, in all places. As his followers, we are called to be people of hope and to build communities of hope.

This means honestly facing the despair we are dealing with in the world today. We cannot go round despair to hope. We have to go right through despair. We have to be able to look at the despair and then **act in faith**. In faithful obedience, we shall discover the hope that Jesus offers.

*Wishing you all joy and
hope this Christmas time.*

Sandie



www.religiousbackgrounds.net



Minister: Rev Sandie Exley-Watts

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Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

Two boxes have been placed at the back of Church to receive your gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal for new toys for needy children and food to go in food parcels for older people.



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. ✨**



Pick up a Christmas Gift Envelope from the table at the back of church.

The angel said to them, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. *Luke 2:10-11*



A challenge ...

Hi 'Christian friends', as Kanu would put it ...

As I set out on the next step of my journey of faith, of offering as a candidate for presbyteral ministry, my thoughts turn increasingly to what I am leaving behind. No one is irreplaceable! I came to Oakworth 11 years ago so, to some people, I am still an offcumden - but I have always taken the promise of service I made as a Methodist seriously and have undertaken whatever role/responsibilities were required.

For the last few years I have been happily leading the young people in praise services and the youth group for the last 2 years. I love it; it is a challenge, scary at times. Anyone who does any work with young people knows that you can never be entirely sure how things will work out but I have not been let down. We have a wonderful bunch of young people loosely connected with our church and I have been fortunate to work alongside many adults, together we make a great team.

So what is my problem then? God is calling me to move on and for someone else to take on these roles. I don't know who - believe me, if I did I would have backed you into a corner and signed you up. It may not be someone who is regularly in worship but there is someone God is prompting ... you can do this. None of us are fully formed as Christians and we are all on our own journey of faith; full support is available and you may only be called to part of the task. Our church needs worship leaders - maybe you would like to train or maybe you might want to work with our teenagers but not out front in a service. Of course, ideally, I would love someone to come on board now so that they can be eased into the job but so often it seems you need to step out of a role before someone steps in. Possibly my leaving will be a chance to re-evaluate the work we do; are we happy to let the younger generation simply drop out of church? Is a monthly praise service appropriate?

I don't have the answers; all I can say is that the next all-age praise service to prepare for is Mothers Day on 30th March - so please consider what God is calling you to do.

Love Louise



Louise painted these pictures as part of her Candidate's Creative Presentation. They were on the Lounge wall last month, together with some information describing what was portrayed in each section, for people to look at and leave their comments.



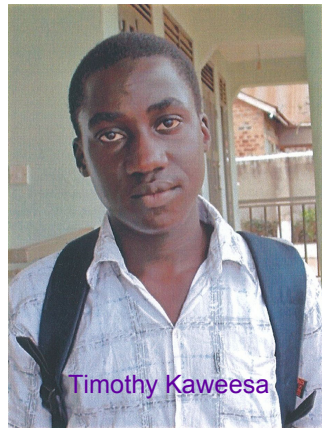
Louise says, "Thank you for many positive comments and if anyone has anything they want to add particularly in the form of constructive criticism please let me know."

Timothy in Uganda

Susan Shires continues to keep in touch with Timothy on our behalf. Timothy wrote again over the Summer:

"How are you, your friends, family members and even your Country? For me am ok and I also think you are fine. I have written this letter to inform you that I am in Form three and at the end of first term I passed with somehow flying colours. Let me also take this opportunity to thank you for paying my school fees and also helping me to fulfil my mission at school by providing me with the necessary scholastic materials. In this term's holidays, I have managed to plant more flowers in addition to those I planted in Senior two and also helped my mother in the garden. Thanks also for the letters I have receiving from you about your life experiences. May God bless."

Timothy Kaweesa



Timothy Kaweesa

Inn Churches, Keighley

All Saints Church, Highfield is hosting another Inn Churches' Winter Shelter Project during the week commencing 10 February 2014. There are 18 churches across the Bradford and Keighley District taking part in the project which will run from December 2013 to March 2014.

The project, which began five years ago, equips congregations to turn their buildings into makeshift hostels. When All Saints operates as a homeless shelter it will offer guests cooked meals, hot drinks, entertainment and a warm and comfortable place to sleep.

Keighley Co-ordinator, Alan Mottershead, is looking for more volunteers to help. If you feel you would like to give time, however small, please contact him on 07894 547153 or by email: alan@innchurches.co.uk. There is a training session on Tuesday 7 January at 7.30 pm at All Saints Church. Anyone who wants to volunteer on one of the evenings, overnights or mornings will need to attend the training.

Alan Mottershead is also asking for specific things for their guests. They need: gloves, hats, socks, jumpers (small & medium), belts, jeans (especially w32 or w34), underwear (small & medium), sanitary towels/tampons, towels, showergel, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes.



Harvest

Janet Clark led our Harvest Festival Service and the children are showing off the fruits of their labours at the end of the Service.

The displays of flowers and produce were excellent this year and our thanks go to all who provided and helped to arrange them.



Yorkshireman Marathon



Our catering team spent another hectic but happy September weekend preparing for and serving soup and cake to 500 runners in the Yorkshireman Off-Road Marathon at Haworth. Their efforts were rewarded by the appreciation of all who enjoyed the food at the end of the run and the receipt of a thank you cheque for £750.



Sunshine Bags



Maureen and Rodney would like to thank all who brought their Sunshine Bags to be emptied and stayed for coffee and a chat in early October. £210 was counted this year!

If you need a replacement bag or would like to start popping your spare pennies in a new bag every time the sun shines during the next year, please have a word with Maureen. Thanks.

Autumn Fayre



A big thank you to all who supported the Autumn Fayre last month. Takings were up to £790 this year - £300 of which came from the excellent lunches!



Prize Giving Praise Service



A happy bunch of young people took part in the JIGSAW Prize Giving Praise Service in October and they were presented with book prizes in recognition of their attendance at Sunday School during the last year. Jigsaws featured strongly in the Service!

Confirmation

We rejoiced on 20th October that Adele Reed-Griffiths and Richard Hudson were Confirmed and received as full members of the Methodist Church. A special welcome was made to family and friends who came to support them. Rev Sandie Exley-Watts led the Service which included the Baptism of Richard and concluded with the whole congregation sharing Holy Communion.



Remembrance



The Remembrance Services in church and at the Cenotaph were very well supported again.



News Snippets

Wednesday Club

The conducted tour of the Star Centre at Leeds City College Keighley Campus in September was thoroughly enjoyed by all who went.

Quartet was also a popular choice for the October Film Evening. The Church was packed for the visit of Ian



Dewhirst last month when he talked about *Local Life in the Second World War*. The evening started with a pie and pea supper and raised £350.

Church Flowers

A huge thank you to all who provide and arrange the flowers in church each week. They are appreciated by all. The rota is now being prepared for 2014 - please add your name to the calendar at the back of church or speak to Kath Batty. Thank you.

Messy Church

The monthly sessions continue to be very popular and new families are turning up every month!



Strategy for the Future

The Church Strategy Team put together a presentation for the last Church Council which detailed the benefits of the present proposals for the ambitious buildings project. This was well received and the Council agreed unanimously to approve in principle the Strategy for Mission plans and to them being presented to an Open Church Meeting for wider support.

The Open Meeting presentation was also well received and questions were answered satisfactorily. Over 90% voted in favour of seeking community support for the proposals which will be necessary to enable us to raise the funds needed before work can begin.

Please continue to pray for the Strategy Team as they take this forward and publicise the plans more widely.

Aladdin

Rehearsals are now in full swing and the cast are working hard on the song/dance routines as well as the dialogue and everything is starting to come together.

The stage goes up in church on Saturday 28th December starting at 10.00am. Anyone who is free to help that day will be very welcome to join us. Work has already begun on designing the scenery, preparing the special effects and sorting out all those wonderful costumes!

Details of the pantomime can be found over the page and on the church website. Tickets go on sale in January; on-line booking opens later this month.

Enjoy the show!!

Jelly Babies ... Word Search



Jelly babies were known as peace babies when they were first made after the First World War. When WW2 began they ceased production until the end of the war, when they became known as jelly babies.

The man who owned the factory was a Christian and so each jelly baby contains a message - once you lick off the dusting.

Black contains a heart meaning that Jesus wants to come into our hearts.

Green is crying - he is sad that not everyone has heard the good news.

Red has a 'B' - for the blood of Jesus.

Yellow has a necklace - a symbol of God's blessings and gifts.

Orange has a bumbag - symbolising the spiritual journey and service.

Pink is a baby - we are all children of God.

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

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



Summary of Oakworth Methodist Church Accounts 2012-2013

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Collections	11,428.73	Circuit Share	17,000.00
Property/Lettings	9,910.50	Property Maintenance	6,219.32
Fund Raising	7,860.00	Utilities	5,905.00
Tax Recovered	3,683.50	Cleaner's Wages	3,678.60
Dons re Feasibility Study	3,240.00	Feasibility Study	3,235.13
Project Income	2,435.00	Project Costs	1,935.84
Mission Collections	897.62	Mission Donations	2,002.62
Donations/Gift Appeals	530.00	Youth Work	511.23
Investment Income	483.63	Sundry Payments	1,339.49
Sundry Receipts	1,872.24		
	42,341.22		41,827.23

Treasurer's Report

We continue to give thanks for the commitment and support of so many people which enables the Mission work of our church.



Receipts

During the first six months of the financial year, income levels were slipping well behind what was needed to balance the budget for the year.

However, you responded brilliantly to an appeal at the March Church Council and in the Newsletter and, by the year-end, general income just nicely covered expenditure for the year.

All areas of income listed above showed healthy increases on the previous year, for which we are very grateful.

Donations given to cover the cost of the Feasibility Study and the Project Income were utilised to those ends. The surplus Project Income was held over to the next year.



Payments

We were able to increase our Circuit Share by £800 again as promised.

Utility bills were rather higher than expected but new heating and lighting controls and a front door closer have now been installed in an effort to reduce these costs for the future.

All other general costs were broadly in line with the budgeted figures.

The Project Costs covered the cost savers mentioned above, together with the safe removal of an old asbestos-lined door and replacement of the kitchen fire door and the soffit over the Wesley Room.

Summary

Our reserves at the year-end were just under the three months expenditure figure agreed by Church Council.

Thanks again for your generosity in the ongoing difficult economic climate, particularly for your superb response to the appeal half way through the year.

We ask for your continuing prayerful support through the current year.

28th Oakworth Methodist Pantomime



**Eight Fun-packed
Shows!**

**Adults £6.00,
Children £4.00,
Senior Citizens
£5.00**



7pm Evening Shows:

**Saturday 22nd February
Monday 24th February
Tuesday 25th February
Wednesday 26th February
Friday 28th February
Saturday 1st March**

**2pm Matinees
on both Saturdays**

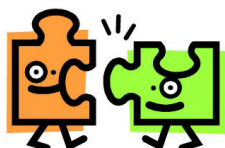
**Tickets available in January direct from
Janet Armstrong ☎01535 642625 or
David Howarth or book online at
www.OakworthMethodists.org**

Sunday Worship & Young People



A warm welcome awaits you as we worship together

- Dec** 1 10.30 am Miss Kathryn Whitaker
 8 10.30 am Rev Dr Neville Richardson - **Holy Communion**
 15 10.30 am Deacon Claire Gill - **All Age Carol Service**
 3.00 pm **Carols at Oakworth Manor**
 22 10.30 am Louise Makin, Helen Hudson + Young People -
 All Age Christingle Praise Service
- Tue** 24 11.15 pm Rev Sandie Exley-Watts -
 Christmas Eve Candlelit Communion Service
- Wed** 25 10.00 am Revs Peter Mott & Sandie Exley-Watts -
 Christmas Morning All Age Celebration at Keighley Shared Church
 29 10.30 am Rev Nigel Ogley - **United Service at Exley Head**
 NO Service at Oakworth
- Jan** 5 10.30 am Miss Doth Lund
 12 10.30 am Rev Terry Porter
 19 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - **Covenant Service**
 7.30 pm **Ecumenical Heartbeat Service - Christ Church**
 26 10.30 am Mrs Olive Bastow - **Reader's Service**
 3.00 pm **Service at Oakworth Manor**
 7.00 pm **Louise Makin & Crossing the Bridge - Youth Service**
- Feb** 2 10.30 am Church Stewards - **Songs of Praise**
 9 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - **Holy Communion**
 16 10.30 am Rev Dr Lewis Burton
 7.30 pm **Ecumenical Heartbeat Service - Christ Church**
 23 10.30 am Rev Barbara Walls
 3.00 pm **Service at Oakworth Manor**



J.I.G.S.A.W. also meets 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 12.15 pm Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club
(closed 10th, 17th, 24th+31st December
and 18th+25th February)

DECEMBER 2013

Tue	3	12.15 pm	Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch
Wed	4	7.30 pm	Wednesday Club - <i>Christmas Belles</i> - Keighley Playhouse
Sat	7	2.00 pm	Village Society Christmas Fair - Holden Hall
Tue	10	1.45 pm	Ladies' Group Christmas Party - at Church
Wed	11	7.30 pm	Wednesday Club Carols - with David & Chrissie
Wed	11	7.30 pm	Watching & Waiting - led by Sandie at the Manse
Sun	15	11.30 am	Christmas Lunch - after Carol Service - church hall
Tue	17	7.30 pm	Christmas Praise with <i>Living Waters</i> - at Christ Church
Sat	21	6.30 pm	Carols in the Barn + refreshments - New House Farm
Sat	21	8.00 pm	K+WVR Carol Train + Brass Ban - Oakworth Station
Tue	24	10.30 pm	Fruit punch + mince pies followed by Candlelit Service
Sat	28	10.00 am	Stage erected in church for pantomime preparations

JANUARY 2014

Fri	3	4.00 pm	Pantomime rehearsals commence on stage
Tue	7	7.00 pm	'Inn Churches' Training - All Saints, Keighley
Tue	14	1.45 pm	Ladies' Group: <i>Crime Prevention</i> - Lounge
Wed	15	7.30 pm	Wednesday Club Bowling Night - Shipley Bowl
Thu	23	3.15 pm	Messy Church - in Church Hall

FEBRUARY 2014

Mon	10 - Mon 17	'Inn Churches' - All Saints, Keighley	
Tue	11	1.45 pm	Ladies' Group: <i>Bee's Knees</i> - Sue Chalfield
<i>Information for March Newsletter to David by this week please</i>			
Thu	20	3.15 pm	Messy Church - in Church Hall
Sat	22 - Sat 1 Mar	Pantomime - Aladdin - on stage in Church	

MARCH 2014

Mon	10	7.30 pm	Church Council - Lounge
Tue	13	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group Fashion Show - by Complete Clothing
Wed	19	7.30 pm	Wednesday Club Planning Meeting
Thu	27	3.15 pm	Messy Church - in Church Hall

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



Find us on
Facebook





Christmas Services



Traditional Carol Service

Sunday 15th December
at 10.30 am

All Age Worship
led by Deacon Claire Gill

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 21st December
at 6.30 pm

K+WVR Carol Train
calls at Oakworth Station
at 8.00 pm

All Age Christmas Praise & Christingle Service

Sunday 22nd December
at 10.30 am

Cafe-style Worship

**led by Louise & the
Young People**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

Tuesday 24th December
at 11.15 pm

led by Rev Sandie Exley-Watts

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



Christmas Morning

All Age Celebration - 10.00 am
at Keighley Shared Church

