



# March 2014 Newsletter



Here are Aladdin and his Princess with Widow Twankey, Wishee & Washee, stars of our latest hugely successful pantomime. More photos inside.

# Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

As most of you know, I am soon to take my sabbatical from April to June inclusive. So is it really a holiday by another name? Well, the honest answer is no - but there is an element of holidaying within it. The Methodist Church's official literature about it says: *'A sabbatical is a gift! A big, big space in a busy life for something different. It gives time for the rediscovery and renewal of the person buried by so much activity.'*

Well, I intend to use this gift as well as I can. My priorities are:

Time for God; Time for family and friends; Time to 'just be'.

Immediately before my sabbatical I shall be meeting with my Spiritual Accompanier to 'set off on the right foot'. Shortly afterwards I will go on a retreat called 'Landscapes of Prayer' led by Margaret Silf.

Having a life style which usually precludes weekends as most people know them, I shall take special care to spend more time with family and catch up with friends, most of whom I seldom see. So at various times, I will spend a week in Suffolk with my daughter, Liz (and granddaughter Erin), some time with other daughter, Helen, in Belgium as well as seeing son, Charles, in Doncaster. It's not certain at the moment whether Phil will be able to accompany me on those trips, but we have planned in some lengthy time together (which is fairly rare as you know). We are going to Italy to spend some time in Rome exploring the life and times of early Christians, before going on to the Siena area.

As a trustee of the Blenheim Project (supported housing for women and children), I'm hoping to get more of an 'inside view' by offering some voluntary work there.

In between times, I plan to leave plenty of space for reflection and study – and most of all for prayer.

So what happens to all the churches and their communities while I'm off 'doing my thing'? All is in hand! Through my sabbatical support group, arrangements will be made to cover essentials. If you have any queries while I'm away, please ask David first, as he is your representative on that group, or Maureen Haigh. In addition Ruth Crompton has planned the Rev Barbara Walls to take a Sunday service each month. You will not be able to contact me by phone, or email – please try to act as if I am really not here for the three months. Then I will come back to you much refreshed and renewed! Hopefully, I will have so much to share with you.

Thank you, in advance, for the gift of time. It is very precious.

Shalom,



Sandie

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# News Snippets

## Christmas Activities

All our Christmas activities were well supported and much appreciated.

December began with the Village Society Christmas Fair at Holden Hall and our stall took £27 this year.

Deacon Clare Gill led our Carol Service, illustrating her theme with glow sticks for everyone. This was followed by an excellent Christmas Lunch, which raised £295, and thanks go to the Fundraising Team who prepared it.

The following weekend began on Saturday with Carols in the Barn and the Carol Train at Oakworth Station. Louise led her final Praise Service at Oakworth - Christingle Praise - the next morning - see photos on the next page.

The Church Stewards prepared fruit punch and mince pies for us all as we gathered on Christmas Eve for the Candlelit Communion Service - which Sandie led for us this year.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas activities this year - and our Christmas Gift Appeal, which raised £180 for church funds.

## Wednesday Club

The Keighley Playhouse production in December, *Christmas Belles*, was thoroughly enjoyed by all who went to see it - as was the Carols evening at David & Chrissie's home. The annual trip to Shipley Bowl in January was well supported - David Pinder successfully defended his title and took the trophy home for another year.

Details of the activities at the next few Wednesday Club evenings are in the Diary - do join us if you are able.

## Strategy for the Future

As directed by the Church Council, our Church Strategy Team put together a questionnaire which detailed the benefits of the proposed Strategy for Mission plans and circulated it around the community during February.

Responses to the questionnaires were largely favourable towards the scheme. They felt there was a need for additional facilities in the village and our extended building would be valuable in this regard. There was however a lack of commitment to actually saying they would support the level of fundraising needed to allow the scheme to proceed.

The Church Council has therefore decided that the scheme as presented is not viable and it will not proceed.

However, the problems and needs that prompted it in the first place still need addressing and Church Council has now directed the Strategy Team to look at what alternative options there are for addressing these and to report back to them later in the year.

If you have any suggestions or ideas you would like to be considered, please let Peter, David, Andrew, Richard or Kath know.

Your continued prayers are valued.



## Messy Church

continues to attract good numbers each month and is supported very well by a good number of adult helpers. It will continue as usual whilst Sandie is away on sabbatical, when Tanya Short will take her place in leading the story time. Thanks to all who support this venture.





# Christingle Praise Service





### Some of the many comments received:

There's a simple reason why Oakworth pantomime packs out the Methodist Church year after year. Because at these eight performances everyone - audience and cast - has a thoroughly enjoyable time. The cast of almost 40 children and teens are the liveliest, smiliest, most enthusiastic bunch of panto performers you'll ever find. And the sell-out audiences can't fail to be swept along by the fast-moving blend of romance, comedy, song and spectacle.

The first act gives us the traditional story of Aladdin with a few extras - cute monkey, marital discord and a Grand Vizier who also wants the treasure. The second act is dominated by a succession of irresistible set-piece songs, like Cabaret, I'll Make A Man Out Of You, Anything I Can Do, A Whole New World, We're In The Money and a terrific finale of the Friends theme. As usual, the technical side is memorable: an imaginative magic carpet, an ultra-violet Pharaoh scene and especially the Chinese lanterns.

I'm not going to name names - there are too many great performers in a show that gives everyone a chance to shine, both individually and as a great big bubbly ensemble.

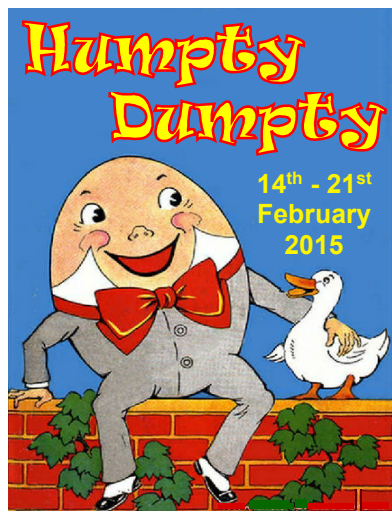
David Knights - Keighley News

Congratulations to everyone involved in the pantomime. The young people acted, sang and danced well and created a great atmosphere. The costumes were lovely. The scenery and special effects excellent. What great team work. Many thanks to you all,

Kath Batty and Alex

Just to say how much I enjoyed the performance. Really excellent! I particularly liked the 'police' scenes and the 'flying carpet'. Well done everyone.

Sandie Exley-Watts



Another fantastic show has come to an end and thanks go to everyone who contributed. Eight full houses and £4,200 raised. Brilliant!



Order your Aladdin DVD today - only £8

We now start all over again with Humpty Dumpty for next year! Workshops for the main parts are on 2nd May and auditions for new cast members will follow later.



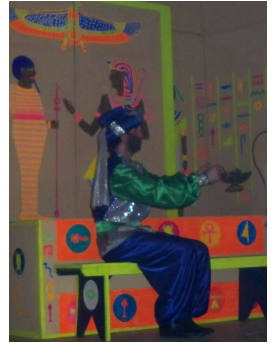
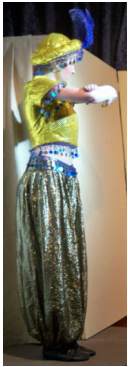














# Value of a Smile Word Search



A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with bars of chocolate and bottles of Coca Cola and started his journey.

When he had gone a short way he met an old man. He was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink of coke when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him a bar of chocolate. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him.

His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a bottle of coke. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

H	D	A	B	I	G	G	E	S	T	M	K	R	A	D	W	N
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P	E	S	A	C	T	I	U	S	I	T	T	I	N	G	E	W

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

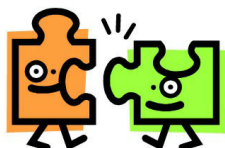


# Sunday Worship & Young People



*A warm welcome awaits you as we worship together*

- Mar** 2 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - **Holy Communion**  
 9 10.30 am Deacon Claire Gill  
 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  
 30 10.30 am Mrs Janet Clark, Helen Hudson + Young People -  
     **Mothering Sunday All Age Praise & Parade Service**  
     6.00 pm Ecumenical Service / Holy Communion - Christ Church
- Apr** 6 10.30 am Mrs Irene Mitchell - **Reader's Service**  
 13 10.30 am Rev John Hudson -  
     **All Age Church Anniversary Service**  
**Thu 17** 7.30 pm Rev Terry Porter - Maundy Thursday -  
     Hot Cross Buns + Holy Communion Service  
 20 10.30 am **EASTER SUNDAY -**  
     Rev Barbara Walls - **Holy Communion**  
 27 10.30 am Mr Maurice Baren - **United Service at Exley Head**  
     NO Service at Oakworth  
     3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor
- May** 4 10.30 am Church Stewards - **Songs of Praise**  
 11 10.30 am Rev Dr Neville Richardson, Helen + Young People -  
     **All Age JIGSAW Anniversary Praise Service**  
 18 10.30 am Rev Barbara Walls - **Holy Communion**  
     7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church  
 25 10.30 am Rev David Cooke  
     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 22nd April + 27th May)

## MARCH 2014

Sat	1	10.00 am	Prayers for our Town - All Saints, Highfield Lane
Sun	9	7.00 pm	Crossing the Bridge Lent Studies - Church Lounge
Tue	10	7.30 pm	Church Council - Church Lounge
Thu	13	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group Fashion Show - Complete Clothing - Church
Wed	19	7.30 pm	Wednesday Club - Planning Meeting - Milner Bank
Sat	22	6.00 pm	Circuit Quiz - Bingley Methodist Church
Sun	23	7.00 pm	Crossing the Bridge Lent Studies - Church Lounge
Thu	27	3.15 pm	Messy Church - in Church Hall

## APRIL 2014

Fri	4 + Sat	5	7.15 pm KYDZ Youth Theatre Spring Show - Church
Sat	5	10.00 am	Prayers for our Town - St Mark's, Utleigh
Sun	6	7.00 pm	Crossing the Bridge Lent Studies - Church Lounge
Mon	7	5.00 pm	Pantomime Party - DVD, Food, Games - in Church
Tue	8	1.45 pm	Ladies' Group AGM + Talk on Meningitis - Lounge
Wed	9	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club - Meal - at The Grouse
Sat	12	10.00-1.00	Spring Market + Lunch - in Church
Thu	24		NO Messy Church this month
Mon	28	7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting - St Peter's, Cross Hills

## MAY 2014

Sat	3	10.00 am	Prayers for our Town - The Salvation Army
Fri	2	6.00 pm	Pantomime Workshops for Humpty Dumpty - in Church
Sat	10	10.00 am	District Synod - Silsden Methodist Church
Wed	14	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club - Bluebell Walk
<i>Information for June Newsletter to David by this week please</i>			
Thu	22	3.15 pm	Messy Church - in Church Hall

## JUNE 2014

Sat	7	10.00 am	Prayers for our Town - Church of the Nazarene
Wed	18	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club - Walk
Thu	26	3.15 pm	Messy Church - in Church Hall

Check our website for further information:  
[www.OakworthMethodists.org](http://www.OakworthMethodists.org)



Find us on  
**Facebook**



# Special Events & Services

## Mothering Sunday All Age Praise & Parade Service



**Sunday 30th March 10.30am**

**Led by Janet Clark & the Young People with the Praise Band and daffodils for all the mums!**

## Spring Market

**Saturday 12th April 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**



## Maundy Thursday

**Hot Cross Buns &  
Holy Communion Service**

**Thursday 17th April 7.30 pm**

**led by Rev Terry Porter**

## JIGSAW Anniversary

**Sunday 11th May 10.30 am**

**All Age Praise Service led by  
Rev Neville Richardson and Young People**



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