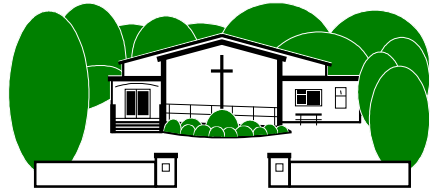


# Oakworth Methodist Church

**MISSION  
POSSIBLE**



## August 2020 Newsletter



We celebrate our church Diamond Jubilee with photos from the archives.

# Pastoral Letter



Dear friends,

One of my neighbours recently shared a Birthday card with our street 'What's App' group. It said: 'I'm not adding this year to my age, I didn't use it!' A lot of people may have sympathy with that view, but even if we haven't been able to use this year the way we wanted to, it has given us an opportunity to stop and think about the things we value most.

The lock down has given us a chance to press the pause button and ask: 'What kind of world do we really want to live in?' If we want the world to change, we have to be ready to change too. What are we prepared to do differently to make the world a better place? The same is true of our church life. Over the past few months our church buildings have been shut, but that doesn't mean the Church has gone into hibernation. During this time we've learned to do things differently. Some of us have shared worship with people across the circuit and further afield via Zoom, some have worshipped at home using service sheets. We've adorned the church with prayer flags, linked up for Bible studies, shared quizzes and stories and prayers and phone calls and done what we could to support others in need both at home and elsewhere in the world.

Before we start thinking about re-opening the church building, we need to press the pause button once again. In the past, we have often asked ourselves what kind of church we want to be, but maybe now we should be asking a different question: 'What kind of church is God asking us to be in this strange new world?' What has God taught us about the important things of life during this lock down? Jesus said 'I have come that you might have life in all its fullness.' What do we need to do differently, so other people can see that Jesus really does make a difference to life?

I hope the summer months will bring time for rest and refreshment and maybe time to think about those questions: what kind of world do you want to live in? What kind of Church does God want us to be? What can we do to make this year count after all? I'd be interested to know your thoughts!

Wishing you every blessing for the summer

*Barbara*

PS: If anyone has not been receiving our service sheets and letters and would like to be added to the mailing list, please do get in touch with me or with Peter Howarth.



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# News Snippets

## Reopening of Church

With risk assessments completed and new safety procedures in place, Church Council agreed last week that the church can now re-open and Funerals can take place. A small team has been appointed to consider when it is safe for worship to resume and for other User Groups to return, in line with Government and Church guidelines.

## Thanks

We had a tremendous response to the plea sent with the last Newsletter asking that regular giving continues to be received in some way. The Circuit also agreed a reduction in our Share - so the budget can now be balanced.

Many of you have agreed to receive future Newsletters by email - if anyone else would like adding to the list, please let David have your email address.

## In memoriam

We commend Margaret Shackleton and Stuart & Pam Farrington into God's hands, assuring family and friends of our continuing prayers and sympathy.



Taken in May

## Prayer Bunting

Bridget came up with the idea of putting up Prayer Bunting in the car park and inviting the community to add a flag "for yourself, family and friends or just because ....." This has grown slowly since it started in May and last month Pre-School added their own colourful flags to the bin store bunting. Well done! If you would still like to add a flag, there are plenty in the box by the door.



Taken in July



## Pantomime

We are still hoping that Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves will be able to go ahead next February and preparations are well underway. The first draft of the script was finished several weeks ago and, although the Audition Workshops had to be cancelled, we managed to hold Virtual Auditions for existing cast members on Zoom instead. New Cast Auditions will probably be held next month and the decision to go ahead or not will have to be made in October. The safety of cast, crew and audience is paramount and ultimately, that is what will guide our final decision.

Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves 13th-20th February 2021



35th Cleworth Methodist Pantomime

# Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020 we celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of our 'new' church - sixty years after it opened in 1960. Sadly, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we have not yet been able to celebrate at church.

However, I have delved into the archives and produced a gallery of photographs taken over the last sixty years to bring back a few memories.



18<sup>th</sup> April 1959:  
Stone Laying Ceremony:  
by Mrs Frances A Johns,  
our oldest active member.

Opposite is a gallery of the Ministers who have served at Oakworth since 1956 - either as Minister in Pastoral Charge or have had a significant input here during their time in the Circuit:

1. 1956-1959 S Dugdale Knowles
2. 1959-1965 Arthur R B Woolley
3. 1965-1972 Kenneth Tibbetts
4. 1972-1974 George H Simpson
5. 1974-1975 G Rodney Hugman
6. 1975-1979 Harold Thompson

7. 1979-1984 G Donald Baddley
8. 1984-1992 Michael Appleyard
9. 1989 Stephen Kaufman  
(6 month placement from Australia)
10. 1992-1997 I Peter Fletcher
11. 1997-1998 Marcus A Pattern
12. 1997-2004 Gordon Webb  
(Superintendent/Youth Work)
13. 1998-2004 Margaret A Christopher
14. 2004-2006 Stacey Fischer Gehring  
(2 years Probation Training from USA)

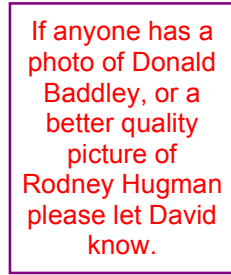


9<sup>th</sup> April 1960:  
Opening of the Church  
by Mr Arthur Shaw,  
Church Treasurer for many years.



15. 2004-2011  
John D Hudson  
(Superintendent)
16. 2006-2008  
Lee Harrison  
(Pastoral work)
17. 2008-  
Terence W Porter  
(Supernumerary)
18. 2011-2016  
Sandie Exley-Watts
19. 2016-2017  
Rosemary Nash
20. 2017-2021  
Barbara Fairburn





We celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the first Oakworth Methodist Chapel (1822) in April 1972. Blind Edwin Dickinson is seated in the centre of the first picture and the strict Miss Moore is centre in the second one. There are several well known faces of the time in the two photos.



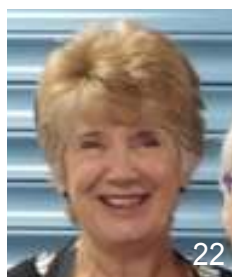
The photo below shows the congregation saying farewell to Rev Kenneth Tibbetts after his final Service as our Minister in August 1972.



Opposite is a gallery of the smiling faces of many of our members who have served us faithfully as Church Stewards during the last 60 years (starting with the most recent):

21. Andrew Houldsworth
22. Dorothy Robinson
23. Maureen Haigh
24. Val Cadamarteri
25. Madeline Schofield
26. Ethel Davy
27. Joyce Beer
28. Julia Thomas
29. Barbara Kean
30. Julie Armstrong  
(now Julie Harrison)
31. Margaret Feather
32. Mavis Scull
33. Kath Batty
34. David Howarth
35. Coralie Stocks
36. Bertha Arnold
37. Elizabeth Emmott
38. Dorothy Wright
39. Alan Shaw
40. Keith Howarth

(NB: I have no photos of other 1960s and 1970s Church Stewards)





Staff and Children at the Sunday School Prize Giving in October 1970



Staff and Children at the Sunday School  
Bicentenary Anniversary in May 1984



Sunday  
School Staff  
and Children  
in 1996





Red Riding Hood - our first Pantomime in February 1979



Humpty Dumpty in February 2002



Aladdin in February 2014



Ali Baba  
in 2009



2020 Little Red  
Riding  
Hood



# The Touch of the Master's Hand



Submitted by Glen Berry who framed it many years ago when at a low period of his life. He says, "This is a good example, as the Buthod violin I play at church was picked up at auction in a wrecked condition. I rebuilt it, tuned it, adjusted it and as I play, it has rebuilt my life and helped many others to find pleasure again in the 'emotion' the violin makes."

# Word Search: Answers Given in a Bible Knowledge Test !

1. The first book of the Bible is Guinness's.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of the Ark. Noah built the ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Moses went to the top of Mount Cyanide to get the 10 Commandments.
4. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
5. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
6. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.
7. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
8. The greatest miracle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he actually obeyed him.
9. Unleavened bread is bread made with no ingredients.
10. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
11. A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.
12. Solomon had 100 wives and 700 porcupines.
13. The epistles were the wives of the apostles. / Carta.
14. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna
15. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus sacked in the manager.
16. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.



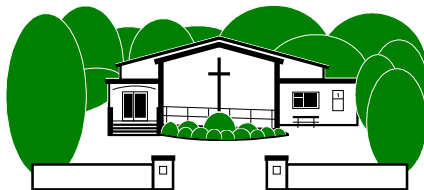
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 O E G A I R R A M O N O T O N Y H  
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 R M O Y N E D E K C A S A L T G L  
 O B I B L E R E G A N A M O S E S  
 P H I L I S T I N E S O L O M O N

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





# MISSION POSSIBLE



The **Mission Possible Appeal** total has increased very little since March: £140 from the sale of Easter Gifts and £40 Bank Interest. Local fundraising and donations now stand at £118,576 and the total amount secured to date is £453,431.

We have made the first £7,000 repayment to the Circuit Loan so the outstanding balance has reduced to £28,000.

It is now more than 12 months since the building work was completed. As the contractors had not returned to complete the snagging items, the contract has been terminated without payment of the retention monies and alternative arrangements have been made to cover the outstanding work. The clerestory windows in church were replaced in June and the outstanding electrical work will continue over the Summer months.

Your prayers continue to be valued!

