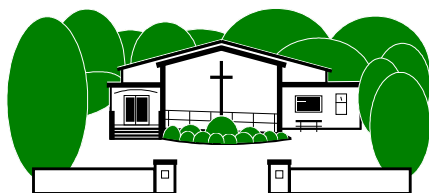


# Oakworth Methodist Church

**MISSION**  
**POSSIBLE**



## December 2021 Newsletter



The knitted poppies made a stunning display for our Remembrance Sunday Service this year - many thanks to all who contributed to this.

Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year

# Pastoral Letter

Dear friends,

Advent and Christmas is a very special time for us as a family. We were married thirty-four years ago on December 12th, and twenty-nine years ago our eldest son was born on December 22nd. I needed to stay in hospital for a few days so celebrated Christmas Day on the maternity ward at the Chesterfield Royal, with a Winter wonderland of deep snow outside the windows. Our ward was visited by carol singers and Father Christmas, and on Christmas Day we enjoyed a dinner with all the trimmings. We named our son Joseph Noel.

Our Joe is now six foot four and all grown up!

During this season of Advent we anticipate the birth of Jesus, and at Christmas we celebrate the Christ child born in Bethlehem. We sing our carols of a baby in the manger, and cherish the Nativity story. The stable scenes of the holy family will adorn many of our Christmas cards.

Once this special time of year is over for another season it is so easy to simply pack the baby Jesus away with all the decorations and trimmings, and to perhaps forget that He too grew to be an adult. A man who spoke of love, and compassion. A man who confronted the injustices of the world. A man who blessed children and healed the outcasts. A man who performed miracles, and rose from the dead.

Advent and Christmas are a very special time of year. But these days before December 25th are really just the beginning of the story.

With every blessing,

*Nel*



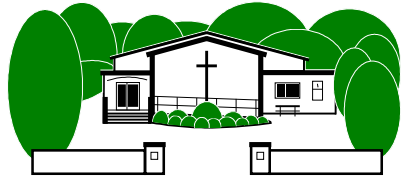
**Minister: Rev Nel Shallow**

**☎ 01535 652353**

**e-mail: [nel.shallow@airedalemethodists.org](mailto:nel.shallow@airedalemethodists.org)**

# Oakworth Methodist Church

**MISSION  
POSSIBLE**



**Operation:  
Decorate the Christmas Tree**



**'Will you help us to trim the tree,  
for all to see!' ..... that .....**



**JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON**

**Bring your decorations and let's celebrate together!**

**We wish you a Happy and Peaceful  
Christmas and New Year**



# Welcome to our Circuit Staff



## Circuit Welcome Service

A warm welcome was extended to our brand new Circuit Staff Team by Rev Kerry Tankard (District Chair) in September at Keighley Shared Church. We look forward to getting to know all of them as time goes on.

## Yorkshireman Marathon

Our catering team were able to go over to Haworth again this year to serve pizza and teas/coffees to 300 returning competitors as well as drinks before they set off. Our efforts were rewarded with £400 raised for church funds.

## In Memoriam

We commend Kevin Harris, Philip Gill, Jane Varey & Jenny Wigglesworth into God's hands, assuring relatives and friends of our ongoing prayers and sympathy.



## Harvest Festival

Nel's first Service at Oakworth was our Harvest Festival in September. She can be seen opposite with some of the children who took part in the Service with her. A big thank you to all who were involved in preparing the superb Harvest display in the photos.

## Sunshine Bags

We were not able to invite you for coffee when the Sunshine Bags were emptied in October but they still brought in £200 for church funds. Thank you.

## Church Cleaner

Sadly, Emily Varey was unable to continue as our Cleaner following the sudden death of her mother in August.

We are pleased to report that a successor was appointed in October and we welcome Jenny Mastrantuono Into the Church Team.



# Harvest Festival



# KYDZ & Panto Extravaganza



The stage was ready, routines and lines were learnt, costumes were made, tickets were sold and we were all looking forward to getting on stage in front of an audience at last for our Extravaganza. Then Covid struck and the Show had to be cancelled. Such a shame.



# Ethel Davy 100<sup>th</sup>



Congratulations to Ethel who celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 11<sup>th</sup> November in Herndliffe Care Home. Ethel is our oldest surviving Church member and was one of our Church Stewards until quite recently.

## Autumn Coffee Morning



[See report on next page](#)



# Oakworth Methodist Church



Lidget, Keighley Road,  
Oakworth, Keighley,  
West Yorkshire, BD22 7HN

**MISSION**  
**POSSIBLE**  
**FUTURE**

## Church Activities Resume

- The Church has been **open for worship** every Sunday morning since September - with larger numbers because friends from Exley Head and Oakworth are enjoying worshipping together each week for the time being. We are still being cautious and wearing masks but we are able to sing again and to share fellowship over coffee and biscuits after the Services.
- We have **welcomed Nel and Sharon** as our new Minister and church worker and It is lovely to see how well we have all warmed very quickly to both as they work amongst us. More information will be given in the next Newsletter of some of the many things they are both getting involved in.
- Our **'Welcome Drop-in'** opened at the beginning of September and has greeted people from the local community and surrounding areas. There are opportunities to enjoy the fun and join in games or simply relax whilst having coffee and a chat and developing new friendships. We endeavour to meet the needs of all abilities regardless of age and meet on the first Monday of every month 1.30-3.30 pm. Come along and join us, everyone is welcome. We are supported by Carers' Resource and Dementia Friendly Keighley. Contact Val on 01535 600530 for more information.
- Our **Lunch Club** also reopened in September on Tuesday Lunchtimes, as did our **Friendship Group** monthly on Friday mornings and both are attracting good numbers.
- **Pre-School** are now open four mornings and two afternoons every week all year round during term-time which is excellent news for us all.
- **Showkids, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, KYDZ Youth Theatre, Craft Club** and **U3A Groups** have all resumed their regular meetings at church.
- Some of our Church **Social and Fundraising events** have been able to resume, though not all are attracting a good response yet.
- The September **Yorkshireman Marathon** at Haworth raised £400; we took £140 at two **Family Film Evenings** (without fish and chips for now), watching Peter Rabbit 2 in September and Frozen II in October; the **Sunshine Bags** brought in £200 this year; and our stall at the **Village Christmas Fair** raised £40. The **Autumn Coffee Morning** last month was really well attended and a staggering £1,205 was raised in just 2 hours! A special thanks to Margaret and the Crafty Chatters of Cross Roads who

raised £630 on the Craft Stall for **Mission Possible**; Exley Head Christmas Stall raised £155 for their funds; other stalls took £420.



**Looking forward** - 2022 marks the **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the first Methodist Church in Oakworth - we hope to be able to celebrate it!



## Summary of Oakworth Methodist Church Accounts 2020-2021

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Collections	10,988.70	Circuit Share	7,000.00
Property/Lettings	7,091.00	Utilities	4,939.98
Fund Raising	620.00	Property Maintenance	5,851.47
Tax Recovered	3,269.78	Cleaner's Wages	4,485.38
Investment Income	3.38	Project Costs	0.00
Mission Collections	539.96	Mission Donations	1,499.96
Donations/Gift Appeals	1,861.55	Youth Work	0.00
Photocopying/Printing	34.00	Sundry Payments	968.36
Job Retention Grant	1,224.09	Circuit Loan Repayment	10,000.00
Tfr from Mission Possible	10,000.00	General Reserves	900.00
	<b>35,632.46</b>		<b>35,645.15</b>

### Treasurer's Report

As predicted in last year's report, 1920-21 was even more challenging than the previous year. Due to the pandemic restrictions, fundraising events were almost non-existent and several of our Community Groups did not meet at all during the year. PreSchool was the one exception to this. We are very grateful to the Airedale Circuit for accepting a much reduced Circuit Share and we give thanks for the commitment and support of so many people during this difficult time for all, which has enabled us to meet our other commitments.



### Summary

£900 was transferred to our General Reserves to help us weather the next 12 months, bringing them up to £2,400 which equates to three weeks budgeted expenditure for a normal year. Our aim is to hold three months of the budgeted expenditure figure when circumstances allow.

A further £10,000 was repaid to the **Mission Possible** Circuit Loan during the year, reducing the balance to £15,000 - to be repaid over the next few years from continued fundraising.

The **Mission Possible** balance in hand has now reduced to £3,460 as the vast majority of the project works have been completed. Fundraising will continue until the loan has been repaid.

The current year will continue to be challenging until restrictions are lifted. We ask for your prayerful support through another year as we seek to cover our revenue expenses as well as possible.

### Receipts & Payments

Income from Collections, Donations and Tax Recovered have held up really well but all other income streams were well down. The Job Retention Grant supported the Cleaner's wages.

Most Payment figures were lower than in a normal year, reflecting the reduced use of the building, enabling us to pay a £7,000 Circuit Share - about a third of what we normally pay.





Mission Possible Family Film Evening  
**A Shaun the Sheep Movie:  
Farmageddon (2019) (U)**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 7.00 pm**

on the giant screen  
at Oakworth Methodist Church

NO Fish & Chips for the time being

All welcome - just turn up on the day

Donations towards Mission Possible Appeal

When an alien with amazing powers crash-lands near Mossy Bottom Farm, Shaun the Sheep goes on a mission to shepherd the intergalactic visitor home before a sinister organization can capture her.

## Pantomime News



Sadly, after rehearsing for the Pantomime Extravaganza for six months without any problems, the Show had to be cancelled at the last minute when four leaders and seven cast members tested positive for Covid. Everyone was so disappointed.

However, we were able to hold the auditions for our February Pantomime, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves and rehearsals are now in full swing. There are several new faces in the cast and it was good to welcome Judith Chapman back as Director/Choreographer when Christine Aspinall let us know that she was unable to continue. We have all benefited greatly from Christine's experience, commitment and expert tuition over the last two years and we are grateful for all she has brought to our pantomime.

At the time of writing, we are still hoping and praying that the Pantomime will be able to go ahead, though we are well aware that Covid restrictions could be reintroduced at any moment which could change all that. Preparations will therefore continue as usual for now and details are on the next page.

The stage will be going in at the end of December and tickets will go on general sale from Sunday 9th January. Seats can be booked with confidence as tickets will be refunded in full if the Show does have to be cancelled.

We look forward to your usual support at all the Shows - bring all your family and friends - Enjoy live theatre once again!



Oakworth Methodist Pantomime

# Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

7pm Evening Shows:

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>, Monday 21<sup>st</sup>,  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>  
February 2022

2pm Matinees on both Saturdays



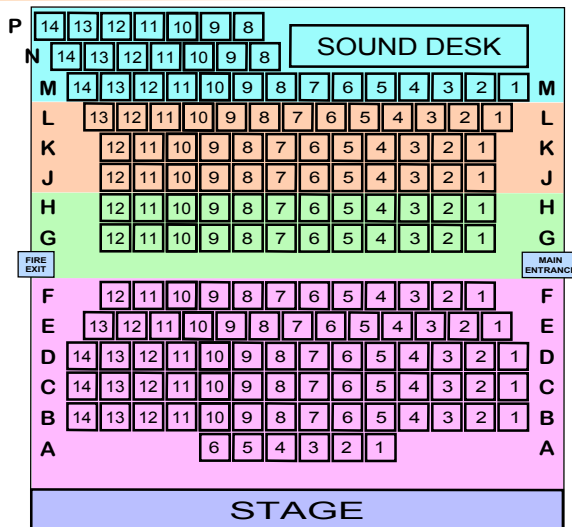
## Seating Plan

Adults £8.00  
Seniors £7.00  
Children £6.00

Tickets on general sale  
from 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Book online at [www.OakworthMethodists.org](http://www.OakworthMethodists.org)  
or ring Peter Howarth ☎07968 618312

If the Show is cancelled, tickets will be fully refunded





# The Advent Candle Song Word Search

Light a candle in a darkened place,  
in its flame see hope on every face,  
Christ our Saviour will be born,  
heralding a brand new dawn,  
so let it burn.

In the darkness, see the coming  
light,  
Word of God speaks through the  
darkest night,  
keep a watch, the time is near,  
time for hope and not for fear,  
so let it burn.

Stepping through each page of  
history,  
prophets contemplate this mystery,  
celebrate the coming King,  
words of joy and hope they bring,  
so let it burn.

In the desert now the waiting's done,  
make things ready for your King, says  
John,  
see, his glory is revealed,  
and the hope for all is sealed,  
so let it burn.

Mary found true favour with the Lord,  
yet she trembled at his strange  
reward,  
knew this was the special One,  
hope for many through God's Son,  
so let it burn.

Do not fear, today I bring good cheer,  
Jesus Christ, the Saviour now is here,  
God has lit his flame of love,  
through his Son from Heaven above.  
So let it burn.

Clare Stainsby.

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

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





# Oakworth & Worth Valley Methodist Churches Advent & Christmas Services



## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 am Morning Service - at Oakworth  
led by Rev Jennifer Lunn

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

7.00 pm Advent Zoom Bible Study  
Please contact Nel for Zoom link

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 am Morning Service - at Oakworth  
led by Mr Michael Webster  
2.30 pm Carol Service - Keighley Methodist Hall

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 am Service of Nine Lessons and Carols  
led by the Church Stewards - at Oakworth  
2.00 pm Nativity Service - at Marsh  
4.00 pm Family Friendly Carol Service - at Lees

## Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Family Friendly Communion - at Oakworth  
11.00 pm Christmas Eve Communion - at Oakworth  
both led by Rev Nel Shallow

## Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day

10.30 am All Age Christmas Celebration  
led by Rev Nel Shallow - at Oxenhope

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December - Boxing Day

11.00 am Pre-Recorded Circuit Service - at Oakworth  
Streamed live onto our giant screen in Church

All Oakworth Services will be live-streamed  
on our Church YouTube channel



# Sunday Worship

Oakworth and Exley Head congregations are worshipping together at Oakworth whilst Exley Head Church is closed for major roof repairs.



*A warm welcome awaits as we worship together*

- Dec** 5 10.30 am Rev Jennifer Lunn  
12 10.30 am Mr Michael Webster  
19 10.30 am **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
led by the Church Stewards and members of the congregation  
Fri 24 4.00 pm **Christmas Eve Family Friendly Communion**  
- led by Rev Nel Shallow  
11.00 pm **Christmas Eve Communion**  
- led by Rev Nel Shallow  
Sat 25 10.30 am **All Age Christmas Day Celebration** at Oxenhope  
- led by Rev Nel Shallow  
26 10.30 am Pre-Recorded Circuit Boxing Day Service on screen  
**Jan** 2 10.30 am Rev Barbara Walls  
9 10.30 am **Circuit Covenant Service** at Bingley  
- led by Rev Kerry Tankard (Chair of Yorkshire West District)  
16 10.30 am Local Arrangement led by Exley Head  
23 10.30 am **United Worth Valley Church Service** at Oakworth  
- led by Rev Nel Shallow  
30 10.30 am Miss Doth Lund  
**Feb** 6 10.30 am Mrs Susanne Platt  
13 10.30 am Local Arrangement  
20 10.30 am Rev Stephen Normanton  
27 10.30 am **United Worth Valley Church Service** at Lees  
- led by Rev Nel Shallow

Don't forget your face mask to help us keep each other safe.

All Services will be live-streamed on our Church YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCYWiWU9yU\\_I8EMGkVvewog](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYWiWU9yU_I8EMGkVvewog)  
and they can also be viewed later if you wish.



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



# Diary Dates



**Tuesdays** 12.15 pm Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club  
(closed 14th to 28th December & 15th+22nd February)

*These dates are all subject to any further restrictions  
which may be imposed during the winter months.*

## DECEMBER 2021

Sat 4 2.00 pm **Village Christmas Fair - Oakworth Village Hall**  
Sat 4 4.00 pm Village Christmas Lights Switch-on - Park entrance  
Mon 6 1.30 pm Christmas Welcome Drop-in - in Church  
Tue 7 12.00 pm Lunch Club Christmas Lunch + Carols from 11.30 am  
Wed 8 7.00 pm Advent Bible Study led by Nel Shallow - on Zoom  
Mon 13 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge  
Mon 27 all day **Stage erected in church for pantomime preparations**

## JANUARY 2022

Mon 3 2.00 pm Welcome Drop-in - Church Lounge  
Tue 4 12.15 pm Lunch Club re-opens  
Tue 4 4.30 pm **Pantomime rehearsals commence on stage**  
Mon 17 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge  
Fri 21 10.00 am Friendship Group - Church Lounge  
Fri 28 7.00 pm **Family Film Evening - on the giant screen in Church**

## FEBRUARY 2022

Mon 7 2.00 pm Welcome Drop-in - in Church  
Fri 11 10.00 am Friendship Group - in Church  
Fri 18 6.00 pm **Pantomime Dress Rehearsal**  
Sat 19 - Sat 26 **Pantomime: Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves - on stage**  
Mon 21 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - in Church

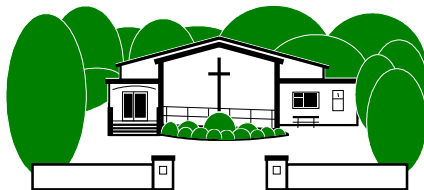
## MARCH 2022

Mon 7 2.00 pm Welcome Drop-in - Church Lounge  
Fri/Sat 11/12 7.15 pm **KYDZ Youth Theatre Spring Show - on stage**  
Tue 15 7.30 pm Worth Valley Church Council - at Lees  
Fri 18 10.00 am Friendship Group - Church Lounge  
Fri 18 7.00 pm **Family Film Evening - on the giant screen in Church**  
Mon 21 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge  
Thu 24 7.00 pm Circuit Meeting - at Bingley  
Sat 26 10.00 am **Spring Coffee Morning with Stalls**

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



# MISSION POSSIBLE



£1,552 has been received towards the **Mission Possible Appeal** since July: £782 in donations, £140 from two Film Evenings and £630 from the Crafty Chatters of Cross Roads' Craft Stall at our Autumn Coffee Morning last month. More details can be found inside this Newsletter.

Thanks again to everyone for your ongoing support and donations.

Local fundraising and donations currently stand at £125,670 and the total amount secured to date has risen to £462,250.

We are hoping to make a further £5,000 repayment to the Circuit Loan next Spring, which will reduce the outstanding balance to £10,000.

We continue to make steady progress with the electrical and AV upgrade work. We are delighted to have been chosen as one of the Co-op Local Community Fund charities this year and hope to be able to replace some radio microphone belt packs and headsets for our drama productions with the proceeds. **Your prayers continue to be valued.**

