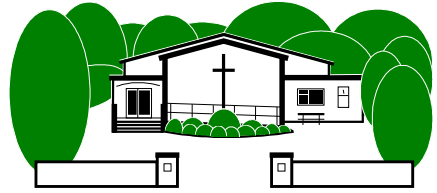


Oakworth Methodist Church

**MISSION
POSSIBLE**



April 2022 Newsletter



Our popular Village Pantomime returned to the stage last month - see inside for more photos and a report of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves



Pastoral Letter

Dear friends,

Easter is about timelessness. The Resurrection of Jesus happened at a fixed point in time. As Shakespeare wrote of love, 'it is an ever fixed mark,' and the love of God expressed upon the Cross is an ever fixed mark. However, the prophecies about Jesus spanned thousands of years before that Resurrection day. And the unfolding story of God's love continues to be told within our own lives and times.

Easter is past, present, and future.

The newness of life found in the risen Jesus transforms our own past, blesses our present day by day living, and assures us of an eternal home lived in the presence of God.

We celebrate Easter on one Sunday each year, but the reality of the Resurrection is continual.

And whilst we are reflecting upon time and the unfolding of our earthly stories, here's a little forward notice about an event in June! As we celebrate two hundred years of Methodism within Oakworth we will be hosting a day to explore and ponder together on Saturday 11th June, with workshops and sessions for all ages. Pop the date in your diary and look out for more details to come. Save the date.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter Sunday, the date when we rejoice in our salvation.

Nel

Minister: Rev Nel Shallow

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Oakworth Methodist Church Bicentenary

Celebrate with us

The first Methodist Chapel in our village opened on the site of the current Village Hall in 1822. Do join us as we celebrate **200 years of Methodism in Oakworth**. The Sunday Services listed below will all be family friendly All-Age Worship Services:

Palm Sunday 10th April 10.30 am

Rev Nel Shallow leads our **Church Anniversary Service** as we celebrate 62 years in our present building.

Maundy Thurs 14th April 6.00 pm

Rev Nel Shallow leads our **Maundy Thursday Service** which includes Hot Cross Buns and Holy Communion.

Easter Sunday 17th April 10.30 am

Rev Barbara Walls leads our **Easter Celebration Service** which includes Holy Communion. Jesus is Risen - Alleluia!

Sunday 8th May 10.30 am

We welcome the return of Rev Sandie Exley-Watts to lead our **Sunday School Anniversary Service** - 238 years after the first Sunday School opened in this area. Sadly, our Jigsaw Sunday School group has not reopened since the pandemic but we are still committed to our work with young people through such activities as Messy Church and the Pantomime.

Sunday 5th June 10.30 am

We join in the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** with a special Morning Service followed by a Bring and Share Lunch - hopefully outside the Church if the weather is kind.



The first Chapel — built 1822, enlarged 1858

Saturday 11th June - all day

Rev Nel Shallow is organising a day of workshops and sessions for all ages to launch our **Bicentenary Weekend Celebrations** - open to other churches too. Look out for details later.

Sunday 12th June 10.30 am

Rev Kerry Tankard, Yorkshire West Methodist District Chair is leading our **Bicentenary Anniversary Service**. We look forward to seeing a full church for this special Service.

Sunday 26th June 10.30 am

Rev Nel Shallow and the Panto Team will lead our **Pantomime Praise Service**. This is an opportunity for the Panto cast to share their singing, dancing and acting with us in a worship setting using material from Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves plus other worship resources. The Panto Praise Band will lead the congregation in the worship songs.



Remembering Ethel

By Andrew Houldsworth

Ethel – Where do I start? Well, I suppose the best place is back at the beginning.

Let's roll the calendar back to the mid-late 1950s. I was born and brought up on a farm at Bogthorn and Ethel lived in one of the bottom cottages 'up the Bog'. As a young lad who went to Oakworth School or went to the shop at the top of the Bog (my father used to supply the shop with fresh eggs which I used to deliver) I knew all the people who lived in the cottages by their surnames, so she was Mrs Davy. I changed schools, got a push bike, Ethel moved and we lost touch.

Lets roll the clock forward to the 1980s when I started to attend the Methodist Church when I again met Mrs Davy, now Ethel.

How do friendships start? How Ethel and I became friends I'm not really sure but over the following years I like to think that we became good friends. I enjoyed her company, enjoyed listening to the stories of her life and took real pleasure in being with her. Ethel enjoyed travelling and her holidays had been many and varied. Maureen Haigh has told me of a theatre group they belonged to, which as well as trips to the theatre included day trips and food was also usually involved. Ethel was an accomplished baker.



Enjoying Cream Teas at Kath & John Batty's

Ethel was always actively involved in church activities. She was a steward for many years and looked after one of the stalls with Margaret Shackleton at the Spring and Autumn Fayres. She was a regular at all church functions and if you look through the photographs of events you will usually find her there. *(See photo opposite)*

She played the organ and had one in her living room. There was always music on the stand but sadly I never asked her to play for me.

Ethel liked her independence and was driving well into her eighties. I think she really missed being able to get out and about, particularly as she became more housebound. When I called to see her she always asked what was new and how people were. She always expressed a keen interest in the young people she had seen grow up through church.

She liked to keep her mind busy. She had a carer who spoke Urdu, so she started to learn Urdu and when she moved into Herncliffe she found that one of the staff was Spanish so she started to learn Spanish.

When she couldn't go out shopping she decided to buy a laptop to order online. Peter Howarth set this up for her. I called to see her one day and she was struggling with her password for the supermarket. I rang them and said that a 90 year old friend had bought a laptop to shop on line. After he had stopped laughing and expressed his amazement he said leave it with him. Problem solved!

For the last few years Ethel had been planning for a special event, her hundredth birthday to which Jane and I were pleased to be invited. We were going to a swish restaurant to celebrate the day. Sadly events and Ethel's deteriorating health condition, caused in part I am sure by the lockdown and social isolation, meant that this did not happen. However, she did manage to celebrate her hundredth last November, together with a telegram from the Queen, a glass of champagne and a small number of relatives and friends. I'm sure you will remember this picture.

One final memory that makes me smile every time I think of it. One Sunday a few years ago Ethel and I were sharing Stewarding duties at church. We were opening the collection envelopes and quite a few of them contained a £5 note. She just looked at me and said with a smile "Five pounds must be the bus fare to heaven". Ethel must have found a £5 note because she has made that final journey. She was a star here on Earth and I'm sure she is a star in heaven.

Ethel, God Bless.

Andrew



Celebrating her 100th

Spring Coffee Morning



A huge thank you to everyone who helped at and supported the Spring Coffee Morning in any way. It was a lovely morning in all ways and a wonderful total of £795 was raised:

- £355 for **Mission Possible** from Margaret Hudson and Team on their Craft Stall;
- £365 for church funds on the other Oakworth Stalls and Coffee;
- £75 for Exley Head funds on their Gift Stall.

Special thanks to Margaret, her family, the ladies from Lees Crafty Chatters, friends from York and local businesses in Oakworth for their support.



Pantomime News

After a season of struggling through rehearsals with children missing because they were isolating, Ali Baba went far better than we dared dream, with a full cast at every performance. It was great to see them growing in confidence as the Show progressed - we are very proud of each and every one of them. Audience numbers were down of course but we played to around 865 people and managed to raise over £6,000 for church funds and **Mission Possible**. Enjoy the photos and review on the following pages.



Work has already started on next year's panto, Dick Whittington. It is 20 years since we last presented this Panto so the script needs a full make-over! Look out for news of auditions next month.



Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

Philip Smith's review of the Pantomime

It is two years since the last Panto, and the older principal cast members have been replaced by a fresh new batch from the smaller parts of 2020's Red Riding Hood. As always, the costumes were colourful and vibrant and added to the upbeat feel of the production. The sets also complimented the action with a lovely UV scene thrown in for good measure. All these small things add to the full production.

The story is looked over by Morgana (Mistress of the Fates) - Gabrielle (with clear diction throughout) - and Avarice (the evil Afrit) - Heidi, who was suitably evil, getting booed every time she threatened another character. The four comedy beggars gave us laughs as they tried to do good, always seeming to come off the worst. Lena, Artemis, Erin and George worked well together and giggled at each other throughout the show. Kassim and Rhum Baba - Ruby and Phoebe were suitably nasty to their stage family and were full of enthusiasm throughout. The main baddie of the piece was the leader of the 40 thieves, Al Raschid - Lily (bit of a change from the fairy she played a couple of years ago). Every time she left the stage, she threatened the audience and was booed as she laughed and exited. Lily appeared to be having great fun as she bossed around her 40(!) thieves and made sure we knew who the baddie was. Ali Baba, our leading man - Finn was both kind and generous and then a little bit nasty when his character's wealth changed. A lovely piece of acting that fitted the panto and the character perfectly, giving you the chance to follow his plight throughout the show. The principal boy and girl, Haroun and Marsaina - Scarlett and Gabriella gave us one of the two love interest stories of the show. We had to wait till the very end to see whether they got together or not, as different circumstances put them into different reasons why they wouldn't. Some lovely scenes between these two and some nicely sung songs. That leaves us with the dame and the sidekick. Cascara (the dame) - Matilda relished the chance to be silly, and with a new dress in every new scene was the full glamour of the show. She practically bounced through the panto and worked well with Tinbad (the sidekick) - Bethany - to provide laughs as the second love interest couple, and the pair worked well together and kept us chuckling throughout. Tinbad was the lead comedy part, and Bethany delivered her lines with the right amount of humour and reacted well to the audiences' reactions. She sang, danced and gelled well with the dame to give us a bundle of laughs. Not even the elastic going in her pants could stop her giving it her all in the penultimate dance and the audience participation where the groups names and her bluntness made me chuckle away. Great work.

Altogether David Howarth, Judith Chapman, Janet Armstrong and the team of helpers have put together a terrific panto that cheered the audience up on a cold February night.

Well done to all concerned.













God's Cake: Word Search



A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong. She's behind with her school work, her boyfriend broke up with her, and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack. The daughter says, "Absolutely Mum, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers.

"Yuck" says her daughter.

"How about a couple of raw eggs?"

"Gross, Mum!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe some baking soda?"

"Mum, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies, "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves, but when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

God works the same way. Many times, we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times, but God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!

Y	L	L	A	U	T	N	E	V	E	M	A	T	H	G	I	R
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G	R	E	H	T	E	G	O	T	L	U	C	I	F	F	I	D

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

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

- Mar** 6 10.30 am Rev Nel Shallow
13 10.30 am Local Arrangement led by Exley Head
20 10.30 am Mr David Clark
27 **11.00 am United Worth Valley Church Service** at Lees
- led by Rev Nel Shallow
- Apr** 3 10.30 am Local Arrangement led by Oakworth Stewards
10 10.30 am **Oakworth Church Anniversary**
- led by Rev Nel Shallow
- Thu** 14 6.00 pm **Maundy Thursday Service** with Hot Cross Buns
and Holy Communion - led by Rev Nel Shallow
17 10.30 am **Easter Sunday Service** with Holy Communion
led by Rev Barbara Walls
24 10.30 am **United Worth Valley Church Service** at Oxenhope
- led by Mrs Janet Clark
- May** 1 10.30 am Rev Nel Shallow
8 10.30 am **Oakworth Sunday School Anniversary**
- led by Rev Sandie Exley-Watts
15 10.30 am Local Arrangement
22 10.30 am **United Worth Valley Church Service** at Oakworth
- led by Rev Elizabeth Clark - followed by Bring & Share Lunch
and annual **Worth Valley General Church Meeting**
29 10.30 am Mrs Sonia Boocock

We continue to encourage the wearing of face masks in worship
to protect the vulnerable amongst us..

All Services will be live-streamed on our Church YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCYWiWU9yU_I8EMGkvVewog
and they can also be viewed later if you wish.



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e-mail: DHowarth@OakworthMethodists.org

Diary Dates



Tuesdays 12.15 pm Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club
(closed 12th & 19th April and 31st May)

MARCH 2022

Tue 1 7.00 pm Church Life Meeting - Church Lounge
Mon 7 1.30 pm Welcome Drop-in - Church Lounge
Fri/Sat 11/12 7.15 pm **KYDZ Youth Theatre Spring Show - on stage**
Sat 12 all day **Catering for Haworth Hobble - at Haworth**
Tue 15 7.30 pm Worth Valley Church Council - at Lees
Thu 17 3.30 pm **Messy Church - Church Hall**
Fri 18 10.00 am Friendship Group - Church Lounge
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 - in Church & Hall**

APRIL 2022

Mon 4 1.30 pm Welcome Drop-in - Church Lounge
Fri 8 10.00 am Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Mon 18 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Thu 21 3.30 pm **Messy Church - Church Hall**

MAY 2022

Mon 2 1.30 pm Welcome Drop-in - Church Lounge
Mon 16 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Thu 19 3.30 pm **Messy Church - Church Hall**
Fri 20 10.00 am Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri 27 6.30 pm **Family Film Evening - on the giant screen in Church**

JUNE 2022

Sun 5 11.30 am **Bring & Share Lunch - Queen's Jubilee Celebration**
Mon 6 1.30 pm Welcome Drop-in - Church Lounge
Sat 11 all day **200th Church Anniversary - day of short workshops**
Thu 16 3.30 pm **Messy Church - Church Hall**
Fri 17 10.00 am Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Mon 20 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue 21 7.30 pm Worth Valley Church Council - at Oxenhope
Fri 24 6.30 pm **Family Film Evening - on the giant screen in Church**

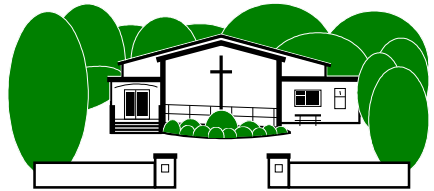
Check our website for further information:
www.OakworthMethodists.org



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Facebook



MISSION POSSIBLE



£2,020 has been added to the **Mission Possible Appeal** total in the last three months - from Pantomime donations and raffles, other Drama income and the Spring Coffee Morning Craft Stall. Details inside. Thanks again to everyone for your ongoing support and donations. Local fundraising and donations currently stand at £129,413 and the total amount secured to date has risen to £464,270.

We can now make a further £5,000 repayment to the Circuit Loan, which will reduce the outstanding balance to £10,000.

We continue to make steady progress with the electrical and AV upgrade work which has certainly made life easier during the pantomime this year. Our Co-op Local Community Fund balance is also growing nicely - towards replacing some of the radio microphone belt packs and headsets for our drama productions.

Your prayers continue to be valued.

