



**MISSION  
POSSIBLE**

**Oakworth  
Methodist  
Church**



Part of Worth Valley Church,  
Airedale Methodist Circuit

with Exley Head Methodist Church

# December 2022 Newsletter



*Happy Christmas  
and a Peaceful New Year to all*

# Pastoral Letter

Dear friends,

I really love a good Christmas movie especially the sentimental sugary ones. I enjoy the sweet, wholesome storylines bedecked with jingle bells, twinkly lights and, always in the closing scene, falling snow. I soak up the feel good factors and the guaranteed happy endings.

Christmas movies generally have a wonder-full formula: good triumphs, miracles happen, reality is suspended and we all believe in the seemingly impossible.

As Christians though we really do believe in the seemingly impossible storyline of Christmas: the miracle of God the infant, born of a woman, made human, living among us. An event so glorious the angels sang and a star shone bright as the whole earth receives incarnate holy peace & love.

Christmas heralds the possibility of a new reality and the promise of a Divine relationship between the Prince of Peace and all humanity.

A love story so miraculous no Christmas movie can possibly outshine the brilliance of God's seemingly impossible.

May we know this Christmas the possible within the impossible.

The miraculous within the ordinary.

The blessings of peace, love and wonder.

The gift of grace.

May we hear afresh God's best story.

And believe.

*Nel*



**Minister: Rev Nel Shallow**

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# Tribute to Margaret Feather

By Dorothy Robinson

It is with sadness that we share the news that one of our Christian Family, Margaret Feather, passed away on the 4th November 2022.

Margaret was part of the Methodist Church in Oakworth from being a child. She attended Sunday School, took part in concerts and, as time passed, worked very hard in many different rolls within the Church. She was Church Steward and then Senior Steward for many years.

Margaret's faith shone brightly for all to witness and she was a great support for those who might just be beginning their own Christian Journey.

Every day Margaret would set aside a little quiet time to read her Bible and bring to God her prayers. She would often include prayers for others she knew who needed support and comfort and hold them up too.

Around 15 years ago Margaret, Alf and family made a move to Addingham after 38 years in their family home at Oakworth. It was a good move for them all, although they were sadly missed. After trying a few Churches in Addingham, Margaret settled to worship in one where she felt welcomed, comfortable and her faith deepened even more.

Family and friends were very important to Margaret and they all knew they were loved, cared about and received good guidance from her when the need arose. We send our heart-felt loving thoughts to Alf and all Margaret's loved ones at this time of deep sadness.

To Margaret we say, your Earthly journey is over dear friend and we can be assured that you are safely home in the care of our Loving Heavenly Father. You good and faithful servant.

In Christian friendship and love Margaret,  
from Dorothy.



## Ronald in Uganda

The next event in support of Ronald is a

**Santa (Beetle) Drive with Food**

on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
from 5.00 pm in the Church Hall

Please support Ronald this Christmas





# Worship

As the Nation mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September, Glenys set up two memorial tables at the front of church from her own extensive memorabilia collection.



Our Harvest Festival Service took place later that month and the display was stunning! Rev Nel Shallow used the parable of the sower as her theme and the children took part in their own activities as they illustrated it.

# Fundraising



Sunshine Bags & Morning Coffee



Jewellery Sale



Airedale Male Voice Choir Concert

Social/Fundraising events  
have been many and varied!

Raised for Church Funds:  
Yorkshireman Marathon £380  
Sunshine Bags £180  
Jewellery Sale £520  
Autumn Coffee Morning £525

Raised for Mission Possible:  
Three Film Evenings £563  
Choir Concert £135  
Coffee am Craft Stall £425  
Drama Income £680

Thanks for all your support.



Autumn Coffee Morning  
Craft Stall



# Exley Head News

Since the structural problems with the roof came to light two years ago, Exley Head friends have been welcomed at Oakworth and are now part of the family here. During that time much prayer and many conversations have taken place between Circuit Staff & Leadership Team and reps from Exley Head regarding the building. Questions have been considered re cost of putting the building right and the viability of returning there. In the end, it was 'not what the heart wants but what the head knows is right' that won over and the decision was reached to request permission to cease worship and to sell the building. The vote was carried unanimously at the relevant meetings in the Circuit last month and has now gone forward for District approval.

However, that is not the end of the road for the Exley Head congregation: the Church is not the building but the people. The Circuit is now looking at an exciting new Mission possibility in the Keighley area which needs a new building. Trinity United Reformed Church on Fell Lane has just closed and is now for sale. The Circuit is considering buying the building, not to be a standard Sunday morning style of church but it could enable us to create an alternative space for worship which Exley Head friends could be involved with. Watch this space!

## Free fibre broadband from **brsk\***

We were delighted to take up **brsk**'s offer to "join the BetterNet" free of charge last month.

**brsk\*** are a new broadband provider that started installing their next-generation full-fibre broadband service (aka "the BetterNet") in the Bingley/Cottingley area last year before moving into Keighley and up to Oakworth earlier this year. As part of their roll-out, they promise to provide a free gigabit internet connection to any school or centre of community importance that their fibre network passes. This will be a great boost to all our community groups and secure wifi access will be available to groups and visitors shortly.

A banner, posters and flyers will be going up in the Annexe and Foyer entrances in the next few weeks with further details including our unique referral code ("TFWY") – any new customer who uses this referral code or scans the QR code below when they place their order will earn a £30 donation to Church funds. You will also see **brsk** community reps popping into some of our events during the year where you'll have the opportunity to chat with them.

If anyone is interested in more information, do come and speak to me; I've been following their rollout since they started in Bingley and had it installed at home as soon as they'd finished digging up the road, saving a small fortune versus my previous supplier in the process.

Peter



# Look inside Word Search

Beneath the paper wrappings,  
there's an open stable door,  
beneath the fir tree trappings,  
there's a welcome and there's more.  
Beyond the tinsel fairy is a  
presence that's divine,  
there's a child to change the  
future, turning water into wine.



Look inside, look above, look beyond and see the love,  
look inside and you will see.  
Look inside, look below, look beyond, and you will know,  
the one who came to give his life for you and me.  
  
The miracle of childbirth now reveals God's only Son,  
a miracle beginning that continues on and on.  
The stable holds the echo of the tomb that's yet to be,  
on the manger lies the shadow of the cross he's yet to see.

Clare Stainsby

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

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





## Mission Possible Family Film Evening **Fisherman's Friends** (2019) (12)

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 6.30 pm**

on the giant screen  
at Oakworth Methodist Church  
with Fish & Chips in the Interval

All welcome - just turn up on the day  
Donations towards Mission Possible Appeal

Ten fishermen from Cornwall are signed by Universal Records and achieve a top ten hit with their debut album, "Sea Shanties."

*NB: We will be showing the 2022 sequel in the Spring*

## Pantomime News



The Ali Baba DVDs are now ready - please let David know as soon as possible if you would like one. The cost is £9 and payment can be made direct to the church bank account or you can pay cash on delivery.

Rehearsals for our brand new version of Dick Whittington are now in full swing - the cast are working hard on song/dance routines and dialogue and everything is starting to come together. Work has already started on designing scenery, preparing special effects and sorting out all those wonderful costumes. If anyone else would like to volunteer to help with scenery painting, please have a word with David, Maureen or Jane. Thanks.

The stage base will be installed the day after Boxing Day as usual and work will then commence on constructing the scenery.

Advance bookings are already being taken from cast and crew families and large groups. Tickets go on general sale on Bank Holiday Monday 2 January.

Booking details are opposite and on the church Website. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

Tell all your friends - and enjoy the Show!





36th Oakworth Methodist Pantomime

# Dick Whittington



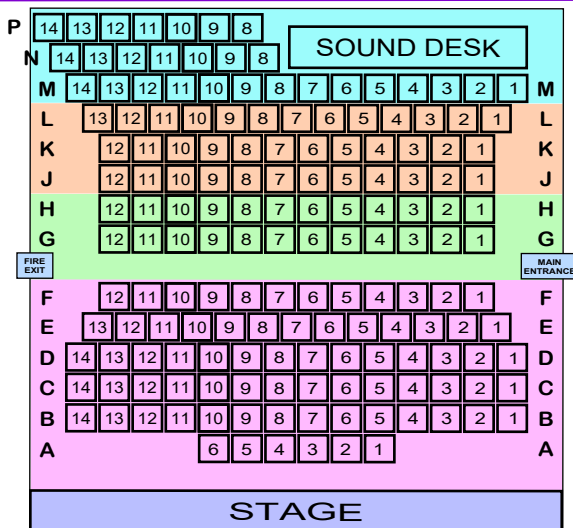
Evening Shows  
at 7pm:

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>,  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup>,  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>,  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>,  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> &  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>

2pm Matinees  
on both Saturdays

## Seating Plan

Adults £9.00  
Seniors £8.00  
Children £6.00



Book online at [www.OakworthMethodists.org](http://www.OakworthMethodists.org)  
or ring Peter Howarth ☎07968 618312  
Tickets on general sale from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023



# Sunday Worship

Oakworth and Exley Head congregations  
continue to worship together at Oakworth



*A warm welcome awaits as we worship together*

- Dec** 4 10.30 am Rev Nel Shallow  
- includes Holy Communion
- 11 10.30 am Local Arrangement led by Mrs Darrell Cummins
- 18 10.30 am **All Age Carol Service** - led by Mrs Sonia Boocock
- Sat** 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
- 25 9.30 am **Worth Valley Church Christmas Day  
All Age Celebration Service** - at Oxenhope  
- led by Rev Nel Shallow
- Jan** 1 10.30 am No Service at Oakworth  
3.00 pm **Circuit Service for New Year's Day** - at Bingley
- 8 10.30 am Mr Norman Clark
- 15 10.30 am **All Age Worship** - led by Mrs Glenda Coogan
- 22 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Covenant Service** - at Lees  
- led by Rev Terry Keen
- 29 10.30 am Rev Stephen Normanton
- Feb** 5 10.45 am **Four optional Circuit Services** - at different venues  
- See local Notices for options, venues & Preachers
- 12 10.30 am **All Age Worship** - led by Mrs David Clark
- 19 10.30 am Local Arrangement led by Oakworth Stewards
- 26 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth  
- includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Clare Stainsby



All Services will be live-streamed on our Circuit YouTube channel:

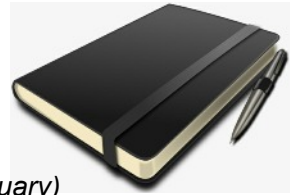
<https://www.youtube.com/@airedalemethodists>

and they can also be viewed later if you wish.



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# Diary Dates



**Tuesdays** 12.15 pm Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club  
(closed 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> + 27<sup>th</sup> December & 7<sup>th</sup> + 14<sup>th</sup> February)

## DECEMBER 2022

Sat	3	2.30 pm	<b>Village Christmas Fair - Oakworth Village Hall</b>
Mon	5	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in Christmas Party - in Church
Tue	6	12.00 pm	Lunch Club Christmas Lunch + Carols from 11.30 am
Thu	8	3.30 pm	<b>Messy Church Christingle - Church Hall</b>
Mon	12	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Mon	19	6.00 pm	Circuit Carols in the Barn - Craghouse Farm, Silsden
Wed	21	5.00 pm	<b>Santa (Beetle) Drive for Ronald - Church Hall</b>
Tue	27	all day	Stage erected in church for pantomime preparations

## JANUARY 2023

Mon	2	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - Church Lounge
Tue	3	4.30 pm	<b>Pantomime Rehearsals begin on stage</b>
Wed	11	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club Bingo Night - Church Lounge
Thu	12	3.30 pm	<b>Messy Church - Church Hall</b>
Mon	16	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Mon	16	7.00 pm	Joint Oakworth & Exley Head Church Life Meeting
Fri	20	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri	27	6.30 pm	<b>Family Film Evening + Fish &amp; Chip Supper - Church</b>

## FEBRUARY 2023

Mon	6	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Thu	9	3.30 pm	<b>Messy Church - Church Hall</b>
Fri	10	6.00 pm	<b>Pantomime Dress Rehearsal</b>
Sat	11	Sat 18	<b>Pantomime: Dick Whittington - on stage in Church</b>
Mon	20	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Mon	20	7.30 pm	Worth Valley Church Council - at Lees
Fri	24	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge

## MARCH 2023

Thu	2	7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting - at Oxenhope
Fri/Sat	3/4	7.15 pm	<b>KYDZ Youth Theatre Spring Show - on stage in Church</b>
Mon	6	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Thu	9	3.30 pm	<b>Messy Church - Church Hall</b>
Sat	25	10.00 am	<b>Spring Market - in Church</b>

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



Find us on  
**Facebook**





# MISSION POSSIBLE



£2,125 has been added to the **Mission Possible Appeal** total in the last three months - from Film Evenings, Coffee Morning Craft Stall, Choir Concert, Drama Income and other donations. Details inside. Thanks again to everyone for your ongoing support and donations.

Local fundraising and donations currently stand at £134,287 and the total amount secured to date has risen to £471,933.

Included in the full total is the £2,314 balance of the Co-op Local Community Fund which we received last month. We are grateful to all the Co-op customers who supported this funding stream.

The replacement radio microphone belt packs and headsets have now been ordered for our drama productions - funded from the Co-op Local Community Funds and income set aside for this purpose from Pantomimes and Other Drama Income.

**Your prayers continue to be valued.**

# MISSION POSSIBLE

**Total Amount Secured  
to 1st December 2022:**

**£471,933**

