



Oakworth Methodist Church



**MISSION
POSSIBLE**

Part of Worth Valley Church,
Airedale Methodist Circuit

with Exley Head Methodist Church

April 2023
Newsletter

He is Risen !

Pastoral Letter

Dear friends,

I wonder how you are celebrating Easter? Perhaps you are hoping for gifts of chocolate eggs or pretty Spring flowers. Maybe you are planning a lovely meal with friends or family. I wonder too whether you send Easter cards or create an Easter garden?



Easter is such a wonderful celebration of hope and the possibility of new life, even within the most desperate of circumstances. Each year we retell the miraculous story of Jesus rising from the dead, the most incredible tale to tell.

Easter eggs remind us of the stone rolled away to reveal the empty tomb; new life breaking free like a chick from a shell. Spring flowers symbolise hope as the bulbs blossom and bloom from the dark earth. And our table gatherings mirror Jesus feasting with the disciples before the Resurrection, and afterwards as He cooks breakfast for them on the beach.

Perhaps we could share this good news with others by sending Easter cards to our nearest neighbours, or creating a visible Easter garden. Easter is such a great story, I wonder how we might tell this tale of hope and new life?

Nel



Minister: Rev Nel Shallow

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Wednesday Club

At Wednesday Club, we enjoy a varied social programme for all adults to help us get to know each other better. Different people organise each event so that it doesn't fall on the same shoulders each month. It started way back when Peter Fletcher was our Minister and ran most months throughout the year until the pandemic struck. Now that people are feeling more confident to socialise again, a new programme of events is being put together.

We started again last October with a Quiz Night run by Barbara Boothroyd and this proved to be very popular. The Airedale Male Voice Choir entertained us in November, raising £135 for **Mission Possible** - Wednesday Club organised the refreshments. We joined in the Santa Drive organised by Susan Shires in December, which was very well supported by all ages and raised £260 for Ronald in Uganda. Following a request from Exley Head members, David ran a Bingo Night in January which also went well.

The Spring programme starts this month with a Fish & Chip Tea at The Trawlerman in Cross Hills which Margaret Nolan is organising - please let her know if you would like to join us. Barbara has offered to do another Quiz Night next month and Mike & Val are arranging a visit to Bradford Synagogue in June. Details of all these events are in the Diary on page 15.

Mike writes: *"The Synagogue is just off Manningham Lane in Bradford opposite the former Mecca dance hall. We are not sure what parking is available - if members wish, we could travel by bus from Keighley and return the same way. Like us the Synagogue is in need of funds. Our guide for the evening has suggested a contribution of between £3 and £5 per person. The Synagogue has suggested up to 40 visitors. Please let us know if you will definitely be coming. When we have your responses we will offer any empty places to the circuit so as not to miss the opportunity."*

If anyone has any more suggestions for future Wednesday Club evenings, please let us know.

New Minister

We are delighted to confirm that Rev Tracy Birks will be joining the Circuit Staff in September as a Probationer Minister with pastoral responsibility for the Worth Valley Church - we look forward to working with her. The Circuit will be advertising for a new part-time Church Worker to support her in the next few months.

Action for Children

Collecting boxes and donations raised £531.74 this year. If anyone else would like a box please see Margaret Nolan. Thanks.

In memoriam

We commend Mary Smith into God's hands, assuring relatives and friends of our continuing prayers and sympathy.

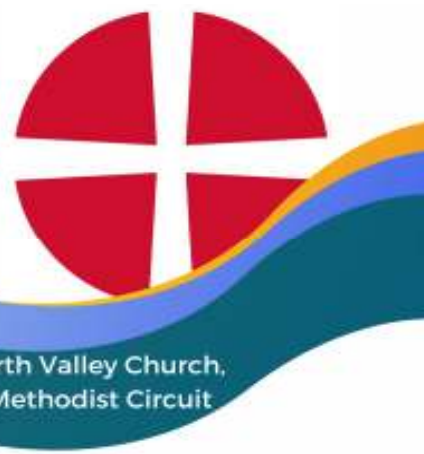
Finance

Concern was expressed at the last meeting about the rising cost of utilities. The cost of electric has trebled this year to £10,000 and the cost of gas will double next year to £3,500 now the old fixed rate has expired. These figures will certainly affect the rental rates following the biennial review due this year.



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2022-23 Projects

Replacement Radio Microphone System and Video Recording Hardware Upgrades



Funds raised to 2 April 2023:

Co-op Local Community Fund	£2,611
Donations	£2,200
Family Film Evenings	£1,499
Pantomime Raffles and Programmes	£700
Keighley Musical Theatre Rehearsals	£737
KYDZ Keighley Youth Theatre Shows	£690
Craft Stalls	£705
Gift Aid Tax Refunds to claim	<u>£848</u>
TOTAL raised so far:	<u>£9,990</u>



Fundraising



Social/Fundraising events continue to be enjoyed by all.

The **Film Evenings** are currently supporting this year's **Mission Possible Projects** (see previous page). We are showing some of the new 'feel good' films this year and attracting larger audiences each month. The last two films were both 'Fishermen's Friends' films which proved very popular, raising £393. The fish and chip suppers are also enjoyed!

The **Haworth Hobble** went ahead in spite of the heavy snow which fell during the week leading up to it last month! Fortunately, the sun shone on the day and the spectacular scenery made it a very enjoyable experience. Thanks go to our volunteers who served refreshments as the runners returned - church funds benefited by £520 from the event.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped at and supported the **Spring Market** at the end of March. We were well supported by friends from the local community and from around the Circuit. Special thanks to Margaret Hudson, her family, ladies from Lees Crafty Chatters, friends from York and local businesses. £205 was raised from their Craft Stall and £360 from other stalls and coffee.

Pantomime News



Dick Whittington proved to be another success story. Audience numbers increased to 925 and feedback has been as good as ever. All 29 members of cast came alive on stage in front of their audiences and we are proud of every one of them. Over £6,000 has been raised for church funds and **Mission Possible Projects**.

The next event for the Panto Team will be the annual Panto Praise Service in Church on Sunday 2nd July at 10.30 am Rehearsals will be during June.



Thoughts now turn to our 2024 Pantomime - Cinderella. Judith needs to reduce her panto commitment time next year so we won't see as much of her. It has been my pleasure to work alongside her since she joined the team in 2001. We are delighted to welcome Anne Mody and Phil Smith as they join the production team to cover most of Judith's choreography and director roles. They bring a wealth of experience with them and we look forward to working on Cinderella together. Work will begin on updating the script after Easter. Look out for news on auditions for the existing cast next month. New cast auditions will then follow in June.



Pantomime Review

It's February half term - which only means one thing - Panto time at Oakworth Methodist Church. This is a panto where all the cast are children or teens, with many new faces in the main parts as older members have left for Uni or College.

David Howarth, Judith Chapman, Janet Armstrong and team of scenery constructors, painters, lighting, sound, special effects, front of house back stage and dressing room people have brought together another fabulous show. David never lets the action drop in the script, whilst Judith's direction and choreography allows all the cast to join in with the dancing and staging. Janet, as always, makes sure that the cast are all brightly dressed in true panto style. Well done to everyone.

All the cast have chance to shine, with lines, songs and dances and all did so with exuberance. I especially liked the dancing rats (both times) and the policeman scene (good comic timing). These all had to double up (and more) on parts playing Londoners, Undersea life, slaves, rats, police, extra sailors and Moroccan Sultans and warriors. All done brilliantly.

Alongside these were the four main sailors, Captain Cockle, Muriel Mussel, Bill Barnacle and Winnie Winkle from the Pickled Herring, whose jokes and banter added to the comedy throughout the whole show, all ready with a funny quip.

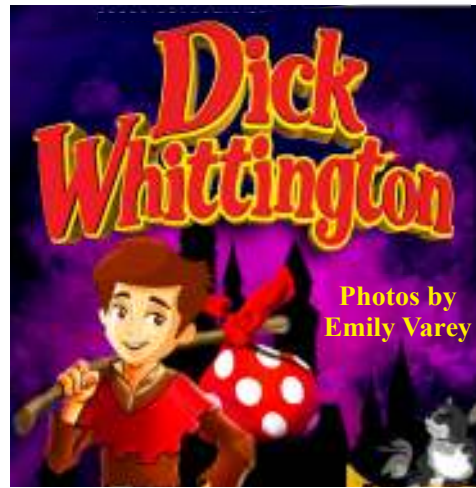
Fairy Bow-Bells and King Rat were the good and evil sides of the panto, Gabrielle with her clear and beautiful diction and Eva relishing in the "boos" she kept getting from the audience. Both were just what you needed as the juxtaposition of their parts, and both sang their songs well. Phoebe was well cast as Lady Fiona Fitzwarren (replacing the need for the Alderman) and was both stern and kind when needed to be. She worked well with all the other cast and was a pleasure to watch. Tommy the cat bounded through the piece with meows every now and then, and how she remembered not to sing, I do not know (I'd have been singing out and then going "whoops"), especially during the dances, which she took part in energetically, Purr-fect for the role. The principal boy and girl - Dick Whittington and Alice Fitzwarren - worked well together, you could see them smile as they danced and sang. Both of them acted the parts perfectly, with some real nice moments between them.

Finally to the parts that make a panto for me. The dame and sidekick. It's not easy to get away with a lot of the things an adult dame gets away with, but with Matilda as Sarah Suet, she goes just far enough. Making it silly for the kids but with a little bit of mild innuendo for the adults. Always brash whenever she's onstage with a fabulous set of costumes and audience rapport. Excellent. To bounce off the dame and get the audiences joining in with shout outs Bethany proved a hit. With a cheeky smile and a bounce in her step she joked her way through the entire panto, singing dancing and adlibbing when necessary. A great overall performance and her songs and dances with the dame were a highlight of the panto.

Altogether, another fabulous night out, watching the stars of the future. See you next year for the 37th Panto.



Philip Smith











Eco Church Word Search

We are challenged by the Circuit to aim for our Bronze Eco Church award.

"Eco Church is a learning community of churches of all shapes and sizes. It provides a framework to support your church to take practical action on caring for God's earth. At the heart of Eco Church is a unique, online survey that enables churches to both record what they are already doing to care for God's earth, and to reflect on what further steps they can take to that end and then act accordingly. The Eco Church survey, will help you 'go green' in all areas of your church life."

The survey covers five areas: Worship & Teaching, Buildings, Land, Lifestyle and Community & Global Engagement. Four local churches have attained their Bronze award and we have already reached Silver level in two areas - but more work is needed in the other three.

We encourage everyone to join us on this journey, both in their everyday lives at home and as you engage with the Church.



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

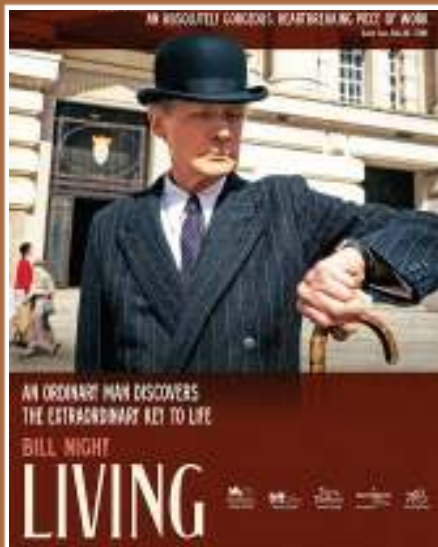


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Mission Possible Family Film Evenings

with Fish & Chips in the Interval

on the giant screen at Oakworth Methodist Church



Living (2022) (12)

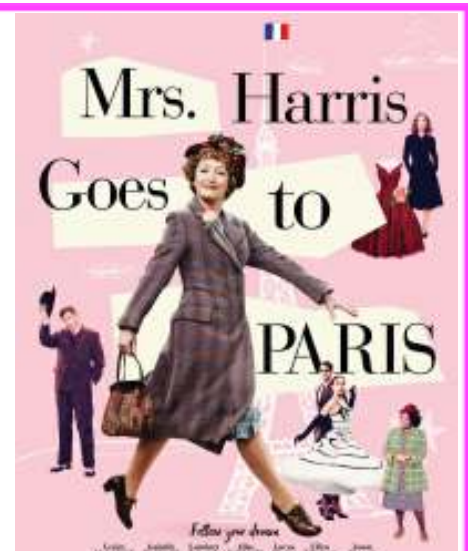
Friday 28th April 6.30 pm

Overwhelmed at work and lonely at home, a council bureaucrat's life takes a heartbreaking turn when a medical diagnosis tells him his time is short. Influenced by a local decadent and a vibrant woman, he continues to search for meaning until a simple revelation gives him a purpose to create a legacy for the next generation.

Mrs Harris goes to Paris (2022) (PG)

Friday 26th May 6.30 pm

The story of a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress and decides that she must have one of her own. After she works, starves, and gambles to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris which will change not only her own outlook, but the very future of the House of Dior.



The Duke (2020) (12)

Friday 30th June 6.30 pm

In 1961, 60-year-old Kempton Bunton stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. He sent ransom notes saying that he would return the painting on condition that the government invested more in care for the elderly. What happened next became the stuff of legend. An uplifting true story about a good man who set out to change the world and managed to save his marriage.

Sunday Worship

Oakworth and Exley Head congregations
continue to worship together at Oakworth



A warm welcome awaits as we worship together

- Mar** 5 10.30 am Rev Nel Shallow
12 10.30 am Local Arrangement led by Mrs Darrell Cummins
19 10.30 am Rev Nel Shallow
All Age Worship with Holy Communion
26 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope
- led by Rev Nel Shallow
- Apr** 2 10.30 am **Palm Sunday** - Mrs Glenda Coogan
6 11.00 am **Maundy Thursday** - Rev Nel Shallow - at Lees
Worth Valley Church Reflective Service with Holy Communion
9 10.30 am **Easter Sunday** - Local Arrangement
- led by Oakworth & Exley Head
6.00 pm **Circuit Praise Service** with Holy Communion
- led by Rev Nel Shallow - at Oakworth
16 10.30 am Rev Barbara Fairburn -
Church Anniversary All Age Worship
23 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Lees
- led by Rev Nel Shallow
30 10.30 am **Circuit Service** to celebrate the Life of Exley Head
- led by Circuit Staff - at Oakworth
- followed by Bring & Share Lunch
- May** 7 10.30 am Rev Nel Shallow - includes Holy Communion
14 10.30 am Local Arrangement led by Oakworth Stewards
21 10.30 am Mrs Janet Clark - **All Age Worship** -
28 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth
- led by Rev Nel Shallow

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 4th+11th April (Easter) & 30th May (Spring Bank)

APRIL 2023

Mon	3	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Tue	11	2.30 pm	Exley Head Meeting - Church Lounge
Thu	13	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
Mon	17	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Wed	19	6.00 pm	Wednesday Club Fish & Chip Tea - The Trawlerman
Fri	21	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri	28	6.30 pm	Family Film Evening + Fish & Chip Supper - Church

MAY 2023

Mon	1	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Thu	11	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
Mon	15	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Wed	17	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club Quiz Night - in Church
Fri	19	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Sat	20	7.15 pm	KYDZ Youth Theatre Summer Concert - in Church
Fri	26	6.30 pm	Family Film Evening + Fish & Chip Supper - Church

JUNE 2023

Mon	5	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Thu	8	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
Tue	13	7.30 pm	Worth Valley Church Council - at Oxenhope
Wed	14	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club - Bradford Synagogue Visit
Fri	16	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Mon	19	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Thu	20	7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting - at Ilkley Road, Riddlesden
Fri	30	6.30 pm	Family Film Evening + Fish & Chip Supper - Church

JULY 2023

Sun	2	10.30 am	Panto Praise Service - Nel & Panto Team
Mon	3	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Tue	11	7.00 pm	Joint Oakworth & Exley Head Church Life Meeting
Thu	13	3.30 pm	Messy Church - Church Hall
Mon	17	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Fri	21	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge

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

 Find us on
Facebook



MISSION POSSIBLE



We were delighted to receive a bequest of £7,830 from Ethel Davy's estate just before Christmas. It has been added to the **Mission Possible Appeal Fund** - which has now reached its final £475,000 target. The Circuit Loan has been repaid and the main **Appeal Fund** has closed. Thanks again to everyone for your support and donations over the last 12 years. Local fundraising and donations raised £132,318 during that period - a tremendous achievement!

This year's fundraising and the funds received from the Co-op Local Community Fund last year have been transferred to our exciting new **Mission Possible 2022-23 Projects Fund**. See page 4 for details.

That leaves a final balance in the **Appeal Fund** of £2,900. Our Church Life Meeting agreed last month that this could go towards replacing the exterior Church Noticeboard, the Dishwasher and Solar Inverter and extending the ground floor storage space in the back corridor.

