



**Oakworth
Methodist
Church**



October 2023 Newsletter

HARVEST

WONDERFUL FOOD GLORIOUS GOD



New Minister

Dear friends,

I am delighted to be here in Yorkshire working with such lovely congregations and I look forward to getting to know you all properly over the next five years. I have been asked to tell you a little about myself. This is just a glimpse: I am a mother to four, now all adult children and grandmother to three. I have been a single parent for a few years: the children lost their Dad in 2015. Joe, my youngest, is in Yorkshire with me and has just started at Leeds Beckett University.



I have been a lay worker for some time - working part-time for the Baptist church and, since 2011, full time for the Methodist church. My background and training developed in children, families, youth, disability work, and community outreach projects - both with the church and, before that, with local county and city councils and education authorities. More recently I was a Lay Pastor working with four village chapels in the heart of the Norfolk Broads, before candidating for the ministry and going to train at Queens Foundation Theological College.

My main passion lies around disability and diversity and being a truly inclusive church. The Methodist Church's decision to allow same sex marriage is truly liberating as two of our good friends in our Queens College cohort were finally able to marry in their home Methodist church. My other passion lies in environmental issues. I studied politics and international relations at University but my dissertation was firmly set in environmental law and empowerment.

I also have a bit of a theatre background: from age 15 to 23, I was involved in amateur dramatics and went on to study drama and dance. However, specific learning challenges, dyslexia being just one of them, made pursuing this as a career pathway too challenging. In more recent years my only performances have been skits in holiday clubs.

I love walking my elderly, but still loopy spaniel named Spizzy and look forward to getting to know the area better with him.

Love and blessing

Tracy x



Minister: Rev Tracy Birks

☎ 01535 670663

e-mail: tracy.birks@airedalemethodists.org

Church Worker

Hi all.

I just thought I'd introduce myself to you as I'm the other half of the Worth Valley double act with Rev Tracy. I'm the new Church Worker for the Worth Valley Church. I'm Chris Partington and originally come from Saddleworth, proudly a part of the West Riding but somehow smuggled into Oldham for administrative purposes. Hence, despite my slightly Lancastrian accent, I have lived in Yorkshire for the whole of my life.



I arrive in the Worth Valley having just finished a teaching career spanning 33 years. For the first 10 years I taught Religious Education in Leeds and then Longdendale, bordering Derbyshire. For the last 23 years I taught mainly IT/Computer Science at a variety of schools across the Lancashire/Yorkshire border. I have also had spells as a Chaplain in the MHA and, during the pandemic, as part of the Vaccination teams with the NHS.

My background is fairly ecumenical, having been brought up an Anglican whilst also attending Methodist and Baptist Churches for various Youth events or through the Boys' Brigade which I was a member of both as a Boy and Officer. I have been a member of the Methodist Church since 2012 and a Local Preacher in the Calderdale Circuit for the last 9 years. My University degree was in Theology and the course I followed in Ecumenical Theology and the various initiatives to bring the various churches closer together in Christ has always been something close to my heart along with a desire for social justice and for the Churches to engage with the world around them.

My hobbies include Astronomy, Amateur Radio, following Bolton Wanderers, reading and playing in Brass Bands. Finding time to do all of these whilst working full time and looking after my 5 children can be a challenge but also a blessing.

Having been here only a few weeks, I am still getting used to names and faces but am looking forward to getting to know you all more through my work across the Circuit and particularly in the Worth Valley.

Blessings,

Chris

Worth Valley Church Worker:

Chris Partington ☎ 07904 883491

e-mail: chris.partington@airedalemethodists.org



Worship



We were delighted to welcome back Rev Barbara Fairburn to lead our Church Anniversary in April. We also hosted the Circuit Welcome Service in September: the new team are pictured below. Rev Tracy Birks led our Harvest Festival Service last month and also welcomed Rosalie Cleo Gardner into the Church family at her Baptism on 1st October at a joyful service in a full church.



Airedale Circuit Staff & Stewards Sept 2023



Just some of the activities over the last few months!

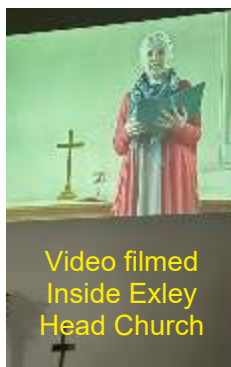


Exley Head Celebration



On Sunday morning 30th April, Oakworth Methodist Church was packed for the Service to celebrate the life and ministry of Exley Head Methodist Church. It was lovely to see so many former ministers joining Exley Head folk, as well as friends from around the Circuit and further afield, for a wonderful time of interactive worship with memories and joy in the mix. After the Service, everybody was able to catch up with friends old+new over a faith lunch.





Wednesday Club

Bradford Synagogue visit - 14th June 2023

Our guide met us very promptly and let us in through the main door. My first thought was that we could be in any church with the pews facing us. However, on turning round to face the front of the Synagogue we could see the ark, which was absolutely stunning and where the Torah is kept. It was embellished with Hebrew writing, which reads from right to left and looked quite Islamic. You could almost describe it as a mini Taj Mahal. This was explained as being due to the original congregation around the mid 1800's being from Eastern Europe.

In front of this was a raised platform called a Bimah which is the raised platform where the Torah is read. The Torah consists of five parchment scrolls that are hand written and can only be handled when wearing gloves. When reading from the Torah a silver pointer called a Yad is used to minimise the touching of the Torah.

The everlasting light called the Ner Tamid is situated at the front of the synagogue above the ark. It is continuously kept burning and should not be allowed to go out. It is symbolic of the menorah that was used in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem.

Down each side of the Synagogue were stained glass windows adorned with various Jewish symbols. There were no images of people as this is not allowed.

We were informed that this Synagogue was a reformed congregation (moderate) and not an orthodox one. From our perspective this means that men and women could sit together rather than having to sit apart.



We were made very welcome, a commentary was given throughout and questions taken.

A final observation was that there was a memorial board recording relatives of the congregation who were lost during the period 1938 to 1945, recorded as lost to a great evil. I think that is a very tolerant description of that period of history.

Mike Cadamarteri

Wednesday Club Activities - April-September 2023

Margaret Nolan organised an enjoyable Fish & Chip Tea at the Trawlerman in Cross Hills in April. Barbara Boothroyd ran another of her popular Quiz Nights at Church in May. In June, Mike & Val Cadamarteri arranged the Bradford Synagogue visit described opposite and they also organised the outing to Linton-in-Craven detailed below in July. Barbara took us on a fascinating conducted tour back-stage at the Keighley Playhouse in August. Last month, we invited friends from around the Circuit to hear an *A Rocha* speaker encouraging us on our journeys to become ECO Church Award winners.

This month, Barbara is giving an illustrated talk on *My Life on Stage*. Next month, we have a Team Games Night and in December, we join in the annual Santa (Beetle) Drive, fundraising for Ronald in Uganda. All are welcome to join us on any of these evenings.

Outing to Linton-in-Craven - 19th July 2023

Linton-in-Craven was chosen for its links with William Craven who, like Dick Whittington in this year's Pantomime, rose from very humble beginnings to become Lord Mayor of London - 200 years after Sir Richard Whittington.

Our outing included St Michael's & All Angels Church



next to the river and stepping stones, with its impressive wall hanging and alter fall; the village green for a picnic tea; the village church, where we joined in the 30 minute church service which is held every Wednesday at 6pm and Linton Falls, which were impressive following the recent rain.



Welcome Drop-In



Our monthly drop-in has been very successful with visitors joining us from around Oakworth and beyond. We have a range of activities suitable for all ages, needs and abilities. Our monthly quiz is always a favourite whilst those who enjoy being creative have developed skills in a variety of different crafts. Our coronation celebration included lots of fun making crowns, pebble painting and singing. Our group photo shows King David with his Queen consorts and Jim the Herald. Other photos show our enthusiastic crafters at work.



We are supported by Carers' Resource and Dementia Friendly Keighley who are always available to lend a helping hand and offer advice. Our sessions are open to anyone and everyone and offer a safe place for those who don't always feel comfortable in more public places.

Many of our visitors just enjoy coming along for friendship and refreshments. We will always try to accommodate any special requests you might have so just call in when you're passing.

We meet on the first Monday of every month between 1.30 and 3.30. Call in at any time and stay as long as you want, everyone is very welcome.

Val Cadamarteri



ECO Church Coffee Morning



The aim of our ECO coffee morning in June was to provide an opportunity to increase environmental awareness for both adults and children. Our main focus was on mini-beasts where, with the support of adults, the children learned how to make a bug hotel and butterfly feeders along with bird feeders. They were also able to try and identify different types of mini-beasts as well as join in various other activities including finding things on our garden trail.

Many of our church members participate in and encourage a range of other environmental practices such as litter picking, car sharing, supporting other environmental charities and projects and wherever possible we try to use Fairtrade and ethically sourced goods to name but a few. These provide us with information to better understand the world around us, which can also help us improve our environment, manage our natural resources, and protect human health.

Last month, our Wednesday Club hosted an evening with an *A Rocha* speaker, who encouraged friends from around the Circuit on their journeys to achieve ECO Church awards in their local churches.

Val Cadamarteri



Ronald in Uganda

Ronald is now 17 years old and his last report says his health has improved greatly. He has grown into a responsible boy and is helpful at home especially with garden work. He continues to meet expectations at school, he takes his drugs well and is looking healthy. He has been given a solar lamp to help him with his revision in the night - no electricity in his village - and his school gave him a pair of shoes. The family continue to be grateful for our support.



The next event in support of Ronald is a

Santa (Beetle) Drive with Food

on Wednesday 20th December from 5.00 pm

Please support Ronald this Christmas

Pantomime News



Work has started on the Dick Whittington DVDs
- we'll be taking orders as soon as they are ready.

We were disappointed not to be able to go ahead with the Panto Praise Service this year but not enough cast members were available.

Auditions were held in June for our 2024 Pantomime, Cinderella. Everybody did really well and the new cast auditions were one of the best we have held! As a result, Cinderella is fully cast and we are welcoming eleven new cast members into the team. We have discovered this week that two of the cast have been accepted as Sunbeams in the Bradford Panto and others are also in Keighley, Bingley and Sutton pantomimes! Scheduling our rehearsals could prove quite tricky!

The new Cinderella script is now ready for printing. The scripts will be given out on Thursday 2nd November, followed by the first read-through. Rehearsals will start the following week - weekly on Wednesdays and Thursdays to start with. Anne and

Phil are looking forward to working with the cast to produce another great show!

Book the dates in your diaries: 10-17 February 2024 - and enjoy the Show!



Other News

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your lovely gift. It has been a joy to share in these past two years together. Such a privilege to commemorate the Coronation of a new King with you, a truly historic time.

Every blessing as you begin a new season with lovely Rev Tracy and I look forward to being in Circuit with you still.

With much love, *Nel*.

Nel is pictured at her final Worth Valley Church Celebration Service in August.



We are very grateful to Helen Batty (Kath's daughter) for the beautiful artwork on the church front doors, entitled 'All things bright and beautiful'. Many people have commented on the summer design over the last few months. Look out for another transformation on the doors for the Autumn/Winter season very soon!

Social/Fundraising events continue to be enjoyed by all.

The Summer Season of feel-good films at our **Film Evenings** continued to be popular - and the fish and chips in the interval! 'Living', 'Mrs Harris goes to Paris' and 'The Duke' raised £495. Our Autumn Season started last month with 'Ladies in Lavender' which raised £143. Adverts for future films are on page 17.

Thank you to all who helped with the catering at this year's **Yorkshireman Off Road Marathon** at Haworth last month. We received £475 from the organisers plus £200 donations from runners.

Thanks to all who brought **Sunshine Bags** for emptying - they have raised £115 so far this year. Some are pictured below enjoying coffee.



Summary of Oakworth Methodist Church Accounts 2022-2023

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Collections	11,179.55	Circuit Share	12,000.00
Property/Lettings	13,401.00	Utilities	13,227.02
Fund Raising	8,125.00	Property Maintenance	5,871.84
Tax Recovered	3,107.50	Cleaner's Wages	5,352.30
Investment Income	364.51	Mission Donations	1,551.74
Mission Collections	531.74	Sundry Payments	1,490.37
Donations/Gift Appeals	4,991.53		
Photocopying/Printing	810.00	Tfr to General Reserves	3,000.00
Bequest: Ethel Davy (MP)	7,827.32	Circuit Loan Repayment	10,000.00
MP Project Income	13,515.34	MP Project Costs	8,527.05
	63,853.49		61,020.32

Treasurer's Report



We continue to live in challenging times as far as our church finances are concerned. Most of the income streams were up on the previous year - In particular, Fundraising saw a £3,000 increase - but costs are still rising at a faster rate. Utility bills have doubled again over the last year and they will continue to rise over the next year now our long-term fixed rate on the gas bills has come to an end. However, thanks to an unexpected £4,700 compensation payment from Northern Powergrid, after they finally sorted out an electrical supply fault which has caused problems with the solar panels not being able to generate any power for several months, and the ongoing support of so many people in both church and community, we have been able to meet our commitments in full over the last year.

In fact, the compensation payment enabled us to boost our reserves by £3,000 at the year end.

Summary

Our General Reserves now stand at £5,800, which equates to 50% of the three months of budgeted expenditure we aim for when circumstances allow.

Following the receipt of a bequest from Ethel Davy, the **Mission Possible** building project has now been fully funded and the Circuit Loan has been paid off. We were able to replace the outside Notice Boards and Dishwasher with the final balance of the **Mission Possible Appeal** funds.

Our 2022-23 **Mission Possible Projects** have also been fully funded. Video recording hardware upgrades have been completed and most of the replacement radio microphone system belt packs and headsets have arrived. There is £2,800 in the Drama Fund to cover the cost of the outstanding mics.

The current year will be just as challenging! We ask for your prayerful support through another year as we seek to cover our revenue expenses as well as possible.



Membership Word Search

Worth Valley Church Membership

Church regulars will be familiar with the name "Worth Valley Church" - a new grouping of churches which our Church Council voted to join from September 2021 alongside Exley Head, Lees and Oxenhope. At the same time various governance changes took place including a new joint Worth Valley Church Council who are now legally responsible for all property and finances in each of those buildings. Similar changes occurred in Aire Valley and Craven.

Shortly, you will receive your 2023/24 membership card which you will notice bear the name Worth Valley; everyone who was previously a member of Exley Head, Lees, Oakworth, Oxenhope or Keighley Shared Church is now a member of the Worth Valley Church and we will continue working together over the coming months and years.

If anyone has moved away and/or wishes to cancel or transfer their membership to nearer home, please get in touch.

Peter Howarth



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

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



**Maureen and Rodney
invite you to bring your**

Sunshine Bags



**to church to be emptied on
Saturday 30th September
10.00 to 11.30 am
and to stay for a chat over
Morning Coffee**

KYOZ
Keighley Youth Theatre

Living Louder



**13th + 14th October 2023
At Oakworth Methodist Church
7:15**

**Tickets available from
www.keighleyyouththeatre.co.uk/tickets**

there will be refreshments available

**Oakworth Methodist Church
Wednesday Club**

My Life on Stage

**Illustrated talk by
Barbara Boothroyd**

**Wednesday 18th October
at 7pm**



All are welcome!

Autumn Fayre



16

Saturday 25th November

10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Lots of stalls to buy from

**Christmas Gifts Crafts
Jigsaws Cakes Tombola**

Enjoy a chat over coffee

Share fellowship as you spend!

Mission Possible Film Evenings

with Fish & Chips in the Interval

on the giant screen at Oakworth Methodist Church



Ladies in Lavender (2004) (12)

Friday 29th September 6.30 pm

Sisters Ursula and Janet Widdington live a harmonious life together in a small Cornish fishing village. But when they discover a handsome stranger washed up on the beach below their house, they nurse him back to health. However, the presence of the musically talented young man disrupts the peaceful lives of Ursula and Janet and the community in which they live.

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (2023) (12)

Friday 27th October 6.30 pm

The story of an unremarkable man who sets off on a remarkable journey. Harold lives a life without purpose until he learns an old friend is dying and vows that in walking across England to see her, his journey can keep her alive.



Save the Cinema (2022) (12)

Friday 1st December 6.30 pm

The true story of the Lyric, a much loved and used cinema / theatre in the Welsh town of Carmarthen is destined for demolition to make way for a new supermarket. Local theatre producer and mum Liz Evans (Samantha Morton) decides to stop at nothing to keep the Lyric going.



Sunday Worship

*A warm welcome awaits
as we worship together*



- Oct** 1 10.30 am David Clark
8 10.30 am Darrell Cummins & Emma Sutcliffe -
All Age Worship
15 10.30 am Julie Smith
22 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth
Includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Tracy Birks
29 10.30 am Local Arrangement - Church Stewards
- Nov** 5 10.30 am Tim Sharp
12 **10.00 am** Rev Tracy Birks -
Remembrance Sunday All Age Parade Service
10.45 am **Remembrance Ceremony** - at Cenotaph in Park
10.55 am **Ceremony** - at Exley Head War Memorial
19 10.30 am Glenda Coogan
26 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Marsh
Includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Tracy Birks
- Dec** 3 10.30 am Morning Service
10 10.30 am Morning Service
17 10.30 am **Oakworth Carol Service - All Age Worship**
24 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Carol Service** -
at Oxenhope - led by Rev Tracy Birks
9.00 pm **Worth Valley Church Christmas Eve Service**
at midnight Bethlehem time - at Oakworth
Includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Tracy Birks
31 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Lees
- led by Maurice Baren

Oakworth Services will be live-streamed on our Circuit YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@airedalemethodists/streams>
and they can also be viewed later if you wish.



Editor: David J Howarth ☎ 01535 215784
e-mail: DHowarth@OakworthMethodists.org

Diary Dates



Tuesdays 12.15 pm Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club
*closed 24th October (Half Term), 12th-26th December
(Christmas) & 2nd January (New Year)*

OCTOBER 2023

Mon 2 1.30 pm Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Tue 10 7.00 pm Worth Valley Church Council - Oakworth
Thu 12 3.30 pm **Messy Church - Church Hall**
Fri/Sat 13/14 7.15 pm **KYDZ Youth Theatre Autumn Show - in Church**
Mon 16 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Wed 18 7.00 pm **Wednesday Club: My Life on Stage** - Barbara Boothroyd
Fri 20 10.00 am Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri 27 6.30 pm **Mission Possible Film Evening + Fish & Chip Supper**

NOVEMBER 2023

Mon 6 1.30 pm Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Thu 9 3.30 pm **Messy Church - Church Hall**
Wed 15 7.00 pm **Wednesday Club Team Games Night** - Church Lounge
Fri 17 10.00 am Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Mon 20 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue 21 7.00 pm Church Life Meeting - Church Lounge
Sat 25 10.00 am **Autumn Fayre - in Church + Hall**

DECEMBER 2023

Fri 1 6.30 pm **Mission Possible Film Evening + Fish & Chip Supper**
Sat 2 2.30 pm **Village Christmas Fair - Oakworth Village Hall**
Mon 4 1.30 pm Welcome Drop-in Christmas Party - in Church
Tue 5 12.00 pm **Lunch Club Christmas Lunch** - Carols from 11.30 am
Mon 11 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Thu 14 3.30 pm **Messy Church - Church Hall**
Fri 15 10.00 am Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Wed 20 5.00 pm **Wednesday Club Santa Drive** for Ronald in Uganda

JANUARY 2024

Mon 8 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 20 7.00 pm **Wednesday Club Bingo Night** - Church Lounge

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

Find us on
 Facebook





Our new eye-catching Notice Board stands proudly at the front of church and a new Poster Board has been attached to the bin store to publicise all the groups who use our premises.



Some of you may have been surprised to see the **Mission Possible** Logo included in the artwork on the new Notice Board now the **Mission Possible Building Project** and Fundraising have been completed. It is still there because **Mission Possible** was never just a building project. It was and is a God-inspired **Vision** of new ways of working and sharing our faith with the community around us - particularly through drama with the young people - and now is the time to develop this **Vision** further.

We live in exciting times. **Oakworth Methodist Church** is now an integral part of the new **Worth Valley Church** and the former **Exley Head** congregation is now fully integrated with our congregation at **Oakworth**. Our former Minister, **Rev Nel Shallow** has spent much of the last two years ensuring a smooth transition through all these changes and we are very grateful for her ministry amongst us. She is still a minister in the **Airedale Circuit** but now has pastoral charge of the **Aire Valley Church** which covers Bingley, Riddlesden, Long Lee and Cullingworth - and she will continue her work as Project Lead for the **New Places for New People Project**, currently based in the **Pre-Loved Shop** in the Royal Arcade in Keighley. **Sarah McDonald-Howard** has joined her as Shop Manager.

We now look forward to working with our new Probationer Minister **Rev Tracy Birks** and new Church Worker **Chris Partington** as they settle into their new roles. They are as excited as we are to see where the **Mission Possible Vision** will lead us now at **Oakworth** - as well as supporting **Lees, Oxenhope** and **Keighley** congregations in their **Mission** work. May we all be open to the leading of the Spirit as **Mission Possible** progresses, willing to continue to take risks to achieve our goals.