



**Oakworth
Methodist
Church**



March 2024 Newsletter

Easter

"He is not here; He has Risen!"

LUKE 24:6

Pastoral Letter



Dear friends,

This year, Easter comes to a world living with great uncertainty. So many places are in turmoil and the international community watches on, feeling helpless at the heartbreaking images we see on the news. We wish we could make a difference and bring hope in those situations. If we have faith we pray, we might email 10 Downing Street or sign the online petitions.

Here at home, we see people struggling with the high cost of living, those using food banks have increased and people strike for decent wages. All this in a post-COVID slow recovery.

In the New Testament, we read that the people lived in a time of occupation and great food insecurity. Jesus was seen as the champion the people craved; they had aspirations for Jesus to save them. Jesus had come to save them and bring hope, but not in the way they expected. Through his suffering, death on the cross and resurrection, he brought the kind of hope that the people could never have imagined. Jesus gave us a way to have our sins forgiven, so we can be in a relationship with God. Jesus told them, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

The disciples who traveled with Jesus, being taught daily, couldn't believe what was happening when Jesus was arrested. Jesus had tried to prepare them in Mark 9. He tells them what will happen: "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But in panic and horror, the disciples watched on in helplessness as Jesus, their teacher and friend, was taken away, tortured and hung on the cross with criminals. It didn't feel like a victory: they hurt, they grieved, and they were afraid.

Yet on Easter Sunday, we share in their joy. He has risen! He is risen indeed. The risen Christ brings hope to a broken world that is hurting.

I invite you to journey through Easter in awe of the miracle of Jesus' resurrection and in His abundant love for us. So, pray often, pray with hope, pray for peace, and pray in the confidence of Christ's redeeming love for all people.

May God grant you hope and peace this Easter.

With Love and blessings.



Tracy

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The Crucifixion



I laughed and mocked as He walked that day, up a hill to redeem my soul.
 I joined the crowd to spit and jeer, and I watched His sorrow grow.
 I drove every nail deep in His hands with every sin in my heart.
 My rebellion shoved the thorns in His head, and my strife tore His robe apart.
 I used my hatred to give Him a bitter drink,
 and I glared down on Him with pride.
 I thought of past disappointments, and with my anger, I pierced His side.
 I denied His power and ignored His worth and stood waiting for His life to end.
 I watched the last drop of His blood fall, not knowing my grief would begin.
 I looked around to find His accusers, but no one was there but me.
 I looked at my hands; they were stained with blood, and then I began to see.
 Conviction slowly entered my heart, and I dropped all my weapons of choice:
 the pride, the anger, the hatred, the lust, and then I heard His voice.
 "Forgive her Father, I died for her. I paid the price for her soul,
 I bore her sickness and all of her pain, and now I have made her whole."
 He looked down on me with loving eyes.
 He saw my present, my future, my past.
 He knew I needed a Saviour, and my soul had found Him at last.
 I looked around to find His accusers, but no one was there but me.
 Fran Peck. "The Crucifixion." Family Friend Poems, April 14, 2017.

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



News

Messy Church helper needed

Messy Church are looking for a volunteer to help in the kitchen to warm/prepare food for the children to eat. The sessions are on the second Tuesday of each month 3.30-5.30 and help is needed from September. Please speak to Maureen Dyson for further information.

Social/Fundraising Events

'Barbie' proved to be a popular choice for our Film Evening in January, raising £202.

Our catering team at the [Haworth Hobble](#) were run off their feet as they served pizza and drinks to over 500 returning runners - church funds benefited by £570 from the event.

The [Spring Market](#) was well supported and raised £670 on the day (£220 on the Craft Stall with more to come from sales of remaining items at local hairdressers up to Easter!) and £450 on the rest of the stalls. A huge thank you to all who supported the event in any way.

Church Life Meeting Notes

The Circuit has purchased the former Trinity Church in Fell Lane, now known as [The New Place](#), for Methodist worship and the creation of a new worshipping community for those not yet associated with a church.

[All Age Worship](#) preachers are to be asked to ensure that children are always provided for.

We are in the process of pulling together a new [Mission Possible Strategy Team](#) to develop the [Mission Possible Vision](#) and see where the Spirit is now leading us.

Tracy and Chris also want to meet with the [Panto Production Team](#) to see how they and the church can offer further support to children and parents involved in our Pantomimes, in a similar way to Jo when she was our Panto Chaplain a few years ago.

In memoriam

We commend Jean Sutcliffe into God's hands, assuring family and friends of our continuing prayers and sympathy.



Pantomime Review



This evening, I was transported to Pantomania, to meet, amongst others, Cinderella, Buttons and the Ugly Sisters. I had a wonderful time, as expected at Oakworth's panto. A magical and truly wholesome experience.

The action opened with the Fairy Godmother (Matilda), who led our opening number with confidence and, throughout the Show, beautifully narrated the action taking place. We were then introduced to our Ugly Sisters, ably played by Mya & Grace, who commanded the stage and delivered their songs with the aplomb expected of Panto Dames. When Phoebe & Lillie-Rose graced the stage as Baroness and Baron, they brought a maturity to the roles and portrayed a perfect example of comedic domineering wife and henpecked husband with their subtle humour, also treating us to a rendition of *'Loathing'* from *Wicked* – not the easiest number but performed beautifully. Our comedy baddies, Nip and Tuck (Erin & Ella), had amazing comic timing akin to that I have seen of adults playing similar roles. Their song and dance routine, which introduced the Duke, was extremely entertaining. Which brings us to the Duke (Harry), a fitting villain, booed throughout, who interacted well with his audience and introduced us to Archie, played lovingly by George, whose easy-going mannerisms were abused by the Duke but were thoroughly endearing to the audience; a comedy star in the making. Our Main three heroes; Buttons, Prince Charming and Cinderella, kept the action going throughout. Buttons (Artemis) was always first class with the humour and made me laugh out loud on many occasions. Prince Charming was played by Lily, who I have seen in many Pantomimes at Keighley and Oakworth and watching her play Prince Charming feels like she has matured into the role she was always destined to play, her numbers with Cinderella were beautifully rendered. Lastly, Cinderella (Aimee) displayed understated elegance. A beautiful dancer and singer with style and grace, who has a long career of Panto Principal Girl ahead of her. Supporting our Fairy Godmother were Goldie (Isobelle) and Calista (Lexi). Goldie was in charge of the Bears and her and the boys were amusing in their two numbers *'Bare Necessities'* and *'Gummie Bears'*. Calista, the Cat, led her kittens in a number of dance routines where they always maintained believable 'kitty' mannerisms. Urk (Henry) and Kathy (Macie), Jailer and assistant, were hilarious aids to the comedy and story line and were brilliant foils to our heroes. The Show was supported by a 16 strong chorus, who worked hard to ensure all musical numbers and dances were performed with ease and precision.

The staging and set were absolutely magical, as was the lighting, sound and effects. The costumes were vibrant and flamboyant – just what one expects from a panto. The production team must be credited with the fantastic show I just had the pleasure of watching: directors Philip Smith & Anne Mody; choreographer Emma-Jayne Jennings. All did a wonderful job of bringing the best out of these promising young actors. Producer David Howarth has assembled a master team of cast and crew to bring together the fairy godmother of all pantos – massive well done to all.

Looking forward to next year!

Roxanne Williams



CINDERELLA

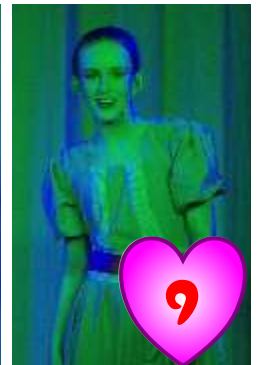
THE
FAIRY GODMOTHER
OF ALL PANTOMIMES

Photos by
Emily Varey













Ronald in Uganda

We continue to support Ronald by paying for his education. Our Santa Drive in December raised £200 towards this - thank you for your support.



The next event is an

Easter Bunny (Beetle) Drive
with Food - at Church

Wednesday 27th March from 5.00 pm

Please support Ronald this Easter

Pantomime News



After all the problems we have faced this year, particularly with staff sickness, Cinderella has well-exceeded all expectations and goes down as one of the best pantomimes we have ever put on!

Indeed, Councillor Luke Maunsell said in a letter to the Keighley News: "I had the great privilege to attend what I can only describe as the best panto I have seen. The excellent performance of Cinderella was unbelievably good - creative, funny and full of fun twists. Not only was the acting/singing fantastic, the set design was too. It really was a proper pantomime, with a lot of engagement with the audience and a down-to-earth style which suited it down to the ground. I must extend a deep "well done" to the very talented young cast and all the grown-ups who made it possible."

Audience numbers increased again this year - from 925 to 1100 - and over £7,000 has been raised for church funds and **Mission Possible Projects**. We are proud of every one of the cast members and very grateful to all the production team and helpers.

The Senior Production Team are already working on next year's Pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk! It is 20 years since we last presented this popular panto and we will be using the same base script, complete with all the Harry Potter characters and references! Auditions for existing cast members are on Thursday 25th April and new cast auditions will follow in May/June.



Mission Possible Film Evenings

with Fish & Chips in the Interval

on the giant screen at Oakworth Methodist Church



Allelujah (2022) (12)

Friday 22nd March 6.30 pm

A warm, humorous and deeply moving story about surviving old age. When the geriatric ward in a small Yorkshire hospital is threatened with closure, the hospital decides to fight back. Allelujah celebrates the spirit of the elderly patients whilst paying tribute to the deep humanity of the medical staff battling with limited resources and ever-growing demand.

Belfast (2021) (12)

Friday 26th April 6.30 pm

Buddy is a young boy on the cusp of adolescence, whose life is filled with familial love, childhood hijinks, and a blossoming romance. Yet, with his beloved hometown caught up in increasing turmoil, his family faces a momentous choice: hope the conflict will pass or leave everything they know behind for a new life.



The Last Bus (2021) (12)

Friday 24th May 6.30 pm

A heart-warming tale of Tom, a pensioner whose wife, Mary, has just passed away, who travels from Britain's most northerly point to his original home town at its most southerly point using his free bus pass. He carries with him only a small suitcase. Along the way, his adventures are recorded by the people he meets and helps, and by the end of his trip he has unwittingly become a social media celebrity.

Sunday Worship

*A warm welcome awaits
as we worship together
through the seasons of
Lent, Easter & Pentecost*



- Mar** 3 10.30 am Norman Clark
10 10.30 am Chris Partington -
Mothering Sunday All Age Worship
17 10.30 am Maurice Baren
24 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope
Includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Tracy Birks
31 10.30 am **Easter Sunday Service** - at Oakworth -
includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Tracy Birks
6.00 pm Circuit Easter Praise - at The Eldwick Church
- Apr** 7 10.30 am Rev Louise Makin -
Church Anniversary All Age Worship
14 10.30 am Local Arrangement
21 10.30 am Darrell Cummins
28 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Lees
Includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Tracy Birks
- May** 5 10.30 am Rev Tracy Birks - **All Age Worship**
12 10.30 am David Clark
19 10.30 am Julie Smith
26 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth
Includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Clare Stainsby

Oakworth Services will be live-streamed on our Church YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@oakworthmethodists/streams>
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 26th March & 2nd April (Easter) and
28th May & 4th June (Spring Bank)*

MARCH 2024

Sat 16 10.00 am **Spring Market** - in Church + Hall
Mon 18 1.00 pm Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue 19 7.00 pm Church Life Meeting - Church Lounge
Wed 20 7.00 pm **Wednesday Club: 'Totally Brassed Off'** - Chris Partington
Fri 22 6.30 pm **Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper
Wed 27 5.00 pm **Easter Bunny (Beetle) Drive** for Ronald in Uganda

APRIL 2024

Mon 1 1.30 pm Welcome Drop-in (Easter Monday) - 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: 'The Royals'** - Glenys Elrick
Fri 19 10.00 am Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Thu 25 6.00 pm **Auditions for Jack and the Beanstalk** - in Church
Fri 26 6.30 pm **Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

MAY 2024

Mon 6 1.30 pm Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Thu 9 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
Wed 22 7.00 pm **Wednesday Club Quiz Night** + Barbara Boothroyd
Fri 24 6.30 pm **Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

JUNE 2024

Mon 3 1.30 pm Welcome Drop-in - in Church
Tue 11 7.30 pm Worth Valley Church Council - at Lees
Wed 12 7.00 pm **Wednesday Club**
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
Tue 25 7.00 pm Church Life Meeting - Church Lounge
Fri 28 6.30 pm **Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

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

Find us on
 Facebook






LENT is not about being perfect

It is not about attaining some ideal
standard of holiness

It is about making time and space
to grow closer to **GOD**

LENT is a journey not a destination

Growth takes time and effort



Loving God,

During the sacred season of Lent,
bring me closer to you

Prepare a place in my home and heart
for silence and solitude
so that I may re-discover
the grace of a prayer-full life

Help me to fast from those things that
threaten the well-being of body and soul
and remind me of the grace of simplicity

Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need
and in so doing re-discover the grace
of gratitude and generosity

May this season be a grace-filled time
to rekindle my love
and faith in you.

Amen

