

OAKWORTH



METHODIST CHURCH



June 2014 Newsletter



The excitement mounts as the Hudson family anticipate which Easter prize will be on the end of the string at the Spring Market. More photos inside.

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

When David suggested I wrote the pastoral letter for the newsletter with an 'it'll be good practise for you ...' I agreed but it turns out that it is much harder to turn into a reality. So much in life is like this; starts with a good idea... but then we have to put it into practise.

How do we know what God wants for us? I used to say that I would really like God to put a big arrow with a 'this way' sign on it so I could be sure I was doing the right thing but it's not so simple.

In the Old Testament God seems to have taken a much more hands on approach, burning bushes, writing on walls, pillars of fire, etc. It was sort of obvious what God wanted but still people tried to get out of it. Moses made excuses, Jonah tried to leave the country, even Elijah went and hid. God sent messengers - Angels - telling people what to do - and then God sent his son. And most people managed to ignore him. Even after Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus continued to appear to many people, such as on the road to Emmaus. At Pentecost God sent the Holy Spirit to work through us and in us but we still need to recognise that call and then stop making excuses and get on with the job.

Rev Dr Lewis Burton described the work of the Holy Spirit in us as 'God of the persistent nudges' - you know, that niggling feeling that you should be doing something. You can ignore it and sometimes it'll go away but eventually you have to do something about it.

That's where the discernment process comes in. A posh word, 'discernment'. Put quite simply, you find people whose opinion you trust (friend, minister, etc) and

discuss it with them. They may agree or not. Where you go from there depends; you may want to test it out.

25 years ago I felt called to ministry. When I raised this I was told no... but it didn't go away. A few years later, when someone suggested I train to preach, I refused as I was 'too busy'... but it didn't go away. When I moved back to

Yorkshire, that call re-surfaced but it took a few years to be brave enough to act on it. Eventually the call became too strong to ignore.

continued opposite >>>>



Congratulations to Louise on being accepted to train as a Methodist Minister.

She will be training full time at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham for two years from September.

We pray God's blessing on Louise and all the family as they journey together on this new road with God.



Minister: Rev Sandie Exley-Watts ☎ 01535 602669

e-mail: sandie.exleywatts@airedalemethodists.org

We welcome Sandie back from sabbatical on 1st July

Mothering Sunday Parade Service



Janet Clark led our Mothering Sunday Parade Service which saw a full church enjoying the inter-active worship - which included finding words using the letters in 'Mothering Sunday', adding our own verses to one of the hymns and distributing daffodils to all the mothers.



The whole process has been incredibly challenging and, as I have progressed through this year, I have seen a number of people who started the journey with me drop out. Some recognised early on that the time was not right or the demands were more than they could offer. Some were told that, although they felt called, it wasn't recognised by others at church, circuit, district or connexional level. I think that saying no to someone who genuinely believes they are doing God's will is the hardest thing to do. It's something that most of us avoid if at all possible; we hope people will see it for themselves. If the answer is no, then how do we care for that person who now feels hurt? And if you are the one hurt, can you forgive? One of the most important things to remember is that we are the church together and it is our job as a church to look after every person as they journey on.

Jesus gave us one instruction: to love all people. How are you going to let this love show? Not everyone is going to be called to be a minister. What are you called to do? No-one said being a Christian is easy. It's a lot harder than we think. There are disappointments and sometimes we get it wrong. We are all human and we make mistakes. But as long as we are always open to God, always listening and taking care of all people, we walk the Emmaus road together.

Louise



Holy Week Services



It was lovely to see John & Gail Hudson on Palm Sunday when John led our Church Anniversary Service and encouraged us to continue to review what the church can offer to the community today and for the future.

Terry Porter led our thoughts as we shared Hot Cross Buns and Holy Communion at the Maundy Thursday Service.

Spring Market

A big thank you to all who helped at and supported the Spring Market in April. It seemed fairly quiet for most of the morning and so we were amazed when we discovered that £865 had been raised from the event - £175 up on last year and the highest total since 2007!!

The popular lunches raised over £300; Cakes and Plants sold really well and the Bookstall and the Corner Shop did well this year too.

There were some very happy raffle prize and guess the name of the doll winners as you can see from the two photos below!



News Snippets

Strategy for the Future

As directed by the last Church Council, our Church Strategy Team have been looking at alternative ways of addressing the future needs of the church and our architect has put together some new concept drawings for discussion at the next Church Council in July.

Your continued prayers are valued.

Wednesday Club

The new season started in April with an enjoyable meal at the Grouse. It was a lovely May evening for the Bluebell Walk along the stream at Hardcastle Crags.

Details of the activities at the next few Wednesday Club evenings are in the Diary - do join us if you are able.

In Memoriam

We commend Dorothy Wright into God's hands, assuring relatives and friends of our prayers and sympathy.

We give thanks for all the support given by Dorothy to her church and other organisations over many years.



Ladies' Group Fashion Show

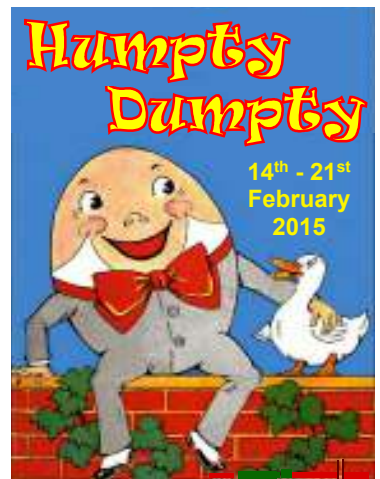
Complete Clothing used members of our Ladies' Group to model for them at the Fashion Show in March. Outfits were then sold to the audience. As a result £186.20 was raised for Meningitis Now and Church Funds.



Order your Aladdin
DVD today - only £8

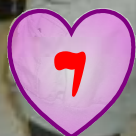
Humpty Dumpty

Workshops and Auditions have now been completed for next year's Pantomime. We shall welcome seven new cast members in the Autumn when rehearsals begin. The main parts have been allocated and David can now start work on the script! Peter will be running off the Aladdin DVDs very soon now!





Messy Church continues to welcome between ten and twenty children plus their parent or grandparent each session. Over the last few months our themes have included The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, Easter and The Feeding of the 5000. In June we will be looking at the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. The children and adults enjoy a variety of craft activities with one usually including food of some sort. Following this we have a worship input by Sandie or in May and June by Tanya Short. After this the children sit together to share in a meal. Everyone involved seems to be having a good time learning and having fun.



The Haircut Word Search



A young man had just passed his driving test. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You improve your grades at college, study your bible more, and get your hair cut, then we will talk about it."

A month later the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said, "Son, I'm really proud of you. You have improved your grades at college, you've studied your bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know dad, I've been thinking about that. You know Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair." His father replied, "Yes son, and they walked everywhere they went!"



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

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



Special Events & Services



Pantomime Praise Service

Sunday 29th June 10.30 am

All Age Worship

Featuring excerpts from the Pantomime,
our Youth Praise Band and Singers

followed by

Coffee & Cakes 11.30-2.00

to raise funds towards sending Nicole Vendettuoli
to America for a life-changing operation.

Nicole's mum, Candice (formerly Candy Foy)
was in our pantomime cast from 2001-2008.

She is pictured at home with husband Tom and
pop star Gareth Gates who is backing the campaign.



Village Gala

Saturday 12th July

2.00 pm: Procession leaves Lane Ends

2.30 pm: Entertainment in Victoria Road
Playing Field (includes children's sports)

Please see Ruth if you can help
in the Refreshment Tent

Barbecue

Sunday 17th August
from 1.00 pm

Milner Bank, Newsholme



Sunday Worship & Young People



A warm welcome awaits you as we worship together

- Jun** 1 10.30 am Mrs Anne O'Shaughnessy
8 10.30 am Mr David Miller
15 10.30 am Rev Barbara Walls - **Holy Communion**
7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church
22 10.30 am Mrs Anne O'Shaughnessy
3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor
29 10.30 am David Howarth + Young People -
All Age Pantomime Praise Service
6.00 pm Rev John Rogers - Ecumenical Service with
Holy Communion - Christ Church
- Jul** 6 No Services today - Tour de France
13 10.30 am Rev Malcolm Sharrock - **Holy Communion**
20 10.30 am Church Stewards - **Songs of Praise**
7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church
27 10.30 am Mrs Louise Makin
3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor
- Aug** 3 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - **Holy Communion**
10 10.30 am Rev Saidu Kanu
17 10.30 am Rev Terry Porter - **United Service at Exley Head**
NO Service at Oakworth
24 10.30 am Mrs Janet Clark
3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor
31 10.30 am Rev Jennifer Lunn
6.00 pm Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - Ecumenical Service with
Holy Communion - Methodist Church



J.I.G.S.A.W. also meets at 10.30 am

- Closed for Summer Holidays: 27 July - 31 August

Creche facilities are available when required



Details of Circuit Events and Services can be found
in the Circuit News section of this Newsletter

Diary Dates



Tuesdays 12.15 pm Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club
(closed 8th July - 2nd September)

JUNE 2014

Fri 6 7.00 pm **Candlelight Cabaret & Mini Meal** - in Church
Sat 7 10.00 am Prayers for our Town - Church of the Nazarene
Sat 7 7.00 pm **Candlelight Cabaret & Mini Meal** - in Church
Wed 18 7.00 pm Wednesday Club - Walk
Thu 26 3.15 pm **Messy Church** - in Church Hall
Sun 29 11.30-2.00 **Coffee and Cakes** for baby Nicole operation - Church

JULY 2014

Sat 5 10.00 am Prayers for our Town - Keighley Shared Church
Sun 6 All Day Tour de France - No Church Services today
Sat 12 2.00 pm **Village Gala** - Victoria Road Playing Field
Tue 15 7.30 pm Church Council - Church Lounge
Wed 16 7.00 pm Wednesday Club - Canal Trip
Thu 17 3.15 pm **Messy Church** - in Church Hall
Thu 24 + Fri 25 7.15 pm KYDZ Youth Theatre Summer Show - Church

AUGUST 2014

Sat 2 10.00 am Prayers for our Town - The Airedale Church
Sun 17 1.00 pm **Barbecue** - Milner Bank, Newsholme
Wed 20 7.00 pm Wednesday Club - Karaoke Evening - Milner Bank
Information for September Newsletter to David by this week please

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sat 6 10.00 am Prayers for our Town - Trinity Church
Fri 12 to Sun 14 **Christ Church Weekend Away at Scarborough**
Sun 14 All Day **Yorkshireman Off-Road Marathon** - Haworth
Wed 17 7.00 pm Wednesday Club Film Night & Faith Supper - in Church
Sun 21 10.30 am **Harvest Festival All-Age Worship** - Sandie Exley-Watts
Thu 25 3.15 pm **Messy Church** - in Church Hall

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

 Find us on
Facebook



Candlelight Cabaret and Mini Meal

**Friday & Saturday
6th & 7th June at 7.00 pm**



Book your table today to enjoy a seven course mini meal and be entertained by superb cabaret acts performed by groups who use our premises - all in candlelight. Contact David - details below.

This year, the cabaret acts include singing, dancing and comic capers - all drawn from such diverse groups as Guides and Brownies, Scouts and Cubs, Ladies' Group, KYDZ Youth Theatre, plus past and present Pantomime cast members!

Your MC for the evening will be Glen Berry. Background music will be provided by the KYDZ Youth Theatre Band.



*There is NO charge - Booking is essential.
Donations will be invited for the future work of the church.*



Editor: David J Howarth ☎ **01535 215784**

e-mail: DHowarth@OakworthMethodists.org