

**OAKWORTH**



**METHODIST CHURCH**



# **December 2014 Newsletter**



This September Harvest Festival centrepiece was arranged by some of our ladies, incorporating wreaths created by our JIGSAW children.

# Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends,

Each day now, as we get nearer to Christmas, there's a sense of urgency in the town centres. In every shopping centre there's an air of single-mindedness. No dawdling about window shopping now, but a determination to get the last few presents and all that we think necessary to celebrate the season. Many people will have made long lists of things to buy and things to do before Christmas. Some will have methodically been working through their lists for many months now. Others, like me, will do things much more at the last minute. Either way, there is a determination to complete the task in time.

We need the same kind of determination inwardly or spiritually, to approach Christmas with a desire to receive all it has to offer! When Mary, the mother of Jesus, went to visit her cousin Elizabeth on realizing that she was pregnant with a very special child, Elizabeth greets her with; 'How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!' Mary's own joy is mirrored by her friend, and together they grasp the reality of God's gift to them and to the world. The experience is a bit like a single log smouldering in the fireplace; then another log is put beside it, the two catch fire and the flames roar. So Mary and Elizabeth, in their experience of God, are on fire with joy.

God offers the same gift of joy to all of us. It's not something we can buy or achieve, but something we can receive if we are open enough. It doesn't matter who we are or what we may have done in the past. We just need to stretch out our empty hands and ask God to dwell within us.

Many of us are living in a kind of darkness, prisoners of problems that we might be aware of, or are perhaps too painful to face. And as the days get shorter and the nights get longer, the darkness within seems doubly dark. We might be consumed with resentment or nursing a deep anger. We might be so fearful that we see disaster at every turn or we might be prey to depression ... The list could go on and on.

God's promise is that in the coming of Jesus, we will be released from darkness. In the words of the prophet repeated at many carol services; 'The people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light.'


So as Christmas Day draws nearer, let us draw nearer to that Light, single-mindedly asking for it in our lives. This is why God came in Jesus, to overcome darkness, and turn our mourning into dancing, our sorrow into joy.



Shalom,

*Sandie*

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# News Snippets

## Church Flowers

A huge thank you to all who provide and arrange the flowers in church each week. They are appreciated by all. The rota is now being prepared for 2015 - please add your name to the calendar at the back of church or speak to Kath Batty. Thank you.

## Carols in the Barn

Come and witness the enactment of the nativity scene with children and live animals at this village Carol Service in the Barn at New House Farm on Saturday 20 December at 6.30 pm.

If you are able to provide some mince pies for the refreshments after the Service or to help with serving the refreshments, please have a word with Kath Batty. Many thanks.

# Happy Christmas to all our readers

IS THE CHURCH  
ON YOUR  
CHRISTMAS LIST?



Please place your Gift Envelope  
on the collection plate at church  
or let David have it. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS  
CARDS

Instead of writing Christmas  
Cards to everyone at church,  
would you like to write just one  
card and add it to the display at  
church for all to share?

The money you save could go in  
your Gift Envelope. ✦



Pick up a Christmas Gift Envelope from the table at the back of church.

Mary said, "My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Saviour, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! From now on all people will call me happy. *Luke 1:46-48*



# All Age Worship

## Harvest Festival

Sandie Exley-Watts led our Harvest Festival Service this year, during which the children made these rather stylish spectacles!



## Prize Giving

'Love is ...' was the theme Maurice Baren explored at the JIGSAW Prize Giving Service. Congratulations to our young people who all received prizes.



## Remembrance

The Ceremony of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in the Park was well attended, as we were reminded that it is one hundred years this year since the outbreak of the First World War. We continue to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom.





# Social Events

## Yorkshireman Marathon

A hectic September weekend was spent preparing and serving soup, sandwiches and cake to the Off-Road Marathon runners at Haworth. We are grateful for the £750 thank you cheque.

## Wednesday Club Film Night

Another popular film was enjoyed by all - as was the faith supper!



## Sunshine Bags & Coffee

Maureen and Rodney thank all who brought their Sunshine Bags to be emptied. £200 was raised this year.

## Gerry and the Hatricks Concert

The Ladies' Group Big Band Concert was an excellent night out. Gerry and the Hatricks were joined by soloist Michaela, raising £390 for Martin House and Church funds.



## Ian Dewhirst

A packed church was entertained at an Evening with Ian Dewhirst, talking about 'Local Life in the First World War'. The evening started with a pie and pea supper and raised £345.



## Tea at the Ritz

The most popular event of the Autumn was Tea at the Ritz - an afternoon of elegance and relaxation in pleasant surroundings with delicious food and beautiful music. 100 guests enjoyed the experience so much that donations of £680 were made to the church. Pictures on next page.



## Autumn Fayre

Numbers were down at the Autumn Fayre this year but people enjoyed the fellowship as they browsed round the stalls and shared lunch, raising £660.

TEA AT THE *Ritz*



# Twelve Days of Christmas Word Search

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

Drummers Drumming  
 Ladies Dancing  
 Geese a Laying  
 French Hens

Pipers Piping  
 Maids a Milking  
 Gold Rings  
 Turtle Doves

Lords a Leaping  
 Swans a Swimming  
 Calling Birds  
 Partridge in a Pear Tree



## Summary of Oakworth Methodist Church Accounts 2013-2014

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Collections	12,551.29	Circuit Share	17,700.00
Property/Lettings	10,457.00	Utilities	6,573.68
Fund Raising	8,787.00	Property Maintenance	5,694.17
Tax Recovered	4,217.00	Cleaner's Wages	3,960.00
Project Income	3,350.00	Project Costs	3,345.84
Mission Collections	800.86	Mission Donations	2,555.86
Donations/Gift Appeals	584.50	Youth Work	245.50
Investment Income	271.37	Sundry Payments	1,629.58
Sundry Receipts	700.96		
	<b>41,719.98</b>		<b>41,704.63</b>

### Treasurer's Report

We continue to give thanks for the commitment and support of so many people which enables the Mission work of our church.



### Receipts

Collections, Property/Lettings, Fund Raising and Tax Recoveries all showed healthy increases on the previous year, enabling us to just nicely cover our expenses. We are very grateful for this.

The surplus Project Income held over from the previous year is included in the Project Income figure above.

### Payments

We were able to increase our Circuit Share by £700 as promised.

All other general costs were broadly in line with the budgeted figures.

Mission Donations were up by £600 thanks to your tremendous support for 'Nicole's Wish to Walk' at the Coffee & Cakes event in June.



### Project Costs

These covered the cost of the new Church PA System and Lighting Desk, replacement radio mic belt packs, new cupboards for Messy Church and other users and replacement of a faulty radiator in church. They were fully covered by the Project Income which is kept separate from the normal budget.

### Summary

Our reserves at the year-end were less than the three months expenditure figure agreed by Church Council but since then, we have received a £25,000 bequest from Dorothy Wright and a £10,000 donation in memory of Kathleen Frost (née Isles) who was married in our church 65 years ago. We were delighted to receive both of these gifts which will be invested for use towards our building scheme.

Thanks again to everyone for your generosity in the ongoing difficult economic climate.

We ask for your continuing prayerful support through the current year.



# 29<sup>th</sup> Oakworth Methodist Pantomime

# Humpty



# Dumpty



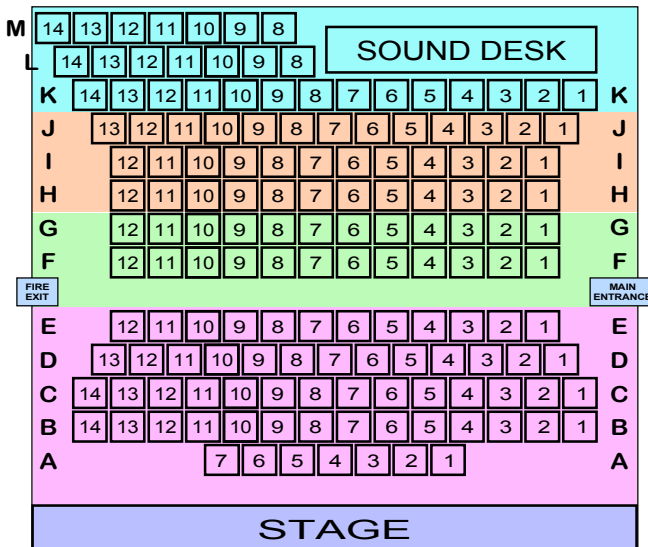
**7pm Evening Shows:** Saturday 14th Feb, Monday 16th Feb, Tuesday 17th Feb, Wednesday 18th Feb, Friday 20th Feb & Saturday 21st Feb

**2pm Matinees:** on both Saturdays

Seats will be individually ticketed this year (as in most theatres) - the earlier you book, the better your choice!

Booking opens 1st January 2015.

Adults £7.00  
Senior Citizens £6.00  
Children £5.00



Book online at [www.OakworthMethodists.org](http://www.OakworthMethodists.org) ...  
or call at Church - at rehearsals or on Saturdays 11.00-3.00  
or ☎ 01535 642625, mob: 07925 257344  
or email: [janet.raymond@me.com](mailto:janet.raymond@me.com)



# Sunday Worship & Young People



*A warm welcome awaits you as we worship together*

- Dec** 7 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts -  
**All Age Christingle Praise Service**
- 14 10.30 am Mrs Janet Clark - **All Age Carol Service**  
3.00 pm **Carols at Oakworth Manor**
- 21 10.30 am Rev Terry Porter - **Holy Communion**
- Wed 24 11.15 pm Rev Sandie Exley-Watts & Mrs Louise Makin -  
**Christmas Eve Candlelit Communion Service**
- Thu 25 10.00 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts -  
**Christmas Morning All Age Celebration at Keighley Shared Church**
- 28 10.30 am Rev Saidu Kanu - **United Service at Exley Head**  
NO Service at Oakworth
- Jan** 4 10.30 am Miss Doth Lund
- 11 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - **Covenant Service**
- 18 10.30 am Rev Barbara Walls  
7.30 pm **Ecumenical Heartbeat Service - Christ Church**
- 25 10.30 am Rev Dr Neville Richardson  
3.00 pm **Service at Oakworth Manor**
- Feb** 1 10.30 am Miss Kathryn Whitaker
- 8 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - **Holy Communion**
- 15 10.30 am Local Arrangement  
7.30 pm **Ecumenical Heartbeat Service - Christ Church**
- 22 10.30 am Mr Dewar Wishart  
3.00 pm **Service at Oakworth Manor**



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

- All Children and Young People are welcome

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 9th, 16th, 23rd+30th December  
and 10th+17th February)

## DECEMBER 2014

Tue 2 12.15 pm Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch  
Sat 6 2.00 pm Village Society Christmas Fair - Holden Hall  
Tue 9 1.45 pm Ladies' Group Christmas Party - at Church  
Wed 10 7.30 pm Wednesday Club - *When we are Married* - Keighley Playhouse  
Sun 14 11.30 am **Christmas Lunch - after Carol Service - church hall**  
Tue 16 7.30 pm **Christmas Praise with *Living Waters* - at Christ Church**  
Sat 20 6.30 pm Carols in the Barn + refreshments - New House Farm  
Sat 20 8.00 pm K+WVR Carol Train + Brass Band - Oakworth Station  
Wed 24 10.30 pm **Fruit punch + mince pies followed by Candlelit Service**  
Sat 27 10.00 am Stage erected in church for pantomime preparations

## JANUARY 2015

Mon 5 5.00 pm **Pantomime rehearsals commence on stage**  
Mon 5 - Mon 12 'Inn Churches' - St Mark's Church, Utley  
Tue 13 1.45 pm Ladies' Group: *Working with Felt* - Val Cadamarteri  
Wed 14 7.00 pm Wednesday Club Bowling Night - Shipley Bowl  
Thu 22 3.15 pm **Messy Church - in Church Hall**

## FEBRUARY 2015

Tue 10 1.45 pm Ladies' Group: *Hearing Dogs for the Deaf* - Katherine Rufford  
Sat 14 - Sat 21 **Pantomime - Humpty Dumpty - on stage in Church**  
*Information for March Newsletter to David by this week please*  
Thu 26 3.15 pm **Messy Church - in Church Hall**

## MARCH 2015

Tue 3 7.30 pm Church Council  
Tue 10 7.30 pm Ladies' Group - Flower Demonstration - Eileen Proud  
Wed 11 7.30 pm Wednesday Club Planning Meeting  
Sun 15 11.30 am **Coffee & Cakes - Fundraising for Timothy**  
Mon 16 - Mon 23 'Inn Churches' - All Saints Church, Keighley  
Sat 21 6.00 pm Circuit Quiz - Bingley Methodist Church  
Thu 26 3.15 pm **Messy Church - in Church Hall**

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

 Find us on  
Facebook





# Christmas Services



## *All Age Christingle Praise Service*

**Sunday 7th December  
at 10.30 am**

**Cafe-style Worship**

**led by  
Rev Sandie Exley-Watts**

## *Traditional Carol Service*

**Sunday 14th December  
at 10.30 am**

**All Age Worship  
led by Mrs Janet Clark**

**followed by  
Christmas Lunch**

**Please sign the list in the porch  
if you would like to stay to Lunch**

## *Village Carols in the Barn*

**New House Farm, Oakworth**

**Saturday 20th December  
at 6.30 pm**

***K+WVR Carol Train***

**calls at Oakworth Station  
at 8.00 pm**

## *Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion*

**Wednesday 24th December  
at 11.15 pm**

**led by Rev Sandie Exley-Watts**

**Join us for fruit punch and  
mince pies from 10.30 pm**



## *Christmas Morning*

**All Age Celebration - 10.00 am  
at Keighley Shared Church**



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