

OAKWORTH



METHODIST CHURCH



March 2015 Newsletter



Old King Cole and the Queen of Hearts pose outside the Royal Bakery as Humpty peers in. More pictures inside from another wonderful pantomime.

Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends,

I just couldn't believe that I had done it again! It was the first day of my skiing holiday, a few years ago, and within the first hour I'd managed to 'lose' my instructor/guide. The year before I had lost my guide twice, and I didn't think I could possibly be so careless again. Well, I could make lots of excuses like all the guides wear the same uniform and I hadn't been in the group long enough to really recognize anyone else. But the basic fact was that I was concentrating so hard on trying to get the skiing exercises right, that I'd taken my eyes off the guide and failed to follow him.

That's how it is so often in the life of faith. It's not that we're doing anything bad, or that we are deliberately going our own way. We just get so tied up with what we are doing, or with what life throws at us, that we take our eyes off our Guide and then wonder how we lost our way. Worship seems to leave us cold; our prayers are dull or dried up altogether; and the work we thought was in God's service is done more out of duty or habit than delight.

When, eventually, I found my skiing guide, I stayed very close and watched him attentively. Then I found a strange thing happened. The steep parts of the mountain which had so terrified me gradually became far less scary. When I kept my eyes on the guide, I was no longer looking down petrified, but could tentatively follow where he led. I learnt to trust him so when he said, 'You can do this.' I believed him and found I could. There were times when he demonstrated a particular skill across the piste and disappeared over a hill. We joked that we were so hopeless that he'd abandoned us. But we knew we had to follow until we could see him again. By the end of the week, we had all grown in skill and in confidence.

What a tremendous difference having a Guide we can trust makes! And for people like me, who make a habit of losing the Guide – our Guide always comes to look for us when we are lost. And although we may lose sight of Him for a while, He never loses sight of us.

So, in the words of the old chorus:

**'Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full into his wonderful face.'**



Shalom,

Sandie

Minister: Rev Sandie Exley-Watts

☎ 01535 602669

e-mail: sandie.exleywatts@airedalemethodists.org

News Snippets

Christmas Activities

All our Christmas activities were well supported and much appreciated. Some photos appear on the next page.

December began with the popular Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch with Carols (2nd) followed by the Village Society Christmas Fair at Holden Hall (6th) at which our stall took £30.

The Christingle Praise Service was earlier this year (7th) led by Sandie, with the Carol Service the following Sunday led by Janet Clark. This was followed by an excellent Christmas Lunch, which raised £325, and thanks go to the team who prepared it.

The following Saturday we shared Carols in the Barn at New House Farm with Christ Church and then met the Carol Train at Oakworth Station.

The Church Stewards prepared fruit punch and mince pies for us all as we gathered on Christmas Eve for the Candlelit Communion Service - which Sandie led again this year.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas activities this year - and our Christmas Gift Appeal, which raised £105 for church funds.

Wednesday Club

The Keighley Playhouse production in December, *When we are married*, was thoroughly enjoyed by all who went to see it. The annual trip to Shipley Bowl in January was well supported - Peter Howarth outscored David Pinder this year and took the trophy home.

Activities for the next year will be organised at the Planning Meeting this month - do join us if you are able.

Church Flowers

Thank you to everyone who has signed the 2015 Flower Calendar. The flowers are greatly appreciated by those in church and those who receive them after. We still have dates available in March. May and later in the year, so if you would like to remember a loved one or special event with flowers, please add your name to the calendar at the back of church or speak to Anne or Kath. Many thanks.

Church Council

It was agreed that we purchase 30 copies of *Singing the Faith* for use in worship as more Ministers and Local Preachers are choosing hymns from the new hymn book. They cost £10 each - if anyone would like to pay for one or more books in memory of a loved one, please let David know. A memorial sticker will be placed in each of the books. The balance will come from the Special Projects fund for 2015-2016 so the books will be purchased in September.

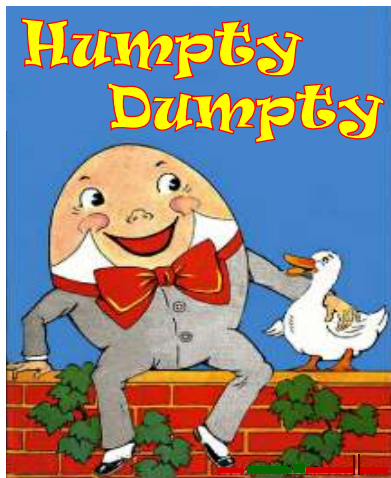
Parking is becoming more of a problem so we have arranged with the Primary School that the school car park will be open on a Sunday Morning. The area by the steps will also be left clear and signposted for cars dropping off people with mobility problems. Please leave access to this area clear whenever practical. Drivers will then be encouraged to park elsewhere and return later to pick-up.

We are very sorry to report that Cubs and Beavers have moved over to Holden Hall because they have outgrown our hall! That means our hall is available for new groups on Tuesdays and Fridays.



Christmas Celebrations





Humpty has fallen off his wall for the final time and the lessons he learned from being granted so much power simply by wishing for anything he wanted have been shared with almost 1200 people in our audiences . A huge thank you to everyone who contributed towards the fantastic success of another pantomime - which raised over £4,000 for the ongoing work of the church.

This is what David Knights wrote in his Keighley News review:

The cast, costumes, scenery and special effects were brilliant in a show nobody wanted to end!

Don't forget to order your Humpty DVD - still only £8.

Work now begins on a brand new script for Hansel & Gretel. Workshops / auditions will be held during the summer. Book the dates for the show in your diaries now!

Everyone gets a name in the Oakworth Methodists pantomime – and that's no mean feat when there are around 40 children in the cast. But writer David Howarth had plenty of characters to choose from after setting this year's panto story in Nursery-rhyme Land. He plundered every rhyme you ever knew for characters to inhabit this enjoyable tale of friendship versus nastiness.

Lots of characters, but a strong central storyline to keep us engrossed through the first act. Then after the interval, the same plotline as half the pantos ever staged: "let's invade the bad guy's lair".

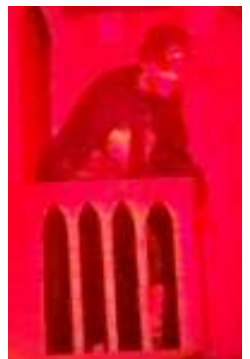
Along the way, in a lively show directed and choreographed by Judith Chapman, there was plenty of comedy, songs, dances, romance and adventure.

Oakworth's annual pantomime is an unashamedly traditional affair, aimed squarely at young children, and it's always rewarded by full houses of enchanted young ones who delight in booing and hissing the villains.

Humpty Dumpty was no exception, beginning with the prophecy that chaos would befall Nursery-rhyme Land if the egg ever fell off the wall. The newly-hatched Humpty became the actual cause of that chaos, misusing his magic, and the wicked Knave of Hearts was quick to take control.

It was up to our hero and his new friends to ensure that good defeated evil.









Never underestimate God



Many years ago, I heard a story about a preacher who went to a small town to preach a series of gospel sermons. His goal was to evangelise that little town. He preached for two weeks. During the whole time, only one little girl responded to the invitation at the end of one of his sermons. She confessed Christ as her Saviour, was baptised, and turned out to be the only convert during the entire meetings. The preacher was really disappointed. He judged the meetings a failure and, for years, spoke of the great effort he had made for such little result.

However, he did not have the right view of things. That little girl grew up to be a strong, faithful Christian woman. She married a Christian man, and together they produced several sons, all of whom became preachers of the gospel. Those sons converted thousands of unbelievers to Christ.

Now, what do you suppose would have happened to that little girl and her family, had that gospel preacher not faithfully proclaimed Christ? Do you really think that preacher's effort was a failure? Sometimes, what looks like a very small, insignificant effort on our part, turns out to be far greater than we think.

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

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



Sunday Worship



A warm welcome awaits you as we worship together

- Mar** 1 10.30 am Mrs Olive Bastow - Reader's Service
8 10.30 am Rev Saidu Kanu - **Holy Communion**
15 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts -
Mothering Sunday All Age Praise & Parade Service
7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church
- 22 10.30 am Rev Malcolm Sharrock
29 10.30 am Mr Michael Webster - **Palm Sunday**
6.00 pm Rev Sandie Exley-Watts -
Ecumenical Service / Holy Communion - Methodist Church
- Apr** 5 10.30 am Mr David Miller - **EASTER SUNDAY**
6.00 pm Rev Sandie Exley-Watts -
United Evening Service / Holy Communion - Methodist Church
- 12 10.30 am Rev Ruth Crompton - **All Age Church Anniversary**
19 10.30 am Mr Dewar Wishart
7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church
- 26 10.30 am Miss Doth Lund
3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor
- May** 3 10.30 am Rev Nigel Ogley - **All Age JIGSAW Anniversary**
10 10.30 am Local Arrangement
17 10.30 am Rev Sandie Exley-Watts - **Holy Communion**
7.30 pm Ecumenical *Heartbeat* Service - Christ Church
- 24 10.30 am Rev Terry Porter
3.00 pm Service at Oakworth Manor
- 31 10.30 am Rev David Cooke
6.00 pm Rev John Rogers -
Ecumenical Service / Holy Communion - Christ Church



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 Services and Events can be found
in the Circuit Plan or the monthly Circuit News sheet

Diary Dates



Tuesdays 12.15 pm Senior Citizens' Luncheon Club
(closed 7th April and 26th May)

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 - Milner Bank
Thu 12 7.30 pm Circuit Meeting - Bingley Methodist Church
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**
Fri 27 - Sat 28 7.15 KYDZ Youth Theatre Spring Show - Truth & Dare

APRIL 2015

Thu 2 7.30 pm **Maundy Thursday - Hot Cross Buns + Holy Communion Service - Rev Sandie Exley-Watts**
Sat 11 10.00-1.00 **Spring Market + Lunch**
Tue 14 1.45 pm Ladies' Group: AGM and Martin House Speaker
Wed 15 7.30 pm Wednesday Club
Thu 23 3.15 pm **Messy Church - in Church Hall**
Fri 24 6.00 pm Pantomime Party: DVD, Food, Games

MAY 2015

Tue 12 7.30 pm Annual General Church Meeting (open to all)
Wed 13 7.30 pm Wednesday Club
Information for March Newsletter to David by this week please
Thu 21 3.15 pm **Messy Church - in Church Hall**

JUNE 2015

Wed 10 7.00 pm Wednesday Club
Thu 25 3.15 pm **Messy Church - in Church Hall**
Tue 30 7.30 pm Circuit Meeting - Silsden Methodist Church

JULY 2015

Sat 4 2.00 pm **Village Gala - Victoria Road Playing Field**
Wed 8 7.00 pm Wednesday Club
Thu 16 3.15 pm **Messy Church - in Church Hall**

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

 Find us on
Facebook



Special Events & Services

Mothering Sunday All Age Praise & Parade Service



Sunday 15th March 10.30 am

Led by Rev Sandie Exley Watts
with daffodils for all the mums!

Coffee & Cakes from 11.30 am
Fundraising for Timothy in Uganda

Maundy Thursday

Hot Cross Buns &
Holy Communion Service

Thursday 2nd April 7.30 pm

led by Rev Sandie Exley-Watts



Spring Market

Saturday 11th April 10.00 - 1.00

Lots of stalls to buy from
Easter gifts, birthday presents!

Have a Coffee and a chat

Stay for Meat & Potato Pie and Pea Lunch
Please sign the list in the porch



Share fellowship
as you spend!

JIGSAW Anniversary

Sunday 3rd May 10.30 am

All Age Praise Service led by
Rev Nigel Ogley and Young People



12

Editor: David J Howarth ☎ 01535 215784

e-mail: DHowarth@OakworthMethodists.org