

**OAKWORTH**



**METHODIST CHURCH**



# **April 2020 Newsletter**



**Little Red Riding Hood was a huge success - review + photos inside**

# Pastoral Letter



Dear friends,

In a time of national disaster when the country had been conquered and the people of Israel were being sent into exile, the prophet Jeremiah did something that seemed very strange: he went out and bought a field. He knew he would not be able to use that field for many years, if ever, but his action was an act of faith and a sign of hope for those around him: the faith that one day the troubles would end and there would be a chance to start again.

As we began to recognise that the Coronavirus was going to change our lives and our plans for Easter celebrations would have to be put on hold, I felt I needed to do something to remind me of our Easter hope in Christ. I bought some seeds and started planting. Whatever the coming weeks bring, the signs of green shoots, buds, flowers and, eventually, fruit will remind me there is more to life than this virus. Seeds look so small and lifeless, yet we know from experience that when they are planted and nurtured, green shoots will start to grow. The Coronavirus may be spreading fear and uncertainty, but the signs of Spring all around us call us to lift our sights and look beyond the fear. Alongside the stories of gloom on the news, we are beginning to hear good news from our communities: people are sowing seeds of hope in the midst of despondency.

The Easter story takes place in a context where, for the friends of Jesus it seems all hope has gone: their friend, the one in whom they had placed their hope, has been betrayed, arrested, tortured and put to death. Their world has become a dark and frightening place: they are scattered and isolated. But as dawn breaks on that first Easter Day everything is changed. The tomb is empty. The power of death has been overturned: Jesus is alive! He comes to meet his friends in different ways and in different places to bring healing and hope and to let them see for themselves that all he had told them was true: the love of God really is more powerful than death.

Our Easter celebrations will be different this year, but they will still take place. Jesus is alive and that is cause for celebration. Wherever we find ourselves on Easter Day let's stand (or sit, or lie down) in defiance of all that seeks to destroy life and declare: Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

One day we will gather together again and what a glorious celebration that will be, but until that day, keep planting seeds of hope and defiantly singing your Alleluias!

May the risen Christ bring you peace and new hope this Easter and always



Every blessing  
*Barbara*

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# Oakworth Methodist Church



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# MISSION POSSIBLE PROJECT

## Mission Possible Fundraising

During the last quarter, three more Film Evenings - 'Toy Story 4', 'Lion King' and 'Downton Abbey' - brought in £460, the Pantomime Parents raised a total of £1,370 with raffles, bucket donations and programme sponsorship during Panto week plus the Christmas Fair Tombola and a further £610 was received from other donations and Bank Interest. Thanks again for all the support.

Fundraising has, of course, now ground to a halt until the government lifts restrictions on social gathering. Donations are still welcome at any time.

The first annual repayment of £7,000 on the five year £35,000 Circuit Loan can now be made. That will leave £28,000 still to repay.

## Mission Possible Building Project

A final account figure was agreed with the contractors at the end of December and all sub-contractors have now been paid. The snagging items are still outstanding but should be completed soon. New clerestory windows have been ordered and they will be installed in the next few weeks. AV upgrade work is ongoing and we are still finding new homes and sorting away various things around the building.

## Mission Possible Future Mission

Jo Dolman continues to work with our Panto Team - both children and adults - and one highlight this year was two of our young people asking if they could lead prayers before the start of two of the evening performances.

Val Cadamarteri is pioneering a new **Welcome Drop-in** on the first Monday of every month 2.00-3.30 pm in the Church Lounge with refreshments available. She was hoping to launch it this month but it will now have to wait until the restrictions have been lifted. She writes:

"We hope to open an afternoon drop-in for everyone, young and old. It will be a time to meet with friends both old and new over tea/coffee and biscuits; a time for relaxation and laughter and anything else that you would like to do. We will particularly welcome carers and cared for and those living with dementia. We can offer help and support and have links with Carers' Resource – an independent and nationally recognised Yorkshire charity that gives tailored information and support to carers, those in need of support and care, and professionals who work with them. We also work with Dementia Friendly Keighley.

We look forward to meeting you."



# News Snippets

## Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Our present church opened on 9th April 1960 and we were planning to mark our Diamond Jubilee this month with a celebration weekend and a special Church Anniversary Service at which our District Chair, Rev Kerry Tankard was due to preach. Sadly, the celebrations will have to wait until later in the year - look out for further details.

## Sugden Bequests

Andrew Heaton, new owner of the Dockroyd graveyard, has now set up a Dockroyd Graveyard Trust to continue the sterling work he and community volunteers have done to dramatically improve the whole area. Funds are needed for the next stage of the restoration works and the Charity Commission has approved our Church Council's request to release the £300 Sugden endowment bequests to help with the project. These funds could not be used for any other purpose.

Andrew has also written a book entitled *Dockroyd Live* which charts the progress of the restoration work and gives details of all the graves and their occupants. Details are on the notice board at church and on his website.

## Be Thou my Vision

The proposed framework for the new clusters of churches to take effect from September was unanimously agreed at Church Council and will now be finalised at Circuit level before coming back for a final vote in June prior to implementation.



## Christmas Celebrations

December began with Lunch Club's popular Christmas Lunch with Carols and the Village Society Christmas Fair at the Village Hall, at which our stall took £21. Christine Berry led the Carol Service, followed by a lovely Christmas Lunch which raised £290 - thanks to all who helped to prepare and serve it. Carols in the Barn and the KWVR Carol Train were well supported, as was the Santa Drive which raised £150 in support of Ronald in Uganda. Barbara led both the Nativity Service and the Christmas Eve Communion Service.

## Pantomime

In spite of all the challenges faced during the year, Little Red Riding Hood has been a huge success, playing to virtually full houses every performance. A record 1,280 people came to see the show which raised a superb £6,800 for church as well as the extra funds for **Mission Possible** (see previous page). Huge thanks to every member of the Panto Team, both young and old - we are proud of each and every one of you.

Our new director/choreographer Christine Aspinall has integrated well into the team and we look forward to building on this year's success as we start work on Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves. Auditions may have to be delayed until restrictions are lifted but work has already started on the script.

## In memoriam

We commend Jim Shackleton and Sybil Cooke into God's hands, assuring Margaret, David, family and friends of our continuing prayers and sympathy. We miss both - they have been good friends of the church over many years.

# Little Red Riding Hood

## Philip Smith's review for the Keighley News



David Howarth (deviser and producer) and Christine Aspinall (new this year to the role of director and choreographer) have put together a panto that bounces along beautifully letting everyone shine in the cast. All the costumes that Janet Armstrong finds are again just what a panto requires. They visually give you the clue to each character before they speak. These are backed by stage staff making scene changes seamless, and a backstage army of mums etc making sure costumes and make-up are all excellent.

As usual this is a great ensemble piece, featuring over 30 youngsters, singing, dancing and having a great time from opening curtain to the usual close-curtain scream of delight from the cast.

Lily Wood (Woodland Fairy) was clear and elegant in her role and I loved her song and the ballet at the end of act one, which made great use of the UV scene and showcased the dancer's talents. Peter Harris revelled in the role of the baddie Lupus Rex (the Wolf), and had us all booing every time he came on.

In the village of Ferndale we met all the usual panto characters. Lauren Loughtman played Red Riding Hood, and was relaxed in her performance and made you relax into the show. With her friend Violet (Phoebe Fox-Grange) they kept the story on track. Lucy Chester played a very believable Granny Goodheart. She interacted well with the audience and sang some great solos. Principal boy and girl, October Fox-Grange and Scarlett Morris, worked well together and I enjoyed their songs and dances. Finn Rowlett and Catherine Burbage-Atter were perfect as the not-so-bad baddies. Being involved with a lot of the comedy routines led by Alyssa Chester and Hannah Woollett, they made sure we had lots of fun and laughs.

My favourite four characters were the Squire's men played by Gabriella Hands, Emily Hudson, Bethany Holmes and Michael Corcoran. Their characters each had individual personalities and they gelled as a team. I just wish the song they sang during the ghost scene was a little longer as it sounded great.

Finally the chorus, who make any panto – they sang, danced and delivered lines with gusto.

Credit to the full cast. A thoroughly entertaining night and a brilliant panto.

Ali Baba and the  
Forty Thieves

13th-20th  
February  
2021



35th Calverth Methodist Pantemino

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# The Climb Word Search Miley Cyrus

I can almost see it, that dream I'm dreaming  
 But, there's a voice inside my head saying you'll never reach it.  
 Every step I'm taking, every move I make feels  
 Lost with no direction, my faith is shaking.  
 But I ... gotta keep trying, gotta keep my head held high.

The struggles I'm facing, the chances I'm taking,  
 Sometimes might knock me down but, no I'm not breaking.  
 I may not know it but, these are the moments that  
 I'm going to remember most yeah, just got to keep going.  
 And I ... I gotta be strong, just keep pushing on, 'cause ...

There's always gonna be another mountain,  
 I'm always gonna wanna make it move,  
 Always gonna be an uphill battle,  
 Sometimes I'm gonna have to lose;  
 Ain't about how fast I get there,  
 Ain't about what's waiting on the other side,  
 It's the climb.



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# Oakworth Methodist Church



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# MISSION POSSIBLE APPEAL

The Mission Possible Appeal enjoyed a wonderful Christmas: we were awarded £10,000 from Allchurches Trust 'Growing Lives' Fund and the 2019 Co-op Local Community Funding round raised £2,625. Fundraising/Donations this quarter brought in £2,440 - boosting the local fundraising and donations figure to £118,420, and the total amount secured to date to £453,283.

Included in those figures are your donations towards the stunning Stained Glass Panels - we are delighted to report that the full £7,900 cost has now been covered.

A final value for the cost of the building work has been negotiated with the contractors, which brings the total project budget to £478,500 (including the cost of upgrading the clerestory windows in church). Donations are still welcome at any time towards the shortfall which has been covered in the short term by a generous loan from the Airedale Circuit. Your prayers continue to be valued!

