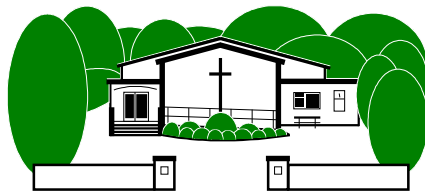


Oakworth Methodist Church

**MISSION
POSSIBLE**



March 2021 Newsletter



Following the success of the Advent 'Stars of Hope' in the Church Garden, a wonderful Prayer Garden has been created for all to enjoy through the winter months. Daisies were Sasha Brown's favourite flowers and the garden was 'planted' just before her funeral. Her family were thrilled with it and passers by commented on how cheerful it is.

Pastoral Letter



Dear friends,

Many of you will have seen the lovely display of flowers in the garden outside our church. Whenever I see them, I find my spirits lifting. The flowers are symbols of our prayers. They are bold and eye catching and they have brought a bit of colour at a time when so much has felt grey. Some of them carry the names of the loved ones we miss. Some speak of our faith, our hopes, our dreams, our disappointments. Some remind us of the joy of new life or memories of happy times shared. Some speak of our concerns for the world around us and for ourselves. Some express our gratitude for those who have supported us through these difficult times and our thanks to the God who never gives up on us. Whatever the prayers they carry, the flowers stand there as signs of love and hope.



At the heart of the Easter story is another message of love and hope. When Jesus was put to death on the cross, it looked as if Love and Hope had died with him. It was as if all the forces of hatred and fear, greed and self-righteousness had joined together to overcome the power of Love that is God. But that's not where the story ended. On the first Easter Day everything changed. God's love overturned the power of death and corruption and Jesus rose again to open the way to new life for everyone. The first thing he did was to go and find his friends, not to tell them off for letting him down but to let them see he still loved them. He brought them healing and hope and showed them he still had faith in them.

The risen Jesus doesn't come back pretending nothing had happened, or with all the signs of pain and suffering airbrushed out: he comes bearing the scars of the suffering he has endured on our behalf. All the pain and suffering of the world is reflected in those scars and transformed by the power of love to open the way to new hope and healing and a new life-giving relationship with the God whose love cannot be destroyed.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Love and Hope live on!

Wishing you the love, hope, joy and peace of the risen Christ this Easter!



Barbara

Minister: Rev Barbara Fairburn

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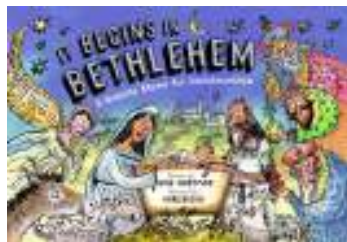
Messy Church is continuing despite all the restrictions and we are now delivering 'Messy Church in a Bag'. This is a circuit-wide initiative in which all our Messy Churches are working together and across the circuit we are reaching over a hundred children.

Each month one of the Messy Churches decides on a theme and gathers together the contents for the bag. The information is then emailed to the Messy Church volunteers who make up the bags for their own churches. The bags contain a bible story, a prayer and related crafts and activities such as challenges, scavenger hunts, games and colouring pages. There is also a link to the circuit YouTube channel and to the Airedale Circuit Youth, Children and Family Facebook page where Jo and her team post a video each month. The video includes a demonstration of how to make the crafts plus an animated version of the story, songs and discussion. The children are encouraged to send in pictures of their creations.



The video includes a demonstration of how to make the crafts plus an animated version of the story, songs and discussion. The children are encouraged to send in pictures of their creations.

Oakworth Messy Church took the lead for December, where the theme was of course Christmas. The children were given materials to make Nativity figures with which to enact the Christmas story. They were given a copy of a rhyming Nativity book, "It Begins in Bethlehem".



They also received a second copy to pass on to a friend in the spirit of giving and of spreading our Christian message.

Following the success of the Christmas books, in April the children will receive another book from the Bible Society, "All About Easter: A Resurrection Rhyme."

Jo Dolman, our Youth, Children and Family worker has done a great job of coordinating and encouraging us with Zoom meetings and emails and we will really miss her when she leaves. So from everyone at Oakworth Messy Church – thank you.

'Messy Church in a Bag' is not the same as meeting together at church and sharing a meal, but it has kept us in touch with our families and enabled us to continue to share God's love. If you know of anyone who would like to receive a bag, please do get in touch.

Bridget Pearmain



Pantomime News

It has seemed really strange to come through January and February with no Pantomime to add the finishing touches to and then present to all our families, friends and community members! However, we are not beaten and plans are well underway to put on a replacement show in October - a **Pantomime Extravaganza**, which will bring together six mini-pantomimes using extracts from previous scripts. Many of your favourite Pantos are included, as you will see from the advert opposite, though we have avoided the most recent shows. You will still be able to enjoy a full-length two hour show with eight performances to choose from, with the added bonus of Keighley pantomime comedian, Phil Smith providing additional comedy between each mini-panto!

The Extravaganza script is now ready and ten Principals have been chosen to take the main speaking parts. Each of the six mini-pantomimes will have a different cast member in the title role and several of the cast will get a chance to play roles they have never tried before as well as the ones they usually play. Everyone is looking forward excitedly to getting back together to prepare for the show - in fact, that was the prime driver behind this project, to bring some normality back into their lives after all they are going through at present.

Auditions will be held after Easter for the Children's Chorus and rehearsals will begin immediately after that. These will all take place in small bubble groups over the Spring and Summer months to comply with Covid-19 restrictions and then everyone will be brought together in September (by which time we hope that most restrictions will have been lifted), to put together a Show that will be presented during the first week in October. Tickets will go on sale in August so put the dates in your diary!

Sadly, Hannah Woollett has left the panto team to concentrate on her exams - we are sorry to lose her and thank her for all she brought to the pantomimes over the last eight years. As you will see opposite, Jo Dolman is also leaving the area to take up a new appointment at the end of the month - we say a big thank you to Jo for her support over the last four years in her role as Pantomime Chaplain and wish her well in her new job.

We are hoping that Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves will finally be able to go ahead next February!



Oakworth Methodist
Pantomime
Extravaganza

2nd - 9th
October
2021



Six mini-pantomimes for the price of one!

Ali Baba and the 19th-26th
Forty Thieves February
2022



Another Keighley-based Pantomime Adventure

35th Oakworth Methodist Pantomime

Farewell from Jo Dolman



I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for the past 4½ years of my time in West Yorkshire, within the Airedale Circuit, as your Circuit Youth, Children & Family Worker. Coming to a place as a single person and leaving family behind, not knowing anyone at all here, to making so many friends, connections and seeing the children, youth, families and leaders grow in confidence and within their faith, has been a great blessing to be part of, and you have all helped mine grow too.

I have mixed feelings about going, from excitement to scary but, hey, I moved here from my comfort zone in August 2016. I feel very settled here but, as part of the circuit visioning process, I was due to leave in August. However, God has opened a door early and my last working day is Wednesday 31 March, with a week's holiday to finalise the packing and move the weekend of 9 April to Bolton (Greater Manchester) Methodist Circuit to become their Children and Young Persons lay Pastor.

As I reflect back over the years here, I have been involved in so much. I've set up new groups, rekindled some groups, encouraged a load of great volunteers and gained new ones, been part of a great staff team and circuit team. We have run 3 youth / children clubs (Awesome Kids, Kool Kids and one which was already running in Steeton), family fun events, family quizzes, holiday clubs, light parties (including those online this year), BBQs, cream teas. GIFT (our circuit Youth Fellowship) was formed and we attended district youth events and 3Generate in person and online with our Youth. I was part of 'Ruach Road' Circuit Pilgrimage both as a staff team and as a circuit. Messy Church has run in Churches, online, and at present in a form of a bag. I've attended toddler groups, set up 2 toddler praise groups and attended many rehearsals for the Pantomime at Oakworth as their Pantomime Chaplain. I've been part of X:site, Rewind to Easter, Christmas and Fast Forward events with CLiKS, (Church Links In Keighley Schools) as well as setting up these events at Silsden Primary. I've been part of Jigsaw and Budz Junior churches – which still continues through this time with a weekly worship clip and activity sheet emailed out and put on the Airedale Circuit Youth Children Family Facebook page. Many assemblies were taken at Oakworth, Silsden, Kildwick and Parkwood Schools, including Prayer stations at Merlin Top School and St Andrews, working both alone and ecumenically, in person and online. I have been part of the Bradford youth leaders' gatherings, our district community of practice group for lay staff, connecting disciples and district events for leaders, quiet retreat days/weekends and many more. Recently, I was a Spiritual mentor for one of our Youth on the One Opportunity Programme too. I've taken many services, youth services both in church and online and even eventually became an accredited Methodist Local Preacher here with the service happening over Zoom, which brought friends and family from across the World together. I've also used my British Sign Language at a District Synod as well as within services.

Wow!! So much that I have learnt and brought to the circuit (I hope I haven't forgotten anything) through the highs and low times, even with some health issues (including now holding an EpiPen thanks to bananas) and for all this I want to Thank You All as you have all in a way supported me through all of these years. It has been great to meet and know you all and explore new areas. I know my family will miss visiting here - Bolton doesn't really give the same ring tone!

God bless and I will continue to pray for each one of you as you move forward with the Visioning and the future. **Thank you, I will miss you all.**



A Celebration of the Life of



Sasha-Raven Marie Brown



Sasha

Amongst the sadness and grieving, so many memories.

When Sasha was younger, she was always at Christine's side, helping with all the many church events. She loved to be given a job and always did it well. She enjoyed her years in the pantomimes and gained much from those years.

I was lucky enough to go to 'Grandma Christine's' with Sasha and we had a great time. We were joined by Josh, Grandson of a friend of Christine's. I became 'Nanny Katerina' and spent most of my time with the children whilst Christine cooked us wonderful meals. Sasha and Josh spent many hours planning our evenings' entertainment: singing and dancing, usually with a good storyline. Panto Practice came in very useful.

Because of past health issues, Sasha occasionally became ill on holiday but Jaki was always on the other end of the phone with good advice and reassured Sasha.

She became a beautiful young woman with much to look forward to.

I hope, as her partner Paul said, that we will treasure the time we had with her and she will live on in our hearts.

Kath Batty

Thanks to Kath for arranging the flowers for the funeral.



We continue to hold mum and dad Jaki and Nic, partner Paul, brothers Kurt, Dean and Ethan, Grandma Christine in Spain and all other family and friends in our prayers as we remember the tragic loss of Sasha so soon after her 21st birthday.

She wrote and illustrated 'The Candy Dream' at Christine's in 2010 and it was published in the Newsletter that Summer.

Sasha was a much loved cast member in the Pantomimes for 10 years and played several immortal roles during that time. She sang and danced to a song called 'Touch the Sky' in her penultimate show and the music was played just before her funeral service.

Rest in Peace, Sasha.

David

The Candy Dream by Sasha Brown



This story is about a 6 year old girl called Lucy. She has blonde hair, blue eyes and her favourite colour is purple. Lucy is a very good girl. She is always going on adventures in her dreams.

Chapter 1 – First Night

Lucy finally arrived at her new beautiful house. Everything was there and unpacked. The beds were made, the clothes were hung up and folded and everything was neat and tidy. Lucy was hungry but it was nearly tea time. After tea Lucy went to bed. All of a sudden Lucy was fast asleep.



Chapter 2 – The Dream Begins

Suddenly, Lucy wakes up. She was in a candy world. Was she really? Lucy rubbed her eyes gently 3 times. There was a chocolate waterfall and river, edible grass, big huge lollipops for flowers, bubble gum and chocolate M&M's for the flowers on the trees. It was like sweetie heaven!

Chapter 3 – The Adventure Begins

So slowly, Lucy walked around. Everything looked so tasty. It was all a sweetie maze. She walked and walked but there were sweets and the chocolate waterfall and river. Suddenly there was a noise! Lucy took a step back, but it was only a new tree coming out of the ground. Lucy skipped along the yellow brick road. She knew it was an adventure.



Suddenly a blue dolphin came out of the chocolate river. His name was Daniel. He was magical. Daniel told Lucy to get on his back and hold on to his fin. So Lucy did as he said. They went under the chocolate river and there was a new world, a different sweet world. Everything was chocolate. Chocolate, chocolate, chocolate! There was white chocolate, dark chocolate and milk chocolate and lots, lots more. They went on a tour. Up and down, up and down they went.

Chapter 4 – The Adventure Ends

Lucy yawned. She got off Daniel. Lucy ate some of the chocolate and candy. Then she lay down and closed her eyes. Daniel disappeared and all of the candy and chocolate disappeared too. Lucy was fast asleep. She woke up in her own bed. She just smiled and went back to sleep.



Sasha Brown in Oakworth Pantomime 2007-2016



Tribute to David Cooke



I have always thought that there are three real privileges that can be asked of you: to be a Godparent, to be a Maid of Honour or Best Man at a Wedding or to speak at someone's funeral. So it was a real honour to be asked to write this piece about David.

Numbers attending funerals during the pandemic are, as you know, very restricted and this makes the occasion even sadder than normal, particularly when large families are involved. David's funeral took place at Skipton Crematorium on Tuesday 5th January. The family party was limited to 15 members and Kath Batty, Valerie Cadamarteri and myself attended to represent the Church. We listened to the service outside in the glorious sunshine as it was played through speakers. It seemed appropriate that the sun was shining as David had brought sunshine into the lives of so many.

So, what can you say about him? How can you sum up nearly 100 years in a few lines? Well, you can't, so I'm just going to give a few personal memories and reflections.

We used to see David and Sybil on a Sunday when he wasn't preaching elsewhere and this became more regular as he cut back on his preaching commitments - and you can't think of David without thinking of Sybil. They were always caring and supportive of each other and it must have been an almost unbearable loss to him when she died, though he never complained.

David always had the ability to surprise. I have never been overly computer savvy. A few years ago I called to see him. I can't remember what we were discussing but he casually mentioned that he had been doing some research on the internet. My first thought was, 'What?! You're in your 90s, what do you know about the internet?' Sadly, I think this says more about me than about him.

We were once doing a Locally Arranged Service and Terry Porter and David had been asked to say in 3 or 4 minutes how they became Christians. Terry stuck to his brief and then it was David's turn. Well over 10 minutes later he sat down. Once he started to talk about his deeply held Christian beliefs all you could do was sit back and enjoy the ride. I mentioned this to one of his sons at the funeral, from a safe social distance of course. He just laughed and said, that was his dad.

David's health problems meant that he was no longer on the Circuit Preaching Plan. Someone asked him why we no longer saw him in the pulpit and he replied that he wasn't asked. We had another Locally Arranged Service coming up so I asked if he would consider giving the sermon if the stewards did the rest of the service. I gave him a couple of days to think about it and, when I called to see him, his response was that he already knew what his sermon was going to be about and had picked the hymns. On the Sunday morning I gave him an Order of Service with the names of who was doing what, which he almost totally ignored and did most of the Service himself. That was the last time he preached and, as usual, he was brilliant. His services were always interesting, full of personal insights and memories linked to his strong beliefs and this was the true measure of the man, a devout, deeply committed Christian and true evangelist.

Over the last year, services in Church have been very restricted but it was good that

David was able to attend our last Service which was held a few days after his 98th birthday and a few days before he died.

When anyone ever speaks of him, the usual comment is that he was a really nice, gentle man. No greater tribute can be paid.



Andrew Houldsworth

News Snippets

Christmas Activities

Our lit Advent scene in the kitchen window attracted a lot of positive comments around the village. We did manage to hold one Advent Service with Barbara on 13 December and an afternoon Christmas Eve Service with David McAloon which were appreciated by those who were able to come.

Sadly, we weren't able to hold the usual Christmas Lunch & Carol Service but that didn't stop Jane and Andrew providing lunch for Ethel on Christmas Day - it certainly brought a smile to her face - it's lovely to see her looking so well. Trifle was in the fridge for later!



In Memoriam

We commend David Cooke, Jean Waterhouse, Sasha Brown, Marjorie Shanks, Hazel Gaddas, Judith Baren, John Hopkinson and Brian Waterhouse into God's hands, assuring relatives and friends of our continuing prayers and sympathy. We have been able to hold funeral services at church for Jean, Sasha and Marjorie with limited numbers in church. The last two services were live-streamed on our church YouTube channel and are still available to view back. Sasha's Service had over 100 watching live and over 400 have viewed it since!



Congratulations

David & Ruth have become grandparents! Meet Joy with baby Elizabeth Marie Grace King who weighed in at 7lb 5oz on Tuesday 9th March. She will be known as Lizzie Mae but, sadly, she won't be able to meet Grandma Ruth, Grandad David and Uncle Peter for several weeks. She'll have to make do with social media for now!



Fluffy and Cedric Word Search

Fluffy, the orphan bunny and Cedric, the orphan snake lived in the forest. They were, by an amazing coincidence, both blind from birth. One morning, bright and early, Fluffy was hopping through the forest when he tripped over the body of Cedric who was basking in the sunlit undergrowth. Fluffy landed quite hard on the prostrate body of Cedric. 'Crikey,' exclaimed Fluffy the bunny, 'I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to squash you. I've been blind since birth, so, I can't see where I'm going. In fact, I'm also an orphan and don't even know what creature I am.' 'That's OK,' said Cedric the snake. 'Actually my story is much the same as yours. I, too, have been blind since birth and never knew my mother. Tell you what, maybe I could slither all over you and work out what you are, so at least you'll be able to find that out.' 'What a marvellous idea,' replied Fluffy the bunny. So Cedric slithered all over Fluffy and said, 'Well, you're covered with soft fur, you have really long ears, your nose twitches and you have a soft cottony tail. I'd say that you must be a bunny rabbit.' 'Oh, thank you, thank you,' cried Fluffy with tremendous pleasure. Then Fluffy the bunny suggested to the snake, 'Perhaps I could be allowed to feel you all over with my paw and help you the same way that you've helped me.' So Fluffy the bunny felt Cedric the snake all over and summarised, 'Well, you're smooth and slippery, you have a forked tongue and no backbone. I'd say you must be either a team leader or possibly someone in senior management.'

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

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



Sunday Worship



A warm welcome awaits as we worship together

- Apr** 4 10.30 am Rev Barbara Fairburn -
**United Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service
with Exley Head at Oakworth**
- 18 10.30 am Miss Doth Lund
- May** 2 10.30 am Mr David Clark
16 10.30 am Rev Barbara Fairburn
30 10.30 am Rev Roger Fox

We have seating in the church for 20 (+ extra for family bubbles).

If you wish to attend any of the Services, please phone or email David by the day before the Services you wish to attend in order to reserve your seats. Contact details are below. Services will only take place if Covid-19 restrictions allow.

Don't forget your face mask to help us keep each other safe.

All Services will be live-streamed on our Church YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCYWiWU9yU_I8EMGkVvewog
and they can also be viewed later if you wish.

Alternatively, the Circuit Zoom Services continue every Sunday morning and they can also be viewed live on the Airedale Circuit YouTube channel or watched back later:
www.youtube.com/channel/UC6lrWDLd7AKYCO74I0KN7_g
Please ask if you would like copies of the Service sheets or login details for the Zoom Services.

Reopening of Church

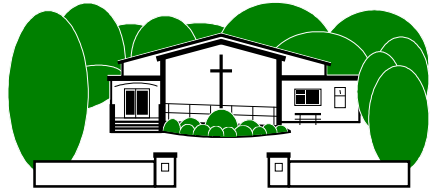
We hope to be able to reopen for Worship on Easter Sunday but this will be confirmed nearer the time. Services will then continue fortnightly until further notice with all the social distancing measures in place.

Other groups will be able to return as soon as they feel comfortable once the Government has lifted the relevant restrictions after Easter.

Editor: David J Howarth ☎ 01535 215784
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MISSION POSSIBLE



The **Mission Possible Appeal** total has not changed since the last Newsletter, though we are looking forward to hearing how well the Lees Crafty Chatters' Virtual Easter Stall does - their hand-knitted gifts and garments are selling fast! Proceeds are being shared between **Mission Possible** and Friends of Cross Roads Park. Local fundraising and donations currently stand at £122,920 and the total amount secured to date is £457,775.

A further £10,000 repayment will be made to the Circuit Loan later this year, which will reduce the outstanding balance to £15,000.

We continue to make good progress with the electrical and AV upgrade work whilst most of the church remains closed. We are also grateful to have received an offer to cover the cost of replacing the wooden balustrade up the ramp with a galvanised steel version which will be installed shortly. **Your prayers continue to be valued.**

