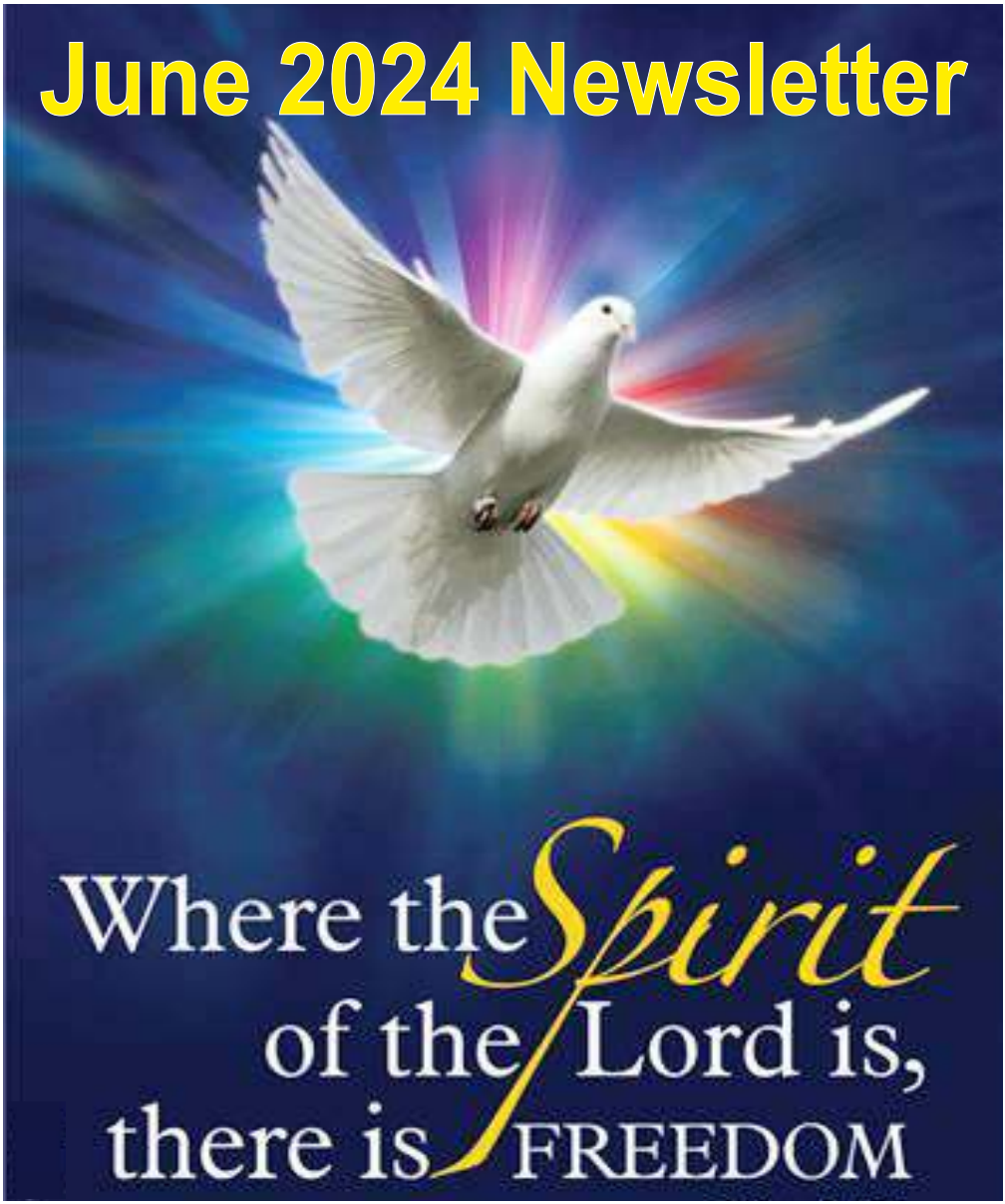
MISSION POSSIBLE

Oakworth Methodist Church

Part of Worth Valley Church
Airedale Methodist Circuit

June 2024 Newsletter



Pastoral Letter



Dear friends,

As I write this letter, I am looking forward to the Methodist Conference, especially as this year it is being held in Leeds. For those unable to attend in person, the Circuit is live-streaming the Conference Service on Sunday 30th June and Oakworth is one of the places where you can watch this in fellowship with others.

Friends, I want to talk about change. We have had lots of conversations within our Circuit about change and this can feel unsettling. Please know that each of the churches is in my prayers as we as a Circuit find our way forward. Change is actually a constant and normal thing in our lives: we change as we get older, our families grow up and change, the seasons change, society and technology change at a fast pace - and even our planet has changed from creation, with an an ice age and now climate change. God is the one that doesn't change. God's love, grace, mercy, divine wisdom and missional heart never change.

Despite the inclement weather, the calendar assures me that summer is upon us; which brings changes to where we live. Our children will be looking forward to a long break from school, our area will liven up as tourists arrive and work opportunities open up for residents. On the other hand, our roads get busier, our bins fuller, cafes and car parks become very full. At the end of the summer the tourists go home, which means the extra work and income dries up but we get our car parks, bins and cafes back. These changes, whether joyful or challenging, will happen whatever the weather brings as we move through the cycle of the year, living in a tourist destination.

New experiences can make us apprehensive; even for an adult, change can be challenging and uncertain but, in all our uncertainty, we know God is with us. Right there in the difficulties we are promised that God will never leave us. So, I encourage you to pray for our children as they adapt to the changes they are going to face in the coming weeks and to pray for all those who need the seasonal work. Let's pray for the holiday-makers as we share this beautiful place with them.

The change happening in our churches and Circuit is to strengthen us as people of faith, to release us to share in God's mission and to make our Circuit sustainable, so that we will still be here offering a Christian presence, proclaiming the good news in 20 years time. What worked in the past when we had a church in every community and on every high street, with a full Sunday School, is a memory of the past.

continued >>>>>>



The future will and must look different. I have worked in four Districts and six Circuits in my time working in ministry. I have seen some churches that are willing to step out and make changes thriving but, in most places, they are looking at the same challenges as we face here. As churches and a Circuit, we have choices: we can carry on as we are … slowly dwindling, struggling to fund and maintain buildings whilst working ever harder to maintain the status quo, even as we watch it shrinking away from us … or we can step out in faith, rather like those who came here for work in farming or in the mills. Some brought Methodism with them, but they faced huge changes as they moved here from all over the country. Their homes were packed on horses and carts, travelling for days before making their homes in the hill villages, where they sought to build churches to serve the ever-growing communities.

We need to share in and partner with God's vision and mission for our Circuit – rather than simply trying to do things the way we have done them before. Our churches are not ours, but God's; they are resources for God's mission. We need to pray and discern what that mission looks like today and pray as we seek to understand the vision God has for us as individuals, as a community and as a Circuit in this place.

I want to offer thanks and gratitude to all those who pray for us and the area and to those who work hard to keep our churches running day to day, enabling us to serve and be a visible beacon of Christ. I am full of delight that five people stepped forward at our Worth Valley Church Council to join our leadership team to prayerfully explore our options and guide our church, as we engage in creating a strong sustainable Circuit that can partner in God's mission for this area. Through prayer, we may seek our own encounters with God, and we too can experience true transformation, and be ready to embrace change that is coming.

Have a blessed summer whatever the Yorkshire weather may bring and have a Joyful start to all the new things September may bring,

With Love
and blessings.

Tracy

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e-mail: tracy.birks@airedalemethodists.org

News



Artwork by Chrissie Bury

Thanks for Artwork

We are very grateful to Chrissie Bury for designing and producing the above pieces of artwork which she has kindly donated to the church. They have now been framed and will be mounted on the wall in church shortly.

Mission Possible Film Evenings

Four recently released 'feel-good' films were screened during the Spring Season: *'Allelujah'* in March, *'Belfast'* in April and *'The Last Bus'* in May. We now regularly attract 25 to 40 people to watch the films; they have enjoyed all of them - and the fish and chips in the intervals - and raised nearly £500 in the process! Our final film before the Summer break will be *'Arthur's Whisky'* on 28 June and we return for the first film of the Autumn Season on 27 September, a *Poirot* murder mystery, *'Death on the Nile'.*

Mission Donations

These charitable organisations have all gratefully received £70 grants from the church this year: All We Can Methodist Relief, Bible Society, Sue Ryder Care - Manorlands, Methodist Homes, Save the Children, Shelter and Water Aid. We have also sent £230 to Methodist World Mission, £170 to Mission in Britain and £110 to the Leaders of Worship & Preachers Trust. £553.39 has been collected in Action for Children boxes this year, £40 was collected during Christian Aid Week and we continue to support Ronald in Uganda by sending £25 per month towards his education - see opposite for this year's report.

In memoriam

We commend Don Donnison and Margaret Thornber into God's hands, assuring family and friends of our continuing prayers and sympathy.

Ronald in Uganda



Ronald is now 18 years old and his latest report tells us that he is healthy, doing well and has grown much taller.

At school, his attendance is regular, he is meeting expectations and has a positive attitude. Last year he received remedial lessons to prepare him for his primary leaving exams which he hoped to pass well. He was awaiting his results when he last wrote and was looking forward to moving on to secondary school in February 2024.

His Aunt appreciates all the support given to him and he was grateful for his Christmas gifts. He helps in the garden when at home.

In his last letter, he said he wants to become a medical person. He also told us that they had a little dog called Grace. It was so playful at home and it made them happy every day but unfortunately a car knocked the dog so they no longer have it.

Our Easter Bunny Drive raised £250. Thank you for supporting Ronald again.

Worship





Photos from special Services over the last few months: an Easter basket and Sophie & Poppy at the Pentecost Service.

It was also good to catch up with Rev Louise Makin at our Church Anniversary Service in April: her first Service at Oakworth since she was Ordained in 2016.







Messy Church



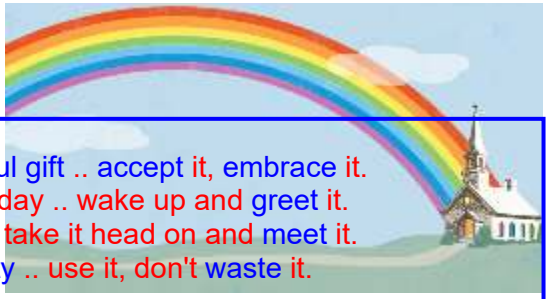








That's Life



This life is a wonderful gift .. accept it, embrace it.
It starts with a new day .. wake up and greet it.
Life is a challenge .. take it head on and meet it.
Full of opportunity .. use it, don't waste it.

This life is a mystery .. unfold it, solve it.
It starts with meaning .. wake up and understand it.
Life is a goal .. take it head on and achieve it.
Full of promise .. fulfil it but keep it.

This life is precious .. hold it, treasure it,
It starts with hope .. wake up and feel it.
Life is a choice .. take it head on and make it.
Full of knowledge .. use it, don't abuse it.

This life is adventurous .. enjoy it, explore it.
It starts with a duty .. wake up and perform it.
Life is love .. take it full on and love it.
Full of beauty .. praise it and behold it.

Danny Joyce. "That's Life." Family Friend Poems, July 9, 2013.

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



Pantomime News



It is 45 years this year since our first pantomime in 1979 and we have decided to celebrate by putting on a Cabaret Evening on Friday+Saturday 25+26 October starting at 7.00 pm. This event won't include a meal like previous Candlelight Cabarets - it will be an evening of cabaret acts interspersed with multi-media presentations of special memories from the 37 pantomimes we have presented over the years.



We have invited Rainbows/Brownies/Guides, Showkids Dance and KYDZ Youth Theatre to celebrate with us and each group will perform a selection of songs and sketches during the first half of the Show in amongst the Panto memories. Panto-style refreshments will be available during the Interval and then our current Panto cast will reprise some of their routines from Cinderella, followed by more Panto memories and then Judith is returning with some of our former Panto cast members to entertain us in a grand finale. There will also be an exhibition of Panto photos, props and costumes from down the years.

Everybody is welcome to come and enjoy the Cabaret Evenings and you will be able to book online at www.OakworthMethodists.org or ring Peter Howarth to book your seats in the same way as you would book for the pantomimes. Tickets will go on sale in mid-September.

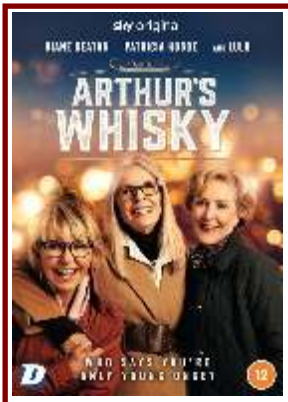
Auditions for existing cast members for our 2025 Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk, were held in April. Six of our Cinderella cast have decided not to return next year so several of our young people ended up with bigger parts than expected and the auditions went really well. For the first time since the Covid pandemic, we had more children at the new cast auditions in May than we needed to fill the parts available - but they all did so well that we accepted all of them and adjusted the script instead! So we have welcomed 12 new children and now have a cast of 38 for Jack and the Beanstalk.



A big thank you to all the parents who have volunteered to fill support roles as well.

The new script is progressing nicely - songs and staging are all sorted. The dialogue will be completed over the Summer and we then look forward to rehearsals starting in November! Can't wait!!

Mission Possible Film Evenings



Mission Possible Film Evening

Arthur's Whisky (2024) (12)

with Fish & Chips in the Interval

Friday 28th June *6.30 pm*

on the giant screen in Church

All welcome - just turn up on the day

Donations to cover cost of food & film

A charming, feel-good comedy about living in the moment. When Joan's husband dies, she discovers he had invented an anti-aging elixir that literally takes the years off. Sharing it with her two friends Linda and Susan, the three rejuvenated women waste no time in painting the town red, but they soon realize it's a very different world to the one they remember.



Mission Possible Film Evening

Death on the Nile (2022) (12)

with Fish & Chips in the Interval

Friday 27th September *6.30 pm*

on the giant screen in Church

All welcome - just turn up on the day

Donations to cover cost of food & film

Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot's vacation aboard a glamorous river steamer turns into a terrifying search for a murderer when a picture-perfect couple's idyllic honeymoon is tragically cut short. Set against an epic landscape of sweeping Egyptian desert vistas and the majestic Giza pyramids, this tale of unbridled passion and incapacitating jealousy features a cosmopolitan group of impeccably dressed travellers, and enough wicked twists and turns to leave audiences guessing until the final, shocking denouement.

Sunday Worship



A warm welcome awaits
as we worship together

Jun	2	10.30 am	Rev Tracy Birks
	9	10.30 am	Emma Sutcliffe
	16	10.30 am	Rev Tracy Birks - **All Age Worship**
	23	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Keighley Includes Holy Communion - led by Rev Tracy Birks
		2.00 pm	**Circuit Event -** at Silsden - an opportunity to hear and share in our visioning discussions
		4.30 pm	Bring & Share Tea
		6.00 pm	**Lively Circuit Service** - at Silsden - with Rev Kerry Tankard (Chair of the District)
	30	10.45 am	**Watch Methodist Conference Service -** Streamed live from Leeds - at Oakworth
Jul	7	10.30 am	Glenda Coogan
	14	10.30 am	Darrell Cummins - **All Age Worship**
	21	10.30 am	Rev Susan Greenhart - includes Holy Communion
	28	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Lees - led by Chris Partington
Aug	4	10.30 am	Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
	11	10.30 am	Janet Clark - **All Age Worship**
	18	10.30 am	Chris Partington
	25	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope - led by Julie Smith

Oakworth Services will be live-streamed on our Church YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/@oakworthmethodists/streams
and they can also be viewed later if you wish.

Editor: David J Howarth ☎ **01535 215784**
e-mail: DHowarth@OakworthMethodists.org

Diary Dates



Tuesdays 12.15 pm Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club
closed 30th July - 27th August (Summer Holidays)

JUNE 2024

Mon	3	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - Church Hall
Thu	13	3.30 pm	**Messy Church** - Church Hall
Mon	17	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Fri	21	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Mon	24	7.00 pm	Pantomime Parents Meeting - in Church
Tue	25	7.00 pm	Church Life Meeting - Church Lounge
Fri	28	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

JULY 2024

Mon	1	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - Church Hall
Thu	4	1.15 pm	CLiKS Fast Forward for Oakworth School - in Church
Sat	6	2.00 pm	**Oakworth Gala** - Victoria Road Playing Field
Wed	10	10.30 am	**Oakworth Prayer Walk** - meet at Church
Thu	11	3.30 pm	**Messy Church** - Church Hall
Mon	15	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue	16	7.30 pm	Worth Valley Church AGM - at Oxenhope
Fri	19	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri/Sat	19/20	7.15 pm	**KYDZ Youth Theatre Summer Show** - in Church

AUGUST 2024

Mon	5	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - CANCELLED
Fri	16	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Mon	19	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge

SEPTEMBER 2024

Mon	2	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - Church Hall
Sun	8	All day	**Catering for Yorkshireman Marathon** - at Haworth
Tue	10	7.00 pm	Church Life Meeting - Church Lounge
Thu	12	3.30 pm	**Messy Church** - Church Hall
Mon	16	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Wed	18	7.00 pm	**Wednesday Club** - Maurice Baren: Stories behind products
Fri	20	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Sun	22	All day	**Worth Valley Horticultural Show** - in Church+Hall
Fri	27	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper
Sat	28	10.00 am	**Sunshine Bags** and **Morning Coffee** - Church Lounge

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

Find us on Facebook


Let PEACE fill your hearts,
Our world and our universe
Let us dream together,
Pray together,
And work together,
To build one world of peace and justice for all
AMEN


WHEN THE POWER OF LOVE
OVERCOMES THE LOVE OF POWER
THE WORLD WILL KNOW PEACE