MISSION POSSIBLE

Oakworth Methodist Church

Part of Worth Valley Church, Aireedale Methodist Circuit

December 2024 Newsletter



Pastoral Letter



Dear friends,

Christmas is approaching fast; soon, loft hatches and understairs cupboards will be creaking as we retrieve our Christmas decorations. Do you keep a list for those you want to send Christmas cards to? I wonder what message you will write in your Christmas cards, e--cards, emails or family newsletter this year.

Sometimes, it can feel pastorally difficult to use the right words; even a simple have a happy Christmas can be challenging because we may not know all that is happening in someone's life; and cannot imagine what challenges they may be facing. A perky Happy Christmas may not be what they want to receive.

Americanisms have slipped into use here in the UK, such as happy fall or happy holidays, but as a Christian, I find that it sounds hollow for so glorious an occasion as the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and Saviour.

Our Christmas wishes whether spoken or written are a chance for us to speak of Jesus birth; and if in doubt as to the right words, we can turn to scripture:

[Luke 2:13-14 The Message]

"At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: Glory to God in the heavenly heights, peace to all men and women on earth who please him."

We can be pastorally sensitive whilst also acknowledging the birth of Jesus in our Christmas greetings.

May you and your loved ones know the *peace of our Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas.*

With Love and Blessing

Rev Tracy Xx

Minister: Rev Tracy Birks
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tracy.birks@airedalemethodists.org

News

Social Events

Our Autumn Season of films started in September with *'Death on the Nile'*, followed by *'The Great Escaper'* and *'The Miracle Club'* They proved popular and raised £425.

The Autumn Fayre last month had to be postponed for a week due to heavy snow. However, word got round and there was a good crowd in the following Saturday. The Craft Stall raised £432 - split between Lees and Oakworth - and our other stalls took £474. So we raised £690 so far - with more to come from craft sales at hairdressers. Thanks for your support!

Our stall at the Village Society Christmas Fair at the Village Hall raised a further £25.

Baby Jesus, Child of Love



Baby Jesus, child of love,
born of Mary, child of God,
born this night to bring us light,
God with us, Emmanuel.

Bells ring out, a child is born.
Angels sing out, "Christ the Lord!"
All on Earth rejoice His birth,
a Child of love, the Promised One.

Hope was born this silent night, dark no more, eternal light.
He came to bring us saving grace, a child of love, the Holy One.

Word made flesh this holy night, Living Promise, Lord Divine.
Bringing peace, goodwill to men, a child of love, the Chosen One.

Born this night, this sacred night, Jesus Christ, the Lord Most High,
came to save and show the way, a Child of love, the Son of God.

Marcia A. Newton. Family Friend Poems, December 24, 2021.

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

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



The next steps

The **Mission Possible** leaflet opposite was prepared to introduce a very profitable discussion at the last Church Life Meeting on the next steps we are looking at taking with our Mission work. The leaflet outlines how **Mission Possible** started ten years ago, how it has progressed and benefited the church and community since then and then introduces the next steps.

We noted straight away that the questions we raised 10 years ago are still valid today. We are already reaping the rewards of the funds raised to enable all the work done under the **Mission Possible** Building Project and several new initiatives have started as a result but we acknowledged that we need help in identifying how best to develop the Vision we have for our future Mission work and whether it should include the whole Worth Valley Church and/or ecumenical partners.

To this end, we are inviting David Goodall (Yorkshire West District Mission Enabler) to come and share his wisdom with us and invitations will also go to members of the other local congregations that make up the Worth Valley Church and other ecumenical partners who may be interested in joining us to see whether we want to take this initiative forward together. The initial meeting will be arranged for sometime next March and this will be well publicised.

In the meantime, Tracy has already started coming to occasional Pantomime rehearsals in her role as Panto Chaplain, in a bid to start to get to know some of the cast, and to pray with them. Bridget and Barbara have designed a series of cards which we are giving to all the panto children as an encouragement to them and a further link with the church. The first cards were given out with the scripts last month and the second cards were circulated last week. We have other cards to give out in January and February.

We are hoping to revive the Panto Praise Service next year – and to try it earlier in the year to see if more of the Panto cast will be able to come to share in it. Tracy also wants to organise a social evening for the children sometime after the pantomime with pizza, etc, again to help her get to know them better. We are currently looking at combining these two events in one weekend in March.

The other difficult decision we took was to allow Messy Church to take a break for a few months after the December session, as over half of the staff will not be available to lead it during the first half of 2025. Discussion will take place during next year as to how Messy Church might be developed when it re-opens.

Overall, we were very encouraged by the direction of the discussion and look forward to seeing how the next steps for our **Mission Possible Vision** develop next year.

Oakworth Methodist Church

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MISSION POSSIBLE Next Steps

November 2024



Mission Possible is an exciting project to improve community and drama facilities in the Church, to support and strengthen our Mission work, particularly amongst young people

How it all started

The following information is taken from publicity material put together in 2015 as the **Vision** was being developed prior to becoming **Mission Possible**:

We were challenged a few years ago to review our Church's Mission:

- What could we do better?
- What new initiatives would enable us to spread the good news of Jesus in our community?

Our Church Strategy Team looked at four strengths of our church:

- The variety in our forms of worship
- Involvement in community life
- Our work with young people – mostly not on a Sunday!
- The emphasis placed on drama – from pantomimes to drama in worship

How can we capitalise on these?

Messy Church is one new initiative to come out of the initial process and, whilst attendance varies, between 10 and 30 additional children and parents are actively engaging with the Gospel every month as a result.

After much thought and prayer, we believe that now is the time to focus on developing a new form of Mission amongst our young people.

- Who might lead it?
- What might it look like?

We would also love to see more use of drama in worship and to put on other forms of drama - using all age groups.

- Could drama be the hook to help us talk about faith matters together?
- We struggle to run fellowship groups at Oakworth - could this be an answer?
- Who might help us with this?

There are issues with our building that also need addressing and we would like to deal with these at the same time as we respond to the challenges identified above to help us make the most of the opportunities created.

- So, how are we moving forward?

The next step was to draw up initial plans for a project to extend the building, which addressed all the identified needs. A feasibility study was then undertaken which confirmed it was physically possible. Extensive discussions with Church Council, local community groups and representatives from the Methodist Circuit and District, helped us to put together a package to address our Mission needs, bring practical benefits to the Church and enable us to meet legal and community obligations. The process seemed like "Mission Impossible" at times but the package received enthusiastic, unanimous support from church and community alike ... and **Mission Possible** was born!

The first 10 years

Because the **Mission** **Possible** **Vision** included a costly Building Project, we needed to produce a Business Plan which would catch the imagination of potential funders in support of our **Mission** **Possible** **Fundraising**. It was the **Vision** expressed in this 48-page document which brought in sufficient funds to make the project viable. We celebrated the completion of the building work with a **Celebration & Dedication Weekend** in April 2019 – and the **Mission** **Possible** **Appeal** reached its final target of £475,000 at Christmas 2022.

Jo Dolman was appointed Circuit Youth Children & Family Worker in 2016 and she supported us for five years in Jigsaw & Messy Church, acted as our Panto Chaplain and led a number of Youth Services with some of our young people, whilst also supporting other youth activities Circuit-wide.

The Mission Possible package

1. **New Circuit Youth, Children and Family Worker to support us for ten hours a week -**
   - **To capitalise on Mission opportunities in existing and new groups of young people**
   - **To encourage the use of drama in worship and as a tool for Mission**
2. **Complete an ambitious project -**
   - **To make the church more visible and welcoming and reduce our carbon footprint**
   - **To improve the building layout and storage with everything under one roof**
   - **To meet Ofsted requirements for Pre-School and legal Health & Safety obligations for the church**

Church and Community members alike are all delighted with the outcome of our **Mission** **Possible** Building Project. Visually, the Church looks much more welcoming from the outside. Internally, the premises look fresh and clean and have a much more contemporary feel and all ground floor areas fully accessible. The stunning artwork in the Sanctuary literally lights up the worship space. The new modular stage and enhanced drama facilities have made a huge difference to all the community groups now using our premises as well as when using drama in worship. All our drama equipment, costumes, etc are now safely stored and accessible at all times. Pre-School are very happy with their new facilities, all within their secure area – and the rest of the building can be safely used whilst they are in. We are also reaping the benefits of the solar panels on the roof, as well as the new LED lighting and boiler controls.

The next steps

Since completion of the building work, Pre-School have increased their number of weekly sessions from four to six. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and KYDZ Youth Theatre weekly sessions continue to be very popular, as does the monthly Craft Club. A new weekly Showkids dance & drama group started in 2017 and is now firmly established. Other groups have come and gone but Dementia Friendly Keighley have started a new weekly Oakworth hub in our Lounge this month. We have a good rapport with all our groups.

The weekly Lunch Club is very popular with around 30 diners per week and we have just replaced one of the cooks. Messy Church has now been running for 11½ years with an attendance of 936 children. The monthly Welcome Drop-In started after the pandemic and is now very popular, as is the monthly Friendship Group - and Wednesday Club continues to offer an entertaining monthly social programme. Support for the annual Pantomime has now recovered following the pandemic and numbers of children joining the cast has increased again. We celebrated 45 years of Pantomime last month with two Cabaret Nights and Rehearsals have started for the next Show. Everyone is eagerly looking forward to working together again!

Mission Possible was never just a building project. It was and is a God-inspired Vision of new ways of working and sharing our faith with the community around us - particularly through drama with the young people - and now is the time to develop this Vision further.

We live in exciting times. Oakworth Methodist Church is now an integral part of the new Worth Valley Church and the former Exley Head congregation is now fully integrated with our congregation at Oakworth.

Our former Minister, Rev Nel Shallow spent two years ensuring a smooth transition through all these changes and we are very grateful for her ministry amongst us.

Our new Probationer Minister Rev Tracy Birks and new Church Worker Chris Partington joined us in September 2023 and now they have settled into their new roles, we look forward to working with them as we see where God and the Mission Possible Vision will lead us next at Oakworth.

May we all be open to the leading of the Spirit as Mission Possible progresses, willing to continue to take risks to achieve our goals.



Mission Possible Film Evening

Twisters (2024) (12)

Friday 24th January *6.30 pm*

on the giant screen
at Oakworth Methodist Church
with Fish & Chips in the Interval
All welcome - just turn up on the day
Donations to cover cost of food and film

As storm season intensifies, the paths of former storm chaser Kate Carter, lured back to the open plains after a devastating encounter years prior, and reckless social-media superstar Tyler Owens collide when terrifying phenomena never seen before are unleashed. The pair and their competing teams find themselves squarely in the paths of multiple storm systems converging over central Oklahoma in the fight of their lives.

Pantomime News



Rehearsals for our 2025 Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk are now in full swing and the Show is starting to come together. Anne is hoping to set most of the song and dance routines before Christmas but she then has to go for further surgery early in the New Year and will not be able to dance again until mid-February. We are very grateful to Karen for enthusiastically agreeing to cover for Anne in setting the final few dances and polishing the others ready for the Show.



Work is also well underway on scenery and lighting design, preparing special effects and sorting those wonderful costumes. We are delighted that several new parents are helping with some of these jobs as others are having to do less this year.

Advance booking for cast and crew families is ongoing. Tickets go on general sale on 1st January - details are on the back page and church website. Note the new seating arrangements this year due to fire regulation changes. Book early to avoid disappointment - tell all your friends - and enjoy the Show!



Sunday Worship



A warm welcome awaits as we worship together

Dec	1	10.30 am	Darrell Cummins
	8	10.30 am	Sonia Boocock
	15	10.30 am	Rev Tracy Birks - **All Age Carol Service**
	22	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Carol Service** - led by Rev Tracy Birks - at Oxenhope
Tue	24	9.00 pm	**Worth Valley Church Christmas Eve Service** - led by Rev Tracy Birks - at Oakworth
Wed	25	9.30 am	**Worth Valley Christmas Morning Service** - led by Rev Tracy Birks - at Oxenhope
	29	10.30 am	**Aire Valley Church Service** - led by Rev Nel Shallow - at Long Lee

(No Services in Worth Valley Churches)

Jan	5	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Covenant Service** - at Lees - led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
	12	10.30 am	Rev Nel Shallow - **All Age Worship**
	19	10.30 am	Darrell Cummins
	26	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth - led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
Feb	2	10.30 am	Rev Roger Fox
	9	10.30 am	**Circuit Service** - at Silsden
	16	10.30 am	Maurice Baren
	23	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope - led by Rev Tracy Birks - incudes Holy Communion

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.

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Diary Dates



Tuesdays 12.15 pm Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club
closed 10th-31st December (Christmas);
11th+18th February (Pantomime)

DECEMBER 2024

Mon	2	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in Christmas Party - in Church Hall
Tue	3	12.00 pm	**Lunch Club Christmas Lunch** - Carols from 11.30 am
Sat	7	2.30 pm	**Village Christmas Fair** - Oakworth Village Hall
Mon	9	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue	10	5.00 pm	**Wednesday Club Santa Drive** for Ronald in Uganda
Thu	12	3.30 pm	**Messy Church** - in Church + Hall

JANUARY 2025

Mon	6	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church Hall
Tue	7	7.00 pm	Worth Valley Church Leadership Team - Oxenhope
Wed	15	**2.00 pm**	**Wednesday Club Bingo Session** - Church Lounge
Fri	17	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Mon	20	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Fri	24	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

FEBRUARY 2025

Mon	3	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church Hall
Tue	4	7.00 pm	Worth Valley Church Council - Oxennope
Sat	15	to Sat 22	**38th Pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk** - on stage
Mon	17	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - in Church
Fri	21	10.00 am	Friendship Group - in Church
Tue	24	7.00 pm	Airedale Circuit Meeting - Cullingworth

MARCH 2025

Mon	3	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church Hall
Fri/Sat	7/8	7.15 pm	KYDZ Spring Show "Newsflash" - on stage in Church
Sat	8	All day	**Catering for Haworth Hobble** - at Haworth
Tue	11	7.00 pm	Church Life Meeting - Church Lounge
Wed	12	7.00 pm	**Wednesday Club Quiz Night**:- Church Lounge - Andrew
Mon	17	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Fri	21	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Sat	22	10.00 am	**Spring Market** - in Church + Hall
Fri	28	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

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

Find us on Facebook

38th Oakworth Methodist Pantomime



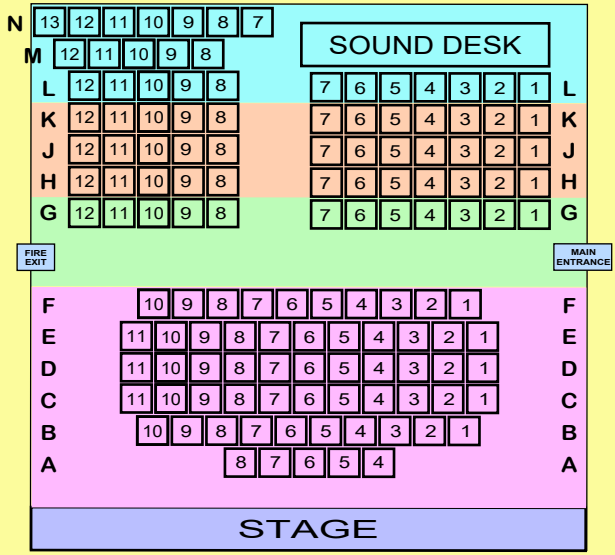
7pm Evening Shows:

Saturday 15th,
Monday 17th,
Tuesday 18th,
Wednesday 19th,
Friday 21st &
Saturday 22nd
February 2025

2pm Matinees
on both Saturdays

Adults £9.00,
Seniors £8.00
Children £6.00

Seating Plan



Unless requested, Paper Tickets will NOT be delivered this year - Please print your eTickets or show on your phone screen

Book online at www.OakworthMethodists.org
or ring Peter Howarth ☎07968 618312