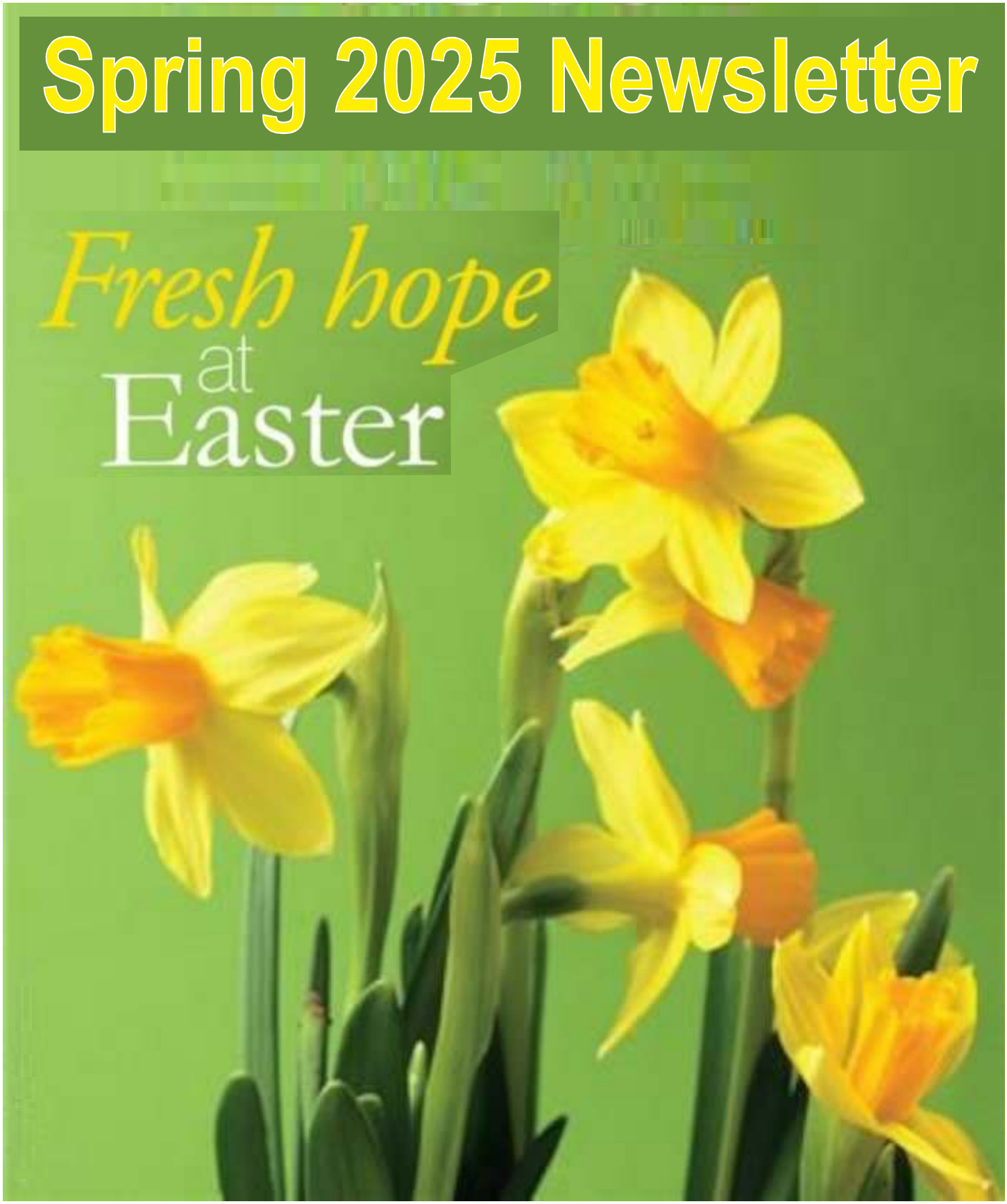
MISSION POSSIBLE

Oakworth Methodist Church

Part of Worth Valley Church.
Airedale Methodist Circuit

Spring 2025 Newsletter



Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends

Change comes in many forms. As we said a sad goodbye to the New Places for New People Pre-loved shop, we also saw a joyful change in our Circuit as the NPNP 'New Place' opened and is blossoming and bearing fruit.

Easter, for Christians, is a journey of change during Holy Week. We see Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, then his trial and his death on the cross, to being risen on Easter Sunday. It is a roller coaster of changes and emotions as we journey through that week together but, ultimately, it is joy in the Risen Lord.

Easter and Springtime affects everyone in our communities. There is so much change: the buds and flowers are bursting in to new life, the lawn mowers start to emerge out of the sheds. In this beautiful rural community that I have come to love, lambing is a big event and we enjoy the (mainly) improving weather. We see the tourists begin to arrive in growing numbers and it is a vibrant and busy time with so many changes.

I have been pondering and reflecting on the reading below. I like the question, "Do you not perceive it?" It almost expresses surprise that we may not have noticed this.



God, the creator of our universe, is doing new things. Our God who allows us to be his hands and heart here on earth. Our God who allows us to partner in his mission. Yet, have we missed the fact that our God is doing new things and calls us to these new things?

Are we looking back over our shoulders to what was, and what is past? Our past should be celebrated and we should give thanks to those faithful people who made it possible. But then, we must look forward to the journey that our missional God has called us to, and we should be ready to perceive and embrace this new journey that God is leading us on.

The world is changing and our communities too, so are we allowing ourselves to be transformed in preparation to partner God in mission in the world today, which needs churches of all denominations that are nimble, ready and adaptable.

Change can be painful as we lay aside some things, whilst embracing and taking joy in others. New friendships and associations can be forged and old ones strengthened.

It feels like, as Christians and as a community, we are on a journey together; let's focus our hearts and minds on Jesus at this time.

We can be confident that, even though society is changing and our churches are adapting, God is doing new and exciting things: God's love for the world has not changed. He came down to us in Jesus Christ, moved by his love for this world, and offers us hope.

Have a thoughtful and reflective
Easter and springtime .
With Love and Blessings,

Rev Tracy Xx

Minister: Rev Tracy Birks
☎ 01535 670663 e-mail:
tracy.birks@airedalemethodists.org





News

Community Groups

We have welcomed the Diamonds & Sparkles Dance Group in February as they transferred their weekly classes to our Church Hall.

The recently opened Oakworth Hub of Dementia Friendly Keighley is seeking to attract more support for their weekly sessions - see advert below.

In memoriam

We commend Betty Emmett into God's hands, assuring relatives and friends of our continuing prayers and sympathy.

Social Events

We enjoyed two more popular films (as well as the fish & chips!) at recent Film Evenings:'*Twisters'* in January and *'Wonka'* in March, raising a further £530.

Our catering team at the Haworth Hobble in March had a full day, serving breakfast to the runners as they set off and pizza and drinks as they returned! Church funds benefited by £710 from the event.

The Spring Market last month was well supported. The Craft Stall raised £270 (£135 for Lees and the same for Oakworth). Our other stalls took £365. So we raised £500 so far - with more to come from craft sales at hairdressers. Thanks for your support as always!

Join Us at Dementia Friendly Keighley's Weekly Session!

Oakworth Methodist Church **Every Thursday, 10 AM – 12 PM**

Are you or a loved one living with dementia? Or are you looking for a rewarding way to give back to your community?

Join us for **engaging, dementia-friendly activities** designed to support and uplift those with a diagnosis of dementia. Each session offers a warm, welcoming environment where we enjoy:

- **Planned activities** tailored for those with dementia
- **Crafting projects** to support the centre's work
- **Friendly conversation & social time**
- **A supportive space for caregivers & families**

We also welcome volunteers who'd love to **help with crafts** or simply share a cuppa and a chat. Whether you're attending for support, companionship, or to lend a hand, we'd love to see you there!

Come and be part of something special. Together, we can make a difference! For more details, contact **07840 450687.**

Thoughts of Easter

I awoke before dawn this Easter morn, laid very still and just thought,
Not of the eggs and bunnies that Easter brings,
But of the gift of life that it brought.
I thought of that cross he carried, that crown of thorns on his head,
The nails into his body they buried, betrayed by even those that he led.
Up that road to Calvary, totally sinless too,
Jesus paid the ultimate out of love, He died for me, for you.
Love keeps no records of right or wrong, Love doesn't keep a score,
To our Father in heaven we all belong, just as on that day long before.

I looked in the room at my sleeping sons,
Tears slipped from my eyes.
God had done more than I could have done,
To just watch as my son suffered and died.
My Easter held such meaning then,
As I watched the dawn breaking through,
Just thinking of that day so long ago,
When God did what I could not do.



Deborah Wininger. Family Friend Poems, May 3, 2014.

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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!




Jack and the Beanstalk
THE GIANT PANTOMIME SPECTACULAR








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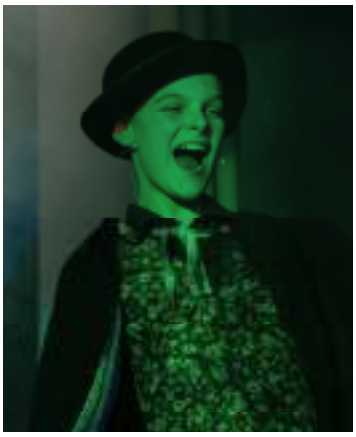

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Show photos by Gabbby Hands



















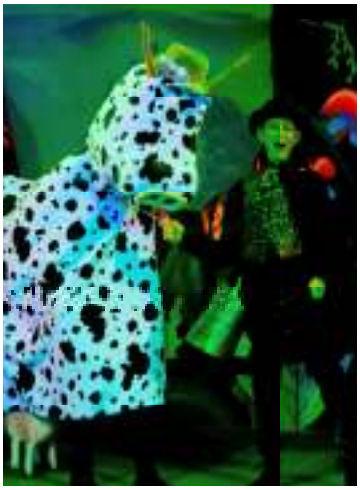

























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Pantomime Review



Tonight, myself and the rest of the audience thought we'd gone to Oakworth but, turns out, we actually went to 'Hogworth' (I see what you did there!) where we meet the villagers who are terrorised by, and pay taxes to, the Giant Voldemort. Dame Aubergine Bott is struggling to pay her taxes and I settled down to watch Jack's adventures in helping his mother.

Lillie-Rose played the title role of Jack with confidence, with a lovely singing voice, alongside Aimee's portrayal of Princess Hermione which was elegant and graceful, accompanied by lovely vocals; this principal boy/girl pair were a joy to watch. Dame Aubergine Bott, played by Harry, captured the audience's hearts with an impressive stage presence and just the right amount of sass. Freya as Jolly Molly Weasley brought energy and charm to her role and the two worked well together. George, as Silly Billy Bott, proved to be a natural comic actor, displaying the comic timing seen in pro's. He endeared himself to the audience at all times encouraging us all to say hello whenever he arrived, and earning his 'Awww's'! Isobelle and Lexi, as Daisy the Cow, brought the character to life, with expressive movements, I felt like I understood exactly what her 'Moo's' were saying, and not forgetting the delightful dance routine. Mya and Marianne, as Dandelion and Burdock Drinkup, balanced maturity and subtle humour beautifully in their roles, while their 'Civil Servants' Brussel and Sprout played by Grace and Ella, bounced off each other delivering their comic parts with finesse. Lola as Clarabelle Clanger the town crier, spoke clearly and made sure the audience understood what was happening, whilst Macie as the Vegetable Fairy, narrated the story clearly and with confidence. Joshua and Erin, playing Lucius Malfoy and Narcissa Malfoy, portrayed the baddies to perfection, drawing all the boos and hisses from the audience with their dastardly antics and made sure we knew we are 'Dirty Mudbloods' and that 'Humans are so stupid' - very well done both. Noah Credland did a wonderful job manoeuvring the huge-headed giant costume about the stage and making sure his body language was that of an intimidating foe.

The supporting cast of village girls and boys formed a delightful ensemble that delivered lovely vocals and engaging dance routines. Whilst the younger Children playing Magic Beanies, Dragons and Malfoy's Minions provided adorable cameos that added even more charm to the production, along with catchy songs.

The stage was transformed into a mesmerizing set, as one expects from Oakworth pantomimes, enhanced by the fabulous lighting and visual effects. The obligatory UV scene was visually stunning, earning gasps of admiration from the audience. The Hogworth Express, emerging from the tunnel, added an extra layer of magic, drawing plenty of "ooohs" from the audience and let's not forget Hedwig, the stuffed owl, who was a whimsical addition, delivering messages and props from the sky.

Devised and produced by David Howarth, and directed and choreographed by Philip Smith, Anne Mody and Karen Hudson, this talented team once again brought out the best in the young performers, giving them a platform to shine and share their talents with the audience.

Overall "Hogworth" was a delightful evening of entertainment, filled with laughter, charm, and magic. The dedicated cast and creative team delivered a pantomime that will be fondly remembered by all who attended. Bravo to everyone involved for a truly enchanting performance. See you next year!

Roxanne Williams

Ronald in Uganda



We continue to support Ronald by paying for his education. Our Santa Drive in December raised £200 towards this - thank you for your support.



The next event is an

Easter Bunny (Beetle) **Drive**

with Food - at Church

Wednesday 9th April *from 5.00 pm*

Please support Ronald this Easter

Pantomime News



Once again, in spite of all the challenges we faced along the way, our 2025 Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk came together in the end and it has been hailed as the best ever! We are very proud of every one of our cast members and very grateful for all the support received from the production team and our wonderful band of parents and other helpers.



Sadly, audience numbers were down from 1100 to 950 this year but we still managed to raise £6,000 for Church Funds and **Mission Possible Projects**.

A month after the Show ended, our minister Tracy, in her capacity as Panto Chaplain, put on a wonderful Social Evening for the children with pizza and games and we all watched the film *'Minions'*. Two days later, over half of the cast and several of their parents joined us for an uplifting Panto Praise Service led by Tracy and the Panto Team, on the theme of 'Friendship'. The Service finished at the usual time but the children didn't want to stop so they put on an impromptu Show to entertain the congregation over coffee and ran through virtually the whole Panto repertoire!!

The Senior Production Team are already working on next year's Pantomime, Sleeping Beauty! It is 28 years since we last performed this panto so the script needs a total makeover before we can use it. Consequently, auditions will be a little later this year - existing cast in May and new cast in June. Watch this space!!



Mission Possible Film Evening

Paddington in Peru

(2024) (PG)

Friday 25th April *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

Paddington returns to Peru to visit his beloved Aunt Lucy, who now resides at the Home for Retired Bears. With the Brown Family in tow, a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey through the Amazon rainforest and up to the mountain peaks of Peru.



Mission Possible Film Evening

Going in Style

(2017) (12)

Friday 23rd May *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

Desperate to pay their bills and support their loved ones, lifelong pals Willy Davis, Albert Gardner, and Joe Harding risk it all by robbing the bank that absconded with the pension money they earned from working there for years.

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Sunday Worship



A warm welcome awaits as we worship together

Mar 2 10.30 am Emma Sutcliffe
9 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - led by Rev Tracy Birks - at Oxenhope
16 10.30 am Rev Tracy Birks and the Panto Team - **All Age Panto Praise Service**
23 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth - led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
30 10.30 am Rev Susan Greenhart

Apr 6 10.30 am Rev Clare Stainsby - **65th Church Anniversary All Age Worship**
13 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Lees - led by David Clark
20 10.30 am **Easter Sunday** - Darrell Cummins
27 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope - led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion

May 4 10.30 am Chris Partington - **All Age Worship**
11 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth - led by Glenda Coogan
18 10.30 am Julie Smith
25 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Lees - led by Rev David Skeet - 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.

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

Diary Dates



Tuesdays 12.15 pm Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club
closed 8th+15th April (Easter); 27th May (Spring Bank)
Thursdays 10.00-12.00 Dementia Friendly Keighley - Oakworth Hub

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	Worth Valley Church Council - Oxenhope
Wed	12	7.00 pm	**Wednesday Club Quiz Night**:- Church Lounge - Andrew
Fri	14	5.45 pm	Panto Cast Social Evening - Pizza, Games & Film
Mon	17	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Mon	17	7.00 pm	**Mission Possible Next Steps** with David Goodall
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

APRIL 2025

Mon	7	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church Hall
Wed	9	5.00 pm	**Wednesday Club Easter Bunny Drive** for Ronald in Uganda
Mon	21	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge (Easter Monday)
Fri	25	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri	25	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

MAY 2025

Mon	5	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church Hall
Fri	16	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Mon	19	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue	20	7.00 pm	Church Life Meeting - Church Lounge
Wed	21	7.00 pm	**Wednesday Club** *'New Hymns & Photographs'* Barbara Boothroyd
Fri	23	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper
Tue	27	7.00 pm	Worth Valley Church Council - Lees

JUNE 2025

Mon	2	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church Hall
Mon	16	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Fri	20	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri	27	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

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

Find us on Facebook

The next steps



Our **Mission** **Possible** **Vision** took another step forward last month when David Goodall (YW District Mission Enabler) came to share his wisdom with us. We were very much encouraged by his input as we shared together what God is already doing amongst us here at Oakworth. David used a physical Venn diagram on the floor to illustrate what effect our current activities have on the church Spiritually, Missionally and Numerically. There needs to be a balance over the three areas and we saw that we are not currently feeding our numerical strength sufficiently. We need to talk more of what God is doing rather than what the church is doing and we need to be willing to invite friends and neighbours to come along. Our next Church Life Meeting on Tuesday 20 May will look further at how we might achieve this.

