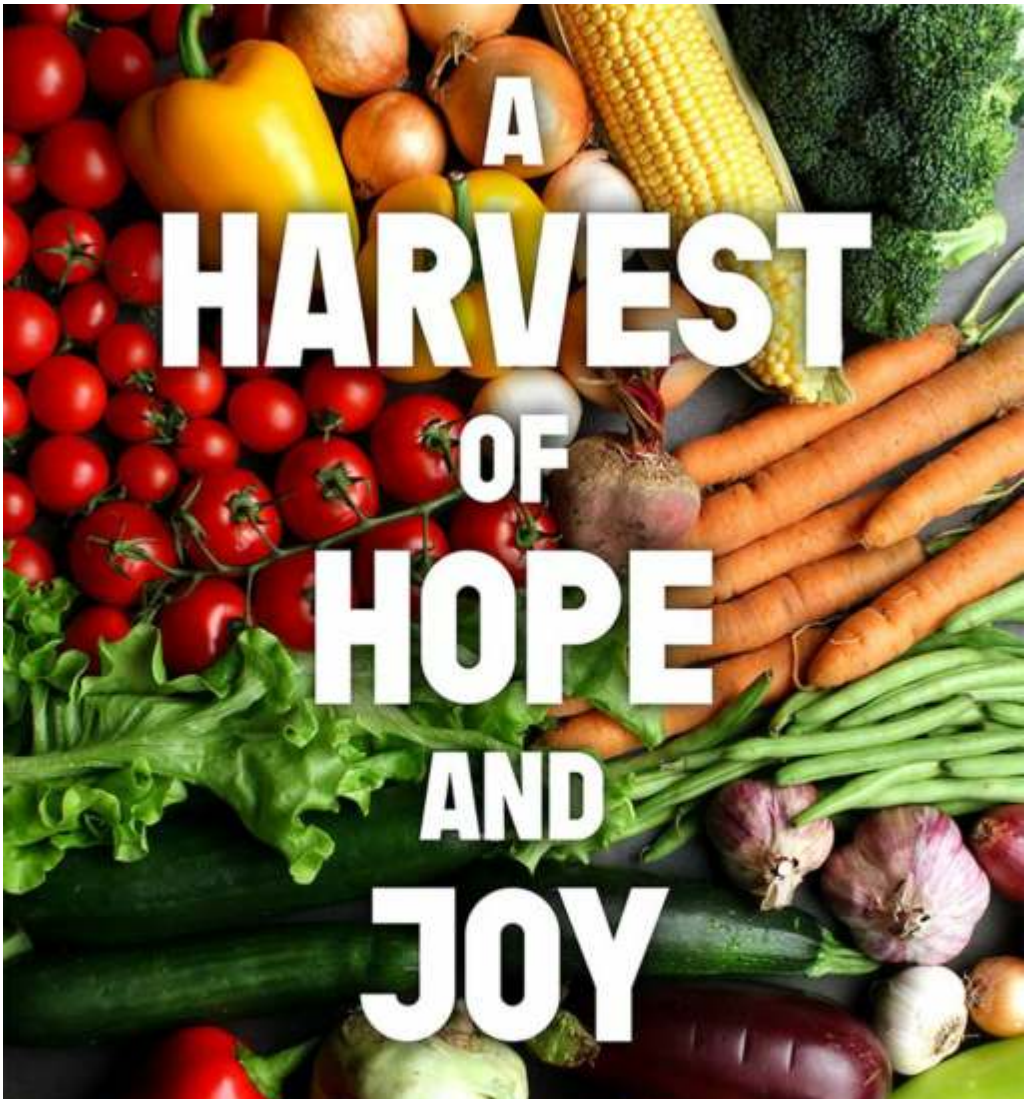
MISSION POSSIBLE

Oakworth Methodist Church

Part of Worth Valley Church, Aireadale Methodist Circuit

Autumn 2025 Newsletter



Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends

Comforting words from Joshua 1:9 *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid ... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go".* September marks the start of our Methodist year For many of our ministers this will mean a new home, in a new place with new churches and all the challenges and joys that brings.

It has also been a new start for many of the young people and children in our communities starting: preschool, nursery, school; moving up to a new class, moving on to secondary school or sixth form, or moving away from home and off to university. Some people may be moving from home into a care home or retirement community.

Our local Churches Together assembly team went in to our local primary schools at the end of term to give out books and delivered a moving-on session with the year six pupils. We heard about what they were looking forward to: exploring new design and technology options, science with cool equipment … and the biggest excitement was a greater choice of meals at lunchtime. Their concerns were around travel and finding their way round in a bigger building … and making friends.

When I moved here in the summer of 2023, I was looking forward to (but also nervous about) meeting new people and exploring a new area. My concerns were around getting lost. So it doesn't matter what age you are, we share the same joys and concerns of a new place.

In this month of change I invite you to pray with me for all those people who are experiencing change and new beginnings. "Dear Lord, give your peace to those starting new things, May they be met with warmth, kindness and hospitality. Help them to find their way around and take comfort in known friendship but also to find joy in new friendships. Lord, we ask that you hold all those moving to new things this September in your comforting embrace."

>>>>> *continued on next page*

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

September is also when our circuit is running a City of culture Art Event. Look out for physical and online posters to see where your nearest art event is happening. They are free … with tea and filter coffee to keep you hydrated whilst you get creative. You absolutely do not need to be good at art!

Our theme is refugees and home; the holy family became refugees on their flight to Egypt. The question we ask is, if you had to flee suddenly, as so many families do around the world, what you would miss most about the place you call home.

So, it is a celebration of Keighley and the surrounding area. We are offering water colours, charcoal and collage, but you can bring other mediums of art, eg if you knit, crochet or embroider, and join us for a coffee as you craft.

The Art events are running throughout September at various venues and schools and on the first weekend in October there will be a showcase of all the art. A few pieces will receive a commendation and a small prize.

The showcase is to celebrate Keighley in all its diversity and it will be in the shopping centre. Please join us for art, for coffee, for a chat, because this is much more than art … we are celebrating local people in the place we call home.

Friends, please pray with me: “Loving Lord, please let this art project be a blessing to all those taking part. Amen”

Have a blessed September and October.

Love and blessing, *Rev Tracy* Xx



Mission Possible Film Evenings

Our **Mission Possible Film Evenings** started in September 2015 as part of our fundraising for the Appeal which was launched that year to raise funds for the **Mission Possible Building Project.** Ten years later they are still very popular!

Over the ten years, we have shown 72 films, eaten thousands of pounds worth of fish and chips and raised nearly £18,000 for **Mission Possible**!!

The first film was *Philomena*. The most popular film was *Paddington 2* in March 2018 with 103 in the audience. The second most popular was *Nativity 3: Dude, Where's my Donkey* in November 2015 watched by over 80. Third was *The Railway Children Return* in October 2022 watched by 53.

The Windermere Children and *Mufasa: the Lion King* are the most recent films we have shown - in June and September - raising £535 between them.

To celebrate our tenth anniversary, we are showing my favourite musical, *Sister Act* in October and *Last Christmas* in November - see adverts on page 9.

Pantomime News



The Pantomime Production Team has grown this year. I will still produce the show and Anne Mody continues as director/choreographer but Karen Hudson is taking over as senior choreographer after covering so well last year when Anne was ill. Dan Jerwood is joining the team as vocal coach and Peter Howarth will take a more active role as technical manager.

I've really enjoyed updating the script for Sleeping Beauty over the Summer, creating several new characters in the process and Anne & Karen have come up with a raft of new songs and dance numbers to bring the show to life. The script is ready for printing and we already have a couple of dates in the diary for introducing the songs to the cast in October.



The scripts will be given out on Friday 7th November at 5.45 pm and the first read-through will follow at 6.00 pm. Sleeping Beauty Hoodies will be available for cast members to buy at a discounted price and we hope to have them for that night too. Rehearsals will start the following week - mainly on Mondays and Fridays this year to begin with.

The production team are all looking forward to working with this year's cast to produce another great show!!

Book the dates in your diaries: 14-21 February 2026 - and enjoy the show!

Yorkshireman Marathon

Thank you to all who helped with the catering at the Marathon at Haworth this year. The weather was mixed for the runners but they all appreciated the pizza and drinks which welcomed them at the end! The church received £525 from the organisers plus donations from the runners of £116.



Other News

In memoriam

We commend Jean Driver and Sheila Stead into God's hands, assuring relatives and friends of our continuing prayers and sympathy.

Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club

Sadly, we have had to drop to fortnightly lunches through the Autumn as we have struggled to find a second cook to replace Gill Roper who left earlier in the year. The good news is, a replacement has now been found and she starts in the New Year.



Summary of Oakworth Methodist Church Accounts 2024-2025

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Collections	13,411.79	Circuit Share	19,500.00
Property/Lettings	17,360.50	Utilities	10,475.92
Fundraising	9,286.24	Property Maintenance	5,769.95
Tax Recovered	3,907.25	Cleaner's Wages	5,826.00
Donations	415.26	Mission Donations	1,761.71
Mission Collections	711.71	Sundry Payments	2,397.09
Investment Income	357.51		
Photocopying/Printing	420.00	Tfr to General Reserves	100.00
MP Project Income	2,939.98	MP Project Costs	2,959.23
	48,810.24		**48,789.90**

Treasurer's Report



Last year was a year of ups and downs where some income and expenditure streams were lower than expected but others were higher. Nevertheless, we managed to cover our costs overall.

Collections were down by £1,100 on the previous year, Donations were down £400 and Gift Aid Tax Recoveries were down £270. Most Fundraising events brought in around the same as the previous year, although the Autumn Fayre & Spring Market raised £500 less between them and Pantomime profits were down £2,000 because of lower audience numbers and increased costs. However, increased use of our premises by community groups brought in an additional £1,800 from Property Lettings.

Thankfully, electricity costs reduced a further £2,200 last year, enabling us to return our Circuit Share to pre-covid levels for the first time, still remaining within budget. Other expenses were as budgeted.

All the 2024-25 **Mission Possible Projects** have also been fully funded. They included replacing some of our AV equipment, updating the video editing PC and purchasing a fog machine for pantomime and other drama use.

Our General Reserves now stand at £8,600, which equates to 75% of the three months of budgeted general expenditure we aim for.

Over the next twelve months, the finances of the local churches which are now part of the Worth Valley Church will be combined into one set of accounts. This will make Peter and Emma's jobs as Worth Valley Church Treasurers much easier and will save me a lot of time with extra reporting that currently has to be done. I will still continue as Oakworth Treasurer for the time being, dealing with Sunday collections, rents and licences for users of the building, fundraising events and other cash transactions, so most people won't see much difference! This is part of the next steps under the Circuit's Bright Hope for Tomorrow initiative.

Thanks for your continued support.

I mustn't forget



Autumn days when the grass is jewelled
And the silk inside a chestnut shell.
Jet planes meeting in the air to be refuelled.
All these things I love so well …

So I mustn't forget … No, I mustn't forget …
To say a great big Thank You, I mustn't forget

Clouds that look like familiar faces
And the winter's moon with frosted rings.
Smell of bacon as I fasten up my laces
And the song the milkman sings …

Whipped-up spray that is rainbow-scattered
And a swallow curving in the sky.
Shoes so comfy though they're worn out and they're battered
And the taste of apple pie …

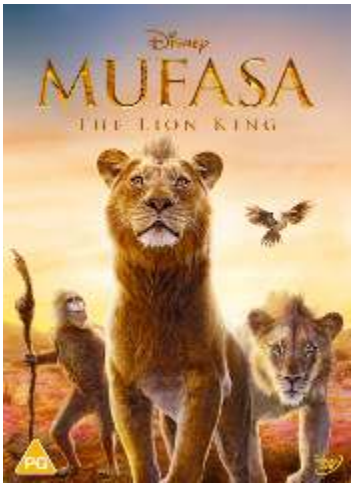
Scent of gardens when the rain's been falling
And a minnow darting down a stream.
Picked-up engine that's been stuttering and stalling
And a win for my home team …

Estelle White

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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!





Mission Possible Film Evening

Mufasa: The Lion King

(2024) (PG)

Friday 19th September *6.30 pm*

on the big screen
at Oakworth Methodist Church

with Fish & Chips in the Interval

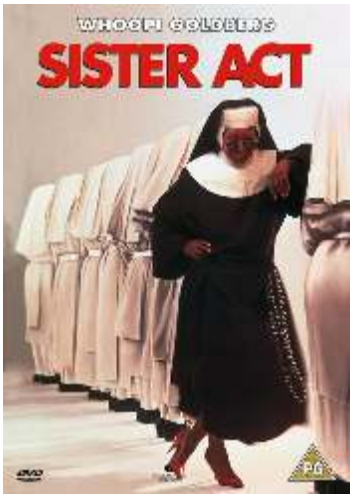
All welcome - just turn up on the day

Donations to cover cost of food and film

Mufasa, a cub lost and alone, meets a sympathetic lion named Taka, the heir to a royal bloodline. The chance meeting sets in motion an expansive journey of an extraordinary group of misfits searching for their destiny. Their bonds will be tested as they work together to evade a threatening and deadly foe.







Mission Possible Film Evening

SISTER ACT

(1992) (PG)

Friday 24th October *6.30 pm*

on the big 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

When a nightclub singer is forced to take refuge from the mob in a convent, she ends up turning the convent choir into a soulful chorus complete with a Motown repertoire, until the sudden celebrity of the choir jeopardizes her identity.



Mission Possible Film Evening

Last Christmas

(2019) (12)

Friday 28th November *6.30 pm*

on the big 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

Kate is a young woman subscribed to bad decisions. Working as an elf in a year-round Christmas store is not good for the wannabe singer. However, she meets Tom there. Her life takes a new turn … that seems too good to be true.

Sunday Worship



A warm welcome awaits
as we worship together

Sep	7	10.30 am	**Circuit Service** - at St Andrew's Parish Church, Keighey
	14	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - led by Rev Tracy Birks - at Oakworth - includes Holy Communion
	21	10.30 am	Rev Barbara Walls
	28	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Harvest Service** - led by Chris Partington - at Oxenhope
Oct	5	10.30 am	Rev Michael Mewis
	12	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Lees - led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
	19	10.30 am	Norman Clark
	26	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth - led by Glenda Coogan
Nov	2	10.30 am	Rev John Peet
	9	**10.00** am	Rev Tracy Birks - **Remembrance Sunday Service**
		10.45 am	Janet Armstrong - **Remembrance Ceremony** - at the Cenotaph in the Park
	16	10.30 am	Maurice Baren
	23	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope - led by Rev Tracy Birks
	30	10.30 am	Rev Stephen Normanton

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 21st+28th October (Half Term Holidays)

Thursdays 10.00-12.00 Dementia Friendly Keighley - Oakworth Hub

SEPTEMBER 2025

Mon	1	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - Church Hall
Sun	14	All day	**Catering for Yorkshireman Marathon** - at Haworth
Mon	15	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue	16	7.00 pm	Church Life Meeting - re **Mission Possible** Next Steps
Fri	19	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri	19	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper
Sun	28	1.30-4.30	**Worth Valley Horticultural Show** - in Church+Hall

OCTOBER 2025

Mon	6	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - Church Hall
Sat	11	7.15 pm	**KYDZ Youth Theatre Concert** - on stage in Church
Tue	14	7.00 pm	Worth Valley Church Council - at Oxenhope
Wed	15	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club: *"Keighley Hippodrome Theatre"* - Tim Neale
Fri	17	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri	17	6.00 pm	Sleeping Beauty Songs run through
Mon	20	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Fri	24	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

NOVEMBER 2025

Mon	3	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - Church Hall
Fri	7	5.45 pm	**Sleeping Beauty Scripts out and first Read-through**
Mon	17	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue	18	7.00 pm	Wednesday Club Celebration Evening - in Church+Hall
Fri	21	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Sat	22	10.00 am	**Autumn Fayre** - in Church+Hall
Fri	28	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

DECEMBER 2025

Mon	1	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - Church Hall
Tue	2	12.00 pm	**Lunch Club Christmas Lunch** - Carols from 11.30 am
Sat	6	2.30 pm	**Village Christmas Fair** - Oakworth Village Hall
Mon	8	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue	9	5.00 pm	**Santa Drive & Food** - for Ronald in Uganda

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

Find us on Facebook

The next steps



You will recall from the last Newsletter that we have been trying to discern the next steps we should take in developing our **Mission Possible Vision**. We had looked at the various church-run activities to see how they encouraged growth.

Another meeting was held in June to consider which activities we should give the greatest amount of resources to and whether any others might be discontinued.

Unsurprisingly, the Pantomime and Lunch Club received the most votes for where our resources should be concentrated and a discussion followed as to how we might develop a more missional approach to supporting children and parents involved in the pantomime. Could some of the funds raised from **Pantomimes** and **Mission Possible Film Evenings** be earmarked to support a part-time Children and Family Worker to support us in this?

We also came to the conclusion that the Wednesday Club had run its course and should finish by the end of the year. We already have Tim Neale booked to give a talk on *'Keighley Hippodrome Theatre'* on Wednesday 15th October. The final Wednesday Club session will be on Tuesday 18th November when we will remember all that Wednesday Club has meant to everyone over the years in a big Celebration Evening. This date was chosen because there is no Lunch Club that week and the whole building is available that evening. Ideas regarding what we should do to celebrate are very welcome! Come and join us if you can.

At a further meeting in September, Graham Iliff (Circuit Steward) was invited to share the continuing discussion with us. He was very enthusiastic in his support for what we are trying to achieve through our **Mission Possible Vision** - it matches perfectly what the Circuit is seeking to encourage through the **Bright Hope for Tomorrow** initiative and he is keen for the Circuit to consider whether a new Circuit Children & Family Worker might be appointed as part of the Staff reorganisation next year when we have to drop a Minister.

The most important thing for us at the moment is Prayer - that we continue to be open to the leading of the Spirit as we move forward. There are several Christians amongst the panto leaders, so we are already encouraging the cast and parents from a Christian perspective in small ways. The Panto Praise Service last March went really well and we look forward to seeing what else we can do together to encourage our children and their families. Please pray with us!