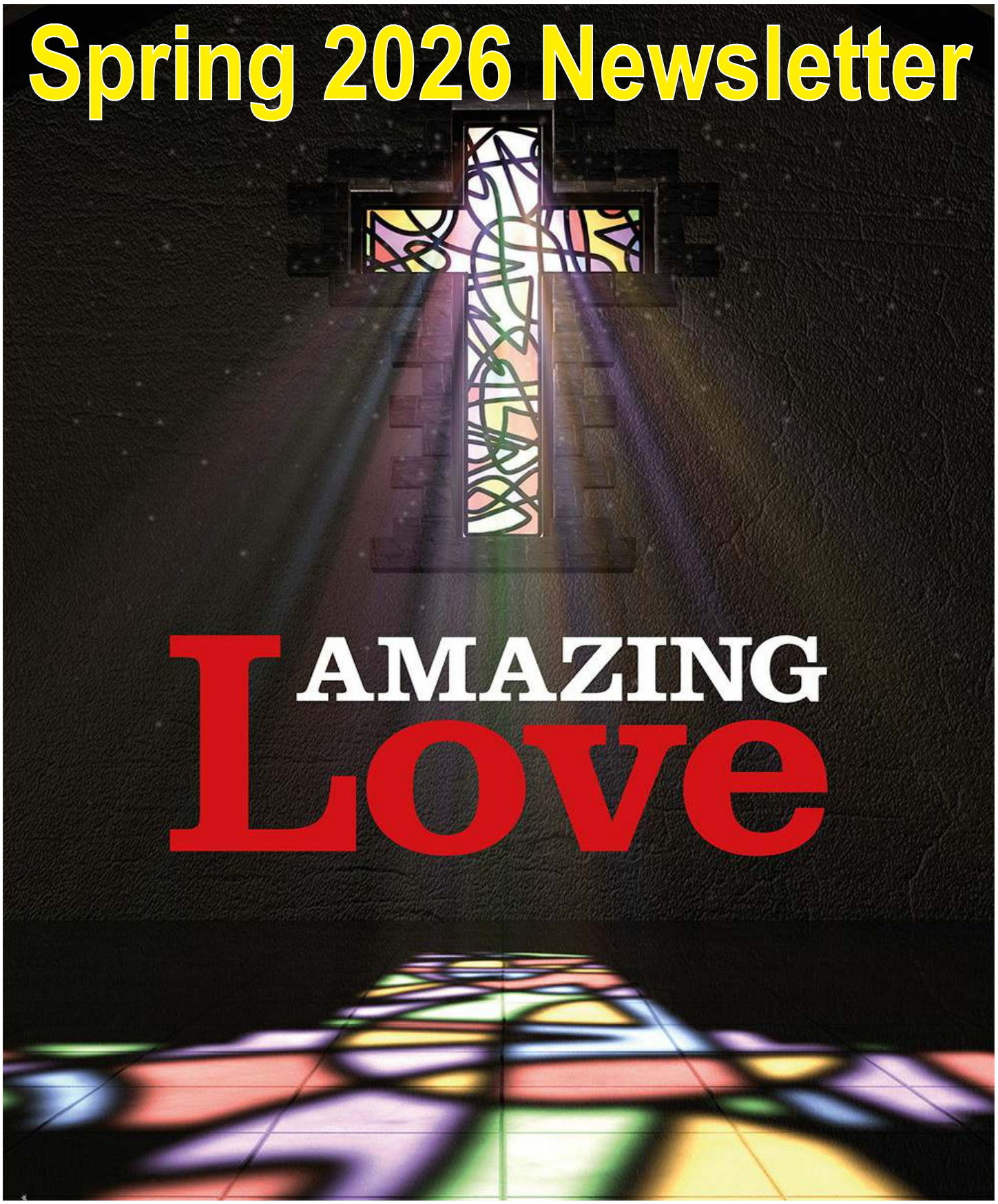
MISSION POSSIBLE

Oakworth Methodist Church

Part of Worth Valley Church,
Airedale Methodist Circuit

Spring 2026 Newsletter



Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends

I am feeling blessed as I have warm sun pouring in through the window as I write this letter. I hope you have been cheered by the glimpses of March sunshine after a rainy February. I have lovely snow drops popping up in my garden, a little gift from nature. Soon the snowdrops will have had their time, and the garden will be renewed with spring flowers and daffodils standing tall. Each flower recognising its season, knowing when the time for renewal comes.

Easter represents an opportunity for us as Christians to experience a transformative renewal through Jesus Christ, as we celebrate and recognise the fresh start and hope that Jesus' death and resurrection bring. As we embrace this, it allows flourishing, growth and renewal in a similar way to our spring garden renewing itself through growth for the next season.

Just as nature is offering renewal and flourishing, our circuit is changing and flourishing as we put all our energies into being a visible and missional presence in the Airedale and Worth Valley areas.

The Oakworth Pantomime took place in February and in March we had our Panto Praise service, thanking God for the gifts and commitment of all the young people who showcased their talents. In a few weeks we will have a Panto social event where all the young people can meet up and relax - our way of saying thank you for all their hard work.

As Rev Clare Stainsby and Rev Nel Shallow prepare to move on this summer we pray for their new beginnings and for smooth transitions. We also pray for those who will join our staff team over the coming months.

Change and new beginnings, even small ones, can feel unsettling but we know they can also bring flourishing, growth and new life.

"Do not despise these small beginnings,
for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin."
Zechariah 4:10a NLT



I hope you have a lovely Eastertide, feel the joy of spring and enjoy all the beauty and renewal that springtime brings.

With Love and Blessings,

Rev Tracy Xx

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

Live Life



Life is crazy … And totally unpredictable …
It's going to push you over, Kick you while you're down,
And hit you when you try to get back up.
Not everything can beat you. Things are going to change you,
But you get to choose which ones you let change you.
Listen to your heart, Follow your dreams,
And let no-one tell you what you're capable of.
Push the limits, Bend the rules, And enjoy every minute of it.
Laugh at everything. Live for as long as you can.
Love all, But trust none.
Believe in yourself, And never lose faith in others.
Settle for nothing but only the best and give 110% in everything you do.
Take risks, Live on the edge, Yet stay safe,
And cherish every moment of it. Life is a gift.
Appreciate all the rewards, And jump on every opportunity.
Not everyone's going to love you, But who needs them anyway?
Challenge everything, And fight for what you believe.
Live life to its fullest, And have a reason for everything.
Find your purpose in life, And live it!

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

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

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







Social Events

We enjoyed another two popular films at recent Film Evenings: '*Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale'* in January and *'Sister Act 2'* in March, raising a further £585.

Our catering team at the Haworth Hobble in March served breakfast to the runners as they set off and pizza and drinks as they returned. Church funds benefited by £565 from the event.

The Spring Market was well supported. The Craft Stall raised over £300 (split between Lees and Oakworth). Our cake stall did really well, taking £190 and our other stalls made £345. So we raised £705 so far - with more to come from craft sales at hairdressers. Thanks for your support as always!

Lunch Club News

Sally has settled in well as our new cook and Lunch Club has gained a few new members since we were able to return to weekly lunches in the New Year. However, Bernie has just moved out of the area and so we now need two new helpers to give us a full team. Do you know anyone who might be able to join the team? Thanks to Bernie for three years of loyal service.



Oakworth Toad Patrol

Toad patrols are organised groups of volunteer patrollers who go out on mild and rainy evenings in February, March and April to help toads reach their breeding ponds safely. Many toads, frogs and newts have the hazardous journey of crossing roads so the patrollers are there to help them to complete their journey safely.

Oakworth has its own team of patrollers who mainly work on Grey Scar Road but also cover Slaymaker Lane. With torches switched on we cast our beams across roads and verges collecting our amphibious friends in a bucket and sending them safely in the direction of their breeding ponds.

This year we have already helped well over a hundred and fifty frogs, one hundred and ten toads and over eighty newts and there are still many more to help.

Our church is proud to be part of this patrol and we welcome anyone who would be interested in helping out.

Please get in touch if you need more information.

Val and Mike Cadamarteri



Ronald in Uganda



Ronald will be 20 years old in June and his latest report tells us his health is amazing, he looks very healthy and very good. He has grown fat and tall and he is happy. His class work is average and he was promoted to Senior Three this year. He enjoyed a church camp. He plans to improve on his garden work and also read hard next year. Ronald and his Aunt appreciate all the help given to them.

Our latest fundraising event in support of Ronald's education was an Easter Bunny (Beetle) Drive with Food at Church, which raised a further £150. Thank you for supporting Ronald again.



Pantomime News



Our 2026 Pantomime Sleeping Beauty has been hailed yet another triumph! We are very proud of every one of our cast members and very grateful for all the support received from our new Production Team and our wonderful band of parents and other helpers. Audience numbers were up this year and we raised £6,700 for Church Funds and **Mission Possible Projects**.

A month after the Show ended, 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 'God's Gifts to us all', based on the gifts presented to the baby Princess at her Christening and using the stunning cards Barbara produced to give to the cast each month during rehearsals.



The Senior Production Team are already working on next year's Pantomime, Aladdin. This will be our 40th Pantomime and we want to make it extra special! We have lost the seven oldest cast members as they leave to concentrate on their A levels next year but we have some very talented younger cast members moving up into the principal roles and we are very excited to see who will take on which character roles after the Main Auditions on 27th April. Work will then start on updating the script we last used in 2014 and Anne, Karen & Dan will come up with a brand new list of songs to include for the song and dance routines.

Exciting times indeed!!


Sleeping
Beauty
The Pantomime
of your dreams























Show photos by Scott Coulthard


























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Rob's Reflection



It's the end of an era, after 25 years!

I am inherently terrible at giving things up.

For most of my life, I've volunteered across various organisations. I think it's really important to give something back to the community, be that as part of the village hall, the local heritage railway, or theatre groups. Organisations like these simply cannot survive without willing volunteers giving their time to support them.

One such organisation that I have been involved with for a very long time is Oakworth Pantomime. Now in its 39th year, it's a staple of Oakworth Village, and has grown to be significantly popular, attracting audiences from towns and villages all over the district.

Two things strike me about the village panto – firstly, it's a classic example of an organisation diversifying its income streams to support its own objectives. In this case, it is the Methodist Church. The building is adapted with a full stage being installed each January and removed after the final performance at the end of the February half term. The panto brings in much needed income to an organisation that has its own financial challenges – what a great way to bolster the bottom line whilst also bringing a wider benefit to the community!

And that's my second observation – the panto is so much more than just an income line on a spreadsheet – it's about the benefit to the young people that perform. Personally, I think it is immeasurable. One of my favourite things about being involved, is seeing young people grow over the years, learn new skills and unearth hidden confidence. It doesn't just help them develop as young people – these are skills that will help them as they develop themselves in their adult lives and careers.

I first joined the panto some 25 years ago as a young and shy cast member. I left the stage in 2010 but couldn't contemplate leaving altogether. I spent a further 4 years as part of the stage crew. In 2015 a position opened up for Lighting Designer (which just so happens to also be a self-taught passion of mine!). I accepted and I've been in the chair ever since.

I never thought that I would walk away from the panto. It has been a large part of my childhood, and it's been there for my entire adult life up to press. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end, and it is now my time to pass on to some other young person who fancies a go at lighting. Who knows where they will end up in a few years' time.

I'm not leaving the theatre life altogether, of course! I'm still serving on the board at Keighley Youth Theatre, and I'm continuing as their Lighting Designer.

I've been with the Panto for 64% of its existence, and 75% of my own. It's really very hard to walk away!

To the Oakworth Panto team – thank you for the last 25 years – I will never forget it!"

Rob Green

Pantomime Review



Sleeping Beauty is the 39th Oakworth Methodist Panto and a great night it was for all. Lots of colourful scenery as expected from this panto, a plethora of vibrant costumes and boundless energy from the cast

Fairy Azuriel (Macie) introduced us to the Kingdom of Entertainia with a wave of her wand and smile and narrated the story, along with her entourage of Mythical Beings who were all so cute in their shiny outfits.

In Entertainia we met King Cedric VII, Queen Semolina, Lord Percy and Lady Sophia played with just the right mix of royalty and comedy by George, Mya, Ella & Grace, who were kept in check by the Lord Chamberlain, Fusspot, who was fussily & funnily played by Freya.

Other members of the royal household included the two Heralds, Shout and Bawl (Isla & Scarlett) and Flip & Flop (Noah & Edmund) - these had a couple of great comedic scenes which kept the audience laughing. And what is a palace without its Courtiers, the four young ladies playing these parts; Poppy M, Anya, Phoebe and Aoife were all brilliant, dancing and singing their way throughout.

The Principal Boy and Girl (Prince Valiant & Princess Aurora played by Lillie-Rose & Aimee) gelled well together and complimented each other with their singing and dancing throughout.

The main laughs came from the comedy duo of Dame Ammonia Goodbody and Court Jester, Tickles (Harry & Joshua). Their knock-about comedy and good rapport with each other and the audience gave us plenty of time to giggle and laugh out loud.

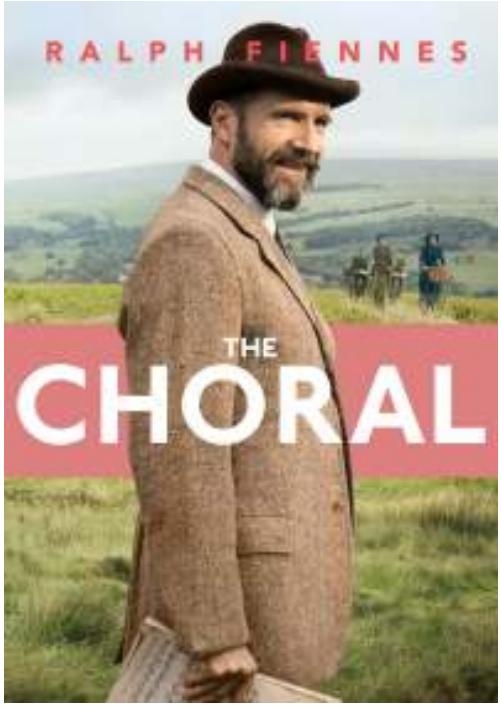
The villain of the piece, Carabosse, played deliciously wicked by Marianne, drew all the hisses and boo's from the audience and was a joy to watch in every scene she was in.

Add to this the rest of the chorus combining Servants, Guests, Palace Children, Princes and Villagers, who were all loud and enthusiastic in everything they did. Just what a panto needs!

Congratulations must go to all the backstage and front of house staff including voice coach Dan Jerwood, Anne Mody & Karen Hudson who Directed and Choreographed and as always a big shout out to David Howarth who devised and produced yet another triumph.

I'm already looking forward to next year.





Mission Possible Film Evening

The Choral

(2025) (12)

Friday 24th April *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

A choral society's male members enlist in World War I, leaving the demanding Dr. Guthrie to recruit teenagers. Together, they experience the joy of singing while the young boys grapple with their impending conscription into the army.



Mission Possible Film Evening

In the Heights

(2021) (PG)

Friday 22nd May *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

In this American Musical Drama film, set in Washington Heights, a sympathetic New York bodega owner saves every penny every day as he imagines and sings about a better life.

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Sunday Worship



A warm welcome awaits as we worship together

Mar 1 10.30 am Emma Sutcliffe
8 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
15 10.30 am Maurice Baren
22 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Panto Praise Service** - led by Rev Tracy Birks and the Panto Team - at Oakworth
29 10.30 am Rev Stephen Normanton

Apr 5 10.30 am **Easter Sunday** - Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
6.00 pm **Circuit Easter Praise Service** - at Bingley
12 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope - led by Norman Clark
19 10.30 am Roger Smith - 66th Church Anniversary
26 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth - led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion

May 3 10.30 am Tim Sharp
10 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope - led by Rev Clare Stainsby - includes Holy Communion
17 10.30 am Mrs Chris Sheasby
24 10.30 am **Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth - led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
31 10.30 am Rev Susan Greenhart

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 ☎ 07966 069057
e-mail: DHowarth@OakworthMethodists.org

Diary Dates



Tuesdays 12.15 pm Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club

closed 31st March+7th April (Easter); 26th May+2nd June (Spring Bank)

Thursdays 10.00-12.00 Dementia Friendly Keighley - Oakworth Hub

MARCH 2026

Mon	2	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church Hall
Fri/Sat	6/7	7.15 pm	KYDZ Spring Show "It's on us" - on stage in Church
Sat	14	All day	**Catering for Haworth Hobble** - at Haworth
Mon	16	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue	17	7.00 pm	Worth Valley Church Council - Oakworth
Fri	20	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri	20	6.00 pm	Panto Praise Refresher Session - Church Hall
Sat	21	10.00 am	**Spring Market** - in Church + Hall
Tue	24	5.30 pm	**Easter Bunny Drive & Food** - for Ronald in Uganda
Fri	27	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

APRIL 2026

Mon	6	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church Hall
Sat	11	11.30 am	**Wedding: Peter Howarth & Emma Sutcliffe** - in Church
Fri	17	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Sat	18	10.00 am	Yorkshire West Methodist District Synod - in Church
Mon	20	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge (Easter Monday)
Fri	24	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper
Mon	27	6.00 pm	Main Auditions for Aladdin - In Church + Hall

MAY 2026

Mon	4	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church Hall
Fri	15	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Sat	16	10.00 am	Val's Charity Coffee Morning - Church Hall
Mon	18	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Fri	22	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

JUNE 2026

Mon	1	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-in - in Church Hall
Mon	15	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Wed	17	7.00 pm	Airedale Circuit Meeting - Steeton
Fri	19	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Fri	26	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

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

Find us on Facebook

Guide to Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.