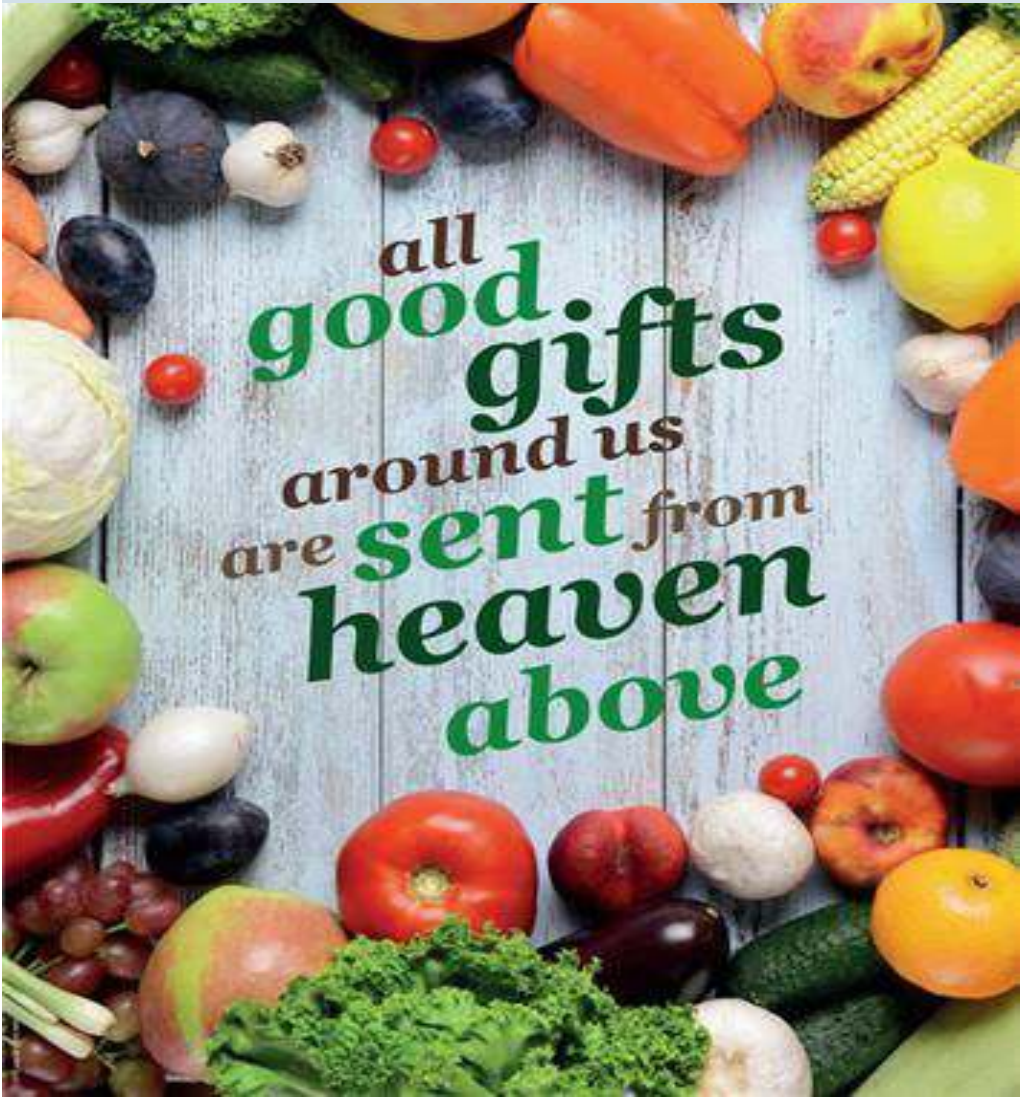
MISSION POSSIBLE

Oakworth Methodist Church

Part of Worth Valley Church, Aredale Methodist Circuit

Autumn 2026 Newsletter



Pastoral Letter



Dear Friends

What joy our New Methodist year started on the 1st September.

September is when we celebrate Education Sunday in services and in prayer. So, at this time of year, I find myself thinking about new beginnings: children in our communities preparing to start school, move up a class, going to college and university.

For some people new beginning's may be preparing for retirement, and our ministers and their families who have been stationed are preparing for their new life in a new place.

I have been reflecting on the changes we have undergone in our own circuit which have challenged us but ultimately are the only sustainable way forwards. Change can be unsettling but, as farmers know, tilling the land, turning over the soil, breaks up the compacted soil and allows the green shoots of growth to break through.

For those facing change and new beginnings, I share this scripture from **Philippians 4:6 ...**

"Be strong and courageous!
Do not be afraid or discouraged.
For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

I invite you to pray with me for all those people who will be experiencing change in September.

Lord, we pray that the changes people experience will bring them consolation.
Lord, we pray that people will perceive your hand in the new things they see.
Lord, we pray that you will make a way and set a path for them as they find their way in their new context.
Lord. we pray for your peace and comfort for all those facing change this September.

Amen

Love and Blessings,

Rev Tracy Xx

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

Miles for our Mum's Great Wall of China Trek





Many of us at church remember supporting the family through Helen's illness and that support has continued ever since. Emily was rehearsing for her second pantomime through Helen's final few months and mum desperately wanted to be well enough to see her perform on stage. Sadly that wish was denied but she clung to life until the panto was over so as not to spoil Emily's big moment! She would be incredibly proud of the confident, outgoing young lady the shy young girl you see in the photo above has become!

When Emily asked if she could put on a bake sale at the Film Evening this month for this extraordinary challenge, there was no hesitation in agreeing. The film had to be *"Finding Emily"* and the evening raised £372.50 for Manorlands.

Read on to learn about the challenge - over £2,500 has already been raised - if you wish to donate: https://www.justgiving.com/page/emily-tahani-china-trek

"In September 2027, we'll be taking on the Great Wall of China Trek in memory of our wonderful mums, Nina King and Helen Hudson, and raising money for a place that means so much to us both, Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice. Over five days, we'll trek across different sections of the Great Wall and the surrounding mountains, taking on steep climbs, hundreds of steps, rocky paths and remote trails. It will be one of the biggest challenges we've ever faced, both physically and emotionally.

Long before we ever met, Manorlands was already part of both of our stories. We each lost our mums at a young age, Emily in 2016 and Tahani in 2018, and both received incredible care at Manorlands. Years later, our paths crossed when we began working together as part of the Manorlands fundraising team. Every day, we see people doing extraordinary things in memory of those they love, and now we want to take on something extraordinary ourselves. We've set ourselves the huge goal of raising £20,000. We know it's ambitious, but we want to give this everything we have, for our mums, and for the families who will need Manorlands in the future. Every step will be for them. Thank you so much for supporting us on this journey. Whether you donate, attend one of our fundraisers or simply cheer us on, you'll be helping us make a difference to families who need Manorlands.

With love, Emily & Tahani x"

Other News

Worth Valley Church

Cullingworth friends have been welcomed with open arms into our Worth Valley family and they are supporting us in good numbers. The Worth Valley Church Services at all three of our local churches have seen much larger congregations when we have worshipped together, with over 70 at the Harvest Service at Cullingworth this month. It has been good to see friends from some other congregations around the Circuit joining us for worship as well.

We have also been delighted to see four new people worshipping with us at Oakworth over the last few weeks and we look forward to getting to know them better over the coming months.

Lydia Denno has been appointed Mssion Project Pioneer at Lees and she is now looking at how the work might be developed there.

We look forward to welcoming our new Superintendent Rev Phil Drake to Oakworth at a Service next month.

Challenge Ministries

Most of you will be aware that Adam Cadamarteri departs Aberdeen on 11 October, travelling to Eswatini in support of the Challenge Ministries efforts helping orphaned children. He arrives back on 26 October.

So far a little over £1,200 has been raised. Val will confirm the final amount when she forwards this to the charity. We will provide details of the project he has worked on following his return. Many grateful thanks for the support you have given.



Arnold's Seat

We are delighted to report that the seat purchased in memory of Arnold Sharp 25 years ago has now been fully repaired and is back in use. Grateful thanks to all who have been invoved in the refurbishment process.

Car Sharing Volunteers

As our congregation ages we have several members who have difficulty attending church. We need three or four volunteers to assist when needed, mainly Sunday mornings.

Please speak ASAP with Mike to offer your assistance.

In memoriam

We commend Margaret Booth, Jean Harker, Christine Dufton, Joan Jones and Michael Appleyard into God's hands, assuring family and other friends of our continuing prayers and sympathy. Rev Michael Appleyard was our Minister from 1984 to 1992.

It couldn’t be done Word Search

Somebody said that it couldn’t be done, but he with a chuckle replied,
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin on his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing that couldn’t be done, and he did it!

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you’ll never do that; at least no one ever has done it;"
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat
and the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin, without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing that couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
there are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
the dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
that "cannot be done", and you'll do it.



Edgar A. Guest. *"It Couldn't Be Done."* Family Friend Poems,

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

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



Summary of Oakworth Methodist Church Accounts 2025-2026

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Collections	13,417.87	Circuit Share	18,000.00
Property/Lettings	17,946.60	Utilities	10,409.31
Fundraising	9,822.60	Property Maintenance	6,595.17
Tax Recovered	3,985.75	Cleaner's Wages	6,069.00
Photocopying/Printing	640.00	Mission Donations	1,432.04
Donations/Sundries	424.92	Property Projects	1,313.96
Investment Income	362.82	Sundry Payments	1,945.57
Mission Collections	252.04	Tfr to General Reserves	1,000.00
Drama & AV Projects	4,376.89	Drama & AV Projects	2,950.74
	51,229.49		**49,715.79**

Treasurer's Report



Last year proved to be quite turbulent for churches around the Airedale Circuit but thankfully we had a steady year financially at Oakworth.

Collections, Gift Aid Tax Recoveries, Donations and Investment Income figures were very similar to the previous year. Most Fundraising events brought in around the same as the previous year; the Spring Market raised £200 more, the Haworth Hobble brought in £150 less, but Pantomime profits were up £700 as audience numbers began to recover. Our premises continue to be well used by community groups, who brought in an additional £600 from Property Lettings, in spite of Lunch Club profits being down by £400. Printing income was also up £200, bringing our total General Receipts up by £1,440.

Most of our payment figures were within budget, with the exception of Property costs which were £1200 more than expected. We spent £875 replacing some of the rotten car park sleepers and £440 on a new kitchenette boiler. We had budgeted to reduce our Circuit Share to £18,000 to cover other increased costs. In the end, General Payments were £1,080 less then General Receipts so £1,000 was transferred to Reserves.

Our General Reserves now stand at £9,600, which equates to 83.5% of the three months of budgeted general expenditure we aim for.

The **Mission** **Possible** **Projects** for last year included replacing some of our spotlights and other AV equipment. Unfortunately, the spots were damaged in transit and we received a substantial refund, which has not yet been spent. That explains the large difference between the Projects receipts and payments figures above - the balance will be spent this year.

As reported last year, our finances are now part of the Worth Valley Church accounts. We are just waiting for details of the new Bank account to enable me to arrange to transfer all our standing orders and direct debits over. I will be in touch shortly if this affects you!

Pantomime News



Everybody is really looking forward to rehearsals starting next month for Aladdin. The script is ready for printing and I am currently trying to work out how to plan rehearsals around all the other activities our children are involved in! The scripts will be given out on Monday 5th October at 4.30 pm and the first read-through will follow at 4.45. A few singing and dancing rehearsals will take place during October and the full rehearsal schedule will start in November.

I've really enjoyed updating the script for Aladdin over the Summer, creating several new characters in the process and Karen, Dan & Anne have put together a brilliant list of new songs and dance numbers to bring the show to life.

The Senior Production Team remains the same as last year - with me as overall producer, Karen as choreographer and Dan as voice coach, all supported by Anne when she is available. Peter continues as technical manager and James Reed-Griffiths is moving into the lighting design role. A great team working together to put on a fantastic show with some very talented children!

Most rehearsals will be on Monday & Friday evenings and Saturday mornings this year. Barbara is producing another set of beautiful cards to give to the cast each month as an encouragement from the church in what they are doing.

Tickets go on sale to cast and crew in December and to the general public in January. Book the dates in your diaries - 13th-20th February 2027. Enjoy!





Mission Possible **Film Evening** & **Bake Sale**

All proceeds for **Sue Ryder Manorlands**



Finding Emily

(2026) (12)

Friday 25th 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

In the film, when a lovesick musician is given the wrong number for his dream girl, he teams up with a driven psychology student to find her. Together, they spark a hilarious campus-wide frenzy that tests their own hearts and ambitions along the way.

In real life, Emily Hudson has just graduated from York St John University with a 2:1 in Psychology!! She is now working at Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice as a Regional Fundraiser.

In September 2027, she is taking on the Great Wall of China Trek with her friend Tahani King, in memory of their wonderful mums, Helen Hudson and Nina King, to raise money for Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice where they both received amazing care in their final days. They have set themselves a huge goal of raising £20,000. They know it's ambitious, but they are doing it for their mums and the families who will need Manorlands in the future.

They have already raised £2,000 and the **Bake Sale** is their next fundraising event. Please support them - all donations given towards the film will also go towards their target - you can pay by cash or card at this event!



Mission Possible Film Evening

The Devil wears Prada 2 (2026) (12)

Friday 30th 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

Twenty years after making their iconic turns as Miranda, Andy, Emily and Nigel - Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt and Stanley Tucci return to the fashionable streets of New York City and the sleek offices of Runway Magazine in this eagerly awaited sequel to the 2006 phenomenon that defined a generation.



Mission Possible Film Evening

Toy Story 5

(2026) (PG)

Friday 27th 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

The toys are back and this time it's Toy meets Tech. Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Jessie and the rest of the gang's jobs are challenged when they come face-to-face with Lilypad, a brand-new tablet device that arrives with her own disruptive ideas about what is best for their kid, Bonnie. Will playtime ever be the same?

Sunday Worship



A warm welcome awaits as we worship together

Sep	6	10.30 am	Rev Tracy Birks
	13	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Harvest Service** - led by Glenda Coogan - at Cullingworth
	20	10.30 am	Maurice Baren
	27	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope - led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
Oct	4	10.30 am	Rev Tracy Birks
	11	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oakworth - led by Rev Susan Greenhart - includes Holy Communion
	18	10.30 am	Rev Phil Drake
	25	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Cullingworth - led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
Nov	1	10.30 am	Sonia Boocock
	8	**10.00** am	Julie Smith - **Remembrance Sunday Service** - at Oakworth
		10.45 am	Janet Armstrong - **Remembrance Ceremony** - at the Cenotaph in the Park
	15	10.30 am	Rev Tracy Birks
	22	10.30 am	**Worth Valley Church Service** - at Oxenhope - led by Rev Tracy Birks - includes Holy Communion
	29	10.30 am	Tim Sharp

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

Church Diary



Tuesdays 12.15 pm Oakworth Methodist Lunch Club

closed 27th October (Half Term); 15th-29th December (Christmas)

SEPTEMBER 2026

Mon	7	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-In - in Church Hall
Tue	8	12.15 pm	Lunch Club re-opens
Tue	8	7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting - Bingley
Sun	13	All day	**Catering for Yorkshireman Marathon** - at Haworth
Sun	13	1.00-4.00	**Worth Valley Horticultural Show** - in Church & Hall
Fri	18	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Mon	21	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Fri	25	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper
Tue	29	7.00 pm	Worth Valley Church Treasurers' Meeting - Lounge

OCTOBER 2026

Mon	5	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-In - in Church Hall
Mon	5	4.30 pm	**Aladdin scripts issued & First Read-through**
Tue	6	7.30 pm	Worth Valley Church Council - Cullingworth
Sat	10	7.15 pm	**KYDZ Youth Theatre Concert** - on stage in Church
Fri	16	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Mon	19	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Tue	27	7.00 pm	Church Life Meeting - Church Lounge
Fri	30	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper

NOVEMBER 2026

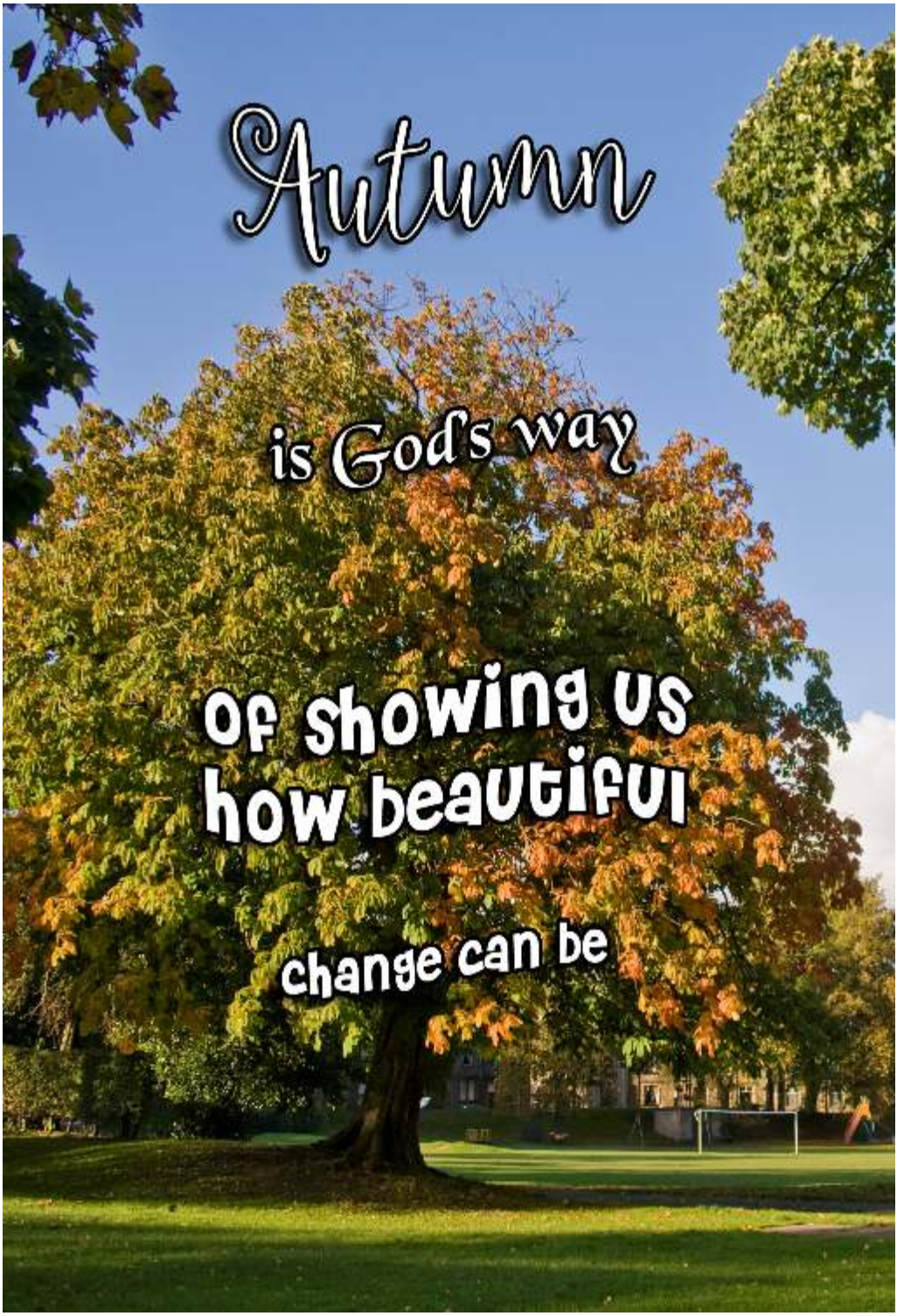
Mon	2	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-In - in Church Hall
Mon	16	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Fri	20	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge
Sat	21	10.00 am	**Autumn Fayre** - in Church + Hall
Fri	27	6.30 pm	**Mission Possible Film Evening** + Fish & Chip Supper
Sat	28	2.30 pm	**Village Christmas Fair** - Oakworth Village Hall
Sat	28	5.00 pm	**Christmas Lights switch-on** - in church

DECEMBER 2026

Mon	7	1.30 pm	Welcome Drop-In - in Church Hall
Tue	8	12.00 noon	Lunch Club Christmas Lunch - Carols from 11.30 am
Mon	14	1.00 pm	Oakworth Craft Club - Church Lounge
Fri	18	10.00 am	Friendship Group - Church Lounge

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

Find us on Facebook


Autumn
is God's way
of showing us
how beautiful
change can be