

Oakridge Baptist Church

NOTICE SHEET – January/February 2018



Every Sunday 10.30am - Morning Worship with Club "Dig In" Junior Church. Communion, every 3rd Sunday of the month. Messy Church: 3.00pm - 5.00pm, every 1st Sunday of the month.

Youth, Young People and others who meet regularly as follows:

Mondays (1st Monday of the month): Ladies Fellowship: 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm. Contact Maureen Rose

Tuesdays: Movers and Shakers: 10.30 am - 1.30 pm, every week. Contact Ali Irwin or Suzanne Wight.

Snooker Club 10.00 am - 12.30 pm, every week. Contact Marytn Baker.

Wednesdays: Parent and Toddler Group: 9.30 am - 11.30 am, Term Time only. Contact Suzanne Wight.

Thursdays: Boys' Brigade/Girls' Association: Anchors (term of 5th birthday to end of school year 3), and Juniors (school years 4 - 6): 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm. Company Section (school years 7+): 7.45 pm - 9.15 pm. Term Time only. Contact Calvin Hanks 07852 995910.

Fridays: Pastor's Friday Drop-in: 10.15 am - 11.15 am (unless otherwise announced).

Sundays: The El Bethel Tamil Church meet In the Hall: 8.00 am - 10.00 am

House Groups meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7.00 pm - contact Maureen Rose, every Tuesday at 7.30 pm - contact Mark Macaulay, and every Thursday at 10.00 am - contact Pat Charlesworth.

JANUARY

Wed 3rd/Thu 4th - Night Shelter

Sun 7th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.
3.00 pm - 5.00 pm - Messy Church.

Mon 8th 7.45 pm - Men of Oak AGM and planning meeting in the church lounge.

Wed 10th/Thu 11th - Night Shelter.

Sun 14th 10.30 am - Morning Parade Service, with Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association.

Mon 15th Start of four weeks of prayer for Youth for Christ.

Wed 17th/Thu 18th - Night Shelter.

Sat 20th Men's Fellowship Breakfast led by Tim Horn. For catering purposes please sign up or see Ali Irwin.

Sun 21st 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Mark Macaulay, followed by Church meeting at 12.00 noon.

Wed 24th/Thu 25th - Night Shelter.

Sun 28th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Joyce Joules. (Many of the congregation will be attending Stephen Ashby's retirement service in Berkhamsted).
TBA pm - Tea, Songs and Praise on return to Oakridge. Please let Alison Irwin know if you will not be going to Stephen's event and want to attend Tea, Songs and Praise and you will be contacted when folk leave Berkhamsted to return to Oakridge.

Wed 31st/Thu 1st - Night Shelter.

FEBRUARY

Sun 4th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.
3.00 pm - 5.00 pm - Messy Church.

Mon 5th 3.00 pm - Ladies Fellowship - see Maureen Rose for details.
7.30 pm - Deacon's Meeting.

Wed 7th/Thu 8th - Night Shelter.

Sun 11th 10.30 am - Family Service, café style.
Mark away for half term, 11th to 18th (to be confirmed).

Mon 12th 7.45 pm - Men of Oak.

Wed 14th/Thu 15th - Night Shelter.

Sun 18th 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service.

Wed 21st/Thu 22nd - Night Shelter.

Sat 24th 08.15am - Church Prayer Breakfast.

Sun 25th 10.30 am - Morning Service - Bucks Forum Minister Exchange.
TBC pm - Tea, Songs and Praise.

Wed 28th/Thu 1st - Night Shelter.

Please see noticeboards and the overhead projections (Sunday mornings)
for updates and details of other events

OAKRIDGE PRAYER POINTERS for JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2018 and Motto Verse for 2018

At the beginning of the calendar year, we often reflect on positive things we anticipate, negative things we fear, and prepare ourselves for the routine and mundane aspects of life that keep on going around and around year after year.

In 2017 however, Oakridge Baptist Church took a step back and looked at its history through the experience, including a cinefilm (who remembers those?), of the opening of the sanctuary space just as World War II broke out. The result of our reflections on our history led us to a number of important conclusions:

First, the facilities we have now, which provide a valuable and precious space for our not-insignificant outreach to the local community, were the vision of the previous generation of the body of Christ at Oakridge, who took the risk of doubling the capacity of the buildings.

Second, we felt as a congregation that we had reached the point in our generation that just as we benefitted from the legacy of our forebears, so we too now needed to grow our vision for the generation of body of Christ at Oakridge who would succeed us. And, this would include not only those who are already connected to Oakridge, but also those from the local community who would find at Oakridge a place of refuge and respite from the difficulties of daily living with all the challenges of a deprived and very heterogeneous society.

Third, just as our forebears had prayed and envisioned and designed and developed that which we now inhabit like a comfortable coat, so we needed to do the same as they did for the next generation.

Our method was to take a good look at ourselves and what we needed to do and break it down into manageable components. The first was to fix what is broken. The second was to make the buildings fit for the needs of a growing community outreach in the medium term. The third was to undertake a strategic feasibility analysis to project what the needs of the community and church might be in the longer term and thus secure a legacy for successive generations of God's people in our vicinity. At the time of writing, the first is a work in progress that is on time and on budget. The second is at the review stage following meetings with potential partners in reaching our community for the sake of Jesus Christ. The third is on track to launch in April 2018. So where does this all fit in God's economy?

First, we have increased our opportunities as a body of believers to pray that we would keep in pace with the work of the Holy Spirit in our community as well as supporting partners in the gospel in prayer. Second, we have been reminded that mission is multifaceted and includes people's material, social and spiritual needs; as James reminds us, "That faith without good deeds is useless?" (2:20b *New Living Translation*). Third, we need to remember that our buildings are peripheral to what God is doing in us and through us – as a colleague once said, "that church buildings are glorified rain-shelters" and not an end in themselves. God is about building a kingdom of people not a kingdom of buildings.

As we enter a new year and a new season in God's purposes for us, keep our motto verse for 2018 in the forefront of your minds as you pray for the future of the body of Christ represented at Oakridge and may you reap a harvest of blessing as you see God's plans unfold.

Bible Text for JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2018 and MOTTO VERSE for 2018

Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

(Ephesians 2:20 (New Living Translation))

If you, your family or a friend would like support in prayer via the Oakridge Prayer-Chain please contact Joyce Joules 01494 452703 or 07951 676154. **Church Office** - Tel 01494 537478. Email administrator@oakridgebaptist.org.uk
Website www.oakridgebaptist.org.uk

Pastor - Rev. Mark Macaulay - 01494 512976 or 07866 740612 - please phone either of these numbers if you would like a home visit.