



Oakridge Baptist Church

NOTICE SHEET – March/April 2018

Sunday Worship 10.30am with Club “Dig In” Junior Church. Communion, every 3rd Sunday of the month.

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

Sundays: The El Bethel Tamil Church meet in the Hall: 8am - 10am

Messy Church: 3pm - 5pm, every 1st Sunday of the month.

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

Snooker Club 10am - 12.30pm, every week - contact Marytn Baker.

Wednesdays: Parent and Toddler Group: 9.30am - 11.30am, 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): 6pm - 7.30pm. Company Section (school years 7+): 7.45pm - 9.15pm. Term time only. Contact Calvin Hanks 07852 995910.

House Groups: meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7pm - contact Maureen Rose, every Tuesday at 7.30 pm - contact Mark Macaulay, and every Thursday at 10am - contact Pat Charlesworth.

MARCH

Wed 28th Feb/Thu 1st - Night Shelter

Fri 2nd Women’s World Day of Prayer. Services at 10.30 am, Wesley Methodist, and 7.30 pm, Trinity United Reform - Service prepared by women of Suriname - “All God’s creation is very good”. All Welcome,

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

Mon 5th 7.30 pm - Deacons Meeting.

Wed 7th/Thu 8th - Night Shelter.

Sun 11th 10.30 am - Morning Parade Service, with Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association.

Mon 12th 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm - Men of Oak Skittles Evening at Flackwell Heath Bowls Club. See Jeff Smith for more details.

Wed 14th/Thu 15th - Night Shelter.

Sat 17th 8.00 am for 8.15 am - Men’s Fellowship Breakfast.

Sun 18th 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Mark Macaulay, followed at 12.00 noon by the church AGM and Business Meeting.

6.30 pm - Tea and Biscuits followed by John’s Gospel film part 1.

Wed 21st/Thu 22nd - Night Shelter.

Sun 25th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.

6.30 pm - Tea and biscuits followed John’s Gospel film part 2 (this replaces Tea, Songs and Prayers).

Wed 28th/Thu 29th - Night Shelter.

Thu 29th 6.00 pm - Maundy Thursday communion followed by John’s Gospel film part 3.

Fri 30th 10.00am - Good Friday Service at Trinity URC followed at 10.45 am by the Good Friday Walk of Witness.

APRIL

Sun 1st 10.30 am - Easter Day Service led by Mark Macaulay.

Sun 8th 10.30 am - Family Service, café style led by Ali Irwin.

3.00 pm - 5.00 pm - Messy Church.

Mon 9th 7.45 pm - Men of Oak - “A Cruise in the Caribbean”.

Fri 13th 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm - Quiz evening at Oakridge, £5 per head, maximum of 6 per team. Bring own nibbles - tea, coffee and soft drinks available during the interval. See Sharon or Rod for tickets.

Fri 13th - Sun 15th Boys’ Brigade Narrow-boat Weekend.

Sun 15th 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service.

Sat 21st 8.00 am for 8.15 am - Prayer Breakfast.

Sun 22nd 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay

Sun 29th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.

5.00 pm - Tea, Songs and Prayer.

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

OAKRIDGE PRAYER POINTERS for MARCH and APRIL 2018

Many have proposed that Easter, like Christmas, should be celebrated on a particular date of the year. However, we have stuck religiously to the method established by the First Council of Nicaea in 325, which determined that Easter should always fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. In short, this means that the earliest possible date for Easter is 22nd March and the latest possible date is 25th April. The next time Easter will be on 22nd March will be in 2285 and on 25th April in 2038.

In scripture, the Jewish festival of Passover begins at sunset on the 14th of Nissan, the first lunar month. In Jesus' time the 1st of Nissan was declared by the Sanhedrin based on the vernal equinox, the ripening of barley and the ambient temperature. If the latter two conditions were not met, then a leap year was established by adding another month called Adar. Leap years happened roughly every three years and were 383 to 385 days long. In the 4th Century CE, Rabbi Hillel established the Jewish calendar in perpetuity. What this means in practice is that Passover and Easter do not always coincide even though for Christians, the Easter events took place at Passover time.

While some may be exercised by accurate dates, the underlying emphases of both festivals are history and hope. Passover was the culmination of God's birthing of his chosen nation of Israel over 400 years in Egypt through times of plenty and of oppression. In one decisive step, the ties that bound Israel to Egypt were severed by the deaths of Egypt's firstborn and the immediate exodus of the Israelites under the ecclesiastical and political leadership of Moses. Thus a family became a nation, chosen by God to be the vehicle by which his plans and purposes for humankind would unfold and underpinned by the Old Covenant made with the patriarch Abraham.

Fast forward about 1550 years and the ritual Passover meal is given a makeover. In one decisive day which began with a Passover meal on a Thursday night, God's only, and thus firstborn, Son died, in one decisive step, severing the ties that bound humankind into an eternity of hopelessness and instead offering entry into a universal Kingdom of God underpinned by the New Covenant established through the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As our thoughts and activities turn towards Easter, it is right to reflect on the history behind this festival we look forward to year upon year. God's plans and purposes are revealed through human history and hard experience which teach us that we should not engage too lightly with God's intentions. I therefore encourage you this Easter, to pray for those who have not embraced the Christ who died and rose and ascended until he shall return, recognising that we stand on the shoulders of those who have encountered God with fear and trembling for millennia before our time. Let our text for this period encourage you.

Bible Text for MARCH and APRIL 2018

In the past God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us through his Son. He is the one through whom God created the universe, the one whom God has chosen to possess all things at the end. He reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being, sustaining the universe with his powerful word. After achieving forgiveness for the sins of all human beings, he sat down in heaven at the right side of God, the Supreme Power.

(Hebrews 1:1-3 (Good News Translation))

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)