



# Oakridge Baptist Church

## NOTICE SHEET – July/August 2018

**Oakridge Sunday Worship 10.30am** with Club “Dig In” Junior Church. Communion, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.  
**El Bethel Tamil Church Sunday Worship:** 8 -10am and **Peace Tabernacle Church Sunday Worship:** 1pm.

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

Messy Church: 3pm - 5pm, every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month **NB from September 2018 it changes to the 3<sup>rd</sup> SATURDAY monthly, 3-5pm.**

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

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

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

**Thursdays:** Boys’ Brigade/Girls’ Association: Anchors (term of 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### JUNE

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm - Fun and Fellowship afternoon organised by the Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association (fund raising event towards the cost of repairs to their mini-bus).

### JULY

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.  
3.00 pm - 5.00 pm - Messy Church.

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Parade Service, with Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association.

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm - Men of Oak walk - meet at the village car park, Hurley (SL6 5NB) - see Nigel Rose for details.

Thu 12<sup>th</sup> 6.15 pm - Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association Awards Evening - all welcome.

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> 9.00 am - Men’s Fellowship Breakfast at Frankie & Benny’s, Cressex. Please sign up beforehand so that we can make a reservation, and don’t let cost prevent you from coming. See Mark Macaulay.

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Mark Macaulay, with participation from Matthew and Rachel Harley, followed by a Church Meeting, 12.00 noon - 1.00 pm.  
(Mark away from 19<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July)

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Sandra Rackstraw, with speaker Lauren Child from Rope.

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Pam and John Hollman.

3.00 pm - Lighthouse Cressex dedication service at Cressex Community School, Holmers Lane, HP12 4QA - replaces Tea, Songs and Prayers.

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> - Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lighthouse week.

### AUGUST

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Family Service, café style.

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Mark Macaulay.  
(Mark away from 24<sup>th</sup> August - 3<sup>rd</sup> September).

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service.

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

### OAKRIDGE PRAYER POINTERS for JULY and AUGUST 2018

So far British Summer Time has yielded mostly fine weather after a colder winter than usual since the winter freezes of past decades. Fine weather leads to thoughts of recreational activities and holidays and if you look at our congregation week by week during the warmer period, you can’t help but notice the absence of particular groups of people for a week or two as they take their vacations in groups. The church informal camp and BB/GA camp also take place and preparations are made for Lighthouse Holiday Club. So as many of us take time out from our normal

routines including the weekly round of events at Oakridge, it led me to reflect on the question: "Does God take a holiday?"

I guess there are two sides to this question: "Does God take time out for rest and reflection?" and "Do we take God on holiday with us?" Another aspect might be the question about what God thinks of us taking holidays.

So let's settle the first point: God took a holiday after creation: "So the sky, the earth, and all that filled them were finished. By the seventh day God finished the work he had been doing, so he rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day, because on that day he rested from all the work he had done in creating the world." (Genesis 2:1-3 *New Century Version*)

It may come as no surprise that "holy day" is the root of "holiday" and so we can be certain that God invented holidays. Indeed, he incorporated a number of "holy days" into Jewish Law and commanded his people to stop their regular work and take time out for one another and to renew their relationship with God on these occasions. The term holiday has moved on from being a religious break from work and now means any time away from work. In Jesus' time, the Sabbath had become so encumbered by rules about how it was to be treated that in some ways it was harder to observe the weekly holiday than to keep working. Jesus reminded the Pharisees that the Sabbath was God's invention for people to take time off work, not a day for them to work extra hard at following a bunch of human rules and regulations.

So if God is supportive of holidays, it merely falls to us to look at them in the way God intended. How we holiday is less important than what we do with our holiday as followers of Jesus. So firstly, a holiday is about resting from regular work. For some that might be sleeping on a lounge in the sun and for others about some extreme sport and everything in between. For me, it is about a change of scene and a disconnection with the normal routines of my own life so that I can refresh body, mind and spirit. How we refresh body and mind is largely up to our preferences, but just as God commanded the Jewish people to participate in the holy days to renew their human relationships and their relationships with God, we cannot ignore holidays as a time of spiritual renewal.

Some years ago Pope Benedict XVI (and as a Baptist I am not averse to borrowing good ideas from Christians of other denominations) said, "When packing for your holiday this summer, leave space in your suitcase for the Gospel", before explaining that, "holidays are not just about leaving for the sake of leaving and resting, but rather about living our relationships with our loved ones in a new way with God." I believe his point is that spiritual renewal is about making extra time for Jesus at the same time as making extra time for ourselves and our families by taking holidays. In short, take Jesus on holiday with you if you want a proper holiday!

So this summer as you take whatever time you are able from the normal routines of life to refresh and renew yourself and your loved ones, think of Jesus going with you and pray as if he is on vacation with you, sharing the experience and enjoying what you enjoy. Let Jesus' own view of taking time out encourage you.

### **Bible Text for JULY and AUGUST 2018**

"Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Accept my teachings and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit, and you will find rest for your lives. The burden that I ask you to accept is easy; the load I give you to carry is light."

*(Matthew 11:28-30 (New Century Version))*

### **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](mailto:administrator@oakridgebaptist.org.uk) Website [www.oakridgebaptist.org.uk](http://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)