



Oakridge Baptist Church

NOTICE SHEET – November/December 2018

Sunday Worship 10.30am with “The Sunday Crew” for children aged 5-11 years. 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: The Peace Tabernacle Church meet in the Sanctuary from 1.00pm.

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. NB Closed 25th December and 1st January 2019.

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.

Saturdays: Messy Church: 3pm - 5pm, every 3rd Saturday of the month.

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.

NOVEMBER

Sun 4th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.

Sun 11th 10.30 am - Remembrance Service led by Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association, followed by a Lunch provided by the Church.

Mon 12th 7.30 pm - Men of Oak Ten Pin Bowling Evening - see Philip Rackstraw for details.

Wed 14th 7.30 am - Deacons’ Meeting.

Sat 17th 8.15 am - Men’s Fellowship Breakfast - speaker to be confirmed – sign-up sheet in the hall for catering purposes – all welcome.
3.00 pm - 5.00 pm - Messy Church.

Sun 18th 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Mark Macaulay,

Sun 25th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay, followed by a Church Meeting, 12.00 - 1.00 pm.
5.00 pm - Tea, Songs and Prayers.

DECEMBER

Sun 2nd 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay to include the launch and dedication of the ‘Community Fridge Project’ hosted at Oakridge.

Sun 9th 10.30 am - Family Service led by Mark Macaulay.

Mon 10th 7.30 pm - Men of Oak Christmas Meal - see Geoff Hughes for details

Thu 13th 6.15 pm - Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association Christingle Service - all welcome.

Sat 15th 8.15 am - Church Prayer Breakfast – all welcome.
3.00 pm - 5.00 pm - Messy Church.

Sun 16th 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Mark Macaulay.
4.00 pm - Carols by Candlelight including Nativity.

Sun 23rd 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.

Tue 25th 10.30 am - Christmas Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay

Sun 30th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Junior Church leaders.

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

OAKRIDGE PRAYER POINTERS for NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2018

A hotter than average summer in Florida has led to an increased algal bloom called red tide because of the rusty colour of the sea. For sensitive swimmers this can cause skin irritation and respiratory difficulties from the toxic vapour the algae gives off. Fish swimming through the plume suffer respiratory failure and wash up on the beaches. The population of Florida’s endangered indigenous manatees has fallen by a sixth due to inhaling and consuming the algae. The most recent hurricane pushed the red tide further inshore rather than breaking it up as hoped.

Kayaking among the mangroves, protected from the red tide by the offshore sandbar, I was attracted by bubbles rising to the surface a short distance from the vessel. Within a few seconds a grey nose broke the surface with a hiss just a few inches from the side of the kayak, before a grey head followed by a fat grey bulbous body came to the surface with the nose pushed up against the side of the kayak and the eyes looking up at me quizzically.

Thus began about ten minutes of frolicking as the manatee flipped over and went under the kayak and pushed it along before surfacing at the other side and lying inverted with the full length of its body pressed up to the kayak as if embracing. This behaviour was repeated numerous times before the manatee, of similar length to the kayak, became bored with the non-responsive behaviour of its love-interest and departed along the mangrove channel with just a v-shaped ripple travelling further and further away.

The rising bubbles at the beginning of the encounter which could be mistaken for exhalation are in fact the means by which the manatee adjusts its buoyancy by shifting air from its lungs to its intestine and then leaves its body in a way we prefer not to mention. Manatees are among four species in the order Sirenia from the classical folklore of sirens and mermaids but are among the most harmless of all creatures.

Having read this perhaps your thoughts have turned to the wonder and complexity of creation, or instead thinking that Florida is a world away from your own experience and of little personal interest. However, for me it flags up the coexistence of something beautiful and quizzical in close proximity to something that is relatively imperceptible, but deadly to creatures that encounter it, however innocently.

For me, red tide is analogous to sin. It is all around us, easily absorbed and frequently deadly (Romans 6:23) for those it invades. The manatee is analogous to all that is beautiful and serene around us, but so easily destroyed by sin. The hurricane is like our efforts to push sin away, but which often makes things worse. There is no cure for red tide although it recedes in the winter.

To properly address this world of red tide and manatee, or sin and beauty (to give it a theological flavour), needs a solution that is beyond earth's grasp. It needs a means whereby the best of creation can survive the world's dark side. As Christians we believe that means became apparent two millennia ago when the Creator became subject to creation and suffered the equivalent of red tide. That Advent was like a vaccination against red tide. Christ's death did not end sin but stripped it of its power to destroy. Christ's death allows beauty to coexist with sin but not be overcome by it. Christ's resurrection demonstrates that death is no longer the end of things. Christ's ascension begins a time of preparation for a future free of anything that has the power to destroy, a time we eagerly anticipate each Advent.

In your prayers for the coming Advent season, pray that God will help you recognise the presence of your own red tide, the sin that continually seeks to ensnare you, and pray the same for others, particularly for people whose only reflections about God are limited to Christmastime. Let our text for this season encourage you.

Bible Text for NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2018

Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light. (John 12:35-36 (New Revised Standard 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 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)