



# Oakridge Baptist Church

## NOTICE SHEET – January/February 2019

**Sunday Worship 10.30 am** with “The Sunday Crew” for children aged 5-11 years. Communion, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

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

**Sundays:** The El Bethel Tamil Church meet in the Hall: 8 am - 10 am: The Peace Tabernacle Church meet in the Sanctuary from 1.00 pm.

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

Snooker Club 10am - 12.30 pm, every week - contact Martyn 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 5<sup>th</sup> birthday to end of school year 3), and Juniors (school years 4 - 6): 6pm - 7.30 pm. Company Section (school years 7+): 7.45 pm - 9.15 pm.

Term time only. Contact Calvin Hanks 07852 995910.

**Saturdays:** Messy Church: 3 pm - 5 pm, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

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

**For January and February - Wycombe Homeless Connection** - every Wednesday 6.00pm to Thursday 8.00am.

### JANUARY

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> 6.00am - 9.00am - Wycombe Prayer at Oakridge, including breakfast of cereals and toast.

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Parade Service led by Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association.

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm - Men of Oak AGM and planning meeting.

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> 8.15 am - Men’s Fellowship Breakfast led by Nigel Flynn.

3.00 pm - 5.00 pm - Messy Church.

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Mark Macaulay,

Sun 27<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay, followed by Church Meeting, 12.00 - 1.00pm.

5.00 pm - Tea, Songs and Prayers.

### FEBRUARY

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Family Service led by Mark Macaulay, with Junior Church leaders.

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm - Men of Oak

(Sat 16<sup>th</sup> to Sun 24<sup>th</sup> - Mark Macaulay away - Half Term)

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> 8.00am - Prayer Breakfast

3.00 pm - 5.00 pm - Messy Church.

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service.

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service.

5.00 pm - Tea, Songs and Prayers.

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

### OAKRIDGE PRAYER POINTERS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2019

Writing on Christmas Day, Her Majesty’s Christmas message was the best sermon I have heard today. She was precise and direct and stated how her Christian faith compelled her to approach all other people with dignity and respect. To prefer others from our own colour and creed amounted to tribalism and led to the mistreatment of those who are apparently unlike us. Her example of friendly competition and cooperation was the Commonwealth Games or “Friendly Games”. She highlighted that 2018 was a year of significant anniversaries, namely 100 years of the RAF and of course the First World War where her father fought at the battle of Jutland and six thousand lost their lives in that one encounter.

In my own research and writing, I have reflected how tribalism is at the core of negative human encounter. Jesus challenged the tribalism of his day where ethnic groups such as the Samaritans were ostracised and the pursuit of certain careers such as tax-collector meant being labelled among the lowest of the low. Instead of the norm of his society, Jesus actively reached out to the people who were traditionally perceived as somehow subhuman. He engaged with them in ways that valued them for who they were as normal human beings, creations of God, rather than letting their status or sin define them. His society, like our own, was always quick to condemn the outcast and downtrodden rather than focus on the means of their betterment.

As followers of Jesus, we are expected to do our best to behave as he did, making sure that the needs of our fellow human beings are addressed to the best extent we can manage. This way of being underpins the criteria by which all humans will be judged says Matthew in his 25<sup>th</sup> chapter which many Christians forget applies to them too. I would take this a step further and argue that The Church has a corporate responsibility to make this happen as the local enclave of the kingdom of God. Oakridge is just one local expression of The Church. The basic problem with The Church is that it is usually made up of people who are part of the normative group in society and so their natural tendency is to propagate rather than challenge the status quo.

However, the vision God has given Oakridge is to be salt and light in our local community and to maintain God's presence for good for as long as God sustains us even if for many the local community seems so different to that which Oakridge was first planted to serve. Part of that vision is to make Oakridge self-sustaining into the future, because it cannot expect to be sustained by the local community using inherited models.

In a number of ways Oakridge's situation parallels God's command to the people of Judah when they were exiled in Babylon. Says Jeremiah (29:4-7 *NIV*): "This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.""

The message was clear: "Live a normal life and seek the wellbeing of those around you who are not like you, for this is God's intent". We may not always like what we see around us, but we are called to make the best of our circumstances – not just hanging on and hoping for the best or perhaps just that the status quo might last as long as we do – but being creative in all that we do. In 2018 Oakridge embarked on a feasibility study to assess what we might do or look like to provide a future for the Lord's work in our locality. We await the possibilities with anticipation. However, when it comes to pass that the status quo is replaced by dramatic change, we hold firm to that which has been our anchor amidst the changes – the one universal constant which is Almighty God, not the structure which keeps the rain off our heads when we meet.

As we enter 2019, let's pray for the future God has mapped out for us. Our first prayer focus takes place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January from 6 to 9 a.m. and will be led by "Wycombe Prayer", a group of folk who are passionate about praying for the work God is doing and will do across the Wycombe area. We are also not alone as God expands his work through St Mary and St George into the local community.

So I invite you to pray for the work of God to grow, develop and prosper in our locality throughout 2019. As you pray, let our motto verse for 2019 inspire you and may God bless us all.

#### **Bible Text for JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2019 and MOTTO VERSE for 2019**

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

*(Jeremiah 29:11 (New International Version))*

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)