



Oakridge Baptist Church

NOTICE SHEET – March/April 2019

Sunday Worship 10.30 am 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: 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 5th 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.

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 March - Wycombe Homeless Connection - every Wednesday 6.00pm to Thursday 8.00am.

MARCH

- Fri 1st 10.30 am - World Day of Prayer - Union Baptist Church.
Sun 3rd 10.30 am - Morning Service - Ministers pulpit exchange. Service led by Jackie Buie from Gold Hill Baptist Church (Mark at Chenies). There will be a meeting after the service for those who can help at either of the Community Days.
Sat 9th Women singing 4 women choir - Evening concert at 7.30 pm, at Union Baptist Church.
Sun 10th 10.30 am - Morning Parade Service led by Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association.
Mon 11th 7.30 pm - Men of Oak Skittles Evening - see Jeff Smith for details.
Sat 16th 8.00 am - Men’s Fellowship Breakfast, guest speaker Jonny Dade, Vicar at St Mary and St George (SMG). Men from SMG + The Avenue Methodist also invited to this “Churches Together” breakfast.
Sun 17th 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Mark Macaulay,
Sun 24th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay, followed by Church AGM and business meeting, 12.00 - 1.00pm.
Sun 31st 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.
5.00 pm - Tea, Songs and Prayers.

APRIL

- Sun 7th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by John Hollman.
Mon 8th 7.45 pm - Men of Oak Games Evening.
Wed 10th Oakridge Community Day.
Fri 12th - Sun 14th Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association Narrowboat weekend.
Sun 14th 10.30 am - Family Service with a visit from Pam and John Blakely.
Thu 18th 7.30 pm - Maundy Thursday Communion Service.
Fri 19th 10.00 am - Joint service at Union Baptist Church followed by Good Friday walk of witness.
Sat 20th 8.15 am - Prayer Breakfast.
Sun 21 Sunrise Service on top of Easton Street car park.
10.30 am - Easter Sunday Morning Communion Service led by Mark Macaulay.
Sat 27th Unlock London walk.
Sun 28th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.
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 MARCH AND APRIL 2019

Writing in the last week of February, something else has overcome the news on the daily vagaries of the Brexit process. Shamima Begum, probably long forgotten as a mere 15 year old who ran away from home to join pseudo-country Islamic State in 2015, has returned to media prominence as a refugee from the collapsed “state” and is living in a refugee camp in Syria, itself trying to recover from its own civil and proxy war.

Naturally the world continues to shudder at the horrible atrocities committed by IS, or Daesh if you prefer the Arabic acronym, and understandably most people want nothing to do with IS or any of its adherents. Indeed, many in the world would be quite happy if Shamima and her newborn son and many like her just disappeared somehow and never had to be considered again. Stripping her of her British and only citizenship seemed like one way to make this a possibility, particularly as the Home Office’s interpretation of Bangladesh Law seemed to allow Britain to make her Bangladesh’s problem, indeed without first asking their Home Office equivalent for their own understanding of their own law in this kind of case. Notwithstanding the individual circumstances, this smacks of international arrogance and imperialism of the highest order; and Bangladesh has enough problems of its own trying to cope with the Rohingya refugee crisis precipitated by Myanmar.

By the time you read this, Shamima Begum’s may no longer be a newsworthy story and if the status quo is maintained for the next year and a half, she will remain Britain’s problem indefinitely as the vaguest possibility of Bangladeshi citizenship expires when she turns 21. But by her showing no remorse for the behaviour of IS and indeed continuing to support its intentions, we could be forgiven for wanting to keep Begum as far away as possible from the British public for as long as possible.

However, as a follower of Jesus, I have reflected long and hard on what might be a Christian response to the questions raised by this case. In Jesus’ time, atrocities such as those committed by IS were just the stuff of daily life. Luke 13:1 mentions Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices, people slain during an act of worship and their act of worship similarly defiled. Mass crucifixions on the road out of Jerusalem were frequent events. This was the daily life Jesus confronted and these were the very people of whom Jesus said as they nailed him to the cross, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). Jesus asks his heavenly Father to forgive those who were committing an horrific atrocity, yet seems to have demanded nothing further of them. Can God forgive unconditionally or are some things unforgiveable? Can we rise to emulate the attitude of our Lord and Saviour? Has Shamima Begum given up any possibility of redemption?

As we enter Lent and prepare ourselves to engage with God’s own suffering on our behalf; indeed, as we approach Easter and reflect on the atrocity of the cross and yet recognise the universal forgiveness it makes freely available, the same forgiveness that we frequently take for granted; can we find it in ourselves to make that same forgiveness available to those we are personally convinced don’t deserve it? Can we reflect honestly on whether we deserved it?

This lent season I encourage you to pray earnestly for those who seem furthest away from God, that they would experience a transformative encounter with the risen Lord Jesus Christ, and that we too would change our own minds and recognise that there is no one whose redemption is beyond the capacity of God’s grace. Let our text for this period encourage you in your prayers and may you experience God’s blessing throughout the Lent and Easter seasons.

BIBLE TEXT for MARCH and APRIL 2019

Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God’s glorious standard, and all need to be made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They need to be made free from sin through Jesus Christ.

(Romans 3:23-24 (New Century Version))

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:

Josie Coombs 01494 446175 or 07763 817984 - email josie@rojo.co.uk.

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)