



Oakridge Baptist Church

NOTICE SHEET – May/June 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 every Tuesday at 7.30 pm - contact Mark Macaulay, and every Thursday at 10 am - contact either Pat Charlesworth or John/Pam Hollman.

MAY

- Sat 4th 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm - Sale of Pre-loved ladies’ clothes for donations, in aid of cooker/boiler fund. Join us for coffee, tea, cake and fellowship and something new to wear. Chinewood, Moor Lane, Downley HP13 5YP. Park in drive or down lane by the Methodist Chapel. Please come, and bring a friend if you wish.
- Sun 5th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by John Hollman.
- Sat 11th 8.15 am - Men’s Fellowship Breakfast with Nigel Flynn.
Boys’ Brigade/Girls’ Association games afternoon followed by overnight stay at the Church.
- Sun 12th 10.30 am - Morning Parade Service led by Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association, followed by Church Meeting, 12.00 - 1.00 pm.
- Mon 13th 7.30 pm - Men of Oak Bluebell Walk - see Nigel Rose for details.
- Sat 18th 11.00 am - 3.00 pm - “Shine” - Community Day at Oakridge, St Mary and St George and The Avenue Methodist. Further information will be passed on when available.
- Sun 19th 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Stephen Ashby (Mark Macaulay at Baptist Assembly).
- Sun 26th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Ken Payne.
5.00 pm - Tea, Songs and Prayers led by Maureen Rose.

JUNE

- Sat 1st Sanctuary reserved for a wedding service.
- Sun 2nd 10.30 am - Morning Service led by John Hollman.
- Sat 8th 8.15 am - Prayer Breakfast - open to Churches in BBF (for Turning the Tide Pentecost event).
Volunteers needed to organise this.
- Sun 9th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay.
- Mon 10th Men of Oak.
- Sat 15th CBA Assembly.
10.00 am - Fund Raising Bowls Day, including bring and share lunch, at Bassetsbury Manor Bowls Club. See John and Angela Sinclair for details.
- Sun 16th 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Mark Macaulay.
- Fri 21st - Sun 23rd Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association camp at Feldon Lodge.
- Sun 23rd 10.30 am - Morning Service - Church Anniversary with Exalt leading worship, followed by a Shared Lunch.
- Fri 28th - Sun 30th Church Camp - See Alison Irwin for details.
- Sun 30th 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Mark Macaulay. Mark’s last service before his Sabbatical.
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 MAY AND JUNE 2019

The greatest day of celebration and the culmination of Holy Week for Christians was marred by the mass murder of Christians in churches and holidaymakers having breakfast in hotels in Sri Lanka. The celebration of the most momentous event in history, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to be alive for eternity, was brought into sharp focus as many were killed and injured in attacks intended to cause the maximum possible distress. In fairly recent history, we might have leaned towards the conclusion that acts of terror committed in the name of God were somehow God's responsibility to prevent or stop.

Indeed, I was asked that question just a few days before writing this article: "Why didn't God stop this from happening and how does God view these events?" I responded as I normally would in these situations and explained that I believe that God looks upon these events with sadness, but God gave human beings free will and a code to live by: love of God and love of neighbour. These events in Sri Lanka, like the mosque shootings in New Zealand in March 2019 are examples of human beings exercising their free will to do the opposite of what God desires - but what about God intervening?

The bible recounts God's previous intervention to stop the behaviour of a sinful world in the book of Genesis and millions were annihilated by a cataclysmic flood. At that time, God promised that such a cataclysm would not happen again and humankind has continued on its merry way living like they can harm one another with impunity. I wonder if the question we should be asking is whether we want God to intervene to stop tragedy in our world. I suspect that what we want of God is to stop the stuff we don't like from occurring but to leave us alone to carry on with our own palatable sin. Another question we might ask is: has God done enough already?

Indeed, God has shown us the destruction associated with his earthly intervention by the story of Noah, one of just a few that survived the great flood. God has shown us that love of neighbour as a minimum means not causing the neighbour harm or taking the neighbour's things as described by the Ten Commandments. In Jesus of Nazareth, God has shown us that despite everything, we can love our fellow human beings unconditionally. Also through Jesus of Nazareth, God has made it possible for a relationship of divine love to be freely available to those who are willing to embrace it for themselves. But what God has never done is broken the contract made with human beings at creation. God has never rescinded our free will but has asked us and equipped us to use it responsibly.

Certainly I believe that God is sad at the deliberate killing of anyone going about their daily life, be it worshippers in churches on Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka or Muslims at Friday prayers in mosques in New Zealand. Before any organised religion existed, indeed at the moment of creation, "God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-27 NRSV)

In creation, God establishes but one distinction between human beings: that of gender, mainly as Genesis goes on, "to be fruitful and multiply" and not for any other reason that we might want to impose on the created order. But most importantly, God gives humankind sovereignty over the earth, to care for it and nurture its inhabitants of all possible descriptions. Perhaps we should ask ourselves what prevents us from treating our fellow human beings as God intended?

In your prayers I invite you to take a steer from the Apostle Paul who wrote half the New Testament. Pray into the way you think about and respond to others whoever they are and make Paul's words your own and may God bless you as you do so.

BIBLE TEXT for MAY and JUNE 2019

Be sincere in your love for others. Hate everything that is evil and hold tight to everything that is good. Love each other as brothers and sisters and honour others more than you do yourself. Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the Lord. Let your hope make you glad. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop praying. Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home. *(Romans 12:9-12 (Contemporary English 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)