



# Oakridge Baptist Church

## NOTICE SHEET – July/August 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.

**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.

### JULY

- Sun 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Aubrey Dunford from Union Baptist.
- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> 7.00 pm - Men of Oak BBQ - BYO drinks - see Philip Rackstraw for more details.
- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> 8.15 am - Men’s Fellowship Breakfast followed by a ‘litter pick’ (optional) in the surrounding area led by Philip Rackstraw. For catering purposes, please let Ali Irwin know if you plan to attend.  
10.30-3 pm – El Bethel Tamil Church baptism service.
- Sun 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Parade Service led by Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Association,
- Sun 21<sup>st</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Alison Irwin, with a visit from Peter and Martina Morriss.
- Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by John Hollman, with a visit from Levi Santana, followed by a church meeting, 12.00 to 1.00pm.  
3 pm - Lighthouse Commissioning Service, Cressex School.
- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> - Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug Lighthouse Week. Please see the listings for resources needed.

### AUGUST

- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Maureen Rose.
- Sat 10<sup>th</sup> 11-3 pm El Bethel Tamil Church prayer meeting followed by lunch (lounge & kitchen in use).
- Sun 11<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service led by Nigel Rose.
- Sun 18<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Communion Service led by Aubrey Dunford from Union Baptist.
- Weds 21<sup>st</sup> Community Day (see Suzanne Wight for details).
- Sun 25<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am - Morning Service - led by John Hollman.

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

### OAKRIDGE PRAYER POINTERS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2019

Why does the number 7 hold such significance for humankind? If you were asked to reflect on the number 7, what would be the first thing that comes to mind? Maybe it’s your favourite or lucky number. Statistically, about ten percent of people would say 7 when asked to think of a number, but this is the equivalent of ten percent of people each preferring 0 through 9, so not any more significant than any other single digit number. However, since people often think of two or possibly three digit numbers as favourites, 7 actually turns out more popular than any other quoted number.

As a Christian, the number 7 might immediately move your thoughts to a week, perhaps the symbolic week of creation in which the Sabbath or 7<sup>th</sup> day is prescribed as a day of rest from regular work and an opportunity for time set aside to engage with God. But Christianity and its root, Judaism, is not unique in the elevation of the number 7. Besides the 7 day creation story, the number 7 features in the Book of Revelation (7 churches, 7 angels, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 stars). Jesus is associated with 7 different

utterances from the cross and with God's number 777 (a perfect 7). 7 heavens are reflected in the ancient Mesopotamian religions and the Abrahamic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Muslim pilgrims on Haj walk around the Kaaba in Mecca 7 times. In Hinduism there are 7 worlds and 7 underworlds, and in Buddhism the new-born Buddha rises and takes 7 steps.

Since ancient times there have been 7 wonders of the world. Humans need 7 hours of sleep on average and the rainbow has 7 colours. So 7 has always been associated with completeness. On the negative side, there are 7 deadly sins and fruit machines have 777 as a winning combination. So 7 really is a number that resonates in all aspects of human life. As far as the bible is concerned however, 7 is intrinsic to and implicit in nature, spirituality and neighbourliness. In the Law of Moses, a Sabbatical year was required every 7<sup>th</sup> year, and the land had to remain uncultivated. Whatever grew by itself was excluded from the owner of the land, and left for the poor, the stranger and the beasts of the field. All debts, except those of foreigners, were to be cancelled. The neglect of the Sabbatical year was implicated in the 70 year exile in Babylon, during which time the land lay fallow (2 Chronicles 36:20-21).

So what relevance does 7 or sabbatical have for us today? We still set aside a day a week for recuperation and worship. The amount of rest human beings need has not changed and sabbatical leave for recuperation, study and ministry development has enabled ministers to inject new vigour into the life of churches. But just like the Sabbatical year incumbent on Jewish farmers, it is not an extended vacation, but a chance to do something different; to bring about meaningful change in one's own and other people's lives as well. The forgiveness of debt meant that the indebted could start their own lives afresh and become productive in their own right rather than being a debt slave. Animals could graze freely and the manure they dropped prepared the fields for future fertility. The landowner could focus on things left undone when food production was not taking precedence over everything else. The year following the Sabbatical was one of new life, new vigour and a launch-pad for a bright future.

Between July and October this year, Oakridge will be without a minister, but because of a year of preparation, will still be well supported by excellent ministry lined up and ready to go. I will be using a three month sabbatical to engage in detail with an aspect of ministry that is critical in our tribalised world. In short, I am engaging with the implications of the most important commandment in scripture: Love of God and Neighbour, and exploring in detail the theological rationale for peaceful encounter between followers of the Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Part of my ministry in the multi-everything community in which we find ourselves is to promote actively the mutual benefits of being good neighbours; loving and supporting one another because it is mutually beneficial to do so. When bridges of neighbourliness and friendship are built between communities, the love of Jesus and, most importantly, the salvation he offers can be shared without fear or coercion.

So, this summer and beyond, I invite you to first enjoy the diversity of ministry you will experience between now and October and second, to pray, along with others in the fellowship, asking the Holy Spirit to give you boldness, courage and wisdom, to enable you to become the best neighbours you can to our local community – and, as we have been praying in this Pentecost season, that signs and wonders will follow the work of the Holy Spirit as we make ourselves available for God's purposes. Let the text encourage you.

#### **BIBLE TEXT FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2019**

1  
Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Remember to welcome strangers, because some who have done this have welcomed angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison as if you were in prison with them. Remember those who are suffering as if you were suffering with them.  
(*Hebrews 13:1-3 (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](mailto:josie@rojo.co.uk).

**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)