

EVENTS AND DATES TO NOTE

Social & Craft Group	Monday 2nd August - 9.30am (Masks Mandatory)
Presbytery Meeting	Saturday 21st August
Men's Breakfast	Saturday 28th August - 7.30am
Chrysalis Hoot	Saturday 28th August - 3.00pm
NCLS	October

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Coffee Chat & Chew	Every Thursday 9.30am Oxley Café
Garden Lovers Club	4th Thurs. of each month - 9.30am - Hall Contact Harry Thompson.
Social & Craft Group	1st & 3rd Mondays - 9.30am - Hall Contact: Jan Thompson or Steph Rankin.
Friday Night Youth (FNY)	- Every Friday of School Term - 7.30pm - Downstairs Hall - Contact Holly or Dave.

Other groups meet periodically including Bible Study groups
For more information - contact the office.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Dave Thomas	
	M: 0432 304 474	E: daget01@outlook.com
Resources	Gayle Rankin	
	M; 0410 511 601	
Pastoral Care	Sharyn Sinnamon	
	M: 0410 064 675	
Treasurer	Russell Green	
	M: 0455 080 055	
Church Office	114 Oxley Station Road, Oxley Qld 4075	
Phone	3278 1394	
Web	www.oxleydarrauc.org.au	
Facebook	Oxley Uniting Church	

Notices for the Oxley Oracle - deadline midday Thursdays
Email communications.oxleydarrauc@gmail.com

Growing in Christ | Showing Christ | Going Christ's Way

THE OXLEY ORACLE

1 August 2021



**Covid Update
Masks Mandatory**



We are a community of God's people passionate about lifting the name of Jesus, worshipping Him and serving our community. Whether you join us in person or on line, whether you are with us every week or as it happens, you are special, unique and appreciated. Thank you for your contribution! Our prayer is that we may get to know each other deeply over time and that you may embrace Jesus' love for you always and in all ways!

TODAY'S SERVICE

Combined Morning Service	9.00am - Kids Camp/Fun Fari Celebration
Evening Service	No Evening Service
Lectionary Readings	2 Sam 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Eph 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

NEXT SUNDAY 8TH AUGUST 2021

Morning Service	9.00am - Dave
Evening Service	6.30pm - Dave (live-streamed)

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned: so as to have the life that is waiting for us."

E.M. Forster

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



WHAT OR WHO? THAT IS THE QUESTION!

We've all heard of the famous Shakespeare quote, "To be or not to be – that is the question." That line was in the play Hamlet and in its context asks the question is it better to put up with the inconsistencies and unfairness of life or to confront it? On first reading it probably sounds like a reasonable question and something worth pondering. What you may not be as aware of is that this line both in the play and in Shakespeare's mind, at least according to some scholars, focused on suicide! Maybe that changes the relativity of this line – it does for me. We all have questions though, don't we? And we go looking for answers. And most of us go searching for something tangible – evidence or proof - that somehow provides the answers for us. And if we are honest mostly its about backing up what we want or what we believe. Well, the good news is that we are in great company! The bad news is that we are searching for the wrong things. The disciples were full of questions – "When did you get here Master?" "What shall we do that we may work the works of God"? What then do you see as a sign that we may believe?" They were looking for evidence to validate who Jesus really was and from where was His power coming! After all God gave the Israelites and Moses signs all the time (despite them still not believing) – surely there can and should be some sign Lord? (John 6: 25 -30). And Jesus response may well have surprised them as it continues to surprise and at times infuriate us. Jesus tells his disciples they are looking for signs when they should be looking at THE SIGN – that is Jesus himself. "You are looking for manna from heaven again but hear this, "I am the bread of life: he who comes to Me shall not hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst." WOW! Maybe we should start looking much more intentionally at the WHO rather than searching for some WHAT! Jesus is the answer – to any of our questions! Let's let Him in – He is always knocking!

Blessings
Dave

Praise and Prayer!

- ◇ For Richard & Susan - Susan has been diagnosed with rare malignant Melanoma.
- ◇ Emmaus Walk - Lindsay Rankin & Vicki Robinson as Lay Directors
- ◇ For those in Nursing Homes, in hospital or unwell.
- ◇ For the pending Emmaus Walk in September.
- ◇ For those in our southern states in extended 'lockdown'.
- ◇ Rev Peter Taubner following surgery last week.

Tithes and Offerings by Bank Transfer:

Commonwealth Bank BSB: 064 011 Account: 10032190

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)

PRESBYTERY RETREAT

About 45 Ministers and Pastors gathered at Alex Park last week and were encouraged to dig deep and discover our 'longings'. That is, what is our longing for God and His longing for us? Facilitated by Rev Graham Keech - Wesley Mission, it was, for me, a significant time of being with God - away from the normal distractions - to listen, create, explore, and sit under the awesome presence of a loving, forgiving and gracious God. Thank you to CLT for your gift in allowing me the opportunity to be still.

LIVE - STREAMING

From August, we will be live-streaming our morning services on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays and our Evening Service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. If you are keen to learn the live-stream process, we would love to hear from you!

M2M

M2M - Ministries to Movement - is a process of engaging with the Great Commission - Matthew 28. The first of two leader workshops commences at 11am this morning. Please pray for this time of input, reflection and prayerful discernment as we navigate our way over these two sessions. The second is on the 15th August - same time. If you received an invite, would like to participate, and haven't let Rob Duncan know - I am sure we can accommodate you.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

We are in for a real treat at both services on the 22nd August. Simon Rattray from Project 114 will be sharing with us along with his wife Alison (an acclaimed artist and passionate advocate for those impacted by trauma) about His ministry with the Persecuted Church in places like Myanmar, Sri Lanka and others.

CORPORATE PRAYER



Are you interested?
Please contact Dave.



EMMAUS

The next walks are over the last weekend in September. Training days will be held here on Saturday 7th, 21st August and 4th September. Please pray for Lindsay and Vicki as our Lay Directors as they finalise teams and begin to train and equip their teams for this significant ministry.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Who doesn't like a great Brekky, with awesome fellowship, and a dynamic entertaining speaker who will have us all glued to our seats? **Saturday 28th August 7.30am.** Mr Justin Lippiatt will be our guest for the occasion and will also be preaching the following morning. Let's spread the word, bring your mates and let's give Justin a huge Oxley welcome!

