

EVENTS AND DATES TO NOTE

Prayer Hub	Friday 17 December - 7.30am
Carols Under The Stars	Sunday 19 December - from 5.30pm
Christmas Eve	Friday 24th December - 7pm
Christmas Morning	Saturday 25th December - 8.30am
Leader's Commissioning	Sunday 30th January 2022

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Coffee Chat & Chew	Every Thursday 9.30am Oxley Café
Garden Lovers Club	In Recess - recommences 24 Feb 2022 Contact Harry Thompson.
Social & Craft Group	In Recess - recommences 7 Feb. 2022 Contact: Jan Thompson or Steph Rankin.
Friday Night Youth (FNY)	In Recess until 2022 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	Covid Advisor Annette Coupland
	M: 0410 064 675	M: 0408 019 661
Treasurer	June Balfour	
	M: 0410 706 263	
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	daget01@outlook.com	

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

THE OXLEY ORACLE

12 December 2021



Advent 3 - Joy!



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 WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Morning Service	9.00am - Rev Dave Thomas
Evening Service	6.30pm - Café Church - Christmas Celebration
Lectionary Readings	Zeph.3: 14 - 20 Isaiah 12: 2 - 6 Phil 4: 4 - 7 Luke 3: 7 - 18

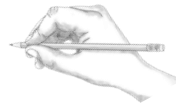
NEXT SUNDAY 19 December 2021

Morning Service	9.00am - Rev Dave Thomas (Live Streamed)
Evening Service	5.30pm - Carols Under The Stars - Oxley SS Oval

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"The world is changed by your example - not by your opinion."
Paulo Coelho.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



SUSTAINABLE JOY....

Mum and Dad had 5 kids! I am the second eldest - I have an older brother who some of you know and three younger sisters who most would not know. Linda is the youngest. I was still pretty young but I recall the day she was born - 26 July 1970. Dad took me to the hospital to see this new addition to our family. I specifically remember three things about that morning. First, I didn't get to cuddle her. I think Dad must have been afraid I'd drop her - who me?? Second - it was a Sunday! I was excited not just to see a new born baby but I got out of going to church that day - a win win! Third - and the best part - she bears the name I chose! Well - her middle name anyway! I don't remember the conversation but Mum has since told me that she and dad were trying to think of a second name - they had decided on Linda as her first. Dad turned to me and asked me what I thought! I was so excited at the time and apparently said something like: "Well its Sunday - it's a happy day - this is a happy moment let's call her JOY! Linda Joy had a certain ring to it - and still does. What a JOY to name one of your siblings! I, to this day, am quite chuffed at that. Here's my point!

Like any child, like any teenager, like any young adult, like any grown adult, 'joy' did not always match her behaviour or her attitudes. Yet, her name declared it anyway! Joy was a part of her identity even in those crazy difficult times. And it is the same with the gift that Jesus offers us and we particularly remember and celebrate during this season of advent. And Joy can be ours in both the good and the bad - the ups and downs of life! Our Joy can be sustained regardless because it is not conditional on us, our thoughts or feelings! Rather it is based on WHO is yet to come! "Shout for joy, rejoice and exult with all your heart, because the Lord your God is in your midst" (Zeph. 3: 14,17). This was the prophets declaration long before Jesus' coming the first time. My prayer is that it can be our faith declaration prior to his second coming! . Shalom - Dave.

Praise and Prayer!

- ◇ For those in Nursing Homes, in hospital, unwell or struggling, particularly David Woodward, Stan O'Brien & Ruth Telfer.
- ◇ For great weather next Sunday for our Carols evening and that the message of Christ will be shared and received.
- ◇ For the holiday season - all school staff - kids and parents.
- ◇ For Jessie, Greg, Jenny & Carolyn & families following Clyde's death last Tuesday.

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)

CAROLS UNDER THE STARS

It's all happening next Sunday evening. 19th December from 5.30pm! Face painting, animal farm, glo sticks, barbeque, drinks and of course all your favorite Carols. Spread the word! Please pray for a rain free day! **Call out for able bodied men to help set up marquees, stalls, run cables, and cart stuff from the church. Please meet at the Church at 1pm!** Please contact Sam on 0432 107 945 or sam-gunders@gmail.com or noise-boy@westnet.com.au if you can help in other ways.

CHRISTMAS BOWL

This week our focus moves to Sri Lanka and specifically Sri Lankan refugees living in camps in India unable to get home. Some have been there for 10 years or more! Your gift this week will assist with personal and medical supplies while they await their borders opening and safe travel back home is assured. You can give directly to Christmas Bowl via a dedicated link for Oxley UC - mycb.link/48323 or through the offerings during this Advent season.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

November recorded a profit of \$2,166.57, with a year-to-date loss of \$1,762.04. Any questions regarding our finances please contact Russell Green on 0455 080 055.

PRAYER

Fridays at 7.30am, you are welcome to our prayer Hub! Held in the church upstairs in the Prayer Room. Brief reflection, prayer and Communion!

Prayer changes things! 17th Dec.

CHRISTMAS CAFÉ CHURCH

A special invitation - **don't forget tonight.** A special Christmas service with special treats - **Café Church with a difference. I would love to see you there. Why not invite a friend?**

COVID UPDATE

From 5am on Fri 17 Dec the new [Public Health and Social Measures linked to Vaccination Status](#) Direction comes into effect in Qld. Under the Direction, both vaccinated and unvaccinated people are permitted to attend church. Our regular Sunday services will continue as they are currently, with capacity limited to 1 person per 2m². We will monitor the situation as time progresses. To allow more people to attend Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning services, an online booking system will be available. More details to come. Please contact Annette Coupland, COVID Advisor, or Rev Dave Thomas if you have any questions or concerns.

Remember - no service 26th Dec.

No evening service after tonight till 30 Jan 2022.