

EVENTS AND DATES TO NOTE

Prayer Hub	In recess until Friday 28 January - 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

19 December 2021



Advent 4 - Love!



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
Carols Under The Stars	from 5.30pm - Oxley State School Oval

Lectionary Readings Mic 5:2-5a Psalm 80: 1:7 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45, (46-55)

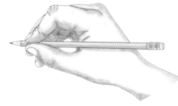
CHRISTMAS SERVICES 24TH / 25TH December 2021

Christmas Eve	7.00pm - Rev Dave Thomas
Christmas Day	8.30am - Rev Dave Thomas

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"Love takes off the masks we fear we cannot live without
and know we cannot live within" James Baldwin.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



LOVE THAT LASTS....

Some things just stick with you! It was a while ago now but I haven't forgotten it. I was in my last week at the School for which I had been chaplain for almost 9 years. I had seen kids start as little Preps and been a part of their whole Primary education. I treasure those years of front-line ministry. There were lots of times when I felt so out of my depth, times I felt I was making a difference and times when I wondered why I was there! But this moment in my last week was special! I was in a Grade 2 classroom saying my good byes. As I finished chatting with them – many of them literally at my feet – one girl whispered – “don't go yet”. She ran off and as I was at the door of the room – she returned and gave me this gift – “this is for you, it's a cd player”, she said with a tear in her eye. What I held was actually a Special K breakfast box that she had cut and glued in such a way that it looked the size of a small CD player and it even had a spot for the CD to be put in! I received it from her and before I could say anything – she said, “it may not look or feel real – but it's real from me.” I have never forgotten those words and yes, I still have that made up cardboard 'CD player'. (I often wonder if she remembers that moment – I guess she would be finished Senior now). I really believe she gave that gift not just as a token of her relationship with the School Chaplain but out of love.

I suspect for many of us – dare I say all of us - there are times in our lives when we question God's love for us! We doubt His existence, we think he's abandoned us. And at these times I can almost hear Him repeating the same words as that Grade 2 girl. My love may not look or feel real – but hey know this – it's real from me! And then we need to decide what we do with His gift. Now I certainly didn't need a bit of old cardboard but I doubt that was the real gift – the gift to me was her love expressed in her actions. God's love calls us to believe it and act upon it. His love is a love that lasts! It's not situational nor generational – it is relational; it is personal; it is eternal (John3:16&17). Shalom - Dave.

Praise and Prayer!

- ◇ For those in Nursing Homes, in hospital, unwell or struggling, particularly David Woodward, Stan O'Brien & Ruth Telfer.
- ◇ For tonight - that the message of Christ will be shared and received.
- ◇ For the holiday season - all school staff - kids and parents.
- ◇ For the Logan family.

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)

THE OXLEY ORACLE - This will be the last Oracle for 2021. The next edition will be in respect to Sunday 30 January 2022. I trust you have enjoyed the slightly different format as it has attempted to keep you advised of relevant news.

JANUARY SERVICES - Dave will be on leave from 4th January until the 26th January inclusive. Services will be led by Gayle Rankin, Harry Thompson and Rob Duncan for the 9th, 16th and 23rd January respectively.

PRAYER - Our weekly Prayer Hub on Friday mornings has been a wonderful time of sharing listening and praying together. We will resume this significant ministry on **Friday 28th January 2022**. Why not consider joining us? **Prayer changes things!**

CAROLS UNDER THE STARS - It's all happening tonight. It is totally dependent on the weather meaning if there is rain around or even the strong likelihood that it will rain, we will need to cancel as the hall is not an option due to current Covid arrangements. Please pray for NO RAIN! **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 today!**

CHRISTMAS BOWL - This week our focus moves to Syria. Families caught in the trauma of war and forced to relocate and now living in a strange land. Heba is the wife and mother of one such family. She is pregnant with her fifth child, can no longer access medical help for her pregnancy and her husband has lost his job due to the ongoing conflict that has been raging now for 10 years plus! While they may be safe in Jordan, they now rely on food rations to survive. Your Christmas Bowl gift will bring love and lifesaving support to Syrian families now living in Jordan – and show them they're not forgotten. 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.

CLT NEWS - At our last meeting of the year which saw most of both the 2021 Leaders and the 2022 Leaders come and share together, we agreed the membership of the Executive (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of CLT + Minister) for the ensuing period. Chair - John Gunders; Secretary - Vicki Robinson; Treasurer - June Balfour. Please pray for each of these in their respective roles. We give thanks to God for Leona (Chair for a long time), Russell Green (Treasurer) as well as Irene, Sharyn, Nerida, Barry, Miriam & Rosemary for each of their contributions over varying periods.

Remember - no service 26th Dec.

No evening service now till 30 Jan 2022.