

EVENTS AND DATES TO NOTE

Prayer Hubs	Fri Prayer recommences 3rd Feb 7.30am.
ALPHA Prayer (Zoom)	Each Wed. 7pm.
Buddies Gathering	Saturday 4th Feb. - 9am in the Church
Skip Smith (Alpha)	Sunday 29th Jan. 9am & 5pm
Sinnamon Village Service	Wed. 25th Jan. 10.00am.
St. Vincent's Service	Mon 30th Jan - 9.30am

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Coffee Chat & Chew	Thursdays! Oxley Café - from 9am.
Garden Lovers Club	In Recess! Normally 4th Thursday monthly - 9.30am Contact Harry Thompson.
Social & Craft Group	In Recess. Normally 1st, 3rd, & 5th Mondays of each month - 9.30am (except Public Holidays) Contact: Jan Thompson or Steph Rankin.
Friday Night Youth	In Recess! Contact Holly or Dave.

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*	Graham Coupland	* Interim Treasurer
	M: 0409 687 046	
Church Office	114 Oxley Station Road, Oxley Qld 4075	
Phone	0432 304 474	
Web	www.oxleyuc.org.au	
Facebook	Oxley Uniting Church	
Notices for the Oxley Oracle - deadline midday Thursdays		
Email	daget01@outlook.com	



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	5.00pm - Rev Dave Thomas
Lectionary Readings	Is 9:1-4 Ps 27:1, 4-9 1 Cor 1:10-18 Mt 4:12-23

Next Week - 29th January

9.00am	- Skip Smith (Alpha)
5.00pm	- Skip Smith (Alpha)

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect. " (Alan Cohen)

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



INVITATIONAL LIVING...

I think we should do something different! This was the cry from a family committed to the Tallebudgera small church I pastored for nearly 10 years. Things seemed to be going OK but the traditional Sunday morning wasn't any longer attracting anyone. We seemed to have plateaued in numbers and in energy. Here was an invitation, I pondered. Different? I had not long come back from a week away on Fraser Island and Craig (one of my mates who came with me) taught me how to use a camp oven. (I wasn't that great at it but I did learn how to cook a pretty mean damper) on the open fire. Ummm - maybe that was it. Something completely different. We had the open space and even a sloped ground making sitting round a fire eating damper and telling stories - well, different! So after some conversations we started what we called 'Fireside Chat" on a Sunday afternoon once per month. I invited all the normal church folk but also a number of contacts from the local school and family members, suggesting that this was no church service—its outdoors and should be fun. I was dumbfounded. It became a hit and within a couple of months we had around 40 coming regularly. And about half of them were not churched. We had competitions as to who could make the best damper , always a hit and a focus of the night. We shared stories and just did life with these people. Several of these regular attenders became solid companions - would come to any church event , help out at working bees. Etc. We rarely saw them in the church building but they came to worship in a different way. Three ultimately gave their lives to Jesus and are still involved in different local churches on the Gold Coast. The power of invitation! Invitational living is about creating space - space for conversations, for developing friendships, for building bridges into community, yet equally about inviting others into your faith and discovering how you can be invited into their lives. Scripture is full of Jesus inviting others to be blessed like Zacchaeus (Luke 19), Nicodemus (John 3) are just 2 examples. How invitational are we?

Shalom Dave

Praise and Prayer!

- ◇ For Val Hodgson and Rob Duncan - home and recuperating.
- ◇ For the Oxley Community Festival and the witness opportunities!
- ◇ For all those who struggle with their health at home or in caring homes.
- ◇ For those enjoying time away with family or on holiday.
- ◇ For all the logistics in our ALPHA planning.

LEAVE - Dave is hoping to take a few days leave in early February. Dates will be confirmed next week.

OXLEY ORACLE - Just a reminder that if you would like anything to be incorporated into the Oracle at any stage please email the details through to Dave - daget01@outlook.com - by Thursday lunch time. Please do not send anything to the Communications email address for this purpose. Thank you!

ALPHA – kicks off on Friday evening 21st April from 7 - 9pm and continues each Friday night for 9/10 weeks. Don't forget to join us in our Zoom prayer each Wednesday night at 7pm. Here's the link should you wish to join all or any ! We'd love to have you join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86315980534?pwd=b3hHYitVb09wd1RVemRFck0zWUpsQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 1598 0534

Passcode: 346055

WESLEY MISSION - SINNAMON VILLAGE: The pastoral care team of Sinnamon Village (some of you may remember Eric Woodrow being with us last year) are hosting a special "Love" affair for their residents on Monday February 13th commencing at 10am. This will be in part to celebrate Valentine's Day but will be like a service with lots of 'love' hymns etc and any from our family here have been invited to attend. To assist with numbers please let Dave know if you are interested in attending! (and please note that being aged care, it is all dependent on covid)

PASTORAL CARE - Buddies are being asked to come together on Saturday 4th February for some training and to share 'the wisdom - learnings' across the group. We will meet in the hall commencing at 9 with a cuppa.

FINANCES - The Church's profit/loss for December is -\$934.71 Loss. The Church's profit/loss for the Financial Year to Date is -\$7,436.28 Loss. Should you have any questions regarding the Church's finances please contact Assistant Treasurer Graham Coupland Ph 0409 687 046.

Tithes and Offerings by Bank Transfer: CBA — BSB: 064 011 Acc: 10032190
Please identify your bank transaction as either "Tithe" or "Offering". Thank You.