

## EVENTS AND DATES TO NOTE

<b>Prayer Hub</b>	Friday 31st March. - 7.30am.
<b>ALPHA Prayer (Zoom)</b>	Each Wed. 7pm.
<b>Easter Planning Night</b>	Tuesday 28 March - 7pm. Church.
<b>Easter Services</b>	Thu. 6th, Fri. 7th, Sun 9th April
<b>ALPHA</b>	Commences Friday 21 April - 6.30pm.
<b>Chaplains Trivia Night</b>	Deferred!

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

<b>Coffee Chat &amp; Chew</b>	Thursdays! Oxley Café - from 9am.
<b>Garden Lovers Club</b>	4th Thursday monthly - 9.30am Contact Harry Thompson.
<b>Social &amp; Craft Group</b>	Meets 1st, 3rd, & 5th Mondays of the month - 9.30am (except Public Holidays). Next - 3 April. Contact: Jan Thompson or Steph Rankin.

## 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	* Assistant 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		

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

# THE OXLEY ORACLE

26th March 2023



**FIFTH WEEK OF LENT**

**4 WEEKS UNTIL ALPHA.**



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

<b>Morning Service</b>	9.00am -	Rev Dave
<b>Evening Service</b>	5.00pm -	Rev Dave
<b>Lectionary Readings</b>	Ez. 37:1-14	Ps 130
	Rom 8:6-11	Jn 11:1-45

## Next Week - 2 April - Palm Sunday

9.00am	-	Rev Dave
5.00pm	-	Gayle Rankin

## QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"Sometimes you just have to let go of the old and trust that something better is going to take its place, even if its scary to face change and the unknown.."

Alana Stewart

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



### AGAINST THE CURRENT!

I may have shared this story before - one of the problems when one tells stories is at times one forgets who has been told what. So please forgive me if you have heard it or read it before! It's a true story though and it fits with our approach and purpose for this Sunday - being Vision Sunday and the need for all of us to prayerfully consider our giving! I was walking around a sports oval along with about 300 others to raise funds for Cancer research. All were going the same way. As I walked and becoming a little bored, I wondered what might happen if I turned around and starting walking in the opposite direction! At least it might be a change in perspective if nothing else! So I did! I was now walking into the faces of everyone else and the looks from most of them would have suggested I was a criminal or weird at least. I have to say I felt uncomfortable and numerous times I wanted to just turn around again and follow the crowd - but I didn't. Maybe it was my stubborn nature, my curiosity or both! Yet, the more I continued the easier it became. And it did provide a whole new perspective for which I was grateful. Last weekend I heard one of our local Pastors share about this same topic. One thing he said caught my attention. He said, "anything dead can go with the current, you know, dead fish, dead animals, dead people. You have to be alive to go against the current." Jesus calls us to go against the current - the prevailing world view. He challenges us to keep walking in His direction regardless of the looks or thoughts of any others! The Spirit doesn't breathe life into us so we can continue the status quo - the same old thing the same old way! Vision Sunday is about us changing focus - gaining a new perspective and trusting God on the journey. And part of that trust is with our finances. It costs money to do anything and the church is no different. To make disciples, to become more missional will need our open heart investment. Dave.

### Praise and Prayer!

- ◇ We continue to pray for Ray & Krissy and the provision of work.
- ◇ For ALPHA - our team, and the ongoing invitations!
- ◇ For all of us as we consider our giving!
- ◇ Gordon and his family following Ruth's celebration of life.
- ◇ For our Easter services - both internal and ecumenical.
- ◇ For CLT and wisdom to lead the Jesus Way!

**CHURCH ASSISTANT TREASURER (2)-** God may just be calling you to this special role within the life of our Church family! This is becoming urgent. If anyone has questions re this, please ring Graham Coupland 0409 687 046.

**VISION SUNDAY** - That's this Sunday and culminates our giving series. We trust you have been stimulated a little and are ready to respond to God. Come with open hearts and open ears to hear some of the exciting things to which we believe God is challenging us and to prayerfully consider our giving! A truly important and significant day!

**ALPHA** – kicks off on Friday evening 21st April from 6.30 - 8.30pm and continues each Friday night for 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=b3hHYitVb09wd1RVemRFck0zWU9pQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 1598 0534

Passcode: 346055

**EASTER** - Anyone interested in helping us create an appropriate ambience for our Easter services together come along this Tuesday evening at 7pm.

**IONA PASSION PLAY** - You are invited to go along and see the events of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus re-enacted in drama. Iona Performing Arts Centre, Iona College, 85 North Rd, Lindum. Good Friday 7pm / Sat 8th - 2pm. \$22 each.

**CLT** - Met last Tuesday evening and there are some changes we are introducing. Please see the extra addendum - emailed with this Oracle as a separate attachment and also in hard copy on the foyer table for Sunday!

**OUR FINANCES: PROFIT/LOSS:** The Church's profit/loss for February is - \$1,542.62 Loss. The Church's profit/loss for the Financial Year to Date is - \$9,828.07 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.