

EVENTS AND DATES TO NOTE

Prayer Hub	Friday 11th Feb - 7.30am
Resources Meeting	Thursday 10th Feb - 7pm.
CLT	Thursday 17th Feb - 7pm.
Presbytery	Saturday 12th Feb - Glebe Rd UC - 9am
m2M Workshop	Tuesday 22nd Feb - 7pm.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Coffee Chat & Chew	Every Thursday 9.30am Oxley Café
Garden Lovers Club	Recommences 24 March 2022 (subject to covid) Contact Harry Thompson.
Social & Craft Group	Recommences 7 March 2022 (subject to covid) Contact: Jan Thompson or Steph Rankin.
Friday Night Youth (FNY)	Recommences 11 Feb. (subject to covid) Contact Holly or Dave.

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

THE OXLEY ORACLE

6 February 2022



Russell and Gayle Green are delighted to announce that their daughter Hayley gave birth to a beautiful baby girl – Ellie Charlotte – 21 Jan. Along with husband Jared, all three are fine. We give thanks to God for this wonderful blessing.



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 (Live Streamed)
No Face to Face worship today

Lectionary Readings Isaiah 6: 1 - 13; Psalm 138; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Luke 5: 1 -11

Sunday 13th February

9.00am - Rev Dave Thomas
No Face to Face Worship.

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"In three words, I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on!"
Robert Frost

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



TAKING COURAGE!

Let me tell you a true, but humorous and slightly scandalous story that comes out of the early days of the church. I read this a few weeks back and yes, its out there, but I was caught by the message. How courageous are we to really live our lives in submission and obedience to Jesus? To say with Isaiah - "here am I, send me" (Isaiah 6: 8). When the father of Origen, a third century theologian, was arrested for being a Christian, Origen, then only 17, was aflame with the desire to follow his Dad and share in glorious martyrdom. His mother pleaded with him not to go, but the headstrong boy did not want to listen to reason. His quick thinking mother did what she could. She hid ALL his clothes. Though Origen stormed and protested, she wouldn't reveal where they were hidden. He couldn't leave the house, and so he was unable to volunteer for martyrdom. Isn't it interesting? Origen spoke courageously (to be martyred), but lacked the courage to 'put it all on the line'. Stepping outside without clothing would have sped up his arrest and imprisonment, and thus his desire to follow his father, but it was a step too far.

In a sense, I suspect that talking with a friend - or perhaps worse an unknown bystander - about our faith is, for many of us, the equivalent of going outside naked. It makes us uncomfortable. We feel exposed. We declare that we will follow Jesus, maybe even give our lives for him, but to risk being embarrassed or rejection or abuse for him seems to be beyond our level of discipleship. Jesus meets his disciples and issues a challenge which would have seemed presumptuous at best and rude at worst. Go throw out your nets and catch some fish (Luke 5: 4). What are our fishing buddies going to think? We will be utterly embarrassed as if being out all night and catching nothing is not bad enough! Yet, Peter, the spokesperson for these same men responds being willing to forsake everything to follow Jesus even if it meant losing the esteem of their friends. God spoke through the prophet Haggai - "take courage and My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear" (2:5). Lets take courage!

Praise and Prayer!

- ◇ For the Tongan Church & Community in the wake of the Tsunami!
- ◇ For our schools - teachers and kids - many of whom return this week.
- ◇ For our people that they know how much they are loved despite not meeting.
- ◇ For those who have struggled or are struggling with floods in NQ
- ◇ For Godly wisdom to arise from our Government and Church Leaders.

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 - Help needed! If any would like to - and feel called to - be our Oracle Author please have a chat to Dave. You would need to have Publisher on your system and be reasonably familiar with its workings. If you were able to do it from the church office on a Friday that would be the ideal!

SERVICES - This Sunday and next we continue to live stream only with minimal people in line with the recent CLT decision. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to monitor the local situation and navigate our response.

PRAYER - We are back! Meeting at 8.00am from next Friday - 11th February. Next week we will convene in the shelter in Cawonga Park for about 30 - 35 mins. We will pray, be inspired from a word of Scripture and share Communion together. **Would love to see more join. Prayer changes things!**

FAMILY CAMP - The House of Happiness on Bribie Island has been booked for our family camp over the weekend of 18 - 20 March. Last year it was in April and those who attended (based on what I heard anyway) enjoyed themselves and believed that it should continue. However this year with the onset of Omicron mainly the camp format (dormitory style accommodation and one kitchen etc) presents some significant logistical issues. CLT will be considering all aspects of the practicality of whether to still hold the camp or perhaps postpone or cancel it. Information is being sought from the Camp Managers which will help in the process of decision making. And we would like to hear from you as well. If you have a view, please let one of the CLT members know your mind on this matter - prior to 6pm Wednesday 9th Feb. Thanks!

SHIFT M2m - Jesus requires us to be disciples who make disciples. Our focus on prayer, reviewing our values, and beginning to change our language and culture are some of the processes that will engage us over coming weeks. We have had to change the date for the follow-up workshop by Rob Duncan— given that a number could not make it on the Saturday. This workshop will now be Tuesday evening 22 Feb starting at 7pm - for 2 hours. If you have received an email re this we hope you can be there!

NCLS - National Church Life Survey forms are available. Please see the separate instructions. We ask that you complete the on line survey as soon as possible. Instructions were part of the email. If you would prefer to complete a paper copy this will be available during one of the services at the end of the month. Any questions - please contact Harry Thompson.

AMPLIFY CONFERENCE - For youth leaders - 5th March. More next week!