

# The Month at Oakwood

[www.oakwoodbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.oakwoodbaptistchurch.org.uk)

# September 2020

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## Diary

- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**      **10.30am** online Service led by Richard
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>**      **7.30pm** Church Bible Study via Zoom
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**      **10.30am** online Service led by Richard
- Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**      **10.30am** online Service including Communion led by Richard
- Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**      **10.30am** online service led by Judith

Our Sunday Services are streamed live from the church on our YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCxZ\\_ATsFJ8u2vpQuiryQnuA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxZ_ATsFJ8u2vpQuiryQnuA)

If you are not able to join at 10.30am you can use the same link to watch a recording.

The Zoom invitation to join the Church Bible Study will be sent out on the WhatsApp group and Email nearer the date.

## Communion Service – 20<sup>th</sup> September

Richard will be leading Communion following the morning service.

Please have your bread and whatever you choose to use for the wine ready to share together.

## Missionary News



I am pleased to be able to tell you that **Audrey Taylor** has been making good progress with her health over the last couple of weeks. Her memory is much better, though she tires quite easily and is making use of a wheelchair for easier mobility.

Having moved out of her house whilst a walk-in shower was installed in her bathroom, she will be back at home by the time this reaches you. Please pray for her continued health improvements, and for her family as they visit and assist wherever possible. Her son Jonathan who is based in Brazil for work is trying to set up a fund so that there will be sufficient financial resources to complete the Kaiwa Bible revision. This will ensure that it's completed and printed by 2022.

**Stephen & Désirée German** have both kept busy despite not being able to travel. Désirée has been revising the Level 1 Discipleship course which has been in use for over 20 years She has since started working on French, Arabic and Spanish versions. There are also two further translation being scheduled for the coming months.

Stephen needs wisdom for when and if to re-start international travel and has been trying to facilitate various church groups working on projects together rather than in competition with each other. In many places the church is often the only trusted voice in a community and is able to help with truthful information about coronavirus and support suffering communities. We pray for those on the frontline in these difficult and sometimes dangerous circumstances. Please also pray for those who have had to be let go by TearFund who also have financial pressures on them, like many other organisations.

**Stephen & Nikki Childs** have recently sent out a new prayer letter. They have managed to meet back together as a church, though with much restricted numbers. They are trying to work out what regular activities to run and when from September. They are also planning to resume door-to-door conversations and distribute a 'Hope beyond Coronavirus' leaflet. One of their church members has got more involved in ministry and preaching and is showing interest in starting theology study. Please pray that he will be guided about this step.

Please also remember their four children as they will all be at school from September, and for their safety as they meet up again with friends. Cathal should be starting pre-school which will be new to him.

**Geoffrey Hunt** - There are now four people involved in the Hanga Translation team with Mr Seebu being the Chairman. Geoffrey now views himself as an advisor and supporter. He considers part of his role as empowering them to make decisions locally and is guiding them in that process. They are now trying to work out what parts of the Old Testament to translate. Currently there is most of Genesis done, and some of a 'Life of Moses' is ready for consultant checking. Please pray for them as they have the revised Hanga New Testament checked in various Hanga villages. This has had to wait until the farming season is past its peak.

If you would like to give toward the finances of these full time Hanga translators, or any other members of our missionary family please let me, or Richard know. We would be happy to provide the missionary bank account details if that makes giving easier

Yours in Him *Christopher*

### **Update on Church reopening**

Thank you for your responses to the questionnaire sent out at the end of July to those who normally attended our Sunday Service. We had a tremendous response with 93% completed - thank you Christopher for calculating the percentage!

The deacons discussed the results at their meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> August and, while a number were ready to return to the building, the majority felt either apprehensive or not quite ready.

The decision for now is to continue with streaming the service live on the church YouTube channel. The deacons will review the situation and we will keep you informed when there are any changes.

We have been blessed by Richard and Judith's ministry over the past 5 months. Thank you to everyone for your prayerful support.

When we do reopen for worship we will continue to livestream the service on our YouTube channel



## Andrew Russell 1959 - 2020

We were extremely sad to receive the news that Andrew had passed away on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August. He had been ill since the beginning of August and while it was thought he would recover with antibiotics he suddenly deteriorated on Tuesday evening and passed away 24 hours later.

Andrew was an accomplished pianist and took great pleasure playing for Sunday services. He would share his musical aptitudes with a piece of classical music at the end of the service. He also played for services at Waltham Cross and Suffolks Baptist Churches. Andrew particularly enjoyed playing for our Christmas Day Service and would traditionally finish with 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. His love of playing was a way he could express himself.

Being diagnosed as an adult with Asperger syndrome meant that social interaction was difficult for Andrew, something he would often discuss with our former pastor Bob Davey. Asperger's is a condition now linked with Autism which affects the ability to effectively interact and communicate with people. Life had many challenges for Andrew, and he found it particularly hard when he had to give up working for London Underground.

Andrew took great pleasure in having someone listen to him play. I remember a few telephone calls, as I'm sure some of you will also recall which included a bit of classical music! Andrew was also very intellectual with an amazing memory and would be able to quote conversations many years on.

Although Andrew had not been able to attend services for quite a while, he had been part of our church family for over 25 years. He had served the fellowship in many ways, but he will be remembered most for his music.

Andrew's funeral will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. This will be streamed live using Orbitus which is a webcasting service used by many Funeral Directors. Please let Caroline know if you would like the link to join the virtual service or watch a recording later.

Andrew will be missed, and we pray particularly for his family as they come to terms with the sudden loss. We trust in God's unfailing love to surround them at this time.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of Andrew in aid of the National Autistic Society, the family have set up a give.net account: <https://www.give.net/AndrewRussell>

The following article was written by Richard Wilson who is the Baptist Together Support Services Team Leader. Those of you who have joined any of the Baptist Together Prayer Broadcasts will be familiar with Richard.

The Prayer Broadcasts are streamed live every Wednesday at 7.00pm and a recording is available on the same link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrS4aRoI9mA&feature=youtu.be>

*Prompted by some daily bible readings from Ecclesiastes this week, I have been thinking about the need to keep focused on Jesus and His mission through the church. Much of what goes on in our world is certainly “meaningless, a chasing after the wind” as Ecclesiastes puts it, and if we are honest with ourselves there’s some of that goes on in our churches as well our churches as well.*

*To use another metaphor, my role, which is primarily about supporting our Baptist family, can be a bit like scraping barnacles off a boat. It’s not my job to set the course, but rather to make sure the boat is in the best condition to make headway. As any sailor will know, each barnacle on its own has only a tiny effect on the boat, but if you let them build up, they can really slow you down. Perhaps your church has accumulated a few barnacles over the years? It’s certainly the case with Baptists Together and is often true of organisations that have a long history.*

*In the same way, anything that distracts us from our core mission needs to be cleared out of the way so we can focus our energies on what really matters. Our aim now has to be to get ourselves ready for whatever the “new normal” might look like. I know some who seem to be striving to get back to how things were before, but I cannot believe that God has led us through the last 6 months without the expectation that we will be significantly changed by the experience. I am convinced that the pandemic will have challenged the apparent worldly security of many of those in our communities and our churches need to be ready to help them find the eternal security that exists in Jesus.*

*I hope that you, like me, want to spend less time chasing after the wind and instead focus on being ready to help our communities repent and be baptised.*

## My neighbours?

What? Go to my neighbour, you've got be kidding  
That woman's a menace – an absolute bore.  
And he's not much better! You'd need all Job's patience  
If you had the neighbours, I'm stuck with next door.

And the people behind us are really the limit  
Their taste is appalling, their speech I deplore  
I know they are lonely – I think they have troubles  
But you can't get involved when you're living next door

And I do think of others, I pray for the lonely  
I pray for the sick, and sad and the poor.  
I'll always come out to the Missionary Meeting  
(But I simply can't stand the people next door)

And suppose, just suppose, that they did get converted  
And wanted to join us in worship and more  
Just think of the awkwardness and of the problem  
And what they'd expect from us living next door

And when I get to heaven there's bound to be someone  
Who read the Good News on some far distant shore?  
Through the money I sent so they could have Bibles  
Just fancy, they don't even own one next door.

But perhaps when the roll call is finished up yonder  
And the harvest is gathered on Heaven's bright shore  
When the Master has gathered the hosts of the ransomed  
Perhaps He'll turn round and address you once more

And perhaps He will say, *'Yes, they're here in their millions,  
From cities, from jungles, from earth's farthest shore.  
The heathen have come, and the outcasts and children  
But where are the people I gave you next door?'*

Given by Selina

## Fellowship News

Weekly groups plan to restart in September. A cleaning schedule is in place to ensure the building is safe for each group.

We do encourage you not to go into the building. However if for any reason you do need to please use the doors by the hall and sign in (and out when you leave). In line with Government guidance you should also wear a face covering while in the building.

We remember those in the fellowship who are unwell or feeling lonely and also for those who are finding easing out of lockdown particularly difficult. We pray especially for Jan Godbold as, following Government guidance, the care home has returned to lockdown. We thank God that there have been no cases of Covid-19 at the home. Sadly lockdown means that no-one can visit, not even close relatives which is not only difficult for Jan but also for her sister-in-law Josie, who had been able to visit. We pray that Jan, along with the other residents and staff will be kept safe at this time.

*I can do ALL THINGS  
through Christ  
who STRENGTHENS me.*  
—Phillippians 4:13



## Birthdays this month

6<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth (Lisa) Nkela  
7<sup>th</sup> Roy Smith



Wishing you a very 'Happy Birthday'  
from the fellowship at Oakwood.

## Contact Details

Elder &  
Treasurer

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Designated  
person  
for Safeguarding

Contact: Mrs Lucretia Riley  
Tel: 07780 386101

Club 3-16  
Sunday Morning  
(Ages 3-16)

Contact: Church Secretary

Parents &  
Toddlers

Contact: Mrs Carol Hill  
Tel: 020 8886 0506

The **October** edition of the Month at Oakwood will be available at the end of **September** If you have some news you would like to share with the fellowship, please pass it to Caroline by **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**