

The Month at Oakwood

www.oakwoodbaptistchurch.org.uk

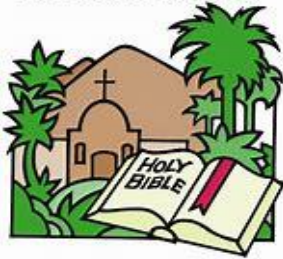
April 2024



Diary

- Wednesday 3rd** **7:30pm** Bible Study at church
led by Keith Bentley
- Thursday 4th** **7:30pm** Deacons Meeting
- Sunday 7th** **10:30am Morning Worship**
led by Judith Gallimore and Keith Bentley
- Sunday 14th** **10:30am Morning Worship**
Led by Richard Brookes
- Tuesday 16th** **10.00am** Parents & Toddlers
- Wednesday 17th** **7:30pm** Bible Study at church
led by Richard Brookes
- Saturday 20th** **7:00pm** Alba sinfonia Spring Concert
More information inside
- Sunday 21st** **10:30am Morning Worship**
Led by Keith Bentley & Mandy James
- Tuesday 23rd** **10.00am** Parents & Toddlers
- Sunday 23rd** **10:30am Morning Worship**
Led by Mandy James & Richard Brookes
- Tuesday 30th** **10:00am** Parents & Toddlers

REMEMBER OUR
Missionaries



Missionary News

We continue to pray to **Stephen & Désirée German** in their different Christian roles. Tearfund is still having to change its focus as it seeks to control costs due to the reduced giving they are receiving. Stephen is working hard on bringing together a number of organisations to adapt Tearfund's material into a universal training plan. This work on the curriculum and its funding need to be completed by the end of March.

Désirée has completed the translation of the orality trainer's guide into French and has fitted in a family visit to her brother and parents. We pray for her as she encourages her aging parents in the nursing home and her brother and his family as they come to terms with the diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease.

Rosemary Hunt has kept us informed with some very encouraging updates from the Hanga translators (please let me know if you have not seen the Literacy Day celebration report) It is clear that the literacy programme is helping to sustain the Hanga language for the future and the Bible is being read by non-believers as a textbook. This is a great evangelistic tool to bring Hanga people to Christ and we look to God to speak into their hearts.

We know from Rosemary's previous correspondence how complicated her day-to-day life is in coping with Geoffrey and his dementia. We need to support her in prayer on an ongoing basis.

Good news from **Stephen & Nikki Childs** is that Eion continues to improve and grow stronger. We thank God for answer to prayer and ask Him to continue to uphold the family and give them faith to hold onto His promises at this time. Please pray that the Castlebar Church is able to support the family and be a great witness to God at this Easter time. The message of hope and eternal life is exciting and needs to be shared by all of us when we have an opportunity.

Every blessing,

Christopher

Missionary Secretary

March Moments

We celebrated some 'significant' birthday's in March Christopher's 70th – sharing cake with



Colette (Ann making up a trio of birthdays on 6th) Karen turned 60 on 20th. It is always good to share fellowship after the service.



A special thank you to Doreen who provided a wonderful **Happy Sunday** cake on 24th. Sadly, it was Doreen's last Sunday with



us as she takes up a new job in Sheffield. We pray that she settles in quickly and God will lead her to a church where she will feel



welcome and be a blessing to.

A huge thank you to all those who provided food for our Bring & Share

lunch on that Sunday too – what a delicious variety of hot and cold, sweet and savoury delights. This was followed by our Annual General Meeting led by Mandy. It is 6 years since Mandy was first approached to be our 'Facilitator'. According to Wikipedia, a facilitator is *a person who helps a group of people to work together better, understand their common objectives and plan how to achieve these objectives*. Mandy is fulfilling all those things and more. Having encouraged us, motivated and maybe shaking us up a bit (in a positive way!). Plus of course her ministry alongside Richard, Keith and Judith. Mandy retired as pastor at her previous church and is giving more time to us and the work we are doing. It is wonderful to see how the Lord is bringing us together and guiding us to be more effective.

It is great to welcome Christopher & Phil onto the diaconate.

Thank you to them, the re-elected deacons and all those who faithfully serve in so many different ways.

Deacons Roles & Responsibilities

I Corinthians 12 talks about different parts of the body of Christ. Going forward each deacon will head up and be responsible for a ministry area. They will build a team of willing helpers to share the load!

- Caroline – Membership. Communication. Governance.
- Christopher – Outreach in the community. Mission across the world.
- Karen – Prayer Ministry.
- Marlies – Worship. Catering.
- Norma – Welcome & meet and greet.
- Phil – Maintenance. Health & Safety.
- Richard – Treasurer. Technology. Publicity.

Fellowship News

We continue to pray for those in the fellowship in their various situations Our loving heavenly Father knows their needs and provides in ways beyond our understanding. We especially think of Ann, Audrey, Colette, Judith, Linda, Karen, Norma, Pastor C, Peggy, Richard, Selina and Zadie.

The new Church Address Book is out! This is available to all those who are listed in the book. Please remember that contact details are confidential and should not be passed onto anyone not listed in the book without their permission.

From the end of March, we no longer live-stream morning Worship except for special occasions. If you have been joining us online we would love to welcome you in person. You can still listen to the Podcast and readings. The link to these can be found on our website www.oakwoodbaptistchurch.org.uk Recordings are uploaded in the afternoon and available in the evening or Monday.

A time of blessing on Maundy Thursday evening as we shared a meal together. Mandy led us in a Communion Service, remembering the time leading up to Christ's suffering and death. As our publicity states - A lot can happen in 3 days. Christ died, was buried and on the 3rd day He rose again! Alleluia!



Join the Celebration

Sunday 23rd June 2024

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Whether you're into football or the Olympics there is always something to celebrate – so come and join us for an afternoon of celebration and fun for all ages including a bouncy castle for the younger children!

Delicious refreshments including hot dogs and a variety of homemade cakes served with tea, coffee or soft drinks.

There will be time to relax and catch up with friends and neighbours.

Claire will be leading the North London Singers in a variety of songs some to sing along to - plus of course a brass band.

Put the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you!

FREE ENTRY

The Mystery of

Saturday 28th September

For those of you at the AGM you may have spotted this in the calendar for later this year. Has the title intrigued you? We're going to keep it a mystery for a bit longer but put the date in your diary. It will be an afternoon where you can put your Sherlock Holmes, Poirot or Miss Marple expertise to the test. No pipe or magnifying glass required!

Missionary Sunday – 5th May 2024

We are delighted to welcome a speaker from Wycliffe Bible Translators
Lunch will follow the service and a list will be available at the back of the church from 14th April for you to add your name to if you would like to stay.

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.

The Daffodil

I find the humble daffodil, though considered a March flower because it embodies the colour and seasonal appearance that heralds spring, is still able to help me as a spiritual tool of remembrance beyond its shelf life.

In our 'spring forward' of time we should be '**pressing on towards the goal**'...ever looking forward to Jesus. This resurrection of glorious colour rising upward from the dark grave of winter's sleep reminds me of our own Easter celebrations. ***He is risen! Alleluia!*** So here are some interesting facts as to why we can use the humble daffodil creatively in our remembering.

It is believed that Daffodils represent cheerfulness and should only be given in bunches to provide happiness. Let this remind us to '**assemble**' and to '**count everything as joy**' to know steadfastness of faith. We are to '**consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching**' (Hebrews 20 24-25)

Daffodils were brought to Britain by the Romans.

Although St Augustine is credited with bringing Christianity to Britain in AD 597, it already had been imported by Roman merchants in the 4th Century!

Not only the Saviour Jesus, but also The Gospel story of grace and salvation's magnificence could not remain buried and has since flown around the world!

Thankfully, for us!

To give only one daffodil was considered to bring misfortune. God said, '**It is not good for the man to be alone**' (they also went into the ark in twos) whilst also acknowledging it is a gift for some not to marry.

Daffodils are said to represent friendship and new beginnings. In China they are the official New Year symbol, They represent hope in France and joy in Japan.

We are constantly told to '**rejoice in the Lord**' to '**hope in the Lord**', to renew our strength and to '**watch in hope**' for the Lord.

Our dear Lord Jesus offers us a new beginning in Him. He offers us friendship for obedience...'**I call you friends...**' and what is His command?

'The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent. (John 6:29)

Jesus replied: **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."** This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: **'Love your neighbour as yourself.'** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)

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Daffodils are fatal if ingested unsupervised but apparently powerful modern medicine in treating Alzheimer's disease! Lest we forget....

Let us not lose our 'Alleluias!' as outward symbols fade, both in the natural world and the fervour of marketing fires dwindle in their 'pressing forward'. Our eyes remain fixed on the prize! The Outcome of Easter is richly Present! He is risen!

Jesus is alive! If we use the humble daffodil's beautiful presence to ignite our remembering, long after they are visible, we will recall the joys of spring, the cheerfulness, the hope, the signs and wonder and associate them with much more...'**a better, greater hope that draws us nearer to God**' (Hebrews 7:19)

.....Jesus!

Written by Karen Palmer

Alba Sinfonia

Derek Holland conductor
Lucy Cumming leader

Saturday 20th April 2024, 7pm

**Oakwood Baptist Church
Merrivale London N14 4TE**

Mozart	Don Giovanni Overture †
Fauré	Pavane †
Mendelssohn	Violin concerto in D minor Emma Shaughnessy (violin)
Weber	Concertino for Clarinet and Orchestra Adele Gordon (clarinet)
Holst	Fugal Concerto Emma Brown (flute) Barry Solomon (oboe)
Schubert	Symphony 6 in C

† conducted by guest conductor Jonathan Rawlinson

Free Admission

Donations welcome in aid of Enfield Food Bank

www.albasinfonia.com



Birthdays this month

Wishing you a very 'Happy Birthday' from everyone at Oakwood.

4th Selina Kent
15th Linda Young
22nd David Beckingham
25th Caroline Edmonds

Contact Details

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Facilitator	Rev. Mandy James Mobile: 07711 319494 Email: mandbaptist@btopenworld.com
Secretary	Mrs Caroline Edmonds Tel: 01707 657471, Mobile: 07989 917871 Email: info@oakwoodbaptistchurch.org.uk
Designated person for Safeguarding	Contact: Mrs Lucretia Riley Tel: 07780 386101
Parents & Toddlers	Tuesdays Mornings 10:00 – 11:30 (Term time only) Contact: Stan Fenn Tel: 07914 834491
Hall Bookings	Email: info@oakwoodbaptistchurch.org.uk Please note no Sunday bookings taken

Our thanks to Mike for printing and distributing this monthly newsletter.

If you have some news you would like to share with the fellowship, please pass it to Caroline by Sunday 21st April.