

# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 12th January 2025

*All Age*

## THE CHURCH IS:

**UP**

Worshipping God

**IN**

A God-like community

**OUT**

Sharing the  
Good News  
about Jesus

"As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:4-5



## UP, IN, OUT

An All-Age service with Simon Grimes

There is a great song by Godfrey Birtill called 'The die has been cast'.

The lyrics to the chorus are:

*"I've got to get up, I've got to get out,  
I've got to get in, the purpose of God."*



It's our first All Age service of the year and we are going to be looking at what the Church is. Together we will see that the Church needs to be UP, IN and OUT.

Up – Worshipping God

In – A God-like community

Out – Sharing the good news about Jesus

### **NEXT Week (19<sup>TH</sup>)**

Chris Short will be preaching at next week's morning service, beginning a new series on the Sermon on the Mount.

Our fortnightly prayer meeting will be at 6.30pm.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Following the holiday period, things are pretty much back to normal next week as far as staff movements are concerned, with the usual pattern of days off.

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	off Mon	Phil	in Tues am, Wed,Thurs pm
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed & Fri mornings	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs am	Lucy	in Wed am, Thurs, Fri am
Sandra	off Thurs	Jez	in Mon, Wed & Fri

## Senior Minister

Chris Short

## PA to Senior Minister

Sandra Taylor

## Family Ministries

Simon Grimes - Children

## Church Administrator

Colin McMahon

## Caretaker

Kevin Virgo

## CAP Debt Centre Manager

Phil Papps

## CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

## Treasurer

Mark Evason

## Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

## Ministry Assistants

Tim Nunn (Discipleship)

Lucy Craggs (Women)

## Life Group Coordinator and interim Youth Leader

Jez Taylor

## Staff contact details:

*firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk*  
(eg chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

## VBC Bank Details

*Account Name:*

Victoria Baptist Church Trust

*Account Number:* 00010297

*Sort Code:* 40-52-40

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

- Sun 12 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office  
 10.00am All-Age Service @ 10 with Simon Grimes  
 6.00pm Evening Service
- Mon 13 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 14 7.15pm Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
- Wed 15 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
 8.30am Community Fridge  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 6.30pm Boys Brigade
- Thu 16 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)  
 10.15am Men's Fellowship with Chris Short  
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Wendy Piccinini (Leprosy Mission)  
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting  
 evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)
- Fri 17 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 12.30pm Friends, Food & Fellowship  
 5.00pm Kids Club  
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 18 9.00am Ladies Prayer Breakfast with Frances Hall
- Sun 19 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office  
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short  
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting

**The Week Ahead**

**Preaching Engagements** *Please remember in prayer*

- Francis Bates Jan 19 Punnetts Town , 2.30pm  
 Erik Cornelisse Jan 12 Horam Chapel, 10.30am  
 Erik Cornelisse Jan 19 Horam Chapel, 10.30am

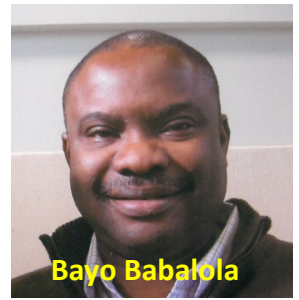


Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb  
 Hope Lebedyn anniversary event at 4pm

# GREETINGS FROM BATTERSEA CHAPEL

## 2024 - A Year of Mixed Blessings

Although the year was a challenging one, we have so many reasons to give thanks to the Lord. We give thanks to God for His faithfulness and His abundant grace. He has bestowed upon us.



We started the year 2024 mindful that Jude would be sitting his “A” levels and Joshua, his GCSEs. They put in a lot of effort and both did well.

Jude did well in his A Levels and is now studying web security at the Kingston University. Joshua did better than we expected and is now studying Animation and Game Design at Richmond College in Twickenham. Jojo also did well, progressed to year 10 and will be sitting her GCSC next academic year in June. They have all settled well in London, using the trains and buses comfortably now. All Glory to God; It took a while for us to let go.

Deneese has been a rock-solid support to us all. She is making time for us all and making sure we are all well settled. The Lord is opening doors for her working with year six students in a few schools in London, invigilating mock exams and covering for year six teachers. It is a beautiful experience when she shares her own experiences with us as we all share our weekly stories.



Our main Church highlight this year is that three people gave their lives to Jesus in the Church during our Sunday services this year and one person outside the church building during outreach. We did pray asking God to confirm to us if we are on the right track after three years in London. God encouraged us and our spirits lifted that we are progressing. Three out of the four are presently taking discipleship sessions using “The Turning” manual. Their Water Baptism will be on Easter Sunday 2025 by God’s Grace.

Please, continue to pray for us; we are asking for open doors in London Battersea and that we remain in the perfect will of God. Please, pray for us for God’s Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation. Thank you all.

*(For new readers and members, Bayo Adebola was at VBC for a number of years, latterly in the position of Minister-in-Training. He took on the role as Senior Minister at Battersea Chapel in April 2021)*

## CAP Update

christians  
against  
poverty

CAP

We are thankful to God that we start this new year with a client going debt free! This has been a journey of over 3 years working with CAP to get to this point - we are constantly reminded of the resilience and determination of our clients in the face of so many difficulties. Please pray that they will find further hope in 2025.

We wanted to share with you a few other things to give thanks to God for:

- We have had 3 clients attend VBC in recent months, responding to our invitations to come along.
- We continue to offer prayer with each client and many accept and so we have had the privilege of praying with them.
- We have shared scriptures and Biblical stories too, when this has been appropriate.
- We have discussed an experience of deep peace one client had at a church event in their childhood.
- We have had a conversation with one client about attending Alpha to explore their questions about life and its purpose.
- We have talked with one client about their interest in getting baptised.
- All clients that go debt free are given a booklet called 'Amazing Exchange - What Jesus offers you'
- One of our clients who went debt free in 2024, and who moved to another part of the country where they found work, contacted us over Christmas to say they have become a Christian. He describes himself as "an active member of God's Kingdom" - and he states that his "life in the 'grave'...is over!"

Thank you so much for your support through donating items, volunteers who packed and delivered hampers, those who gave financially and to those who prayed for our Christmas Hamper programme. It was a huge ...

... effort (special thanks to Lesley) at a busy time of year but well worth it. We delivered to 41 families, couples or individuals and it made a huge difference to so many at a challenging time of year. A few of the responses and expressions of thanks were:

- I just wanted to say a big thank you, this ..... has nearly brought me to tears in the best way possible.
- Wow! What a great surprise to receive an amazing gift...many thanks to you all and to the remarkable work that CAP performs.
- I received my hamper from the Church this afternoon. I am overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone. It's so much more than I imagined. Please thank everyone at the Church from me.
- I appreciated the hamper that I received today and was shocked - it's amazing. You are amazing people!
- It was perfect, thank you!!!
- I was astonished at your generosity!

Please keep praying for our CAP ministry. We have a number of really tricky cases that seem to be stuck and mean that the struggle that the clients are facing seem never ending. We need some breakthroughs in these cases - please pray for this. Thank you again for your support.

*Phil Papps. VBC CAP Debt Centre Manager*

## **Evening Service**

We will be having three trial, 6pm, Sunday Evening Services on the second Sunday of each month, starting today (12<sup>th</sup>) and then on 9<sup>th</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> March.

The idea of having a Sunday evening service at VBC is not a new one: they have taken place in the past and the idea of starting them again has been talked about for the last few years. The issue of actually starting one has come down to, 'Is this God's timing?' These thoughts have also been influenced by the Church Holy Spirit Day on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and the desire to create an environment where there is more opportunity to allow the Holy Spirit to work freely.

The style of the service has been influenced by a group in their twenties and we hope to see young adults enjoying the evening service followed by hotdogs and drinks. The service is open to all ages.



## THEIR DEEDS WILL FOLLOW THEM

Two people died in the second half of last year who are worth taking note of. Timothy Dudley-Smith (TDS) on the 12<sup>th</sup> August, bishop and noted hymn writer, and the centenarian Jimmy Carter, 29<sup>th</sup> December, 39<sup>th</sup> president of the United States. They have much to teach us from their beliefs, lives and calling.

TDS (born 26/12/26) was best known for his hymn writing, he wrote about four hundred, and was one of those who helped ignite the late twentieth century explosion in Christian song writing. Some of his better known hymns are: 'Tell out my soul', 'Lord of the years' and the Christmas carol, 'Holy child, how still you lie'. Not bad for a man who was not musical and dependant on others to provide the tunes; most notably his life-long friend Michael Baughen, one time Rector of All Souls, Langham Place, London.

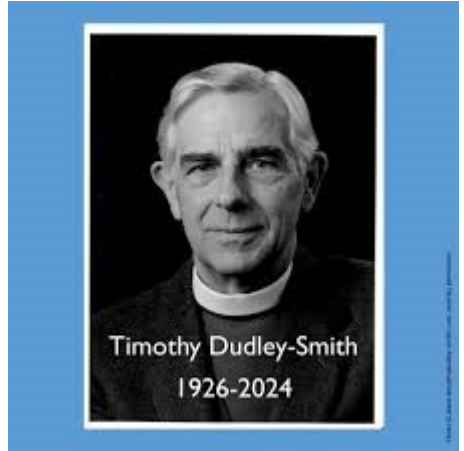
What he lacked in music, though, he made up for in choice of words and rhyme, which he was master of, using an elevated yet accessible diction that has a timeless quality and usually followed the ABAB rhyming meter. Above all, his hymns were Bible- based, Christ centred and joyful, reflecting his evangelical convictions.

He wrote many of his hymns on holiday in his beloved Cornwall, beside the sandy beaches near the Lizard, rising early to find inspiration and then join his family to surf on the waters. He gave himself wholeheartedly to writing Christian songs, describing it as 'the hymn writers privilege to offer to worshippers words in which to clothe and express the aspirations and emotions of the heart.'



The other life worth pondering was Jimmy Carter (born 1/10/24), the peanut farmer from the small city of Plains, Georgia, who unashamedly declared his Baptist born again faith when becoming president, taking the oath on the Bible his mother gave him, reading from Micah 6:8, 'He has

told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?' and promising always 'to tell the American people the truth.'





He saw no obstacle to combining politics and faith declaring, *'You cannot divorce religious belief and public service. I've never detected any conflict between the two'* though that was tested with his personal beliefs against abortion being different to the party line but he found his way through.

His four year presidency had its difficulties, especially with the economy and Iran but his most notable success was getting Sadat of Egypt and Begin of Israel to agree the Camp David Peace Accords in 1978 between their two countries.



That was a precursor to his post presidency work for peace and helping the poor internationally at the Carter Centre for which he became more famous and won the Nobel Peace prize in 2002, motivated by Jesus' words, *'Blessed are the peacemakers'* (Matt 5:9).

In these endeavours he worked hard into old age alongside his wife Rosalynn with whom he shared 77 years of marriage. He returned to live in the same single-floor, 2 bed house he occupied before becoming president (its value less than the secret service vehicles parked outside to protect him) and taught Sunday School in the local Baptist Church. *'It was never my intention to be rich'*, he said and, true to his word, he never accepted any financial remuneration from talks and support he gave to different people and groups after leaving the White House. May God raise up other Christian politicians of such integrity and influence in our day.

Both men exemplified lives lived well, rooted and inspired by their Christian beliefs, using their gifts to glorify God and benefit their fellow man. Of such the scripture says, *'Blessed indeed are the dead who die in the Lord, that they may rest from their labours, for their deeds will follow them.'* (Rev.14:13). May we be inspired to use the talents God gives us to show the same dedication.

*John Demetriou*



Pastor Bohdan and the trustees of Hope Lebedyn send our thanks to the brothers and sisters in Victoria Baptist Church for the offerings taken over Christmas. Gifts given totalled £5,111 including gift aid. This includes gifts given directly to Hope Lebedyn. We have been blown away by this level of generosity and it will help fund so much more of the work through this next season. Thank you too for your ongoing prayers which are equally as valuable. We are blessed to have a "sister" church that supports the work and ministry in this way. THANK YOU!

## PRAYER DIARY : 13<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> Jan

*“By this will all men know that you are my disciples , if you love one another”*

*John 13:35*

**Monday** Lord, we pray for our Christian friends across the world who are in the terror of war or in fear of persecution. We pray for those who have had to leave their homes and seek refuge away from all they have known. We ask that they may know that You are their refuge and pray that we may be Your hands and feet to extend Your love in their need. We pray for the work and workers of NetworX and for those who have joined our fellowship. Thank You for *Breeze Translate*, the new translation app. We pray that this will help Your Word to reach healing hearts.

**Tuesday** Father God, we pray for our sister church in Ukraine and for the struggles of cold, especially during power cuts. We pray for their safety from military action, we pray that members of the team will not be called up to fight. We give thanks for the crowded Christmas service and pray that Your word will flourish in the hearts and minds of those who heard it. We give thanks for the work of Hope Lebedyn and pray that the outreach to schools and the community will be able to continue.

**Wednesday** Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the Christian influence in this town. We are thankful for conferences, retreat centres, and places of teaching all around us. Help us not to take them for granted. We lift to You the ministry of local Christian charities and the work of Churches Together. We pray that those who hosted carols, and other outreaches this past Christmas, will see fruit from their labour. We lift to You the upcoming week of prayer for Christian unity and ask that those considering attending will be convicted and those who have signed up will be blessed. Thank You that Your Word is flickering in this town.

**Thursday** In a time when opinions differ, we ask for compromise and love to prevail. In a time when people are hurt and damaged by others, we ask that healing takes place and reconciliation can be achieved. We ask that, by Your Holy Spirit, we “make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” Romans 14:19. Lord, give those who are seeking answers to difficult questions Your peace and integrity to search Your will, to seek to serve faithfully, and to know that they are loved by You.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

**Friday** We pray for those who have been rooted here at Victoria Baptist, but have gone out from this place to serve elsewhere. We lift the ministries of Bayo in Battersea, of Emma in Gosport, of Darren in the New Forest and of Neil in Brighton. We ask that Your Word will spread with love in those places. We pray for these friends and their families in the year ahead and give thanks for the times when they are able to reunite with old friends here.

**Saturday** Lord God, we pray for our country. We pray that compassion, integrity and humility will coat all those who are in a position of leadership. We pray for parents, teachers, decision makers and politicians. We ask that the huge issues, such as child poverty, AI, exploitation, crime, economy and education, be addressed in a spirit of cooperation and love and that resources are not squandered. We ask in hope, that a real change of unity and genuine concern for others will prevail and that the light of Christ will not be smothered in this land. We pray strength for Christian people of influence.

**Sunday** Lord God, we give thanks for our own friends at Victoria. Help us to worship in one mind today, to be open to the message we hear, and rejoice in the fellowship we find in these walls. We give thanks for Chris and the whole team and pray for the search for the Head of Family ministries. We ask that all we do will be in line with Your purposes and that we will honour Jesus in all things. We give thanks for all the ministries that seek to serve our fellowship and community. We ask that our words and actions will be united by Your love.



English not your first language?

Would you benefit from reading the sermon in your chosen language?

If so, we have a solution for you!

## Breeze Translate

On Sunday morning, scan the QR code on posters at the door and you will be able to choose a language for the sermon to be translated into.

As our preacher talks, you will get the translation on your phone or tablet in real time!

## Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by  
**Chris & Sue Coles**



*A big thank you to my church family for the beautiful flowers I received on the occasion of my rather large birthday! They were so much appreciated. GB*



There are only 5 dates left blank for donations before Easter so do get in quickly if you have a particular date in mind when you would like to fill a gap. Contact Chris McMahon for further info.