



Sunday 15th October 2023

Victoria Baptist Church News

Take the first fish
you catch;
open its mouth ...
and you will find ...
a coin.



MATTHEW 17: 27 (NIV)

Live in church and online



VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH
to see Jesus Christ honoured in Eastbourne and beyond

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CHRIS SHORT

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MATTHEW 17:22-27

The Essential Jesus – A Fish Called Wonder

“Go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four drachma coin.” (Matt. 17:27)

Jesus performed some astonishing miracles. None of them, however, can match this one for complexity. Most of Jesus’ miracles have an elegant simplicity about them. He turns water into wine, He walks on water, He heals with a touch or a word. It all appears fairly effortless and straightforward but then we come to this miracle. Why does He do it this way? It seems unnecessarily complicated.

If He could make a packed lunch to feed a vast crowd, how hard would it be to reach in His pocket and pull out a coin that hadn’t been there a moment before? Why does He do it this way? What does this miracle teach us?

And how does understanding this passage help us to think about the challenges of life we face in a complicated and dangerous world? How does it help us understand the horrors we see playing out in the land of Jesus’ birth and what we should do in response?



TONIGHT at 6.30pm - Prayer Meeting

Please join us tonight for our fortnightly prayer meeting, led by Chris Short.

Next Sunday

Chris will be leading our 10am service and Ian Coffey will be preaching.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the coming week.

Chris off Tuesday
Sandra off Wed & Thurs
Erik off Thursday
Simon annual leave
Julie in Thursday

Colin off Monday
Kevin off Saturday
Tim in Wed & Fri am
Jez in Friday
Helen in Mon, Wed
Nadine in Mon, Thurs

Senior Minister

Chris Short

PA to Senior Minister

Sandra Taylor

Family Ministries

Simon Grimes - Children

Erik Cornelisse - Youth

Church Administrator

Colin McMahon

Caretaker

Kevin Virgo

CAP Debt Centre Manager

Helen Diplock

CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

Treasurer

Mark Evason

Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

Pastoral Team Leader

Tim Nunn

Life Group Coordinator

Jez Taylor

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Victoria Baptist Church Trust

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Sort Code: 40-52-40

Staff contact details:

firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk

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

Sun	15	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live & Online with Chris Short
		6.30pm	Prayer Meeting
		7.00pm	Xcav8
Mon	16	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
		7.30pm	CLT Meeting
Tues	17	6.45pm	Alpha - "Why did Jesus die?"
			Soaking in the Spirit - next meeting 24 th Oct
Wed	18	8.30am	Community Fridge and Cafe
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		6.30pm	Boys Brigade
Thu	19	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		10.00am	Alpha (Ladies only) - "How can we have faith?"
		10.15am	Men's Fellowship with Robin Eldridge
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Carl Slezacek
		7.30pm	Ukraine Prayer Meeting
Fri	20	10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect
Sat	21	9.00am	CLT Morning Away
Sun	22	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live & Online with Ian Coffey
		6.30pm	Behold the Man
		7.00pm	Xcav8

The Week Ahead

Fri-Sun 20-22 Boys Brigade Staycation at VBC

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*

David Laskey	15 Oct	Ringmer Baptist Church, 10.30am
Brian Wightwick	15 Oct	Trinity, Willingdon, 10.30am
Erik Cornelisse	15 Oct	Horam Chapel. 10.30am
Francis Bates	22 Oct	Halland Chapel, 11am
Brian Wightwick	22 Oct	Broadway United, Hampden Park 10am
Francis Bates	25 Oct(Wed)	Gordon Rd Evangelical, Hailsham 2.30pm



Flow Café



A big thank you to all who supported Flow Café last Saturday. We had a great morning of chat, craft, crochet, coffee and crispy bacon rolls - added to which, we raised £200 for the CAP Ministry.

Next month we will be meeting on November 11th and all proceeds will be going to Linking Lives Eastbourne.

<https://www.linkingliveseastbourne.com/>



Reminder - FFF



There is no *Friends, Food & Fellowship* in October - the next one will be on Friday Nov 17th and a sign-up sheet is available in the Welcome Centre.

Ladies Prayer Breakfast

The next Saturday morning prayer breakfast will be on 4th November, 9am-10.30am. The event will comprise a light breakfast followed by a talk from VBC member, Anakarina Rothe, and prayer.



Ladies Italian Night



Please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre if any of you ladies would like to join us for an evening at *Pomodoro e Mozzarella* in Cornfield Terrace on Wed 15th Nov. We will meet at 7pm and would remind you that you are of course paying for your own meal!

Fine Young Dutchman!

... seeks uni accommodation in Aberdeen.

He will be studying from January up to six months. Does anyone have any contacts there who might have a room they could hire out? He will be studying at the Robert Gordon Uni. Contact Erik for details (it's his nephew) THANK YOU !!



PRAYER DIARY 16TH - 22ND OCTOBER

“Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.” Psalm 32

Monday You bring freedom to Your people, Lord, through Your forgiveness; a happiness, a blessedness. Just as David turned to God for forgiveness in this Psalm and received it, we can turn to You freely for the forgiveness of our transgressions. Thank You, Lord, that when we confess our sins, You forgive, and those sins are no longer counted against us.

Tuesday Thank You, Lord, that when we walk in the light with You, and have fellowship with one another, the blood of Jesus ‘cleanses us from all sin’ The pollution of sin has been removed. Thank You for cleansing us from sin and taking away the burden of guilt and shame. “If the Son sets you free, you really will be free” John 8:36

Wednesday Thank You, Father, that You reconciled us to Yourself through Christ. Thank You that we can come to You with our prayers and be in a right relationship with You. We pray today for our friends and family who do not yet know the freedom given by the Son and carry the burden of the guilt of their sins. Please set them free.

Thursday Help us, Lord, to be a community marked by our ability to forgive others. As we receive Your forgiveness may we want to forgive others. *“Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart” - Corrie Ten Boom.* May our neighbours see the fruit of the Spirit abundantly in us.

Friday Thank You, Lord, for Your word and that we read in Psalm 32 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go...” You guide us each day. May we be open to Your guidance and humble ourselves before You. May we bring salt, light and peace in our community. We ask, Father, for peace in communities where there is conflict. We lift up to You the peace-builders in those communities, may You guide their steps.

Saturday God of all nations, we pray today for Israel and Gaza. We pray for those grieving the sudden loss of loved ones, captives and those whose homes have been destroyed. May You raise up peacemakers on both sides who seek diplomacy in this crisis. We pray for Your churches and faith leaders across the region as they look to help others and bridge divides.

Sunday Psalm 32 ends with the words ‘Rejoice in the LORD and be glad...’ As we gather today, may we rejoice in the love and forgiveness we receive from our Lord Jesus Christ. May we be glad. We pray for Ian Coffey as he brings Your word to us today, may You inspire his words through Your Spirit.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

A Foodbank Harvest



Please extend our gratitude to the congregation of Victoria Baptist Church for their generous Harvest Festival donations. You may be interested to know that the donation weighed in at an amazing 231.7kg. Each year we look forward to seeing the abundance of interesting groceries donated from Harvest Festival collections. We appreciate that during a cost of living crisis, which is impacting on people's choices, your Church continue to be so kind and thoughtful. In 2021 we provided 150,790 meals, in 2022 we calculated 282,500 meals, a staggering 87% increase. As we approach the end of September we have already provided 230,850 meals. We will continue to campaign to see an end for the need of large-scale foodbanks.

We believe by sharing and caring we can make a real difference - and you have!
Kind Regards Nicola (Admin Team)



**Flower
Ministry**

*Harvest flowers
were kindly
donated by a
friend of VBC.*



FLOWER MINISTRY

The flowers on display the week before last were donated by Nancy Houston



Thank you to our new church family for the lovely flowers delivered. We have been made to feel so welcome since first attending six months ago. The Lord holds our church in His loving arms.

Rosemary & Leon

Would you please thank whoever it was who delivered the flowers for Rod & I this morning?

In our morning prayers today we were thanking God for the care Victoria shows, especially to us older folk. It's so lovely to know that there is always someone to turn to if needed. It means an awful lot. Rod & Gill



We still have the dates below to fill for 2023 if you would like to donate the flowers. See Chris McMahon for details.

Nov 19th OR 26th

Dec 10th, 17th