



VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 16th February 2025



VICTORIA

Baptist Church

16th Feb

Baptism

Service



The Sermon on the Mount – Peace & Persecution

**“Blessed are the peacemakers
for they will be called the children of God.” (Matt. 5:9)**

This Sunday morning we’re going to hear four testimonies and witness three baptisms. We’re also going to welcome lots of visitors to church, some who have travelled from Holland to be with us. Please make them welcome and pray for Lillie, Grada and Steve as they prepare to be baptised.

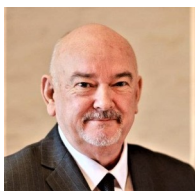


We’ll also be continuing our series in the Sermon on the Mount with the last three beatitudes. When Jesus spoke these words His first hearers could have no idea the impact they would have, and that people from all nations would hear them and be baptised as His followers.

These last three statements (Matt. 5:9-12) give us clear direction about how we are to live, the response we should expect and what that tells us about the world and our future. I hope you’ll be able to join us.

TONIGHT

We have our fortnightly prayer meeting at 6.30pm.



Next Sunday (23RD Feb)

Eddie Lyle will be preaching at the 10am service. Eddie is the former President of Open Doors UK & Ireland and is coming to us in his capacity as a trustee of Hope Lebedyn.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for this coming week

Chris in Mon, off Tues-Fri
Colin off Mon
Kevin off Sat
Tim in Wed & Fri am
Nadine in Mon & Thurs am
Sandra off Thurs

Phil in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm
Simon off Tues
Julie in Thurs
Lucy in Wed am, Thurs, Fri am
Jez working from home

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

01323 737974

Eldon Road, Eastbourne BN21 1UE

helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

- Sun 16 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Baptismal Service, Live @ 10 with Chris Short
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8!
- Mon 17 7.30pm CLT meeting
- Tue 18 Soaking in the Spirit - next meeting Feb 25th
- Wed 19 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.30am Community Fridge
- Thu 20 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.15am Men's Fellowship - Dave Windsor (Air Ambulance)
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Mike Wager
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
 7.30pm Bible Journalling
 evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)
- Fri 21 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 12.30pm Friends, Food & Fellowship
- Sat 22 4.00pm Hope Lebedyn Anniversary Event
- Sun 23 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Eddie Lyle
 7.00pm Xcav8!

The Week Ahead



- Wed 26th Feb** Members' Church Meeting
Wed 5th Mar Men's Curry Night
Sat 29th Mar Messy Church for Adults, 7pm-9pm
Sun 30th Mar Prospective Members' Meeting, 5pm

Family News

We can confirm that the committal for Tony Waters will be held on Thurs 6th March at Eastbourne Crematorium, followed by the Thanksgiving Service here at VBC at 2.30pm. Winnie Watkins' committal will be on Wed 5th March at 10.30am, also at Eastbourne Crematorium.



Congratulations to Berit Miles who celebrates her 90th birthday today (Sunday 16th).

A very big **THANK YOU** for your contributions at Flow Café last Saturday . We raised £500 for the Children with Cancer (Polegate) Fund. The next Flow Cafe will be on Sat 8th March.



Gather ∴ Eastbourne

SATURDAY 1ST MARCH 2025

Imagine the 2.5 billion Christians in the world praying together on one day for the 5.5 billion who do not yet know Jesus.

That's the ambitious aim of Gather 25: a 25 hour cycle of prayer in which every home, home group, congregation and area-wide church can join.

The themes of the day are worship, prayer, repentance and commissioning.

HERE IN EASTBOURNE: each individual and local church is invited to take part by planning their own bespoke prayer programme during the day, either corporately, in small groups, in a 'chain of prayer' or at an agreed time at home.

And from 6.30pm onwards meet all together at THE GATEWAY CENTRE in Lottbridge Drive, BN22 9BP to join the Gather 25 global live-stream from London at 7pm and to pray together for our town, our country and our world.

Check out more and register your interest at:

www.gather25.com

Pray Eastbourne Team is happy to facilitate this exciting initiative.
Please let us know if you plan to take part by emailing:

prayeastbourne@aol.com

PRAY *Eastbourne*

www.prayeastbourne.co.uk



The trustees and the team in Lebedyn invite you to a service to mark 3 years of the war in Ukraine. We will be meeting here at VBC at 4pm next Saturday (22nd) for a service of prayer, worship and updates on the work of the team in Lebedyn.

We are planning to hear (via Zoom) from Bohdan about the work he and the team are doing, and how we can continue to support them at this time. We want to thank God for all He is doing through the team and to show our support and love for our friends in Ukraine who are working so hard in such difficult circumstances.

Please join us if you can. If you are unable to come to the service, then you can join us online - details to be published nearer the time, but please contact the office if you think you will need this facility.

Monday *God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. Matthew 5:3.* Pray for those who are at rock bottom in life, or caught up in addictions, that God will rescue them and turn their lives around. Remember those who were baptized yesterday, thanking God for their testimonies. Pray for those who heard these testimonies and feel the need for God in their lives, that they may know the blessing of coming into God's Kingdom.

Tuesday *God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4.* Pray for those recently bereaved that they may know God's comfort. Pray for those who have lost family members in the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. Pray for those who have suffered other losses, which affect their lives, or are sad and depressed or lonely, especially anyone you know.

Wednesday *God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. Matthew 5:5* Pray that we may be like children in our relationship with God, never thinking we have made it and never losing the wonder of it all. Spend some time worshipping God.

Thursday *God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. Matthew 5:6.* Pray for those who seek justice for those suffering any form of oppression, whether it be people trafficking or abuse. Pray for our criminal justice system, and all who work within it, that God will give them the wisdom they need to ensure that people are treated fairly and justly.

Friday *God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7.* Pray for VBC activities and local organisations that seek to relieve people's suffering in various forms, such as CAP, Community Fridge, Matthew 25, Foodbank, Network, and Street Pastors. Thank God for the lives that have been changed and helped, and pray that God will continue to provide so that the work may continue.

Saturday *God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. Matthew 5:8.* Pray for grace to leave behind all those things which keep us from loving God so that He becomes our first love and we can know Him more fully each day as we look forward to that time when we will be in His presence forever. Pray for anyone you know who is weighed down with concerns, that they may experience their burdens being lifted as they cast their cares on Jesus. Pray for anyone you know who is being drawn away from God.

Sunday *God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9.* Pray for peace negotiations for the war in Ukraine, which has now lasted for three years, that there may be a lasting settlement so that people's lives can be rebuilt again. Pray especially for the children. Pray that the peace of God may rule in our hearts to which we were called in one body.

Seeing CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Part 7: Wisdom re. Sexuality and Beauty

(with the help of Tim Keller)

Proverbs 5:15-19

What an important subject in our modern society. The Book of Proverbs and the Bible have much to say on a healthy and wise attitude to sex and beauty by not underplaying or overplaying it and, most importantly, providing a solution to a healthy sexual outlook.

Firstly - not undervaluing it. Chapter 5 is full of male and female Jewish sexual terminology we might blush at, even today. For example, see verses 15,18, 19. But, at the same time, ruling strongly that this behaviour is confined to marriage, i.e. no casual sex v 16.

Secondly - not overvaluing sex and physical beauty. Our society is obsessed with this, to the extent that pornography is out of control for young men, women are obsessed with physical weight and appearances, and illnesses such as anorexia are on the increase. For both men and women, paradoxically this leads to alienation and isolation as they have difficulty finding the 'perfect partner'. Proverbs and the Bible put the emphasis more on the inner beauty in addition to the external attraction. It is put very graphically in Prov 11:22, *"Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion."*, i.e. If you are just attracted by externals you are 'a fool' and you are going to mess up your life like the pig wallowing in the mire!



So, what is the solution? - It is very difficult to change such mindsets locked into 'beauty' and 'false/fake coverings' by ourselves. We need the help of an external power and, as we have seen previously, God and Christ provide a solution. Despite us turning our back on God He wants to return us to Himself and Eph.5:23-32 tells us how **Christ 'gave himself up for us' to make us holy and beautiful' without spot or wrinkle' (even 'all beautiful within' as Ps.45:13 KJV reminds us).** Not only that, we have **Christ's example of 'true beauty'** for Isaiah53:2 tells us, *'He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.'* Why did Jesus come in such an 'unattractive' form? To shock and shake us out of our misguided false view of what beauty is and point us to that *'inner beauty'* (Prov. 31:30) more precious than jewels. God give us grace not to follow the ideas and practices of this world but follow the Bible's instruction.

You can hear a full account of this sermon at:

[The Temptation of Beauty – Gospel in Life](#)

Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Hilary Irvine
in memory of family members



Was lovely to get flowers from the church this morning, a lovely surprise! Please pass on our thanks to the flower team. A&RW

