



Sunday 17th September 2023

**VICTORIA** Baptist Church News



**“Foxes have holes and birds have nests,  
but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”**  
*Matthew 8:20*

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

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## **MATTHEW 8:18-22**

### **The Essential Jesus – Foxes and Funerals**

**“Foxes have holes, birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.” (Matt. 8:20)**

Jesus hardly ever gives the answers we expect Him to give. We expect certain answers because we see the world in a certain way. He gives different answers because He sees the world in a different way. The key to wisdom and insight for us is to see the world through the eyes of Jesus.

In the passage we’re looking at this week, two men approach Jesus with discipleship on their minds. One offers to leave everything, the other to do the same after fulfilling the most sacred obligation. Jesus responds to them both in ways that seem very strange.

To the first He points to foxes; to the second He talks about funerals. The first shows us the cost of following Jesus, the second the value of following Him. Let’s pray that, as we consider these things together, God would open our eyes to see the world as Jesus sees it.

### **TONIGHT at 6.30PM**

The fortnightly Prayer Meeting will be taking place as usual. Please make every effort to join us, praying especially for the church family, its needs and activities.

### **NEXT Week - SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 10am**

Chris Short will be bringing us the next in his series, The Essential Jesus.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the coming week.

Chris off Tues  
Sandra off Thursday  
Erik off Thursday  
Simon off Tuesday  
Julie in Thursday

Colin off Monday  
Kevin off Saturday  
Tim in Wed & Fri am  
Jez in Wed & Fri am  
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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## VBC Bank Details

*Account Name:*

Victoria Baptist Church Trust

*Account Number:* 00010297

*Sort Code:* 40-52-40

Staff contact details:

*firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk*

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

Sun	17	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live & Online with Chris Short
		6.30pm	Prayer Meeting
		7.00pm	Xcav8
Mon	18	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
Tues	19	7.30pm	The Worship Service
			Soaking in the Spirit (next meeting 26th)
Wed	20	8.30am	Community Fridge and Cafe
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		6.30pm	Boys Brigade
Thu	21	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		10.15am	Men's Fellowship - meeting at Emmanuel Church, followed by lunch at The Smugglers
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Frances Hall
		7.30pm	Ukraine Prayer Meeting
Fri	22	10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect
Sat	23	9.00am	Ladies' Prayer Breakfast
Sun	24	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live & Online with Chris Short
		6.30pm	Behold the Man
		7.00pm	Xcav8

**The Week Ahead**



### **PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS** *Please remember in prayer*

Brian Wightwick	17 Sep	Broadway United, Hamp Park	10am
Brian Wightwick	17 Sep	Bernhard Baron CH	5pm
Brian Wightwick	24 Sep	Trinity, Willingdon	10.30am

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Church Members Meeting
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Men's Curry Night - details to follow later, just make a note of the date at this stage.
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ladies Italian Night - details to follow nearer the time



# HOPE<sup>into</sup> ACTION

## EASTBOURNE

*Enabling churches to house the homeless*

### How can EASTBOURNE CHURCHES HELP HOUSE THE HOMELESS?

Hope into Action now has more than 100 houses and supports over 350 people across the country. There are 3 properties in Eastbourne, overseen by the local Christian charity, Kingdom Way Trust, but we'd love to be able to offer more homes. This requires people to pray, invest, provide practical help, offer friendship, and support tenants.

Many people require support in various ways and the sense of belonging within a community is very positive. During the past five years, local churches have shown love and provided friendship and community to many individuals and families who have lived in our Hope into Action homes. There are many more people in Eastbourne who would benefit from a home and support.

If you are interested in how you and your church could respond to the need, please come and find out more about **Hope into Action** on **Monday 9th October 7.30pm at King's Church, 27 Edison Rd, BN23 6PT, Eastbourne.**

Jon Kuhrt, the new leader of Hope into Action, will be speaking. **We look forward to seeing you there.**

### RACHEL WIGHTWICK

Brian, Anne & family thank the VBC family for all of the cards and e-mails, and for the assurance of their prayers following the recent Home Call of their mother, Rachel. The postman has been kept busy with birthday cards and cards of condolence - all much valued. Thank You!

***Please remember to sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre if you would like to join Brian & Anne for refreshments after the Thanksgiving Service - 1pm on Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Sept.***



### FRIENDS, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

There will be no Friends, Food and Fellowship meal on 20<sup>th</sup> October as unfortunately we do not have sufficient helpers in the kitchen on this occasion. Many apologies for this.

## PRAYER DIARY 18<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

**Monday** Proverbs 22:6 “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Let us spend time praying for Christian parents to have God’s wisdom and guidance to train up their children in His ways. Today, everything in education and the world around them is trying hard to direct the children in the opposite direction - parents need us to pray for them.

**Tuesday** Psalm 12 seems to describe the days in which we live in many respects but we can be thankful for those who choose to lead Godly lives and encourage the younger generations to read, meditate on, and learn the words of God. Let us pray for Erik, Simon and all those who volunteer to spend time encouraging the children and young people connected with VBC to read, learn and meditate in The Bible. We also need to pray for more volunteers as the need is increasing. (KJV Psalm 12:6-7)

**Wednesday** Psalm 145:4 “One generation commends Your works to another; they tell of Your mighty acts.” Usually, this verse makes us think of older generations sharing with younger ones. However, if you were at the recent baptismal service, Max and Charlotte certainly declared God’s mighty works experienced already in their lives, as did Janet too. Please pray for them, for God’s protection, guidance and blessing as they continue in their new lives of love and obedience to Him after the joyous occasion of their baptisms.

**Thursday** Isaiah 46:4 “ ... Even to your old age and grey hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you, - In Romans we are told we are grafted into God’s chosen people when we trust in Jesus as our Saviour, so this wonderful promise in Isaiah is for those who are older. Like Janet, we can choose to listen to God’s voice, believe what He says to us and be obedient. So today, please pray for all who are in what you might call the older generations, asking that they will know that God knows them by name, sustains, carries and, where needed, rescues them. They are not forgotten but are valued by our heavenly Father and, in obedience, can contribute to the work of His kingdom, in active ways, or by prayer.

**Friday** John 2: ‘Do whatever He (Jesus) tells you.’ One of the greatest gifts God has given us is free will to choose. Even as believers we choose whether we obey Him or not, and choose whether we serve Him or not every day in every generation. There is no redundancy, nor retirement in our Heavenly Father’s Kingdom. So, whichever generation you find yourself in today, what is The Lord asking you to do for Him in a way that extends His Kingdom? Please spend time asking Him that question today to see what He wants you to be involved with for Him.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

**Saturday** Romans 10:13-14 “for ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” In every generation there are people with hearing loss, and those born deaf. Many people need to ‘see’ these truths not ‘hear’ them. Please pray for all in churches who struggle to hear in services and prayer meetings because of the deterioration of their hearing. Please also pray for the vision for British Sign Language to be used at Victoria Baptist Church in services, Alpha courses and prayer meetings so those born deaf, or deafened, can access the good news about salvation through the person and work of our Lord Jesus.

**Sunday** Colossians 1: “I have become its (the Church’s) servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Let us thank God that His truths are now available to all generations in most countries. Please pray for Rev Chris Short and those who have this servant teaching responsibility at Victoria. Ask God to continue teaching and growing them in their faith and understanding of His word. Ask God to protect them, and their families, from all evil. Also, please pray for any you know who are serving in other churches, and for those churches where these “glorious riches” are not being truthfully taught.



## BIBLE READING NOTES

Notes for Oct-Dec are in pigeonholes for those of you who have ordered them. Please confirm with me whether you would like to continue receiving them next year. Thank you - Sandra

## INVITATION TO COFFEE

We are in need of more people to help on the coffee rota as one team has had to drop out. If you are able to make and pour tea and coffee, then I'd like to invite you to join the team. You will be perfect for the job!!

Please see me if you feel you could serve the church in this way.

Many thanks - Sandra





## AGENDA FOR CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm

1. Introduction, Welcome & Prayer
2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising
3. Youth Report – Erik Cornelisse
4. Membership Report - Richard Kirk
5. Finance Report - Mark Evason
6. VBC Assets – Update
7. Alpha – Chris Short
8. BU Update – Chris Short
9. AOB – Items for consideration to be emailed to the church office by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September.
10. D.O.N.M. – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

*Eastbourne & Wealden Branch of*

**GOOD NEWS**  
*for Everyone!*

formerly known as GideonsUK

cordially invite you to

**‘Coffee with Friends’**

Glimpses of Good News ministry from the local to the international scene; including a DVD presentation, testimony, reports and inspirational Bible ministry from our special guest speaker **Rev David Jackman**.

*All Saints Centre, All Saints Church  
Grange Road, Eastbourne. BN21 4HE*

**Saturday September 30th 2023**  
Coffee from 10.00 - 10.45am for 11am start



# ALPHA

Apologies for repeating this article again this week but we really are trying to get two Alpha courses up and running this autumn. We cannot stress too highly though how important it is for you all to get behind us by praying, getting involved and inviting people!

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions running over ten weeks that freely explores the basics of the Christian faith. It's for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. Each session includes meeting together, a short talk, and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts. At any point, if you think Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge.



Alpha



Lucy

## Two Alpha courses:

### 1) For ladies only:

Thursdays at 10am starting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. For further information, contact Lucy Craggs:

[lucy@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:lucy@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

### 2) For everyone:

3) Tuesdays at 6.45pm starting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. For further information, contact Tim Nunn:

[tim@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:tim@victoriabaptist.org.uk)



Tim

If you want to find out more, here are two links that explain the Alpha Course in more detail

**National Alpha website:** <https://alpha.org.uk/>

**VBC website:** <https://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk/church-life/alpha-victoria/>



# GROW WITH US

## FAMILY DAY

### SUNDAY 1ST OCT

Is it easy to grow your own food?  
Become a Rooted grower for a day to find out...

### 11AM - 2PM

Plant onions, garlic, beans

Print yourself a veg tote bag (£3)

11am Graham's Bean Tales - where do beans come from?

Make a micro food garden (£3)

1pm Stone Soup lunchtime story with Suesie, includes bowl of minestrone soup

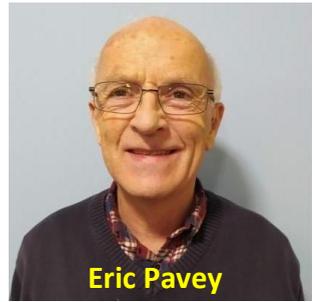


Rooted is a community food project based in Gorrige Road. They deliver food to Community Fridges in Eastbourne, including ours here at VBC.

## RETIRED BUT REVITALISED!

In my new post-operative life, I have enjoyed a Holy Spirit-inspired boost in recognising His nudges and discovering an increased boldness to respond appropriately.

This week, a young man presented himself at my front door and straightaway launched himself into his sales patter in case I instantly shut the door! As he spoke, he unzipped a large case full of cheap cleaning things I didn't need. I declined to buy anything.



Keeping the door ajar, I decided to hear him out. Then I thought about the lame beggar at the temple gate. And that's when I got one of those nudges, "Give him what he really needs". So I opened the door wide and the following conversation ensued.

"What's your name?" I ask.

Looking at me a little startled, he replies, "Harry, what's yours?"

"Eric", I volunteer. "How old are you Harry?"

"Twenty five".

"Well, I'm seventy nine. I spent long years of training when I was your age and I've enjoyed a long career on the back of it. What's your life's ambition? Have you got a plan?"

Harry responds instantly, "I want to be a joiner".

That causes me to reflect momentarily on the placard placed outside some churches - "Carpenter seeks Joiners".

I encourage Harry to get into training without delay, then come to my main point. "The best thing you can do by far is to discover God's will and purpose for your life, the rest will follow".

Harry, totally focused now, looks me right in the eye and says, "Are you a Christian?" I reply in the affirmative and he adds, "Well, I'm a Catholic".

"That's good", I respond. Then I add, "Harry, let me assure you of something. I am going to pray for you that you'll make good decisions and find God's will for your life".

Harry returns to his sales pitch, "Could you maybe buy a pair of gardening gloves?" "Sure", I concede, paying slightly over the top to encourage him. As he zips up the big bag, shoulders it and disappears through the garden gate, I pray, as promised, for Harry, that he'll find his way in life and a true friend in Jesus.

Retired I might be, but revitalised I certainly am. Thank you Lord.

**FLOWER MINISTRY**

Last week's flowers were donated by  
**Hilary Irvine**



*Thank you so very much for the beautiful flowers I received on Monday - such a kind thought. How blessed we are to be part of a loving church family. SW*