



Sunday 19th June 2022

Victoria Baptist Church News

**Don't just pretend
to love others.
Really love them.**

Hate what is wrong.

Hold tightly to what is good.

Love each other with

**genuine affection,
and take delight in
honoring each other.**

-Romans 12:9-10



10am - live at VBC and online with Chris Short

The Acts of Faith and Love Romans 9:12-21

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.” (Romans 12:10)



Sermons don't change churches. Beliefs don't change character. What changes them both are decisions and actions. The movement from hearing to believing to obeying is the most important movement in the world.

It is perfectly possible to believe that God is real and still be as messed up, anxious and selfish as anyone else.

What changes stingy people into generous people is the commitment to acts of generosity. What changes anxious people into calm people is the commitment to acts of faith and love.

The passage we are considering today sets out the transforming, community building acts of the Christian life. We'll see practices expressing and embedding family love, spiritual fervour and faithful love for those who oppose us. These words (Romans 12:9-21) are vital and important words for us to take to heart and put into practice. They are the key to our joy and fruitfulness in mission.



Creche

Please note that the crèche will again be in the Welcome Centre during this morning's service and is likely to continue there for a while until we are able to get the snug refurbished following the recent leaks.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

The holiday season is now upon us. Please take note of the fact that we have limited staff available this coming week.

Staff are **IN** as follows - Kevin is off all week

Chris (every day except Tues)
Sandra (Fri)
Colin (Tues, Wed & Thurs)
Erik (Mon, Tues & Fri)
Helen (Tues, Wed & Thurs),

Simon (every day except Thurs)
Jez (Fri)
Julie (Thurs)
Tim (Wed)

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

Treasurer

Louise Hughes

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	19	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online with Chris Short
		7.00pm	Xcav8
Mon	20	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
		7.30pm	CLT Prayer Meeting - all welcome
Tue	21	6.45pm	Alpha - "Does God heal today?" with Tim Nunn
		7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed	22	8.30am	Community Fridge (until 10am)
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)/ 6.15pm (ages 8-18)
Thu	23	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		12noon	Men's Fellowship meeting at the Toby Carvery, (Willingdon Drove). Contact Lester, Brian or the office if you haven't yet signed up.
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Rev. Colin Crook
		7.30pm	Prayer for Ukraine
Fri	24	10.00am	Vicky Bees
		10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect!
Sat	25	9.30am	Prayer Ministry Team meeting
Sun	26	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online with Chris Short
		7.00pm	Xcav8

The Week Ahead



- Wed 29 June Church Members Meeting (see page 8)
- Wed 13 July Men's Curry Night (see page 7)
- Sat 30 July Social Events
Hampden Park Picnic, 12.30pm.
(see page 5)

News Sheet

Please note:

- 1) there will be no news sheet for Sunday 3rd July owing to staff holidays;
- 2) next week's news sheet will again incorporate two weeks so please think well ahead and get your adverts and articles submitted in good time;
- 3) and the deadline for next week's 2-in-1 edition will be Wednesday lunchtime rather than Thursday. The aim is to distribute it a day earlier than usual.



Social Events

Over the Jubilee Weekend we had a lovely group (with dogs) for our walk along the sea-front. Blessed by the weather again.

Forthcoming Events

Picnic Saturday 30th July 12.30 at Hampden Park. Meet at tea hut, then we will move nearer the lake. If you turn up later, just call 07763 400789 and we will direct you.

Aug Sat 20th 10.30am Meet at Seven Sisters car park, walk down to Cuckmere beach for rock pooling (low tide about noon). Bring a picnic if you wish to extend your day.

September Sat 17th 2.00pm meet at **Arlington Reservoir, and walk** (about an hour) followed by cuppa at the tea hut.

Oct date TBC afternoon tea at Hydro (will need to know numbers, details nearer the date).

Dec 3rd Christmas Wreath Making.

All these events are open to friends and families of VBC.

BIBLE READING NOTES

The notes for July onwards have been delivered and are ready for collection for those who have ordered them. They are available from Sandra or in the office, where a card machine is available (payment by card is preferred).



PRAYER DIARY: 20TH–26TH June

Following the theme of Chris' message, the following prayers are based on Romans 12:9-21

Monday *"Love must be sincere ... be devoted to one another in love."* In a world full of broken relationships, let us demonstrate the love of Christ in all of our relationships – with family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. Let us be salt and light, especially to those who are a million miles from You.

Tuesday *"Keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord"* Give us the enthusiasm and stamina – physical, mental and indeed spiritual – that we need to maintain our relationships. Help us to be positive in our outlook and, when things do get tough, help us to pray all the harder so that we may serve You with increased vigour, maintaining the joy that comes through our faith and trust in You.

Wednesday *"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality"*. Let us never forget those around us who are struggling to make ends meet. We thank You especially for the work of CAP, Foodbank and Community Fridge and the reminder that these initiatives bring us of our duty to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thursday *"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn"* As a church family, we experience many highs and lows – the birth of a child or grandchild, exam success, significant birthdays and anniversaries – but also serious illnesses, the loss of a loved one or an unexpected diagnosis. We thank You that you are in control of every situation and we pray that You will give us the empathy needed to offer love and support to those in need.

Friday *"Do not repay anyone evil for evil"*. Lord, it is so hard at times not to react badly when we feel we have been wronged. But when this happens, help us to focus on what You suffered, how You were so wrongly accused, yet did not retaliate, a perfect example for us all. Give us grace when such situations arise, help us to turn the other cheek.

Saturday *"... live at peace with everyone ..."* We are badly affected by scenes from wars that we see on the TV and yet we can so easily be engaged in feuds and petty squabbles ourselves. Open our eyes to such conflicts, which are so contrary to Your will for our lives. Grant us the earnest desire to live in harmony with all those we come into contact with.

Sunday *"If your enemy is hungry, feed him ..."* This world is tragically so full of evil. We need Your strength and Your comfort to ensure that we don't let evil get the better of us – but that we get the better of evil by doing good and drawing ever-closer to You. Thank You Lord for being there for us at all times and for Your amazing love.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Men's CURRY NIGHT



After a successful Curry Night in April with 25 in attendance, we are going 'on the road' to secure a bigger venue which happens to be owned by a Christian. Please consider inviting friends as the educational and entertaining talk from one of our VBC members, George John (FRCS, Urologist) which was postponed last time, will be going ahead. There is now a SIGN UP SHEET in the WELCOME CENTRE.

There is the potential for 'car sharing' from VBC - if you can offer a lift or would like one, please add some appropriate notes next to your name on the sign up sheet. There is a free car park on the right just beyond the restaurant before the old railway bridge. To be explicit – you will be paying for your own meal!

Venue: The Royal Indian Restaurant, 21A, South Road, Hailsham.

Date: Wednesday 13th July.

Time: 7.30pm.

COMPETITION FOR ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

The "Prayer Zone" banners, currently situated at the front of the church, are going to be replaced with a single banner 4m x 3m (approx. 13ft by 10 ft in old money.) We are looking for an iconic picture that will reflect the beauty and essence of the area in which we live, sunset over the pier, Seven Sisters, Beachy Head Lighthouse, Holywell, the Italian Gardens, one of the parks or whatever you think will reflect Eastbourne as part of God's glory.

The photograph should be in landscape format, in focus, level with the horizon and of as high a quality as possible. A picture which may look perfect on a phone screen will show every imperfection once enlarged to fit the banner. Please send your photos to Richard Kirk by email at richard@victoriabaptist.org.uk.



Flow Café

A big Thank You to those who supported Flow Café last Saturday. We were able to donate £159 to the Children with Cancer Fund in Polegate.

On another note, we would like to expand our knitting circle at Flow Café to a Knit, Stitch and Crochet group with a view to raising money and making small items for charity. Whether you are a seasoned crafter or a newbie, you would be most welcome as patterns and help will be given. We were thinking of starting at the next Flow Café on Saturday 16th July by making some small items to sell at (*whispers*) Christmas and maybe some blankets and clothes to send to appropriate charities. Examples of some of the items will be displayed in the Welcome Centre on Sunday.



Finally, if you have any surplus wools then we would be very grateful for any donations.

Many thanks.

CHURCH MEETING

Wed 29th June, 7.30pm

Agenda



1. Introduction, Welcome & Prayer
2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising
3. Membership Report
4. Finance Report
5. Property Matters
6. Children's Work Report - Simon Grimes
7. Update Regarding Ownership of Church Buildings & Manse properties
8. Passion for Life Events - Review
9. AOB - items for consideration to be emailed, or phoned through, to the church office by Monday 27th June.
10. DONM - 28th September 2022

It's a privilege to **Volunteer**



**Do you have compassion for
the lost and broken?**

**Would you be able to give
5 hours a week?**

...Get involved as a Volunteer Chaplain

Find out more about the work of
Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team
www.bhct.org.uk

Contact:
Karen Elkington on 07792 788606
or e-mail **karen.elkington@bhct.org.uk** for further information

A POSTSCRIPT TO ROMANS

As we have studied the message of Paul's Letter to the Romans in recent weeks, the parting words of John Robinson, senior pastor to the Pilgrim Fathers as they set sail from Plymouth on the Mayflower, come to mind. 'I am persuaded the Lord has yet more truth and light to break out of His Holy Word'. I think this is true for our

understanding of Paul's deeply theological writing, particularly as we read chapters nine to eleven. There is one very obvious truth which seems to me to underpin the Letter. I will call it Divine Selection. This section is where Paul addresses his own heritage. Selection is familiar to the modern mind since Natural Selection is a part of the school syllabus which we have come to accept. But for the Christian this has big problems for a feature of the Theory of Evolution is the avoidance of any need of God. However, at the very heart of the Bible story is Divine Selection and I suggest that Natural Selection is subject to Divine Selection before time began. 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things came into being through Him.' I have followed this train of thought on Sunday mornings as our Pastor has brought before us Paul's teaching and I want to suggest that Divine Selection is a thread which takes us through the Bible linking its many books in one, our Holy Bible.

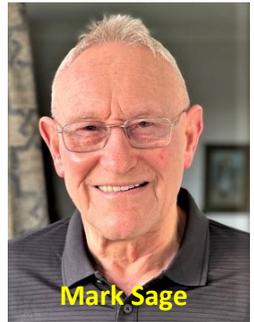
Consider, Abel's sacrifice was acceptable to God and Cain's was not, no wonder, for God's choice brought to light the murder in Cain's heart. Crafty Jacob was God's choice to father Israel in preference to his older twin, bluff Esau who it seems valued a delicious roast more than his birthright sold for a single meal. God revealed to Samuel that David, the youngest of Jesse's sons, who was overlooked when the sons of Jesse were brought before Samuel, was God's choice to be king on the failure of Saul's reign rather than his older eligible brothers. There are many other examples of God's selection in the Old Testament.



Which brings me to the New Testament. It was on the Damascus Road that Jesus revealed Himself to Paul who was chosen to take the good news



..... of the gospel to the Gentiles. Paul was to write to the Roman Christians 'Faith comes through hearing, and hearing through the Word of God. For everyone who believes on the name of the Lord will be saved.' That is where we stand as Christians, chosen by God in response to His touch on our lives. I see God's choice as an embrace to all who come to the Saviour who gave His life on Calvary's cross that we might have life through faith in His name. We then are to live our lives in the light of this glorious gospel as Paul exhorts us so to do in the first two verses of Romans 12. In all Scripture you will be hard put to it to find a better summary of discipleship for modern Christians.



(Also read John 1:1-3, Romans 3:23, Luke 2:10 f, Acts 9:6,15, Romans 10:13,17)



A huge **thank you** to Helen and David Lloyd for such long, devoted service of help for dishwashing each month after the Friends, Food and Fellowship meals. They have been such loyal helpers with the catering team over many years and we will miss them so much. We wish them safety in their move to be with the family, and much happiness in the years to come. We are now needing help to use the dishwasher after our monthly meals. If you feel able to help in this service to our Lord could you please contact Pam Miller or the church office.

If you are interested in joining a Life Group, please contact Jez Taylor - or pick up a leaflet from the Welcome Centre and contact a group leader directly.



Jez is looking to run a Life Group Leader Development session. If you feel that God is calling you to be a leader, whether you're in a group or not, contact Jez and he will organise a session in the Autumn.

FLOWER MINISTRY

The flowers on display last week were donated by
Carol Dadswell



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers received today. Delighted to report that my new grandson James is thriving, and his parents are coping well!

Margaret Greenwood

