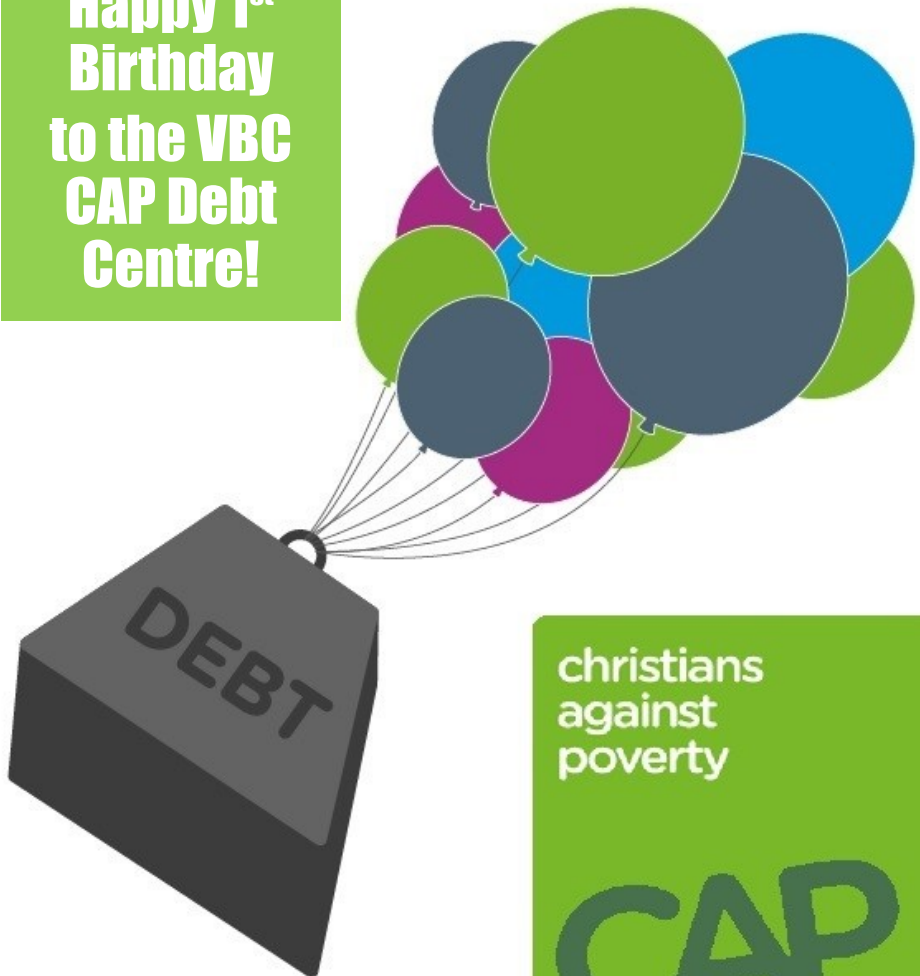




Sunday 19th September 2021

VICTORIA Baptist Church News

**Happy 1st
Birthday
to the VBC
CAP Debt
Centre!**





**This week's message is brought to us by our Senior Minister, Chris Short
10am at the church and live online via YouTube.
And at 4pm we will be beginning the Passion for Life series**

CAP Anniversary

1 John 3:16-18 – Just Love

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.” (1John 3:16)

This morning we are celebrating the first anniversary of our CAP (Christians Against Poverty) ministry. Our Debt Centre Manager, Helen Diplock, will give us an update on some of the encouraging things that have happened in the last year and what we hope to see happening as we go forward.

As we do so we'll reflect on what the Bible teaches us about love. The neurologist and psychiatrist, Dr Karl Stern, claims that many psychological and emotional problems would be alleviated if two basic human needs are met - the need to receive love and the need to give love.

John, the disciple of Jesus, would not have been surprised. In his first letter he tells us how we can receive God's love ourselves and how we can become channels for that love to flow into the world. We'll consider those things together, giving thanks for God's great love and recommitting ourselves to live lives of love for the honour and praise of Jesus Christ.

I hope you'll be able to join us.



Pre-School Children



There will be an area set up in the Welcome Centre for babies & toddlers (up to 4 years of age) at anytime during the service. The service will be live on the Welcome Centre TV.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Chris, after his birthday celebrations this past week, reverts back to having his day off on Tuesday but will have his work cut out with his PA, **Sandra**, taking the whole week off! **Erik** and **Simon** will be off on Thursday and **Colin** on Monday.

Jack Mowat, our Speaklife intern from Scotland, will be joining us for one day a week plus Sundays for the next few months.

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

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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)

BOOKING SEATS FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Please remember that you only have to book in advance for a seat if you want to be socially distanced. Your seat will then be reserved.

The Week Ahead

Sun 19	9.40am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
	10.00am	Live at VBC and online via YouTube - with Chris Short
	4.00pm	Afternoon service - <i>A Passion for Life</i>
Mon 20		Girls Brigade scheduled to start up on 27 th Sept
	7.30pm	CLT Prayer Meeting - all welcome
Tues 21	7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed 22	10.00am	Vicky Bees
	5.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)
	6.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 8-18)
	7.30pm	Church Meeting for Members
Thu 23	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
	10.15am	Men's Fellowship "A Time for Sharing": All men welcome!
	2.15pm	Women's Fellowship with Arthur & Ann Cornell
Fri 24	10.00am	Vicky Bees
	7.00pm	Xpect
Sat 25		
Sun 26	9.40am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
	10.00am	Live at VBC and online via YouTube - with Chris Short
	4.00pm	Afternoon service - <i>A Passion for Life</i>



And further ahead ...

Wed 29 Sep, 10am	Rosemary Ward-Jackson's funeral, EB Crem - all welcome
Sun 10 Oct, 4pm	St Wilfrid's Hospice Thanksgiving Service
Thu 14 Oct, 2.30pm	Celebrating the life of Rosemary (see page 6)
Sat 30 Oct (afternoon)	Thanksgiving Service for Jill McKay



a passion for life

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

This Sunday afternoon sees the start of our *A Passion for Life* training sessions.

This week we will be focusing on “Making meaningful connections”, with the aim of equipping us to be intentional about talking naturally to others about our faith and the hope we have in Jesus.

The session consists of a video presentation, discussion and prayer. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

If you are unable to make it this week, then here is a link to the video and a few questions for you to consider once you have watched it:

<https://www.apassionforlife.org.uk/videos/making-meaningful-connections/>

- List the people you already have a natural connection with. Are there people you see regularly that you could be more intentional about getting to know e.g. parents at the school gate, dog walkers etc.?
- Think about the ways in which you have shown hospitality and acts of kindness in the past. Have these led to opportunities to share the reason for the hope you have? If not, how could you do things differently?
- Make a list of people who you think would be encouraged if you offered them some hospitality. Make a plan to invite them soon.
- Think of ways in which we as a church can use our natural connections in the community to build friendships and show love and hospitality with the aim of introducing people to Christ? How can we use what we already do?

Finally, spend some time in prayer:

- Thank God for those who loved and shared the gospel with you.
- Ask God to help you to open your eyes to see those He has put around you and to have the opportunity to get to know them better and share your life with them.
- Ask God to help you to speak more naturally about your faith with everyone.

Coffee

As you know, we are beginning to start serving coffee and tea after the morning service. To make things easier, we are asking if you would kindly bring in your own reusable mug. We will have a limited number of paper cups available for those of you who forget or for visitors. This will mean we won't need a washing up team for now.



Live Streaming A reminder to you all that our morning services are live streamed. Please bear this in mind during children's talks and family services, when children may be invited onto the stage. If you do not feel comfortable with your child appearing on YouTube, then please don't allow them to be on stage at any time.

Flow Café

We are delighted to say that Flow Café is starting again in October! Our first session back is on October 9th from 10am to 12pm. Please join us for cake, coffee, crafts and chat. This month we are celebrating St. Wilfrid's 40th Anniversary and all proceeds will be given to them.



We are looking forward to welcoming you back.



Morning Services

Please note that 10am services on Sundays will no longer be time-restricted. We have been endeavouring to keep to 45-60 minutes in recent weeks for the

benefit of the youngsters and their teachers but, with children and young people now coming in for the first part of the morning services, this is no longer necessary.

Rosemary Ward-Jackson

We are planning an afternoon tea here to celebrate the life of Rosemary. Some of Rosemary's family will be here, including her husband Roger and daughter Helen, and we feel it would be a good opportunity for us to remember her together in an informal setting. Also...Rosemary really loved her cake!!

The tea will be on Thursday 14th October at 2.30pm.

If you would like to attend, then please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre so we know how many people to cater for.





CHURCH Meeting

Wed 22nd Sept, 7.30pm

Agenda

1. Introduction, Welcome & Prayer
2. Membership Report
3. Finance Report
4. CAP Update
5. A Passion for Life
6. Property Matters
7. CLT Elections
8. DONM – **7:30pm, November 24th, 2021** (to include the AGM)

There is no need to book places for this meeting unless you want a socially-distanced seat. And please note - there is no *Any Other Business* item on the agenda. If there are any issues you would like raised, please **submit your question** via email (preferably), or by post, by Sunday 19th at the latest.



From the archives

Following the recent photograph of the 1980s choir, provided by Mary Wain, we have had a number of responses from those who were around at the time. Hence, we have followed it up with some more information - and names of faces - which may be of interest to some. Leading the choir was current member Elizabeth Newth (pictured here) and on page 10 you will see the response from Elizabeth's daughter, Keren, also a member.

Please do let us know the names of those not identified - or possibly incorrectly identified. We have made it easier for you by numbering them but must apologise to Keren for managing to virtually split her in two! Turn to the next page to see what we mean.



... CONTINUED





VBC CHOIR - THE BACKGROUND

Many thanks also to Linda Smith, Averil Huggins, Joyce Kirkman, Mary Wain and non-VBC people Graeme Bunn (husband of Rose McKendrick) and Wes Game, for their contributions and help in identifying the faces - and of course, to Mary for starting this all up in the first place. Over to Keren Newth for some background to the picture.



My grandfather, Leslie Newth, was an elder at the original Victoria Baptist church building in Victoria Drive & continued in that role once the venue had moved to Eldon Road, so we've had associations as a family with VBC since the 60's (my first service at Victoria was when I was a few weeks old). My parents & I moved to Eastbourne in 1979, and my grandparents came to live with us. Rev. George Cumming (VBC Minister at that time) already knew us because we had visited my grandparents over the years, & he was aware that my mother had trained gospel choirs in Essex for many years. Mum had also been behind training choirs for many performances of the popular 1970's Christian Musicals by American singer/songwriters Jimmy & Carol Owens - 'Come Together' & 'If my people', which were used as celebrations of outreach all around Suffolk & Essex.

There was an interdenominational Christian outreach in Eastbourne coming up - 'Mission 80' - & Mr Cumming asked my mother if she would train a choir at Victoria Baptist to minister at the nightly Mission. Due to the fact that the church didn't have enough voices, mum suggested that they open it up to other folk, & the choir became an interdenominational choir from many churches in the town, including Frenchgate Chapel, the Elim church, Holy Trinity Church, and The Salvation Army. My mother also suggested that the choir rehearse the American musical 'Alleluia', by Bill & Gloria Gaither and many members from VBC chose to join the throng. This began our ministry in leading worship in the town for the next 30+ years.

Although Alleluia was only shared over two nights at VBC, the choir was also asked to minister with the same musical at churches in Seaford and Bexhill. In fact, after the Mission was over, George Cumming asked mum to form a worship group at VBC, but she wasn't sure that the church family was quite ready for that style of worship at that time, so she reluctantly declined. We were then asked to form a worship group elsewhere in the town.

I am able to tell you that the photograph was taken & printed in the Eastbourne Herald, with the accompanying article (see next page for article).

Keren Newth

Key (to some of the faces)

1	Gerry Page	27	June Elledge
2	John Newth	28	Diane Game
3	Peter Wain	29	Jan Harrison
4	Steve Huxley	30	Margaret Francis
5	Malcolm Hayes	31	Connie Young
6	Mark Basford	32	?
7	?	33	Joyce Prentice
8	Tim Firth	34	?
9	David Francis	35	Averil Huggins
10	Cyril Young	36	Julia Kirk
11	Bert Francis	37	Rosalie Jacques (nee Stevenson)
12	?	38	Shelagh McNulty
13	?	39	Christine Robson (nee McCullough)
14	?	40	Shirley Papps (nee Francis)
15	Pauline Francis	41	Kath Latham
16	?	42	Lynn Parry
17	?	43	?
18	Glynis Chappell	44	Keren Newth
19	Maureen King	45	Marguerite Warburton
20	Rose Bunn (nee McKendrick)	46	Elizabeth Newth
21	Liz Walke (nee McKendrick)	47	Mary Wain
22	?	48	?
23	Joyce Ayres	49	?
24	?	50	?
25	?	51	Lynn (? An American lady?)
26	Jackie Woodhouse		

And to finish with
...
here is part
of the article
that appeared in
the Eastbourne
Herald

The songs were linked by narrative, spoken by members of the choir, and the audience joined in the choruses.

The swinging tempo and modern rhythm of some of the tunes were in direct contrast to more frequently heard religious music, which can sometimes be a little dull.

The choir and musical group, numbering more than 50 rehearsed for nearly six months, and this lengthy preparation was reflected in their polished performance.

The large congregation gathered at the Baptist Church were clearly moved and impressed by the performances given by all those taking part.

A collection made during the evening will go to Christian work in Iron Curtain and Third World countries.

Above, the choir and musicians with their musical director Elizabeth Newth (front row, third from right).

Community Fridge

We are pleased to report that the Community Fridge successfully launched on Wednesday. The fridge will now be open every Wednesday, 8.30 - 10.30am, with the dual aims of reducing food poverty and food waste. If you are interested in volunteering, either in collecting food from our sources, or at the fridge itself, do please let Helen or Sandra know.



We do need shopping bags for our clients who haven't brought their own, so now is the perfect opportunity to offload those extra bags you have at home! Please bring them in and leave them at the welcome desk.

Community Craft



One of our newer members at VBC, Barbara Scrutton, was very involved with the Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers. This group's website says that, *"There are now 2191 members and 135 groups around the county knitting, crocheting and stitching for charity. We support many charities from orphanages and families abroad to small projects at home. Age is no barrier - members range from the young to some well over 100."* Barbara

would very much like to initiate something similar here in Eastbourne so if this is something that appeals to you, you might like to contact her or let us know in the office.

If you want more information, before committing yourself, you might like to look at the website mentioned above <https://www.norfolkknitters.org.uk/>

Sunday Bees
WE NEED YOU!

At the moment we are unable to run Sunday Bees (2-4Yrs) due to lack of helpers.
If you feel you are able to help with this ministry (or any other part of Sunday School) please let me know.
Simon
simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk

PRAYER DIARY: 20TH – 26TH SEPTEMBER

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:34

Monday Reflect on the verse above remembering that God's grace is sufficient for you, but it's sufficiency is for one day at a time. No one said it would be easy to live by faith, especially in these present times, but ask the Holy Spirit to bless you and others as we put our faith in God's grace.

Tuesday Please pray for our school children and students facing more uncertainty, as we move into autumn, over future school lockdowns as coronavirus rates rise. Pray that God will guide our national church leaders to call for the nation to pray for God to guide the world out of this pandemic as we honour Him.

Wednesday Please pray for the migrant crisis as the French and British governments struggle to decide how to deal with a chaotic situation while trying to maintain acceptable care for human life. Give thanks that we live in this lovely country and be humbled by the knowledge that it is by God's grace that we are not migrants.

Thursday Heavenly Father, we pray for our literal neighbours, the ones who live right next door to us. We may rarely speak to them or even see them much, but You have placed us in the road we live in for the purpose of witnessing to You. Give us opportunities to reach out to them with the gospel and bless our constant prayers for them in Jesus name.

Friday Lord, we pray for the autumn Climate Change Conference. No doubt the discussions will be challenging as the world has to learn to work together for the common good. We pray that those who were brought up in Christian countries will come to realise that the care, love of the planet and compassion that are needed in the future are actually biblical principles and that the bible and God will suddenly become relevant in their lives again.

Saturday Pray for the future of churches all around the world that have been hit financially by the drop in attendance due to the pandemic. Pray that God will make it clear how some struggling churches should move forward, maybe joining together in a town and so becoming more united in their witness. Ask God to do His will to His glory.

Sunday We pray that many non-Christians will watch Christian services today online and be touched by the Holy Spirit. We also pray that you will bless and guide the work of Jess and Neil Hilton. Amen.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Miracles of Jesus

JESUS' - VICTOR OVER THE POWERS OF EVIL – MARK 1:23 – 28

When Mark begins his account of Jesus' public ministry, he does not mention the water into wine miracle at Cana, but what happens in the Sabbath synagogue service in Capernaum.

"And they went into Capernaum - Jesus entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority and not as the scribes."



John Purkiss

Capernaum was a lakeside town on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee about 25 miles from Jesus' home town of Nazareth. It boasted of a harbour, a customs' post and a detachment of Roman soldiers – population was about 10,000 and the home town of the men Jesus had called His disciples, including Peter, Andrew, James, John and Matthew.

Jesus was a faithful Jew, attending a synagogue on the Sabbath. Services followed an order of elements eg recitation of prayers, readings, followed by a sermon based on the Scriptures – today a special speaker – Jesus. Mark gives us a clue. Mark 1 : 14 – 15 "Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time is fulfilled – the Kingdom of God is at hand – repent and believe the gospel.'"

What a reaction to this dynamic preacher! They were astonished at His teaching, for He taught as one who had authority, so different from the scribes (v22). One writer describes Jesus' teaching as powerful and penetrating. He was not merely speaking about God. He was speaking from Him and for Him.

Even demons submit!

There was in the synagogue a man with an unclean spirit who cried out, "What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are - the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him. "Be silent and come out of him. The unclean spirit convulsed him and, crying out with a loud voice, came out of him."

What an amazed congregation – not only a wonderful teacher – with authority. He even commands the unclean spirits and they obey Him.

I wonder how many services – where this man sat quietly – worshipping – but today was very special? His cry for help, cured by the Master Preacher – what a miracle! Even today, Jesus can heal the evil spirits and restore sanity to those suffering maybe the effect of drugs or alcohol. Jesus can heal!

Fun in the sun!

Well over 100 people from VBC and friends attended last Saturday's "Welcome Back" barbecue here in the garden area. Postponed from the end of June owing to the lockdown being extended, it was great to be able to mingle relatively safely in the open air and catch up with people we hadn't seen for many months.



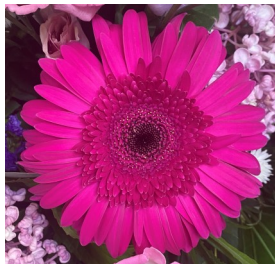
The event was attended by a wide spread of ages. Not only was the fellowship really enjoyable but the food provided by external caterers, *Midsussex Hog Roast*, based in Burgess Hill, was of very good quality. The arrival of the ice cream van later was also greeted with great enthusiasm by young and old alike.

Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with the fact that minimal effort was required in preparation and clearing up. Everyone attending was able to enjoy the occasion without the responsibilities of sorting things out! We must give credit to the CLT for coming up with such a good idea!



FLOWER MINISTRY

The Flower Ministry Team is in need of people to volunteer to bunch or deliver the flowers on a Monday morning. Please contact Chris McMahon if you feel this is something you would like to consider and she can fill you in on what is involved.



The flowers last week were kindly donated by the Sinden family, following Mary's Thanksgiving Service on the Friday. They were more than happy for the flowers to remain in church for the benefit of Mary's church family during the Sunday services and to then be distributed on Monday in the usual way.