



Sunday 1st October 2023

Victoria Baptist Church News



Every October, churches across the UK reflect on poverty, its impact, and how we, as God's people, can fight it.

**“And forgive us our debts,
as we have also
forgiven our debtors”**

Matthew 6:12



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

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JOHN 2:1-12 – The Essential Jesus – Water into Wine

“Nearby stood six stone water jars... each holding twenty to thirty gallons.” (John 2:6)

This Sunday is our CAP anniversary, celebrating three years of our CAP ministry. Helen Diplock will tell us some of the encouraging ways this ministry has impacted people’s lives in Eastbourne. We’ll also commission a new CAP worker, Nadine Crawford-Piper.

As we do these things we’ll remind ourselves why. The simple answer is gratitude to Jesus. We have a miracle-working Saviour who turns water into wine. He came into the world to demonstrate extraordinary, transforming generosity.

He transforms mundane situations into miraculous ones, mundane lives into extraordinary ones. He takes away our grief and shame and gives us joy and glory. Sometimes it is easy for Him to do so, sometimes it is hard.

The little we do for others, we do out of gratitude to Him, who has done more for us than we could possibly imagine. We do it in the hope that others might also encounter Him as the living, loving, Lord Jesus.

This morning is also a communion service in which we will receive new members.



TONIGHT at 6.30pm - Prayer Meeting

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

News Sheet

Please note there will be NO news sheet next week.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the coming week. (1st-7th)

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

Colin annual leave
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

The following week (8th-14th) - almost the same as the week above with just two exceptions - Colin is back from holiday and will be off on Monday as usual; and Simon will be taking the Friday off as he prepares for his big day on the Saturday.

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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	1	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live & Online with Chris Short
		6.30pm	Prayer Meeting
		7.00pm	Xcav8
Mon	2	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
		7.30pm	CLT Meeting
Tues	3	6.45pm	Alpha
			Soaking in the Spirit - next meeting 10 th Oct
Wed	4	8.30am	Community Fridge and Cafe
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		7.00pm	Boys Brigade - celebrating 140 years
		7.00pm	Men's Curry Night
Thu	5	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		10.00am	Alpha (Ladies only)
		10.15am	Men's Fellowship - Harvest, Operation Agri
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Jeanette Howard
		7.30pm	Ukraine Prayer Meeting
Fri	6	10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect
Sat	7	10.00am	Flow Café
		10.30am	Creative Writing (No Book Club this month)
Sun	8	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live & Online Harvest Service with Erik Cornelisse
		6.30pm	Behold the Man
		7.00pm	Xcav8

The Week Ahead

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*

Brian Wightwick	1 Oct	St Barnabas, Langney, 9.45am
David Laskey	8 Oct	Broadway United Church, H/Park, 10am
Francis Bates	8 Oct	South Street Free Church, 6.30pm
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



Wed 15 Nov

Ladies Italian Night
details to follow nearer the time

Mon	9	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
Tues	10	6.45pm	Alpha
		7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (Ladies only)
Wed	11	8.30am	Community Fridge and Cafe
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		6.30pm	Boys Brigade
Thu	12	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		10.00am	Alpha (Ladies only)
			Men's Fellowship (next meeting 19 th Oct)
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Denise Sinden
		7.30pm	Ukraine Prayer Meeting
Fri	13	10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
			NO Kids Club
			NO Xpect
Sat	14	12noon	Wedding - Simon Grimes & Rachael Knights
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

And The Week After

Wedding Invitation

Rachael Knights and Simon Grimes

would like to invite our Church family to celebrate
our marriage. The wedding ceremony will be at

12 noon on.

Saturday 14th October at VBC.

If you would like to stay for nibbles and cake after the ceremony,
please put your name on the signup sheet in the Welcome Centre.



Next Week - October 8th 10am

We have our Harvest/All-Age service next Sunday, led by Erik Cornelisse. Please see the requests from Bev Ebdy below re the arrangements for bringing in your produce.



Please bring whatever you are able for our Harvest Festival Service which is next Sunday (8th). Please bring them to the church by midday on Saturday (7th), during Flow Café perhaps! We gratefully receive not only dried foods and drinks, but also toiletries etc. and would also like some foliage or plants. All Harvest Festival donations will go to Foodbank.

Thank you. *Bev Ebdy*

Welcome!

The Welcome Centre became even more welcoming this week as you can see below. Hopefully, people will get the message that they are all very welcome, irrespective of nationality and language!



140 DID YOU KNOW?

Over a million young people have been BB members over our 140 years. This includes Stormzy, Alex Ferguson, and Dermot O'Leary. Other well-known members include David Moyes & Jonathan Ross.



HARVEST - 8th October:

GIVING THANKS

140 / 130 years

of reaching young people

Our annual harvest service. Bring your tins, bring your shoeboxes, bring your grandma and let's celebrate a legacy of souls being saved through the work of the brigades.

This service will have some involvement from them, so please, come and join us!

Be Encouraged in your Parenting

Packed lunches, night time bible readings, football practice, swimming lessons, shopping, cleaning, work, volunteering, ... the list goes on (and on, and on). At the church meeting we played 'Kims' game - an image on the screen with many items, with the instruction from Erik to memorise them all. He proceeded to do the youth work presentation and right at the end showed us the full list of items. Some remembered a few, others remembered more. Some remembered the big items, others focused on the small stuff.

Erik asked us, did anyone include the tray! All items were on a tray. The tray held everything together, Jesus is in a strange way our tray. He holds it all together, without Him, it'll be harder to keep it all together. So in all the 'small' stuff in life, don't lose sight of the tray, of the One Who holds it all together. Be blessed.

excerpt of Eriks' weekly encouragement for parents email - ask Erik if you'd like to subscribe



Just a thought ...

If every Life group made one box, we'll have over 20.

If every group makes one each we will have over 50.

If every family unit made one we will have well over 100 !!

Let's bless those in need, thank you.

Flyer available in the welcome centre (or ask the office)

Could you help provide Homes for the Homeless?



Hope into Action provides homes for over 350 people across the country with local churches showing love and support to each person.

Some of these are in Eastbourne, overseen by the Christian charity, Kingdom Way Trust.

There are many more people in Eastbourne needing housing. We'd love to be able to offer more homes and support.

This requires people to pray, invest, provide practical help and offer friendship & support.

If you are interested in how you could be involved, please come and find out more:

Monday 9th October 7.30pm at Kings Church, 27 Edison Rd, Eastbourne, BN23 6PT.

Jon Kuhrt, the national leader of Hope into Action will be speaking

Hope into Action, Eastbourne. A project of Kingdom Way Trust
eastbourne@hopeintoaction.org.uk www.kingdomwaytrust.org



Flow Café

Flow Café

Our next community gathering will be next Saturday (7th) when all funds raised will be donated to the work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP). Crafts, coffee, cake, bacon sandwiches etc, will all be available as usual. Please make every effort to support the work of CAP as well as having a great time of fellowship! BSL Café will also be an integral part of the morning.

CREATIVE WRITING

The next meeting will be next Saturday (7th) at 10.30am in the usual venue of the Hive, during Flow Cafe .

Our subject will be **'Writing a letter to God'** or **'Letter from....on a topical subject'**

I got the idea from a lady, recently baptised at VBC, who said that in her spiritual journey she wrote letters to God regarding her predicament. The second type of letter was inspired by the famous radio broadcasts by Alistair Cooke, from 1946-2004, who had a weekly 'Letter from America' radio broadcast on a topical issue about American life. He had a natural, insightful and engaging style and was a forerunner to modern popular blogs! You can get a taste of them at: [BBC Radio 4 - Letter from America by Alistair Cooke.](#)



All welcome. If you want more information, please speak to John Demetriou.

PRAYER DIARY 2ND - 8TH OCTOBER

“For we know that in all things God works for the good of those that love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

Monday Father, You are the creator of our world and of all that is in it. We thank You for the many ways You have provided for us, our food, family, fellowship, our health and our happiness. We lift up to You the harvest food gifts given yesterday for the Foodbank. May they not only relieve hunger and poverty but be seen as a gift from You.

Tuesday Heavenly Father, we pray for the young people leaving home for work and for further education. May they soon link up with a church family and build new roots, meeting new Christian friends. Protect them with the Holy Spirit and empower them to walk boldly as they settle into their new communities.

Wednesday Father, we lift up to You all those suffering ill health, struggling while awaiting hospital appointments, and especially those receiving care in hospital or recuperating at home. We pray for Your compassionate understanding of these people knowing that no healing is too hard if it be Your will. Pour a blessing on them, renew their strength and let them know Your healing touch.

Thursday Loving Lord, thank You for the mission of Love in a Box, tirelessly reaching out to children in Croatia, and now Ukraine, with Christmas gifts. Pray for the donation of sufficient gifts and financial support to delight as many children as possible. Lord, we ask for Your protection over the volunteers as they travel to these countries. May their faithful witness be transformational to families receiving the gifts.

Friday Father God, we lift up to You all those who are experiencing loneliness, particularly now that the nights are drawing in. We thank You Lord for the work of Linking Lives Eastbourne as they strive to connect Christian volunteers with people in our community who feel isolated and lonely. Pray for caring relationships in our own church family. May we love and support each other as You taught us to do. Thank You, Father, for being our constant companion.

Saturday “So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” Isaiah 41:10. Father, we lift up to You the Christian people of Ukraine who face another winter of war and suffering. They are exhausted with the effort to win back from the Russians the occupied lands - please allow democracy and true freedom to reign again in their land. We pray for the Holy Spirit to fill them with resilience, determination and endurance knowing they are upheld by Your righteous right hand. Pray for Hope Lebedyn to ...

FUEL FOR PRAYER

continue to receive the resources necessary to support Bohdan and his team as the war rages around them.

Sunday As we gather this morning, “let the message of Christ dwell amongst you richly, as you teach and admonish each other with all wisdom thorough psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts “.

Col 3:16. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move amongst us this morning, awakening anew our minds and our hearts to the wonders of God’s amazing kingdom.

PRAYER DIARY 9TH - 15TH OCTOBER

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me...” words of Jesus as His “ministry manifesto”: Luke 4: 18-19.

MONDAY “... to preach good news to the poor...” Continue to uphold in prayer those who have a God-given task for preaching the Word of God; those who preach and teach in our churches; those who teach in our Sunday School, and Young People’s groups; and those who lead our Life Groups. Remember those who broadcast the message through the internet, radio, and TV to those who are isolated from Christian fellowship, and pray for those imprisoned for their faith because they have dared to preach openly despite likely repercussions.

TUESDAY “...to bind up the broken-hearted...” Remember in prayer the many widows and widowers in our fellowship; those who have been bereaved in recent times; those who have lost parents by death. Give thanks for the clear Christian witness of so many of our older friends in their final years, often through challenging times when their health has failed. Pray for those caring for loved ones suffering from dementia, especially if recognition has gone, and remember those ministering to all in our hospitals and our local hospice.

WEDNESDAY “...to proclaim freedom for the prisoners...” Pray for the work of prison chaplains and the opportunities that exist for Alpha courses etc. Give thanks for those whose lives have been transformed by the power of God whilst in prison or whilst on remand. Pray that their re-introduction into society will prove helpful and that employers will be prepared to take them on board.

THURSDAY “...recovery of sight to the blind...” Give thanks for the work being done locally for those with cataracts and for those attending regular clinics to preserve sight in damaged eyes. Give thanks for those who have overcome physical blindness/impaired vision, especially those gifted musically who bring their own personality into their playing. Give thanks for this truth that “I once was lost but now am found; was blind but now I see.”

FRIDAY *"...to release the oppressed..."* The continuing question of illegal migrants crossing the channel is ever newsworthy. Pray that a humane response will be sought by the Home Secretary and others. Remember the difficult work done by Border Force, RNLI, coastguards etc. in rescue and for a caring response toward those who are legitimately seeking asylum for themselves and their families. Pray for sensitive handling of the most vulnerable and that younger folk will not be sought out and trafficked through any neglect by various agencies seeking to look after them.

SATURDAY *"...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour..."* This quotation from Isaiah 61 referred to the year of Jubilee when debts were erased, slaves were freed, and land was returned to its original owners. It is also a metaphor for God's salvation. Pray for the work of Christians Against Poverty, that through their ministry, lives will be freed from a burden of debt and then come into the glorious freedom that Christ has won for them. Pray that we will be aware of what we can do to help those most in need in our town this autumn.

SUNDAY *"Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because of the testimony of one woman." "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard Him ourselves. Now we know that He is indeed the "Saviour of the world." John 4:39,42.* Pray that the Gospel might be faithfully preached today and that those who come seeking might experience the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit through the preaching, informal fellowship and Spirit-led worship.

ALPHA

You will be pleased to know that the recently advertised Alpha sessions are now under way with the ladies only morning session starting last Thursday (28th) and the evening sessions starting this coming Tuesday (3rd). **But it is not too late to sign up for either of them!**

Please contact Lucy Craggs for more info about the Thursday morning sessions and Tim Nunn for info about the evening sessions, open to all.

Just to remind you, Alpha is a series of interactive sessions running over ten weeks that freely explores the basics of the Christian faith. 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. 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!



FLOWER MINISTRY

Last week's flowers were donated by Thelma Papps, in memory of Chris..



Thank you so much for the lovely flowers I received last week, it's so nice to be remembered. I miss coming to VBC but I do try to keep up-to-date with all that's going on!

I hope everything is going well for the church family - I think of you all every Sunday! Gwen



We still have one November date and two in December to fill if you would like to donate the flowers. See Chris McMahon for details.

And for those of you unable to be there, these flowers (right) were donated by the Wightwick family for Rachel's Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday.

