



# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 23rd March 2025



“You have heard that it was said  
... But I say to you ...”

Matthew 5:21-32



## The Sermon on the Mount

### Matthew 5:21-32 - Wisdom for Life, Part 1

This week we welcome Derek Page back to VBC. He will be continuing in the series, the Sermon on the Mount, which Chris began some weeks ago.

Derek recently retired as Senior Minister at Ruislip Baptist Church after 39 years in the position. Chris Short worked alongside him as Associate Minister from 1999-2004.



### Next Week (30<sup>TH</sup>)

Next Sunday morning, our 10am service will be led by Chris Short.

In the evening, at 5pm, our Membership Secretary, Richard Kirk, will be hosting a meeting for all those of you who are considering church membership. The meeting will be held downstairs.



### CLOCKS FORWARD

Please remember that next Sunday British Summer Time begins with clocks going forward one hour at 1am.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

## Staff movements for next week

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	off Mon	Phil	in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm
Kevin	annual leave	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed & Fri am	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	in Mon am	Lucy	in Wed am, Thurs, Fri am
Sandra	off Thurs	Jez	in Wed & Fri

### 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

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- Sun 23 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
- 10.00am Live @ 10 with Derek Page
- 7.00pm Xcav8!
- Mon 24 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 25 7.15pm Soaking in the Spirit - ladies only
- Wed 26 7.00am Prayer Meeting
- 8.15am Community Fridge
- 10.00am Vicky Bees
- 6.30pm Boys Brigade
- Thu 27 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
- 10.15am Men's Fellowship - next meeting Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Rev. Chris Webster
- 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)
- Fri 28 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
- 10.00am Vicky Bees
- 5.00pm Kids Club
- 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 29 7.00pm Messy Church for Adults
- Sun 30 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
- 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short
- 5.00pm Prospective Members' Meeting
- 7.00pm Xcav8!

# The Week Ahead

## Anna Roberts



The funeral for Anna will take place on Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> with a burial at 12noon at Ocklynge Cemetery. This will be followed by a Thanksgiving Service at **Holy Trinity Church** in Trinity Trees at 1.15pm, led by Chris Short, and then refreshments. It would be appreciated, for catering purposes, if you would sign up in the usual place in the Welcome Centre to indicate you would like to join the family for the refreshments.

## Men's Non-CURRY NIGHT

In the ongoing social experiment to be more 'inclusive' and fellowship with those who don't enjoy curry, we are going Lebanese for a change.

Please note the time, date & venue-  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm at

Cedarz, 48 Grove Rd, Eastbourne BN21 4TY

A sign up sheet will appear in the Welcome Centre nearer the time...



## Ladies Away Day

On Sunday we will start selling tickets for the Ladies Away Day on 17<sup>th</sup> May at a cost of £20 per ticket.



### PROGRAMME

Saturday 17th May 2025

Glyndley Manor Cottages, Stone Cross, Pevensey BN215BS

#### Morning

9.30- arrive for tea and coffee

10am - session 1

11am - break

11.30am - session 2

1pm - lunch

#### Afternoon

1.45pm- choose option for afternoon

2pm - afternoon activities or free time

3.30pm - session 3

4pm - end of day

Please bring a Bible, notebook and pen.

For swimming bring your costume and towel.





# SUMMER WE NEED YOU! TIME

Vicky Bees

The garden is mown  
and ready to use.

But we have a problem.  
We are in need of garden play  
equipment for Vicky Bees.

If you feel you can help in any way  
please let us know.

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



**Sat 29th March/9.30am for 10am**  
**All Saints' Church Hall, Grange Road**

Bekah Legg is the CEO of Restored, a Christian charity working to speak up about violence against women and equip the Church to stand against domestic abuse and with survivors. A survivor herself, Bekah is committed to helping other men and women find freedom and live life to the full.

A former teacher, youth worker and Church leader, Bekah managed the youth support line and relationship education programme for a sexual violence centre on the South Coast. She delivered sex and relationships workshops in secondary schools and with the local youth service.

Bekah has published papers and lectures on a biblical understanding of domestic abuse and gender-based violence and has spoken at the UN on the important role the Church can and does play in ending VAWG.

Together with her husband Steve, she has raised 5 daughters and fostered 4 boys. They used their sometimes crazy experience to inspire a series of devotional books for families to grow in faith together and talk about the stuff that matters.

The daughter, aged 11, of one of our members is the inspiration behind this appeal. She is in fact doing it for the 3rd year, how impressive is that! Please do what you can to support her efforts in some way and indeed to help those in Ukraine who are caught up in this war.

## Easter Ukraine Appeal

Activities

When? Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2 – 5 pm

Where? 34 Colwood Crescent, BN20 8TP

Games

Egg hunt

What? An appeal to help those in Ukraine during the war – all donations will be sent there.



Prizes

Refreshments

Raffle

# Seeing CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

## Part 10: Pride (with the help of Tim Keller)

Whereas most modern attempts to live wisely depend on 'technique', the Book of Proverbs seeks to develop '**character traits**' or '**right attitudes**' such as self control and generosity to help us make those life discerning decisions. In this section we discover another helpful life outlook to **counter the danger of pride.**



1. **What is pride?** It is needing to feel better than others in some way by continually comparing yourself to them, putting them down and enjoying your advantage over them.

*'Whoever derides their neighbour has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue.'* (Prov.11:12)

2. **What motivates pride?** A hint comes from examining the Hebrew word for pride which is similar for the one used of God as the Supreme Being. It is **making ourselves to be our own 'supreme being'**, a place only God should occupy. *'Be not wise in your own eyes.'* (Prov. 3:7)

This reminds us of the Devil's sin when he *'said in his heart'*,

*'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God, I will set my throne on high.....I will make myself like the Most High.'* (Is.14:12-14)

Since Adam and Eve listened to him, man has followed their example.

3. As you can see from the quote above with **the predominance of 'I'**, pride makes us very self conscious and self centred. As Paul confessed before his conversion, *'I verily thought with myself I would do much against the name of Jesus of Nazareth.'* (Acts 26:9 KJV). We don't want to listen to advice.

This temptation applies to those who are over confident as well as those of low esteem who can also have an **inverted type of pride** by overemphasising or delighting in their weakness, typical of Dickens' character Uriah Heep. Both are a type of pride.

4. The sad consequence of pride is that **it removes us increasingly from reality** because we don't listen to others, don't learn from mistakes and therefore distorts our view of life.



*'The lamp of the wicked is sin.'* (Prov. 21:4) The word 'lamp' is used metaphorically in the Bible to also refer to what we let into our lives to guide us eg Matt.6:22-24, *'The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!'* and Jesus went on to warn us, *'You cannot serve two masters.'*

5. Such an attitude is **not just damaging our character but also spiritually and for eternity** for God opposes the proud and is on the side of those low in spirit.

*'For though the Lord is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar.'* (Ps.138:6)

6. What is the answer to such a mighty foe? Prov. 25:33 gives us a clue,

*'The **fear of the Lord** is instruction in wisdom, and **humility** comes before honour.'*

**Firstly, realise humility is God's way.** *'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God'* (Matt.5:3). Right through the Bible we see God used the second rate, marginalised or unexpected people to achieve His purpose. He uses the younger brother instead of the older, eg David; the less attractive, eg Leah for the Messianic line; the foreigner eg Ruth; the socially unacceptable, eg Rahab the prostitute etc. Supremely, we see this in Christ coming as a weak babe, born into a poor family and living a simple life and dying a criminal's death to fulfill God's purposes and make a way of salvation for us. We too, to enter God's way, have to humble ourselves, admit our sin and accept the Lordship of Christ.



**Secondly, we must walk in the 'fear of the Lord'** which means to joyfully remember the privileged position He has put us in because of Christ's work. This makes us less self centred or protective because we no longer have to put on a performance to prove ourselves or give us self worth as we realise it all comes from Christ as a gift. We are already *'seated with him at his right hand in the heavenly places.'* (Eph.1:20)

To hear the full sermon by Timothy Keller go to: <https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/haughty-eyes/>

## Psalm 22

**Monday My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** Lord, we give thanks for the promise that you never leave us. Lord, we pray for those who ask “where is God?” in the tragedies we see around us. Lord, increase our understanding of the struggle we are all in and help us to learn to trust you. Forgive us Lord as we forsake you, forget to spend time with you, or only seek you when we are in crisis. Father, thank you for loving us despite all our shortcomings.

**Tuesday You are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the one Israel praises.**

Heavenly Father, Holy and uplifted One, help us to give you the Glory. Help us to see your Greatness, help us to understand your bounty and beautiful creation. Help us to give you the praise and honour. We pray for those who reject you and refute you and pray that your holiness will shine a little through our lives.

**Wednesday In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.**

Lord thank you for your Word and the way it gives us guidance. Thank you for the teaching we have here at VBC and for the way in which we can study and learn together. Help us to learn more and more of your goodness and plan for salvation as we read about faithful prophets and those patriarchs that trusted in you. Open our eyes, Lord, to be refreshed, and given joy and wisdom as we study your Word.

**Thursday I will declare your name to my people.** As we seek to follow Christ's example, show us those who you would have us speak to; those who need to hear your message of hope, those who you have prepared to hear the Gospel message of salvation. Help us to be prepared to tell others of your great love. We pray for those who have not yet heard, we pray for those who are working on mission fields far from home, we give thanks for those who serve you faithfully so all will hear.

**Friday The poor will eat and be satisfied.** Lord, your world is broken by greed and waste. We pray for the hungry around the world and give thanks for the many organisations who seek to serve in areas of famine, poverty, oppression and injustice. We look forward to the time when there is no more pain and hunger, when you restore all things.

**Saturday Dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations.** When we watch the news, Heavenly Father we despair of the situations we see. Help us to be patient and diligent as we try to understand politics and policies. Forgive us Father when we have not been humble before you in our dealings with friends and family. Thank you that, in all the chaos, we can rest in the knowledge that you are Sovereign.

**Sunday All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before Him.** Lord, we give thanks for the opportunity to worship you together in church and for the way it encourages us. We look forward to the time when all heaven and earth will bow down to you, will acknowledge your greatness, when Christ returns. Build our hope for the future, fix our eyes upon Jesus, remembering His great sacrifice foretold in this psalm.

# ALPHA

Once again, all being well, we will be starting another Alpha Course, this time on Wednesday evenings from the 30<sup>th</sup> April ... but it relies on all of us to pray, get involved and invite people!



Alpha is a series of interactive sessions running over nine weeks that allows people to freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. It's for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and ask questions about Jesus 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.

Our Alpha Course will start at 6.45pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April.

For further information or to sign up, contact Tim Nunn: [tim@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:tim@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

Here are two links that explain more about the Alpha Course:

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

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

**FLOWER MINISTRY**

The flowers displayed on 2<sup>nd</sup> March (immediately below) were donated by **James & Keely Grey**



The flowers to the left were provided by the **family of Tony Waters**

**Flower Ministry**

The flowers last week were donated by  
**Stephen & Helen Dickson**



The flowers below were on display  
for the recent **World Day of Prayer**



*Please can you pass on our thanks to the church family for the beautiful flowers that we recently received. S&MS*