



Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June/July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022

**Victoria** Baptist Church News





**10am - live at VBC and online with Chris Short**

## **R.E.S.P.E.C.T. - Romans 13**

**“Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.” (Romans 13:7)**

As we continue to consider the kind of living that constitutes ‘true and proper worship’ (12:1), we come to the matter of our relationships to those in authority over us.

Almost everyone in a position of authority today is subject to challenges to their authority. It is a mantra of modern life that ‘respect must be earned’. School-teachers hear it from students, police officers from the public and politicians from voters. The Bible, however, says something very different: Christians owe respect to all who are in positions of authority, whether they have earned it or not, because ‘there is no authority except that which God has established.’ (Rom. 13:1)

That raises some significant questions for us as we look out on a world in which the misuse and abuse of power is only rivalled by the incompetence of those exercising it. How should we think about these things? How should we live in order to please God? Should we ever oppose those in authority, and, if so, how? These are the things that we’ll address together over the coming two weeks.



## **CRÈCHE**



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. Staff are **IN** as follows -

Chris (every day except Tues)

Sandra (every day except Thu)

Colin - now on leave, returning 7<sup>th</sup> July

Erik (every day except Thu)

Helen (Tues, Wed & Thurs)

Simon (every day except Thu)

Jez (Fri)

Julie (Thurs)

Tim (now on leave for 2 weeks)

Kevin (back from holiday, in all week)

## Senior Minister

Chris Short

## PA to Senior Minister

Sandra Taylor

## Family Ministries

Simon Grimes - Children

Erik Cornelisse - Youth

## Church Administrator

Colin McMahan

## 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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www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

## 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*)



**Reminder** - no news sheet next week - please submit material for the next edition by Thurs lunchtime, 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Sun	26	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online with Chris Short
		7.00pm	Xcav8
Mon	27	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
Tue	28	7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed	29	8.30am	Community Fridge (until 10am)
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)/ 6.15pm (ages 8-18)
		7.30pm	Church Members' Meeting
Thu	30	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
		7.30pm	Prayer for Ukraine
Fri	1	10.00am	Vicky Bees
		10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect!
Sat	2		
Sun	3	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online with Chris Short - Communion Service
		7.00pm	Xcav8
Mon	4	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
		7.30pm	CLT Meeting
Tue	5	7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed	6	8.30am	Community Fridge (until 10am)
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)/ 6.15pm (ages 8-18)
Thu	7	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
			Please note - NO Ukraine Prayer Meeting this week
Fri	8	10.00am	Vicky Bees
		10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect!
Sat	9		
Sun	10	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC - All-Age Service
		7.00pm	Xcav8

**Two Weeks Ahead**

## And more dates for your diary ...

**EVENTS**

**Picnic Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Wreath Making.**

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

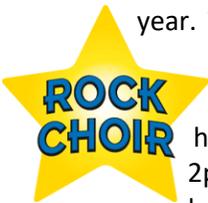
## Entertainment coming soon

Two non-Church events are taking place at VBC very shortly.

On Sat 9<sup>th</sup> July, we will be hosting the **Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club** who are having their annual exhibition here this year. There will be a number of working layouts on display, as well as trade stands and refreshments.



And on the following Saturday (16<sup>th</sup>) **Rock Choir**, who practise here every Wednesday morning, are holding two concerts, at 2pm and 7pm. There is an entrance fee for both events and both are highly recommended.



## A Cuppa in the Garden

Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup> 2.00 to 5.00pm

Wendy and David invite all to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in their garden, just around the corner from the church. They would welcome donations for Ukraine (Hope Lebedyn). Their address is available in the Members Directory or from the office.



## Calling all Bookworms

The next Bookclub will be on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> July during Flow Cafe. We are going to discuss the book "Small pleasures" by Clare Chambers.



*(Please note change of date for Flow Café, just for this month).*

# PRAYER DIARY 1: 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY

## From Psalm 25

**Monday:** "In You, LORD my God, I put my trust." Let us thank God that HE is faithful and keeps His promises. All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of His covenant. HE usually asks us to be obedient in some way as our part in this. Let us ask Him to show us if we are falling short anywhere, and affirming our trust in Him, ask Him to show us where we need to grow in grace and in our knowledge of Him.

**Tuesday:** "I trust in You; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one who hopes in You will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause. Our brothers and sisters in Lebedyn are having to trust in God in appalling circumstances. They are finding God faithful. Let us uphold them in prayer today, seeking God's protection, provision and peace for them. Believers in Russia have been lied to from the beginning. So, also uphold especially believers whose sons, brothers, husbands or fathers have not returned home from this "Special Exercise"!

**Wednesday:** "Show me Your ways, LORD, teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Saviour, and my hope is in You all day long." Let us pray for all those who hear the gospel through the ministries of VBC. Those in the current and last Alpha courses; those who are witnessed to through Brigades; Mums and Toddlers; CAP; the Wednesday Fridge and food provision; the Fellowships for older people too. Let us use these verses to pray for leaders and visitors that all may know or come to know "You are my God and Saviour" and all that means.

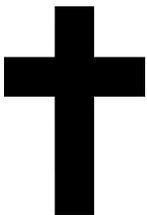
**Thursday:** "Remember, LORD, Your great mercy and love, for they are from of old." Let us spend time to give thanks to God for His great love and mercy shown to each one of us. Then let us uphold those in need of particular mercy and love just now - the bereaved; the sick in various treatments; those with chronic conditions that leave them fatigued and in pain; those whose families cause them heartache, and those still living in fear because of the media coverage of Covid.

**Friday:** "Do not remember the sins of my youth and rebellious ways; according to Your love remember me, for You, LORD, are good. Good and upright is the LORD; therefore instruct sinners in His ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way." We who are older are aware of some of the temptations that Satan will use to pull children and young people away from their faith if they trust Jesus. Sadly, today's times are far worse than our parents could ever have ....

... imagined. Let us thank God for Erik and Simon, and all who volunteer to share God's truth with the children and young people VBC is blessed with. May our Abba give them wisdom and strength and energy for the tasks, and lives entrusted to them. Pray for every child and young person that comes into the building, that they will hear about, and put their trust in, Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and to be rooted and grounded in Him while they are young.

**Saturday:** "All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of His covenant." Deliver Israel, O God, from all their troubles! Let us today, on the Jewish Sabbath, remember the command to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We can thank God for the organisations and congregations where God has brought Jews, Arabic peoples, and Gentile believers together, to learn and worship in unity. They are now printing New Testaments in Israel, and it is online for the secret believers to read. But their government has collapsed, and as in our country, there are unacceptably sinful behaviours considered lawful in the land. So, please pray as God leads you.

**Sunday:** "Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish. Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sin. See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me! Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in You. May integrity and uprightness protect me, because hope, LORD, is in You. There are lonely and afflicted in our church and in this land where people are being prosecuted for sharing Bible truth. They are being sacked and suspended from work and have to wait several years to see if courts will clear their names. Brothers and sisters around the world are being killed in great numbers, or imprisoned, just because they are Christian. As we rejoice in the freedom to worship together, please pray for those God lays on your heart today.



## **GRACE GRAY**

Those of you who did remember Grace Gray when we announced her passing recently, may be interested to know that her funeral will be at 2pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July. It will be held at Haywards Heath Baptist Church and they are hoping to have a live screening of the service via Zoom.

## 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:richard@victoriabaptist.org.uk).

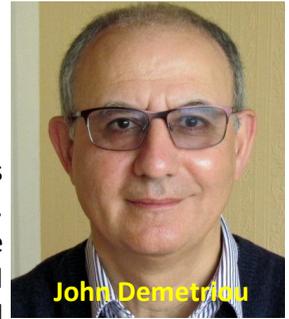


## CREATIVE WRITING

Our next meeting will be Saturday 16/7/2022 at 10.30am in the Hive. The title for homework is 'Here comes Summer' for you to get your writing fingers moving. We will also do a writing exercise. There will then be a summer break with no meeting in August. All welcome and if you want more information please contact John Demetriou through the VBC office .

# The Gospel Comes with a House Key

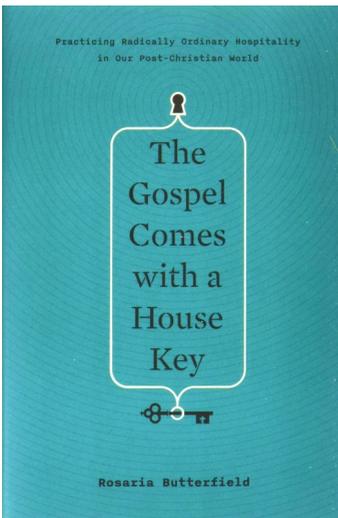
*Book Review by John Demetriou*



You might find this book a hard read. Not because it is difficult but because it appears extreme and unattainable. That would miss the author's purpose though and, more importantly, be an excuse to not practise a clear Biblical exhortation to use your home for God's service and spread the gospel.

Rosaria Butterfield shows how Christians have a unique great resource 'close to home' that they can utilise to benefit their neighbouring community socially and spiritually, which an official church does not have.

To perform this type of hospitality well she enumerates the following biblical attitudes as key to its success. The need to be: unpretentious, welcoming to all kinds of people, sacrificial, ready for some mess in your life, biblically rooted, practical and intentional. She is adamant you do not need a large home or facilities to do this well either. Rosaria illustrates those principles by describing how she, her family and other members of her church put them into practice in her local community, not hiding the difficulties they encountered or mistakes they made along the way as well as sharing the wonderful successes.



The book's style shows the author is well read and abreast of secular social trends, and has a teaching background, by the way she cleverly, pertinently and deftly intertwines and applies Biblical teaching with well-described, endearing and moving true life stories to illustrate her points.

The book is set in North Carolina, USA and there are a number of names and acronyms she uses from simple household goods to public welfare bodies that are lost on a non-American audience. A simple explanatory note appended to each would have helped the reader be more engaged and understand the context better.

With society becoming more insular and detached, this book highlights an important Biblical way Christians can reach out to their neighbours in

practical gospel living. Do you have the courage to read it and let it challenge you to play your part?

# MIRACLES OF Jesus

## Even a blind man is made to see - John 9:1-12

Our Lord performed miracles to meet human need. Miracles are often a launch pad for a message conveying spiritual truth. His miracles were His “credentials” to prove that He was the Messiah. “The blind receive sight.” Jesus used this miracle for a short sermon on spiritual blindness. (John 9:39–41)



I was reading recently that, in the United States, someone goes blind every twenty minutes!

The man we meet in this chapter was born blind. Just pause a moment. Born blind! Never seen his parents, never seen a baby’s smile, never seen a beautiful flower, a daffodil, a rose. Never seen a beautiful sunset. For some reason, this blind man was chosen from others in the same group who were begging. An even greater miracle was the opening of his heart to the Saviour! He was willing to confess Jesus as the Son of God. (Luke 4 : 25 – 27)

Jesus selected this man. Apparently, the man and his parents were known in the community. It was on the Sabbath when Jesus healed the man. (John 9:14) Once again, Jesus was upsetting and challenging the religious leaders. (John 5:9)

The disciples did not look at this man as an object of mercy, but as a subject for theological discussion. The disciples were sure the man’s blindness was caused by the sin of his parents, but Jesus disagreed with them. Only God knows why babies are born with disabilities. As far as we can see, what followed was at the Lord’s initiative. It seemed that the blind man was quiet and passive while discussion about his condition took place. Jesus made no attempt to introduce Himself, to declare His role as Saviour and healer.

What about the Lord’s method of healing? He began by spitting to make clay. He



used this method to heal a deaf man with a speech impediment. (Mark 7:32–37) He healed another blind man. (Mark 8:22–26) Some writers speak at length about the use of spittle. It is said to be a preservative against the poison of serpents, a protection against epilepsy.

Having had his eyes smeared with clay, the man was told by Jesus to wash in the pool of Siloam which was about half a mile from where Jesus encountered the blind man. This simple command to go and wash required a blind man to navigate through a festival packed city, and through narrow streets. He must have been inspired by the Lord’s tone of voice to obey to walk with mud packs on his eyes. We can only imagine the emotions, confusion, amazement and overwhelming joy! “He came back seeing!” What a wonderful Saviour and He still heals today!

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

*(Please note change of date for Flow Café, just for this month)*

## CHURCH MEETING

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> June.
10. DONM - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## PRAYER DIARY 2: 4<sup>TH</sup> – 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY

***“Whatever is true, whatever is honourable...just...pure...think about these things. What you have...heard and seen in me, do”***  
***Philippians 4:8-9.***

**Monday** *“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth.”* Psalm 57:5 Sadly there are few in our society that we can look up to as an example to follow. How we need to pray for all in positions of leadership, both secular and religious, that there might be a recognition that they need strength and inspiration, not their own, in order to discharge their God-given responsibilities. Pray that there will be a turning back to God and His commands in this country, and also in the USA as today they celebrate their Independence Day. Pray that the recent incidents involving multiple loss of life through the misuse of guns might not be downplayed/minimised yet again.

**Tuesday** *“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with very much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”* Luke 16:10 Pray for all involved in the judicial system in this country. As barristers join the list of those adopting strike action, pray against any misuse of the system and for the many that are still awaiting justice for crimes committed against them. Uphold our police force locally, our Police Crime Commissioner and all who hold high ranking positions that they might lead by example and also have the resources needed to maintain law and order.

**Wednesday** *“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God”.* Matthew 5:8 Purity in all areas of life has visibly been corroded over recent years. Pray for our young people that they won't be influenced by today's culture/lifestyle where impurity reigns unchallenged. Pray against the prolific exploitation of the vulnerable, and against trafficking and other forms of modern day slavery where the dignity of the individual is at risk. Pray for those who have been victims of abuse and for the healing of past memories.

**Thursday** *“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.”* Revelation 2:11. Pray for lessons to be learned through good communication at all levels of society. Pray, especially in our church life, that we will take time to listen firstly to God's voice; then to the wisdom of experience of “the saints” in our midst. Pray that we will not ignore the voices of the silent majority, nor of those who are slow to speak. May we always hear another's point of view before imposing our own. Pray for those on CLT as they represent all areas of church life that they might be able to reflect/discern the way forward best for all.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

**Friday** *“Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men so that you will not grow weary and lose heart”* Hebrews 12:3 Pray for those who are nearing the end of their earthly race and whose situations have become a burden and wearisome to them. Pray that we will enable them to continue to look to Jesus as the author and finisher of their faith. Remember, too, the many persecuted Christians who face opposition from the authorities or endure torture or unfair imprisonment and whose whereabouts is unknown to their families. Remember the many displaced families from the Ukraine and the countless situations where the father is away fighting and where the mother is left with full family responsibilities.

**Saturday** *“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD’ ”.* Psalm 122:1. Pray for all who have responsibilities in leading worship tomorrow whether here at VBC or led elsewhere by some of our retired ministers. Remember also Bayo at Battersea Chapel; Emma at Waterfront, Gosport; Darren at Freedom Church, Sidley. Pray for those who have still to make the transition from worshipping at home rather than in the company of God's people. Pray for our children and young people who will be attending tomorrow's All Age service and for any parents facing a reluctance to attend from their offspring. Pray with expectation for tomorrow's ministry and that it might be an encounter with the Living God.

**Sunday** *“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen”.* Hebrews 13: 20-21. Commit the coming week to the Lord, asking that you might be open to His leading each and every day, prepared to be obedient to the Spirit's prompting, and enabled to bring light into the darkened lives of many with whom you will rub shoulders. May this be a week totally given over to the Lord, and may we then be able to look back with thankfulness for “all that the Lord has done for/through us.”

## **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).



## A busy week!

You will be pleased to know that work started this week on sorting out the ceiling problem in the Small Hall. It is hoped that it will be back in action shortly.

And do take care around the back of the church where work has started on erecting the scaffolding required for the roof repairs.





## FROM THE SUBLIME TO THE RIDICULOUS

On a hot and humid day, 8 intrepid golfers took part in the inaugural VBC Golf Day. We were using the new World Golf Handicap System which is meant to allow any golfer to play on any course with equity handicaps we're issued. With hopes high of winning the vastly expensive trophy, all eight golfers, six gents and two ladies, teed off exquisitely. For some, that was their best shot, for

others, the start of a round that would equal the greats.

Congratulations to Peter Diplock who won the longest drive on the eighteenth, but shame on all of us as no one could hit a par three green to win the closest to the pin drive. (Unfortunately, Peter arrived too late for the group photo, hence only 7 of us above.)

In the end, after three and a half hours of high quality golf (with some hacking) all the teams were in. Well done to Pete Martin who came in with the best gross score of 93.

The winning team with an average of 32 points was Colin McMahon, guest, Robin Comber, and Stephen Dickson.

However, the overall winner with a nett score of 65 and 38 Stapleford points was Colin McMahon... congratulations. It just goes to show that his handicap definitely needs cutting next time!

A great time was had by all! Thanks to everyone who took part, and for Willingdon Golf Club for hosting. See you all again next time. Jez



Pete Martin



Teresa Shing and Pat Chell



Colin McMahon

## FLOWER MINISTRY



The flowers on display last week were donated by  
Nancy Houston  
in memory of Paul



Some blank dates are coming up soon for the Flower Ministry. If you are interested in donating for any of the following dates, please contact Chris McMahon.

July 17, 31; Aug 14, 21



*"Just a note to thank you so much for the lovely flowers and greetings you sent a week ago for our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. The flowers were a lovely reminder of summer and are still looking fresh and lovely." David & Margaret*