

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 2nd/9th March 2025



“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

- Matthew 5:13



The Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5:13-16 – Indispensable

“You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world”. (v13, 14)



This week we welcome a mission team from Capernwray Bible College. Luca, Sam, Anna, Charlotte, Isabelle, Yette, Hadassah and Gabrielle are all international students taking a year out to learn more about the Bible and to grow in their love for Jesus. They will be with us

for a week, getting a taste of life at Victoria Baptist Church, sharing their testimonies, and using their gifts among us.

They've got a busy programme and would be grateful for your prayers. Please remember they are a long way from home and would ask you to do all you can to make them feel welcome. We'll also be sharing in communion together before the children go out and Chris will be continuing our series in the Sermon on the Mount.

We hope you'll be able to join us in person. For those unable to do so, we remember you and send our love.

Next Two Sundays (9TH & 16TH Mar)

Next Sunday morning (9th) will be an All-Age Service, led by Jez and Simon, with contributions from the Capernwray team. These youngsters will be getting involved with a number of different activities here at the church during their week with us.

At 6pm we have our monthly evening service.

The following Sunday (16th), Chris will be leading our service at 10am, continuing his series in the Sermon on the Mount.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the next 2 weeks

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

01323 737974

Eldon Road, Eastbourne BN21 1UE

helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

- Sun 2 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short, inc Communion
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8!
- Mon 3 6.00pm Girls Brigade
 7.30pm CLT Meeting
- Tue 4 Soaking in the Spirit - (next meeting 11th Mar)
- Wed 5 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 6.30pm Boys Brigade
 7.00pm Men's Curry Night
- Thu 6 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.15am Men's Fellowship with Neil Hilton
 2.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Tony Waters
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with the Capernwray Team
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
 evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)
- Fri 7 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 1.30pm World Day of Prayer
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 8 10.00am Flow Cafe
 10.30am Creative Writing
 10.30am Bookclub
- Sun 9 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Jez, Simon & the Capernwray Team
 6.00pm Evening Service
 7.00pm Xcav8!



- Sat 29th Mar** Messy Church for Adults, 7pm-9pm
 (please see Lucy Craggs for more details)
- Sun 30th Mar** Prospective Members' Meeting, 5pm
- Sat 17th May** Ladies Away Day at Glyndley Manor

- Mon 10 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 11 7.15pm Soaking in the Spirit - ladies only
- Wed 12 7.00am Prayer Meeting
8.15am Community Fridge
10.00am Vicky Bees
6.30pm Boys Brigade
- Thu 13 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
Men's Fellowship - next meeting 20th March
2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Norman Honeysett
7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)
- Fri 14 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
10.00am Vicky Bees
5.00pm Kids Club
7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 15 9.00am Ladies Prayer Breakfast
- Sun 16 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short
6.30pm Prayer Meeting
7.00pm Xcav8!



Men's CURRY NIGHT

There has been a great response to this event - taking place this coming Wednesday (5th) - and hopefully you have already signed up. Unfortunately, we are very close to our capacity (ie how many the restaurant can cope with) so would ask that you don't just turn up on the night unless your name is on our list - you will be disappointed! Keith Pamphilon is the man to see - he will be able to let you know if there are indeed any spaces still available.

Sign-up sheets (in the Welcome Centre)

Thanksgiving Service for Tony Waters - Thurs 6th March, 2.30pm - please sign up for refreshments after the service.

Ladies Prayer Breakfast - Sat 15th March, 9-10.30am. Yvonne Broadbent speaking.

Friends, Food & Fellowship - Fri 21st March, 12.30pm

Flow Café

Please join us from 10am on Saturday 8th March for a morning of craft, chat, coffee, cake and bacon rolls.

This month we will be donating all our proceeds to St. Wilfrid's Hospice.



St Wilfrid's Hospice

Creative Writing



On the same day as Flow Café. At 10.30am, the Creative Writing group will be meeting downstairs in the Hive. This month's topic to write on if you would like to have a go is 'Winter Blues' or, to misquote TS Eliot from the opening lines of his poem, 'The Wasteland', 'March is the Cruellest Month'. We will also have a **guest speaker, Lesley Dawson**, who will read from her work and tell us

about it. Newcomers are always welcome - for more information please contact John Demetriou. At the same time as Creative Writing, we have our **BOOKCLUB** meeting downstairs in the Snug. See Ingelore Demetriou for more information.

Girls' Brigade



A couple of weeks ago the older GB girls hosted an evening for their parents and the younger GB girls as part of their hospitality badge. They did a wonderful job of planning the evening & cooking the food - which was delicious! Everyone had a great time. I just wanted to share some pictures with you all. As you will see, it was Valentine's Day themed.



(3rd-9th March) *“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth ... You have ordained praise ... to silence the foe and avenger ... what is man that you should care for him?” Psalm 8.*

Monday Let's start this week by “joining with all nations in manifold witness to God's great faithfulness, mercy and love”(Thomas Chisholm, 1923) and pray that your praise for God will spill out in your conversations with everyone you meet, whether in the supermarket or workplace, gently drawing their attention to God, His greatness and His love for them.

Tuesday Looking at Exodus 13:17- 22 we see how caring God is when He leads us, knowing what we can cope with and the best route for our lives. Please pray for those recently baptised to be able to tune in to God's guidance and trust Him to lead them for their own sake and His glory.

Wednesday Father God, we pray that You will influence the thoughts, policies and words of Donald Trump. We do not understand why You allow some to be world leaders but we pray that we will trust You to work all things together for good.

Thursday Bring before God housing charities trying to support practically and legally those in substandard accommodation which is damp and damaging to health. Pray that Christian solicitors will be able to give their time as service to God, to speak up for those who are suffering. And pray that improved physical and mental wellbeing will bring people to give thanks to God.

Friday *Philippians 2:5 “in your relationships with one another have the same mind-set as Christ”*

Please pray for the Church of England, still struggling publicly with issues of leadership and the negative information shown on the news. This is damaging to non-Christians in our community who might otherwise look to Christianity for answers to life's big questions. Also pray that God will protect leaders in the Baptist church, when disputes over theology arise, so that God's name will be honoured.

Saturday Father God, we pray for the people and land of Israel and Gaza. We know there will be no true peace until they are both reconciled to You. We ask the seemingly impossible of our God who can move mountains. Open their eyes to You, guide them to seek Your forgiveness. We pray for repentance, Thy Kingdom come en masse in this part of the world, we pray.

Sunday *Isaiah 12:6 “Shout aloud and sing for joy... for great is the Holy One of Israel among you”* Maybe write a heartfelt prayer or poem thanking God for all He is and all He has done for us. If God leads you to, maybe you could ask for it to be published in our news sheet as it could be used by God to bless others.

THE OLD TOWN CHURCHES INVITE YOU TO
JOIN TOGETHER FOR AN ECUMENICAL
PEACE VIGIL



6PM MARCH 8TH
IN ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD
(BRING A LIGHT. IF BAD WEATHER WE WILL BE INSIDE THE CHURCH)

Anna Roberts

With mixed emotions we announce that Anna has gone to be with the Lord. She passed away on Tuesday morning at the age of 94, having been a member of VBC for the last 12 years. Sadly, she had not been able to attend church for a number of years owing to her poor health. Funeral details will follow shortly.



(10th-16th March) Seven prayers for the season of Lent, each reflecting different themes of reflection, repentance, and renewal:

Monday Prayer for Humility and Repentance

Lord Jesus, during this season of Lent, I come before You with a humble heart. Help me to recognize my weaknesses & sins, and grant me the courage to turn away from them. Teach me to walk in humility, seeking Your mercy and grace. May I grow closer to You through prayer, fasting, and acts of love.

Tuesday Prayer for Strength in Temptation

Heavenly Father, as I journey through these 40 days, I ask for Your strength to resist temptation. When I am weak, remind me of Your power. When I am weary, renew my spirit. Help me to rely on Your Word and Your presence to guide me through every trial. May this Lent be a time of spiritual growth and deeper trust in You.

Wednesday Prayer for Forgiveness

Merciful God, I confess my sins to You and ask for Your forgiveness. Wash me clean with Your love and help me to forgive others as You have forgiven me. Teach me to let go of grudges and to seek reconciliation where there is division. May Your peace fill my heart and my relationships.

Thursday Prayer for Compassion and Service

Lord, during this Lenten season, open my eyes to the needs of those around me. Help me to see Your face in the poor, the lonely, and the suffering. Give me a heart of compassion and a willingness to serve others in love. May my actions reflect Your love and bring glory to Your name.

Friday Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

Gracious God, as I walk through this season of Lent, renew my spirit and draw me closer to You. Help me to let go of distractions and focus on what truly matters. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, that I may live a life of faith, hope, and love. May this Lent be a time of transformation and deeper communion with You.

Saturday Prayer for Gratitude

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of this Lenten season, a time to reflect on Your sacrifice and love. Help me to be grateful for the blessings in my life and to use them to bless others. Teach me to live with a thankful heart, always mindful of Your presence and provision.

Sunday Prayer for Hope and Resurrection

Lord Jesus, as I journey through Lent, I look forward to the joy of Easter and the hope of Your resurrection. Help me to carry my crosses with faith, knowing that You are with me every step of the way. May this season prepare my heart to celebrate the new life You offer through Your victory over sin and death.

LET'S TALK
LONELINESS



LINKING LIVES
EASTBOURNE

Come and Join Us

Befriending



Our next training session:

Thursday 6 March

2.00pm - 4.30pm

@ Community Wise
Old Town



I'm so grateful for this service.
It's turned out fantastically. I wasn't
sure at first if befriending was for
me, but we get on really very well
and I'm so glad to have
her friendship



Achieved 2024

For further information contact us on

admin@linkingliveseastbourne.com

01323406242

Reg Charity No. 1171917; Company No. 10236474





FUNDRAISER

OBJECTIVE

Changing children's lives through the discovery of Jesus Christ

DETAILS

£32-35,000 pro-rata depending on experience.

Flexible working hours of approximately 5.5 hours per week.

APPLY

The application pack is on our website: www.spinnaker.org.uk/joinus

The closing date for applications is 7th March 2025.

SPINNAKER

Spinnaker is a Christian charity dedicated to promoting wonder and learning in primary school children to inspire them to engage with and explore the Christian faith. We do this by creating, delivering and distributing resources for Collective Worship and RE lessons, to support schools and equip schoolworkers.

Our work is rooted in Christian values, and we rely on the generosity of supporters, churches, and funders to bring our mission to life, developing impactful partnerships with these groups.

OPPORTUNITY

Spinnaker is looking for a dedicated Fundraiser to help our team work towards a more sustainable future. As a Fundraiser, you'll have the exciting opportunity to:

- **Build Connections:** Engage with churches, supporters, and funding bodies to secure vital support for our mission.
- **Write Impactful Applications:** Create compelling funding proposals to trusts, foundations, and corporate sponsors.
- **Drive Change:** Help develop and execute fundraising campaigns and events that bring lasting impact.
- **Make a Difference:** Work with a passionate, values-driven team to inspire children and communities through Christian outreach.

WHY WORK WITH US

- Be part of an enthusiastic and passionate team.
- Flexible working hours and the opportunity to work remotely.
- A collaborative work environment where your work and participation is valued.



RECRUITMENT@SPINNAKER.ORG.UK



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PASTOR ELIJAH'S STORY

Pastor Elijah is a good friend of Pastor Bohdan, and was serving in a church in the south of Ukraine when the full-scale invasion of Ukraine began. He stayed to support his congregation but, as time went on, it became more difficult. He was taken away for questioning and was beaten and tortured. This happened more regularly and became even more severe and traumatic for him. Eventually, Elijah and his family decided to flee to save their lives and they went to Germany. During this time, Elijah was mute as a result of the trauma of the torture and beatings he had endured. He decided to cry out to God through the written word and wrote some songs and psalms to express how he was feeling.

Today, he has moved from Germany and is co-pastoring a church in northern Europe. He can speak again and is happy to be safe and ministering to Ukrainian people where he is living.

His first psalm has been translated and was read at the Hope Lebedyn event marking the 3rd anniversary of the war. You can read it below:

Back on the road, with feet like lead
I thought I had left my prison.
But then I heard laughter from below.
It's like a nightmare, and I haven't been able to wake up yet.

God, are You near or are You far away?
Maybe it's both because You're everywhere.
I've been familiar with this road for a long time.
You and I travelled it together.
You cast me into a pit and into a prison.
Through this, You have revealed Yourself to me.



You are a God who gives and takes away,
Who allows death to be resurrected.
A God who owes us nothing, but gives Himself to us totally,
Absolutely.

Our God is a consuming fire
And He works through the fire.
He overcomes evil through the death of His Son Jesus.
God is the Alpha, the Omega and the Amen.

God understands when there is no understanding.
He is with us when it seems the enemy has won,
Burning with holiness and love.

Lead the way, God,
Because this is Your purpose for my life.
I'll burn my map and see the shadow of Your smile in the ashes.
I'll wait for my "Exodus"
And, when it comes, give me the strength and faith of the Spirit
So that I can lift my tired legs and run!
Run after You, my God.

You alone know my future
And whoever trusts in You will be wise and blessed..



Victoria Baptist Church
Eldon Road
Eastbourne BN21 1UE

*World Day of Prayer Service
prepared by the Christian women of
the Cook Islands*

1.30pm: in the church
(note earlier time!)
followed by refreshments in the hall
contact east.wdp23@gmail.com

All are welcome!



Seeing CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Part 8: Dealing with Envy

(with the help of Tim Keller)

Prov.:23:17-18, Ps.73:1-3,20-26

Why is it so bad?

1. Envy is the most insidious of the eight deadly sins because it ‘hides itself’. Unlike greed or lust where there might be some enjoyment, **envy is all bad**; demeaning, deceptive, humiliating and leaves you aggrieved and bitter, removing joy from your life. *“When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you”* (Ps. 73:21-22). It shows itself in different ways:

- a. By being critical of others, even people in church,
- b. Self pity,
- c. Taking comfort when others fail.

2. **It poisons your ability to enjoy life**; spiritually, psychologically, socially and professionally because it continually makes you want to compare yourself to others and fosters an unhealthy competitive spirit. Just as Adam and Eve felt they were missing out in the Garden of Eden, and partook of the forbidden fruit, we also have followed in their footsteps and continued to envy things not healthy for us.

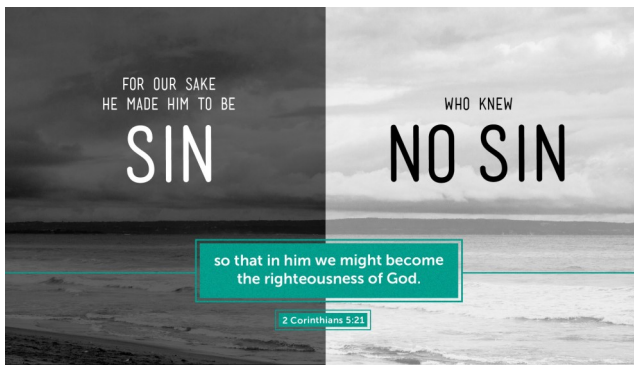
3. **Envy shows us how misguided our hearts are**. God wants us to live for Him alone but when we examine them we see how other things apart from God cause us to envy, showing how far from God we are.

4. **How then can we deal with envy?** Prov. 23:17-18, *“Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the Lord all the day.*

Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off”, gives us 2 ways:

Firstly, learn to ‘Fear the Lord’ ie learn to worship Him and have a spiritual experience of His presence, love and assurance of salvation as the Psalmist found when he went to the house of God, *“until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.”* (Ps. 73:17). It was in God’s presence he saw things from God’s perspective and came to his senses. For us too, it is helpful to consider what God has done for us in Christ’s substitutionary death on our behalf. He was the most unenvious of men yet He took all our sinful envy upon Himself’





....“For our sake He (God) made Him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21).

Secondly, look ahead to the future with hope of what God is going to do for us. We might not get the good

things we desire now, but in heaven they will be fulfilled. Therefore, when tempted to feel envious of others and hinder your spiritual growth, remind yourself, “Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known” (1 Cor. 13:12).

Tolkien benefited from this outlook. As a perfectionist he struggled to finish his great work, ‘Lord of the Rings’, while others like his friend CS Lewis had already produced a series of fictional works. He felt so incompetent he stopped writing but he had a dream one night that changed his attitude. Out of that dream came his allegorical short story of ‘Leaf by Niggle’ to show what he learnt. It is about a man who has a great ambition to draw a tree but only manages to draw a leaf because of interruptions and demands on his life that frustrate him. At the end of his life though he finds his tree, rejoices in it and sees how his small work of the leaf fitted into the bigger picture. This helped Tolkien persevere in finishing his great epic that has thrilled millions.

May we also learn a similar lesson and “be content with what we have, for He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’” (Heb.13:5).

You can hear the full sermon at: <https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/the-evil-of-envy/>

John Demetriou

Messy Church

A reminder that Lucy Craggs is the person to see re tickets for the Messy Church event (Adults only) on Sat March 29th, 7-9pm. Cost £5 each.

Activities available -

Floristry, Mosaic Making, Caricature Drawing, Card Making, Cake Decorating, Scrap Bible Journalling & Painting with Water Colours.



Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Hope Lebedyn



A brief note to thank those who sort the flowers. I received a lovely bunch on Monday which is just what I needed. Prayers for all who work in the background for the church and members. I thank you all for being there, it is a true blessing. LB



Many thanks to the flower team for last week's delivery. Much appreciated to brighten up my new abode. I haven't unpacked a vase yet but I managed to find something suitable. ID

