



Sunday 5th November 2023

**VICTORIA** Baptist Church News



**“... Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.” *Luke 17:3-4***

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## **Luke 17:1-10 – The Essential Jesus – The Peace Process**

**“Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying, “I repent”, you must forgive them.” (Luke 17:1-10)**

What are we to do about the problems in the world? What are we to say when people talk about the troubles in the Ukraine or in Israel? Is there any way we can tilt this sinful, troubled world towards heaven and away from hell? Can we make a difference? What should Jewish and Palestinian Israelis do? What should we do?



In the passage we’re looking at this week, Jesus gives us the answer. The world needs people who intentionally, perpetually, and sacrificially forgive others. That’s the only way that minor offences are stopped from becoming major ones. It’s the only way that minor conflicts are prevented from becoming all-out wars. It’s the only way both victims and perpetrators can avoid complete ruin. That’s as true in homes and workplaces as it is among nations.

But where on earth are we to find such people? When the disciples understood Jesus’ command, it seemed impossible to them. Jesus, replied that it was not only perfectly possible but it was also their most basic duty. In doing so He gave them the key. God willing, this Sunday, we’ll discover it together.

### **PRAYER MEETING 6.30PM TONIGHT**

### **Next Sunday**

Jezy Taylor will be leading and preaching at the All-Age Remembrance Service.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the coming week

Chris off Tuesday

Sandra off Thursday

Erik away in India

Simon off Tuesday

Julie in Thursday

Colin off Monday

Kevin off Mon & Sat

Tim in Wed am & Fri am

Jez in Wed am & Fri am

Helen in Mon

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

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## VBC Bank Details

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Victoria Baptist Church Trust

*Account Number:* 00010297

*Sort Code:* 40-52-40

Staff contact details:

*firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk*

(eg *chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk*)

# The Week Ahead

Sun	5	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live & Online with Chris Short, to include Communion
		5.00pm	Prospective Members Meeting
		6.30pm	Prayer Meeting
		7.00pm	Xcav8
Mon	6	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
		7.30pm	CLT Meeting
Tues	7	6.45pm	Alpha - "Why & how do I pray?"
		7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
Wed	8	8.30am	Community Fridge and Cafe
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		6.30pm	Boys Brigade
Thu	9	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		10.00am	Alpha (Ladies only) - "Why & how do I pray?"
		10.15am	Men's Fellowship next meeting 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Chris McMahan
		7.30pm	Ukraine Prayer Meeting
Fri	10	10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect
Sat	11	10.00am	Flow Café in aid of Linking Lives
		10.30am	Creative Writing
Sun	12	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	All-Age Remembrance Service with Jez Taylor
		6.30pm	Behold the Man



## Ladies Italian Night

Please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre if any of you ladies would like to join us for an evening at *Pomodoro e Mozzarella* in Cornfield Terrace on Wed week (15<sup>th</sup>). We will meet at 7pm and would remind you that you are of course paying for your own meal!

## Daily Bible Reading



## BIBLE READING NOTES

Encounter with God and Daily Bread

Could those of you who receive these notes from me please pay for next year by next Friday (10<sup>th</sup>)? The cost for 2024 is £23. Please pay by bank transfer if possible,

marking your payment **Bible Reading Notes**. Otherwise, cash or cheque to the office please. Many thanks - Sandra

## SUPPORT YOUR VBC BOOKSTALL

Christmas stock is in at the bookstall in the Welcome Centre, with gifts, cards, coasters and candles all available at amazing prices!



## FRIENDS, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

The next lunchtime gathering will be on Friday week (17<sup>th</sup>). Please note though, that you do need to sign up for this event if you would like to attend. The sign-up sheet is situated, as usual, in the Welcome Centre.

## Life groups @ VBC

Friendship, Faith and Fun at the heart of our community



I would like to start two new groups - a daytime group and an evening group. If you feel that God is calling you to support this,

please see me. There are several people looking for groups and currently our existing groups are full. Jez

## CHURCH MEMBERS' BUSINESS MEETING

Please note the date for the next meeting - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The agenda will follow next week but please be aware that there are some particularly important issues regarding church assets, which need to be discussed and voted upon, so please make every effort to attend.



## NOTES FROM BULGARIA

*You will recall that Brian Wightwick is currently in Bulgaria. He sent us an update earlier this week, giving an outline of his activities.*

Sunday morning (29<sup>th</sup> Oct) - preached at Full Gospel Church in Sofia. Smallish congregation of around 50, yet they have supplied 50,000 meals to Ukrainians already this year! Very dynamic church, led by a friend of mine.

Then to Kazanlak on Sunday afternoon (3+ hour by car)

Preached this evening (Tues 31<sup>st</sup>) at the Evangelical Church, where we were based as a mission team last year. This was a midweek service and I based it on the study we did at our VBC Life Group last Wednesday (25<sup>th</sup>) from Philippians 4:6-7.



Tomorrow (Wed 1<sup>st</sup>) visiting the old folks' home with selection of items collected and using surplus cash from last year to provide some extras for the 60 or so older people, none of whom have close family any longer

Sunday (5<sup>th</sup>) morning is another preaching slot at the Evangelical Church and next Wednesday evening a Bible Study at the Baptist Church.

Value your prayers especially for Sunday as they expect a full-length sermon! Pray that one of their very good interpreters will be available - they can usually translate simultaneously as we have worked together many times before.



In the next few weeks 400+ migrants will be leaving the hotels in Eastbourne for an unknown destination. This could be the streets of Eastbourne or somewhere else. They quite literally do not know where they are going. Amongst them are children as part of families. Many arrived with nothing and gradually they have accumulated some clothes and books and so they need suitcases.

Two hotels will close on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, the others in a fortnight, we believe. So please, as a matter of urgency, please let us have any suitcases you may have which you feel may now be redundant. They can be brought to the office and I can collect them from there.

## Creative Writing: 'ROLL UP, READ ALL ABOUT IT!'



Since retiring I have had more time to buy and read a newspaper and see if it has advantages over reading other freely available news online which I was used to when working.

My conclusion so far is yes, it has. I like the feel of the paper, easy accessibility of different articles that I can annotate, and I have been reminded what good journalism and writing there is amongst our broadsheets, especially the well-researched topics relating to current issues, or the variety and engaging writing of others covered. For example, the paper I picked up last week covered - the luxury Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul under Taliban and non-Taliban management; why Ultra processed foods are so addictive; and an analysis of why the same people are often late for things - all fascinating reading.

**This gave me the idea that the next Creative Writing topic is to write an article on a subject that interests you and make it interesting for a wider audience who have little knowledge of the topic, not more than 600 words, in line with space restrictions of a newspaper. It can be in the form of a poem if you prefer.**

To help inspire you I recommend you watch the film, 'News of the World' with Tom Hanks:

[News of the World review – Tom Hanks fights fake news in the wild west | Westerns | The Guardian](#)

Our next meeting is in the Hive, 10.30am-12noon, during Flow Cafe next Saturday (11<sup>th</sup>). All are welcome, even if it's your first time. If you would like more information, see John Demetriou.

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Please note that Ingelore Demetriou's **Bookclub**, usually held at the same time, will not be meeting this month

## Reserved

Each Sunday morning we place **RESERVED** signs on a handful of seats near the back of the church. These are for specific people who have particular needs and we would ask that, unless you are one of the regular users of these reserved seats, you don't simply ignore the signs but check first with whoever is on duty (usually Kevin or Colin) that the seats are indeed free. Your cooperation would be much appreciated.





**Date: 3-6 May 2024**

**Location: Congress Theatre, Eastbourne**

# BIBLE

BY THE BEACH

*There is nothing better than to meet with a large group of Christians and together study the scriptures, praise God and learn how to live as a follower of Jesus Christ in our present world - even better, when the opportunity is in our own town and at a reasonable cost!*

*This year's theme is **'God has Spoken'**, focussing through the Bible readings and seminars on the relevance of what Jesus and the Bible have to say for our lives. The main speaker is Dr Richard Pratt who is involved in providing accessible training for Christian leaders around the world. In addition, there is a vibrant children's and youth work.*

*As in previous years we hope to take advantage of a discount price, if we can get 10+ adults, of £110 per person for the whole period if we book before 30<sup>th</sup> November.*

*For more information follow the web link at:*

[Bible by the Beach - Bible by the Beach](#)

*and/or **speak to John and Ingelore Demetriou** for more information. If you can't make it for the full weekend, there are other offers available such as day passes. If you are interested in taking advantage of this offer, please **put your name on the list in the Welcome Centre***

## Keys!

Kevin is running short of keys to give to members who need them for various activities in the church. We are reluctant to simply get even more keys cut when there should be more than enough to cater for everyone. The problem is that some of you have needed keys in the past and understandably have forgotten you have them! The issues here are unnecessary cost if we have to keep buying new keys, and security - the fewer keys we have, the lesser the risks of a security breach.



Kevin is away this weekend but I know that you would make him a very happy man if you would bring no-longer-needed keys to the office as soon as possible. Let November be key-amnesty month and give Kevin an early Christmas present!

## FLOWER MINISTRY

The flowers two weeks ago were donated by friends of VBC



As the end of the year gets ever closer, perhaps you could give some thought to donating flowers in 2024. We already have most of January filled so if you have specific dates you would like to commemorate via the Flower Ministry, do contact Chris McMahon asap to ensure you get the date you would like, or as near to it as possible.

Donations are equally acceptable from individuals and from groups, life groups being an obvious example.

# PRAYER DIARY 6<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

Based on Psalm 105

**Monday (v1)** "Praise the Lord. Praise the name of the Lord; praise Him, you servants of the Lord". The names in Bible times were often chosen to show the character of the person named. For example, we know God as our Heavenly Father (Abba); our Holy God who cannot look on sin; the Lord Jesus, our Saviour; and the Holy Spirit, who is the "Paraclete", meaning the One who is alongside us, as well as within us.

So, today, think about how well you know Him, and praise Him for every aspect of His Name that is important to you. Pray that God would reveal more of Himself and His attributes to you.

**Tuesday (v2)** "Praise the name of the Lord you who minister in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God." Let us pray for all those who teach adults, our young people or children, and those who work in the offices and care for the building. Let us ask that they too might grow in their knowledge of the Lord and ALL His names and character.

**Wednesday (v3)** "Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praise to His name, for that is pleasant." Let us praise Him for all that we know of His goodness in our own lives and families, in our church life, and the many activities that reach out to others at Victoria. Sing, or make a joyful noise to Him today - maybe using a recording of worship songs to give Him praise.

**Thursday** Pray for the protection of all those Jews and Arabs in Israel and Gaza who believe in Jesus. Remember the hostages in prayer, praying for their protection and release. Pray especially, that God will give visions and dreams or other revelations of Himself to all people on either side who cry out to Him for help in this war situation.

**Friday (vv8-9)** "He remembers His covenant for ever, the promise He made, for a thousand generations, the covenant He made with Abraham, the oath He swore to Isaac." Let us continue in prayer for those at war. In Ukraine, many hostages have been Christians whose families are desperate for news of them. Children have been traumatized by rockets and constant sirens, the loss of family members, homes and possessions. Please just cry out to God for them, ask Him to watch over them and to keep safe our link Church family in Lebedyn, and all those who work or volunteer there.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

**Saturday (vv42-43)** “For He remembered His holy promise given to His servant Abraham. He brought out His people with rejoicing, His chosen ones with shouts of joy.” As wars, and rumours of wars, continue in this present age, let us give thanks to God for the Lord Jesus who redeems and rescues a people that are His very own – God’s true and treasured possession (1Pet. 2:9-10). Let us pray that many come into the joy and life that are found in Him alone.

**Sunday (vv13-14)** “Your name, Lord, endures for ever, Your renown, Lord, through all generations. For the Lord will vindicate His people and have compassion on His servants.” There is so much in the Bible that shows us how true this is. Many of us have seen the Lord vindicate us or show His compassion to us, and can testify that our Heavenly Father has proved faithful in supporting us and bringing us safely through many difficult life situations.

Please spend time worshipping our God who is truth, faithful to His Covenants and promises, loving, gracious, and full of compassion for each of His children.

Remember too, the service at Victoria, the youth work, and Erik in India, plus those in Sunday School. May they all experience, or learn about, the names and faithfulness of our Heavenly Father.



**Preaching Engagements** *Please remember in prayer*

Brian Wightwick	5 Nov	Kazanlak, Bulgaria (see page 6)
Francis Bates	12 Nov	Halland Chapel, 11am
Erik Cornelisse	31 Oct-30 Nov	India mission trip

**MISSION WORSHIP**

One of the biggest Christian book and Bible distributors in Europe, Kingsway CLC Trust, are thrilled to announce that Mission Worship, an annual worship event, will be returning for its first face-to-face gathering in 3 years. This year’s event delves deep into the core of the Christian faith with specialist seminars including:

Worship Evangelism, Song Writing Stream, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Shifting Culture. Go to [missionworship.com](http://missionworship.com) for more details.

# FLOWER MINISTRY

The flowers last week were donated by Yvonne Broadbent in memory of Clive



*Thank you so very much for the flowers received recently from the Church. They have lifted my spirit tremendously and I am thankful to our Church family for every kindness.  
Love Doreen x*