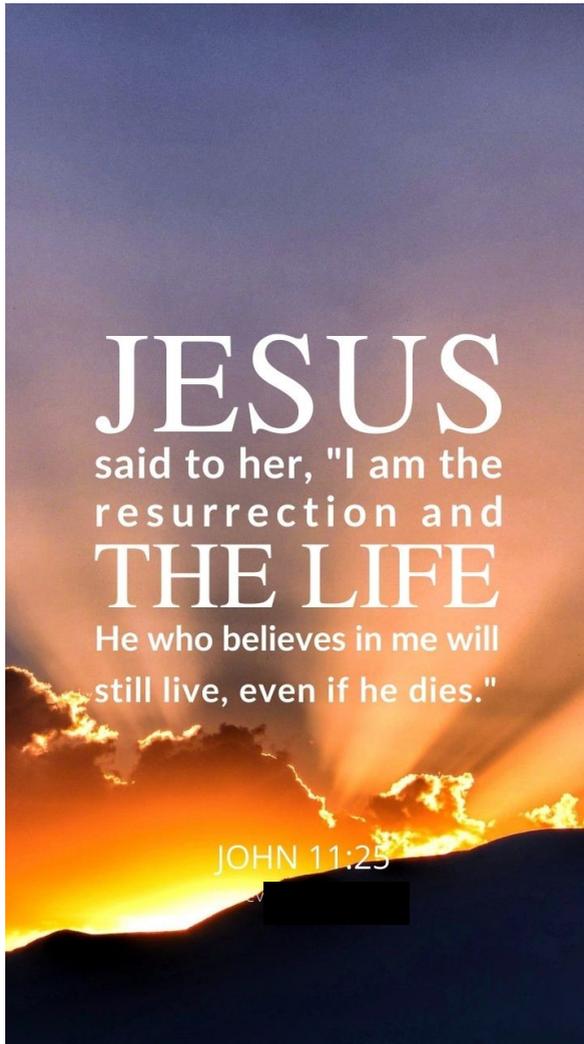




Sunday August 7th 2022

VICTORIA Baptist Church News



JESUS
said to her, "I am the
resurrection and
THE LIFE

He who believes in me will
still live, even if he dies."

JOHN 11:25



Live @ 10 and online with Martin Young from Stafford

Meeting Jesus

John 11 - Lazarus

After a few years of being confronted with loss, sickness and grief that have come with the pandemic, war and economic upheaval, it is striking that Jesus is also impacted by the loss of one of His best friends. John 11 describes how Jesus compassionately meets with those who are suffering while at the same time navigating the reality of his own grief and hope.



Next Week

During Chris' sabbatical, we have a variety of preachers on Sunday mornings, some external and some from our fellowship here at VBC. Next week, at our All Age Service, Erik Cornelisse will be bringing God's Word to us, continuing the *Meeting Jesus* series and thinking specifically about children and young people.



Creche

Creche facilities are available on the lower floor - in the Hive - for Sunday morning services. If you are a visitor, please speak to someone on the Welcome Desk and they will be able to give you directions. Please note that parents are asked to remain with their children. The service will be transmitted to the Hive.

Carol Dadswell

I am sure most of you will be aware by now that Carol passed away at the beginning of this week. Funeral details will be announced as soon as they are available. Please remember Ray and the family in your prayers as they cope with their loss and have the task of making preparations for the funeral.



STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff are **IN** as follows -

Chris - on Sabbatical until Sept 12th *
Sandra - every day except Thurs
Colin - every day except Mon
Erik - every day except Thurs
Helen - Tues, Wed & Thurs

Simon - every day except Thurs
Jez - Wed and Fri
Julie - in on Thurs
Tim - Wed & Fri
Kevin - every day

* In Chris' absence, contact the office or Tim Nunn for pastoral issues (or use the referral form on the website) - and Sandra Taylor, the CLT, or the staff team for other issues.

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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helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

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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)

The Week Ahead

Sun	7	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online - with Martin Young Communion led by Jez Taylor
Mon	8		
Tue	9		
Wed	10	8.30am	Community Fridge and Breakfast Club (to 10am)
Thu	11	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		7.30pm	Prayer for Ukraine
Fri	12	10.00am	Outreach Prayer meeting
Sat	13	10.00am	Safeguarding Training *
Sun	14	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	All-Age service live @VBC with Erik Cornelisse

* There is 1 space available on this training session. Please contact Sandra if you would like to attend.

FRIENDS, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

The next meal will take place on Friday 26th August. Please sign up on the list in the Welcome Centre if you would like to join us.

6th - 10th September



LABYRINTH

walk the experience

PRAYER DIARY: 8TH – 14TH AUGUST

“But let all who take refuge in you be glad, let them ever sing for joy.” Psalm 5:11

Monday As you read the above verse, pray today to be filled with God’s joy because when you walk through today with childlike delight, savouring every blessing, you proclaim your trust in God, your ever present Shepherd. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Tuesday Please pray that God will open the eyes of the Russian leadership to see that they are slaves to sin, that they will repent, be put right with God and the whole nation will be changed through the power of the Holy Spirit. God really can move mountains, let’s pray for His power to be released and overcome this evil.

Wednesday In many parts of Asia and Africa, Muslim neighbours treat Christians in their villages with extreme cruelty. Please pray that God will be miraculously with Christians through their suffering, and pray that God will reveal Himself to Muslims worldwide so they too may be saved.

Thursday There are many parents in our congregation who now have adult children in their 30’s and 40’s who were brought up in Sunday school, prayed for and cherished, but have sadly left the church in their adult lives. This is deeply grievous to us older parents and to God who still loves them dearly. Please pray for a huge movement of the Holy Spirit to return these precious ones into His kingdom.

Friday Please pray for all who work at the palace of Westminster, for a complete overhaul of the culture; for a renewed understanding and outworking of the principle of service; for a renewed desire for Christian principles to prevail; and for Christian MP’s and leaders in our country.

Saturday Give thanks to God for people you know who are really searching for God. Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable their faith to grow. Please also pray that they will feel comfortable to integrate into a Christian community, not always an easy concept if you have never been to church before.

Sunday “Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, pour out Your spirit we pray” May God bless, have mercy on, and guide every Christian community around the world today, and may He prepare our hearts to be one with Him to His glory, Amen.

FUEL FOR PRAYER



Accommodation Required

A young Christian woman from London is looking for a room to rent in the area as she moves down to start a new job in the next few weeks. Please contact Colin if you feel you may be able to help.

The Miracles of Jesus

The Pool of Bethesda

John 5:1-9



There were three Jewish feasts which were feasts of obligation – Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Every adult male Jew who lived within 15 miles of Jerusalem was legally bound to attend them. In chapter 6, we may think of this feast as Pentecost because the events of

chapter 6 : 4 happened when the Passover was in mid-April and Pentecost was seven weeks later. John demonstrates in his gospel Jesus attending the great feasts, for Jesus did not disregard the obligations of Jewish worship. To Jesus it was not a duty, but a delight to worship with His own people.

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He was apparently alone. There is no mention of His disciples. He found His way to a famous pool. Its name was either Bethesda, which translated means House of Mercy, or some manuscripts say Bethzatha which means House of the Olives. The pool was deep enough to swim in. Beneath the pool (300 feet long) was a subterranean stream which every now and again bubbled up and disturbed the waters. The belief was that the disturbance was caused by an angel and that the first person to get into the pool after the bubbling would be healed of any illness from which they were suffering. To us today, this sounds like superstition but to people of Jesus' day, this was believed to be a healing angel!

Ancient people were especially impressed with the holiness of water, for example, rivers and springs. Water was so precious, they were bound to be impressed. Today, we take water for granted – turn on/off the tap - but, in the ancient world, water was so valuable!

In one of the commentaries – a quote from folklore in the Old Testament – when a man was about to ford a river, he should pray and wash his hands “for he who wades through a stream with unwashed hands incurs the wrath of the gods.”

Coming back to Jesus as He walked around the pool, His heart must have been touched as He saw the blind, the lame, the severely crippled - what a sight, what a stench of bodies unwashed, lack of toilet facilities – it must have been heartrending, and Jesus picked out the man in our story. Jesus must have selected the most pitiable case. His disability was such that it was unlikely, even



John Purkiss



..... impossible, he would ever get into the pool after it had been disturbed. The man did not appear to have any friends to help him. Jesus was always the friend of the friendless. His desire was to help and, yes, heal.

Jesus began by asking the man a question, “Do you want to be healed?” It was not such a foolish question. This man had waited thirty-eight years. Maybe all hope had died. He must have been in a state of despair. In his heart of hearts, he may have thought that if his situation changed, he would have to think about making a living! But no, this man’s response was immediate. He wanted to be healed, though he did not see how it was going to happen since he had nobody to help him.

Jesus told the man to get up. After thirty-eight years, his muscles must have been shrivelled, leaving him with no power in his legs. The power of God never dispenses with the effort of man. He went from a sense of helplessness to standing up for the first time, thanks to the power of Jesus, Jesus, commanding the man to do the impossible.

“Get up. Take up your bed (a simple pallet) and walk!”

Is there a lesson, dear reader? The challenge “Do you want to be healed?” Maybe you have given up. “No-one can help me.”

The question is, “Do you want to be healed?” Let the love and power of Jesus come into your life. It is a miracle waiting to happen!

JIGSAWS PLUS

Following a big clear out, we were delighted that so many jigsaws were taken last week with just a handful remaining. We are repeating the exercise this week by putting on display those we have left - PLUS a number of games that we have also been storing. Again, we want to get rid of them to create extra storage space so please, have a browse on Sunday and just help yourself to anything on display. The games include Scrabble, Chess, Cribbage, Upwords, Boules and others.



Please remember - we don't want them back!

FLOWER MINISTRY

These are the flowers that were on display last week



*Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the lovely flowers I received for my 90th birthday. It's wonderful to know the love and concern of the Church Family. May God bless you all. Love, Hanny.*



A Message from Ian Doling

Please pass on thanks to all at Victoria for the messages, love and prayers which have been quite overwhelming and a tremendous support at what has been a bit of a trying time for me personally.

Not the holiday that I envisaged - a spell in hospital!