



Sunday 10th April 2022

VICTORIA Baptist Church News



Blessed

IS THE ONE
WHO COMES
IN THE NAME
OF THE LORD.

—*Matthew 21:9*



10am - Live at VBC - All-Age Service with Jez Taylor

Who is your king?

Today is Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. This is the day we traditionally remember Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey and being proclaimed king by the crowds. It was a fulfilment of messianic prophecy and a deliberate act by Jesus. When Jesus proclaimed Himself King, what did He mean?

In our service today we will reflect on who or what is a king to us; what kings or leaders do, and why Jesus is a very different type of king than the earthly kings and leaders our planet has experienced so far. Jesus calls us to make choices. Who is your king? Which kingdom do you belong to?



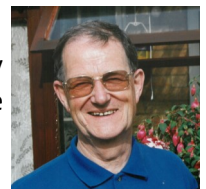
Live Streaming



Please note that, with effect from this weekend, there will be NO live streaming of All-Age services here at VBC. An edited version of the service will be available online, generally within a day or two of the event. Safeguarding concerns are the reason for this change.

Last Week

Last week's evening service saw David Ashby being interviewed by Chris. If you were unable to make it but would like to hear the interview, please contact the office and we will let you have a CD.



STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Please note that Erik, Sandra and Jez will be at the youth camp from 11th-14th April, Chris is taking Wednesday off as well as his usual Tuesday, and it's the usual working pattern for the rest of the team.

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

Treasurer

Louise Hughes

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*)



Please note that material for next week's news sheet will need to be submitted by **Wednesday lunchtime (13th)** with publication due a day earlier than usual.

Sun	10	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	All-Age Service - Jez Taylor
Mon	11		Youth Camp on the Isle of Wight, return on Thurs 14 th
Tue	12	7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed	13	8.30am	Community Fridge (until 10am)
Thu	14	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		2.30pm	Joint Men's & Women's Fellowship Communion Service with Chris Short speaking
		7.30pm	Prayer Meeting for Ukraine
Fri	15	10.00am	Good Friday - with Francis Bates
Sat	16	1.00pm	Messy Church
Sun	17	5.50am	Sunrise Service at Beachy Head
			Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online with Chris Short

The Week Ahead



Wed Apr 20
Fri Apr 22
Tues Apr 26
Wed Apr 27
Fri June 3

Men's Curry Night (see below)
Friends, Food & Fellowship, 12.30pm
Alpha Course starts, 6.45pm
Church Meeting for Members, 7.30pm
Church Jubilee BBQ, 12.30pm

Men's CURRY NIGHT

Come for a curry with an educational and entertaining talk from one of our VBC members, George John (FRCS, Urologist).

Venue - Spice Garden, Church St, Old Town.

Date - Wed 20th April.

Time - 7.30pm.



Please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre to reserve a place, or ring the office to get your name added to the list. Pay for your own meal of course!

Funeral Dates



The Thanksgiving Service for the life of **Brian Coombe** will take place here at VBC on **Wednesday 4th May at 2.30pm**. This will be preceded by the committal at Langney Cemetery earlier in the day. If you want to join with Avril and the family after the service for some refreshments in the hall, sign-up sheets will be in the Welcome Centre shortly.

And two days later, on **Friday 6th**, we are having the Thanksgiving Service for **Gladys Attwater** at 12.45pm, preceded by the committal at Eastbourne Crematorium. Further details will follow after Easter.

FELLOWSHIPS

Please note that our Easter activities begin on Maundy Thursday at 2.30pm when the Men's Fellowship will be joining with the Women's Fellowship for a Communion Service. Chris Short will be speaking. Everyone is welcome.

For future reference, the first meetings after Easter will be on Thursday 21st for both the Men's (10.15am) and the Women's (2.30pm) Fellowships.

SUNRISE

Please note the planned (weather-permitting) Sunrise Service at Beachy Head on Easter Sunday. We will be congregating at the RAF Memorial (opposite the Beachy Head pub) at 5.50am.



MEMBERS UPDATE

In preparation for distributing an up-to-date edition of the Members' Directory, could we please ask you to let the office know of any changes to your address, telephone numbers or e-mail address. We are aiming to get this latest edition out to you by the end of the month.

ALPHA 2022

Alpha explores the foundations of Christianity. It's relaxed, low key, and gives guests the chance to ask questions and explore the Christian faith. Dinner is also included.

Do you know anyone that you'd like to invite? Why not attend the first few sessions with them?

Alpha starts Tuesday 26th April, 6.45pm, here at VBC.

To book, or for more information, please email:

tim@victoriabaptist.org.uk



Let's get Inviting.

PRAYER DIARY: 11TH - 17TH APRIL

MONDAY Mark 11: 15-19. We remember the occasion when Jesus confronted those who were buying/selling in the Jerusalem Temple. We pray for all who use our buildings that they might realise that it is a House of Prayer and that there are those available to pray with and for them at any time. May we be passionate for the truth and always be uncompromising on following Biblical mandates; may we welcome all who seek You in our midst whilst still being brave in standing up for You. May VBC be a place of refuge and sanctuary, where new life is found.

TUESDAY Mark 14: 1-9. Mary sought to prepare Jesus for what was to come. May we be able to prepare our children and young people to face life's challenges as they grow and move on to new experiences in life. May we prepare those who seek baptism, that it might be an amazing experience, beginning their life of discipleship. May we prepare those contemplating marriage, that it might have a truly Christian basis. May we adequately prepare those facing the end of their earthly life, that their final days might be full of anticipation of all that awaits them in their heavenly home.

WEDNESDAY Matthew 26. Betrayal must have been hard for Jesus to accept from one of His disciples. Pray for those who have been betrayed in family relationships; those who have abandoned the way of Christ in which they were raised and so hurt those who love them most; those who have betrayed the trust they once had in leadership roles in the home and even in the church. Lord you know what is in our hearts. May we be loyal in all we say and do, mindful of how our actions always affect those who are closest to us.

MAUNDY THURSDAY Luke 22. On the night He was betrayed and arrested Jesus said to His friends: "Watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation ... the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Pray for all who, in times of testing and difficulty, succumb to those areas of weakness in their lives: those who struggle with addictions; those who seek to take advantage of the weak and vulnerable; those who abuse their positions in leadership and responsibility: that they might experience afresh the strength and determination not to yield as they have countless times before. May we prove the power of believing prayer and ever seek to support and encourage those whose walk with the Lord is fraught with difficulties and challenges unknown to us. Thus may we truly be family to those who have no close family themselves.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

GOOD FRIDAY *“O precious sight, my Saviour stands, dying for me with outstretched hands. O precious sight; I love to gaze, remembering salvation's day.”* “Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows...He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering ...” Denial, trial, abandonment, crucifixion, pain, torture, humiliation etc. etc. “O make me understand it, help me to take it in what it meant to You, the Holy One, to bear away my sin.” *May I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the cross. May I see it like the first time, standing as a sinner lost. Undone my mercy and left speechless, watching wide-eyed at the cost. May I never lose the wonder, the wonder of the cross.* It is finished. It is finished. Christ has opened heaven's door.

EASTER SATURDAY For the disciples it was a time of waiting – a dark time of in-between while the shock of crucifixion was still raw within them, shock and the darkness of grief and guilt was oh so real. Pray for those known to you who are struggling on their grief journey. For those who have been unable to bring any sense of closure following the death of a loved one; those who live with a broken heart following a lifetime of companionship and who struggle with a very real sense of aloneness. May the peace of Christ become real to them.

EASTER SUNDAY “The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed, hallelujah!” May the truth of this Easter greeting bring us fresh assurance and fill us with joy that death has been defeated and that, because Christ lives, we shall live also. Pray for those who are unable to share this day openly with others; those persecuted for their faith; those facing torture or death because they love the Lord Jesus. *Great and all-loving God, we praise You for this day when You raised Your Son to new life. Grant us the ears to hear the message of resurrection; grant us the eyes to see His risen presence; grant us the voices to tell the good news to all; grant us the feet to follow in the way of our risen, living Lord.* “Up from the grave He arose as the victor over all His foes; He arose in triumph from the dark domain, and He lives for ever with His saints to reign – He arose, He arose, – Alleluia – Christ arose!”



And please remember - this coming week - to pray for our young people at camp on the Isle of Wight, Monday to Thursday. See last week's news sheet for more detail - or pick up a flier from the Welcome Centre - to read about specific prayer points.

Ukraine Appeal



I am sure you will be interested to know that, in the 3 weeks or so since it began, our appeal to raise funds for our brothers and sisters in Lebedyn, Ukraine, has resulted in the sum of more than **£10,500!** Money is still coming in and although we did put a deadline on the appeal, it is not too late to add to the current sum. If you are not already gift-aiding your offerings, please give this some prayerful consideration as it can have a significant impact. Forms to complete are available from the office if you do decide to gift-aid any donations you make to the church.



BIBLE BY THE BEACH



BIBLE
BY THE BEACH

This event will be taking place on the first May Bank Holiday weekend. We will be having a guest speaker - Peter Wright - on the morning of Sunday May 1st, and in the evening you are encouraged to attend the service at the Congress Theatre at 7.15pm. There will be no service here at VBC that evening.

After the service at the Congress, there is a concert given by the All Souls Orchestra, tickets for this will be £8. For more information, see <https://www.biblebythebeach.org/devoted-to-jesus-2022-booking/>

Midweek Activities

Since lockdown restrictions eased, the church has become increasingly busy every week with a variety of activities, some church-related activities such as the Brigades, Kids and Youth work, Soaking in the Spirit and suchlike. However, many of you will be unaware of what non-church activities take place each week so I have asked some of our hirers to write a few lines for inclusion in the news sheet. I will be including these at random intervals over the coming weeks.

This week we highlight another of our long-standing hirers, Friends of Eastbourne Hospital.



Friends of Eastbourne Hospital is the charity that raises funds to provide extra equipment and amenities for the Eastbourne District General Hospital, having been in existence since before the founding of the NHS. Whilst the pandemic brought about social distancing measures and huge pressure on space at the hospital itself, we have been very grateful to Victoria Baptist Church for allowing us to use various rooms for meetings, including the 2021 AGM.

Help us help them help you

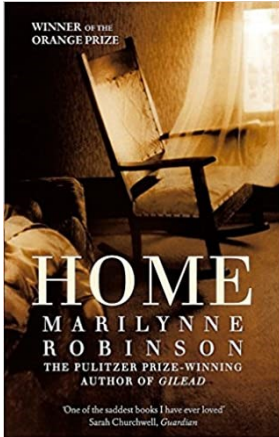
Fundraising cannot happen without both a team of volunteers and a lot of planning, which has come together when we have met at VBC. We have had informal gatherings of our open garden team so that they can meet and get to know each other, alongside more formal meetings of our Trustees. These Trustee meetings are where the decisions are made about how the money raised by the local community is spent within the hospital. The first question that is always asked is 'Will this be for and stay in Eastbourne?' The constitution clearly states that only the Eastbourne DGH can be supported. Sadly, not all requests for funding can be met as there is no bottomless pit of money. But consideration is always given to the benefit the request will bring to both the patients and the staff.

Over the 70+ years the Friends have been in existence over £17 million of equipment has been donated to the hospital, ranging from large major projects like the refurbishment of the Pevensey Ward and purchase of a surgical robot, to much smaller items like diaries for patients in Critical Care so they can look back on their journey after their recovery.

To find out more about the work of the Friends please visit www.friendsdgh.org.uk

Heeding the Signs

Here is a taste of the writings of Marilynne Robinson whose novel "Home" is the subject of the next Bookclub on 7th May.



The passage comes from the book "Gilead", in which the narrator, an elderly pastor, tells his young son about his life. It is thought provoking spiritually, on a serious topic, yet not without humour and with parallels to our time. Anyone who wants to join the Bookclub can contact Ingelore Demetriou for more information.

"One sermon is not up there (in the boxes), one I actually burnt the night before I had meant to preach it. People don't talk much about the Spanish influenza, but that was a terrible thing, and it struck just at the time of the Great War, just when we were getting involved in it. It killed the soldiers by the thousands, healthy men in the prime of life, and then it spread into the rest of the population. It was like a war, it really was. One funeral after another, right here in Iowa. We lost so many young people. And we got off pretty lightly. People came to church wearing masks, if they came at all. They'd sit as far from each other as they could. There was talk that the Germans had caused it with some sort of secret weapon, and I think people wanted to believe that, because it saved them from reflecting on what other meaning it might have.

The parents of these young soldiers would come to me and ask how the Lord could allow such a thing. I felt like asking them what the Lord would have to do to tell us He didn't allow something. But instead I would comfort them by saying we would never know what their young men had been spared. Most of them took me to mean they were spared the trenches and the mustard gas, but what I really meant was that they were spared the act of killing. It was just like a biblical plague, just exactly. I thought of Sennacherib. (Editor's note: Sennacherib was a mighty Assyrian king who threatened Jerusalem during Hezekiah's rein but the Lord miraculously delivered Judah).

It was a strange sickness – I saw it over at Fort Riley. These boys were drowning in their own blood. They couldn't even speak for the blood in their throats, in their mouths. So many of them died so fast, there was no place to put them, and they just stacked the bodies in the yard. I went over to help out, and I saw it myself. They drafted all the boys in the college, and influenza swept through there so bad the place had to be closed down and the buildings filled with cots like hospital wards, and there was terrible death, right here in Iowa. Now, if these things ...

... were not signs, I don't know what a sign would look like. So I wrote a sermon about it. I said, or I meant to say, these deaths were rescuing foolish young men from the consequences of their ignorance and courage, that the Lord was gathering them in before they could go off and commit murder against their brothers. And I said that their deaths were a sign and a warning to the rest of us that the desire for war would bring the consequences of war, because there is no ocean big enough to protect us from the Lord's judgment when we decide to hammer our ploughshares into swords and our pruning hook into spears in contempt of the will and the grace of God.

It was quite a sermon, I believe. I thought as I wrote it how pleased my father would have been. But my courage failed me, because I knew the only people at church would be a few old women who were already about as sad and apprehensive as they could stand to be and no more approving of the war than I was. And they were there even though they thought I might have been contagious. I seemed ridiculous to thunder that sermon from the pulpit in those circumstances, and I dropped that sermon in the stove and preached on the Parable of the Lost Sheep. I wish I had kept it, because I meant every word. It might have been the only sermon I wouldn't mind answering for in the next world. ...

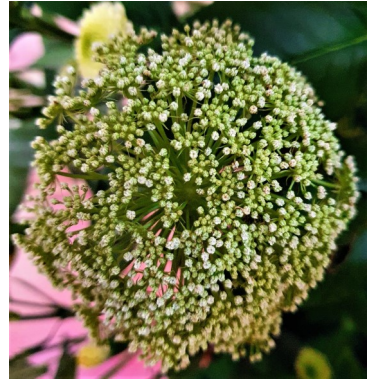
Now I think how courageous you would have thought I was if you had come across it among my papers and read it. It is hard to understand another time. You would never have imagined that almost empty sanctuary, just a few women there with heavy veils on to try to hide the masks they were wearing, and two or three men. I preached with a scarf around my mouth for more than a year. Everyone smelled like onions, because word went round that flu germs were killed by onions. People rubbed themselves down with tobacco leaves. ...

Most of the young men seemed to think that the war was a courageous thing, and maybe new wars have come along since I wrote this that have seemed brave to you. That there have been wars I don't doubt. I believe that plague was a great sign to us, and we refused to see it and to take its meaning, and since then we have had war continuously.



Ingelore Demetriou

FLOWER MINISTRY



The flowers on display last week were donated by **Joyce Ayres**



"... please thank those who deliver flowers. The pretty bouquet and message of encouragement were very much appreciated especially at this difficult time. Lovely to see God's handiwork and know He cares." Sincerely, Avril



I would like to thank whoever climbed 4 flights of stairs to leave me the beautiful bunch of flowers last Monday. The flowers were beautiful and gave me a real lift on the day before my birthday. It's been a tough few weeks but it is so encouraging to know that I have a loving and caring church family supporting me.

With love to you all - Anna Roberts