



Sunday 10th March 2024

Victoria Baptist Church News

# Mothering Sunday

## 3 women and a baby



*You have collected all my tears\* in Your bottle.*

\* the sad AND happy ones ..

**Live in CHURCH and  
online**



**VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
to see Jesus Christ honoured in Eastbourne and beyond

HOME JESUS ABOUT SUNDAYS FAMILIES CHURCH LIFE CONTACT US

## All-Age Live at Ten with Erik & Simon



### Three Women and a Baby

Mothering Sunday today. We'll be looking at a very well-known part of biblical history. *"the one with three women and a baby"*. We'll be asking who we are in this great account and making a link to the original idea of Mothering Sunday, where the church was at the centre of its communities. Tears of pain AND joy were cried together. (*Psalm 56:8*)

In my research for Sunday I found this quote by a lady called Kathleen: *One thing that amazes me about women is that women are the only beings on this earth who knowingly give birth to creatures they know will one day die.*

Of course, no more so than Mary, mother of Jesus, who was told *"a sword will pierce your very soul"*. So today, we will celebrate motherhood, mothering and the awesome role we (the church) have in this world.



**Tissues at the ready – p.s. they will be supplied!**

### Two Sundays Ahead

Next week (17<sup>th</sup>), Chris Short will be continuing his series *"Hearts on Fire"* at the 10am service whilst there will be the twice-monthly Prayer Meeting at 6.30pm. This meeting will be open to all churches in Eastbourne as a part of the town-wide initiative - **Pray Eastbourne 2024**.

The following week we welcome back Derek Page - formerly minister at Ruislip Baptist Church before he retired last year - to preach at our 10am service.



### Reminder

No news sheet will be produced next week (Sun 17<sup>th</sup>) so we have tried to incorporate two weeks of dates and diaries in this edition.

## **STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS** *Staff movements for this coming week*

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

*And for the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> March*

### **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

### **Incoming CAP**

### **Debt Centre Manager**

Phil Papps

### **CAP Debt Coach**

Nadine Crawford-Piper

### **Treasurer**

Mark Evason

### **Finance Assistant**

Julie Hanks

### **Pastoral Team Leader**

Tim Nunn

### **Life Group Coordinator**

Jez Taylor

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

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 10    9.30am    Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
              10.00am    All-Age Service with Erik & Simon  
              7.00pm    Xcav8
- Mon 11    6.00pm    Girls Brigade
- Tues 12    7.15pm    Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
- Wed 13    8.30am    Community Fridge and Cafe  
              10.00am    Vicky Bees  
              6.30pm    Boys Brigade  
              7.00pm    Ladies Night Out - Pomodoro e Mozzarella
- Thu 14    7.30am    Prayer Meeting (men only)  
                      Men's Fellowship (next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> Mar)  
              2.30pm    Women's Fellowship with Margaret Francis  
              7.30pm    Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 15    10.00am    Vicky Bees  
              10.00am    Outreach Prayer Meeting  
              12.30pm    Friends, Food & Fellowship  
              5.00pm    Kids Club  
              7.00pm    Xpect
- Sat 16
- Sun 17    9.30am    Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
              10.00am    Live and Online with Chris Short  
              6.30pm    Prayer Meeting - **Pray Eastbourne 2024**  
              7.00pm    Xcav8
- Mon 18    6.00pm    Girls Brigade  
              7.30pm    CLT meeting
- Tues 19                Soaking in the Spirit (next meeting 26<sup>th</sup> March)
- Wed 20    8.30am    Community Fridge  
              10.00am    Vicky Bees  
              6.30pm    Boys Brigade
- Thur21    7.30am    Prayer Meeting (men only)  
              10.15am    Men's Fellowship with Geoff Booker (Quicken Trust)  
              2.30pm    Women's Fellowship with Rev. David Bourne  
              7.30pm    Ukraine Prayer Meeting

**Two Weeks Ahead**

- Fri 22    10.00am Vicky Bees  
           10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting  
           5.00pm Kids Club  
           7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 23    1.00pm Messy Easter
- Sun 24    9.30am Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
           10.00am Live & Online with Derek Page  
           5.00pm Prospective Members' Meeting  
           7.00pm Xcav8

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



- |                 |                      |                                     |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Brian Wightwick | Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> | Trinity Willingdon, 10.30am         |
|                 | Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> | Polegate FC, 6.30pm                 |
| Francis Bates   | Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> | Downs BC, Woodingdean, 10.30am      |
| David Laskey    | Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> | St Barnabas United, Langney, 9.45am |

## **Advance Notice -**

There will be NO service here at VBC on Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>. We want to encourage everyone to join us and other Eastbourne churches at the Bandstand that morning for this year's Thy Kingdom Come event.



## **Mary Mercer**

It is with the usual mixed emotions that we heard the news that Mary Mercer had passed away earlier this week - sadness at the loss of Mary, but joy that she is now with her Lord. Mary had been unable to attend services here for some time and had in fact moved to a care home in Tunbridge Wells a few months ago. No details of her funeral have yet been released but we will endeavour to communicate them to you once the family let us know.

# Easter @ VBC

Please note the dates for Easter/March events here at VBC



## Messy Easter (Sat 23<sup>RD</sup>)

Messy Easter, 1pm - Crafts for all the family

## Maundy Thursday (28<sup>TH</sup>)

For those available, there will also be a **Maundy Thursday** communion service, led by Rev.Tom Duncanson, at 2.30pm in the sanctuary. This service - a time of contemplation and reflection - will be open to all and we would be delighted to see as many of you as possible attending. Tom Duncanson will be leading the service.



## Good Friday (29<sup>TH</sup>)

10am - a Funeral Service for Jesus, led by Erik Cornelisse



## Easter Sunday (31<sup>ST</sup>)

6.15am - Sunrise Service, Churches Together

10am - Baptismal Service and Celebration

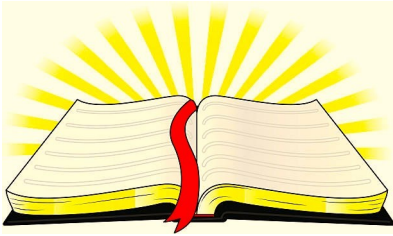
with Chris Short

**BERNHARD BARON Care Homes...** are having a Spring coffee morning on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March between 10.00 and 11.30am. Everyone is welcome to come along and support the homes.



## BIBLE ACADEMY BEGINS AGAIN!

Bible Academy begins after Easter - two 6-week courses



**Level 1 Bible Basics** - Alternate Thursdays at 6.30pm, starting 11<sup>th</sup> April in the Garden Room.

This course explores what the Bible is, what is the big picture behind it, how to read it and understand it. Ideal for new Christians or a good refresher course for the more mature in faith.

**Level 2 Deep Dive** - Alternate Sundays starting 14<sup>th</sup> April in the sanctuary, 6.30pm.

This course takes a more focussed approach and looks at the nature of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the problem of sin, and then looks at some simple doctrines including who are the church.

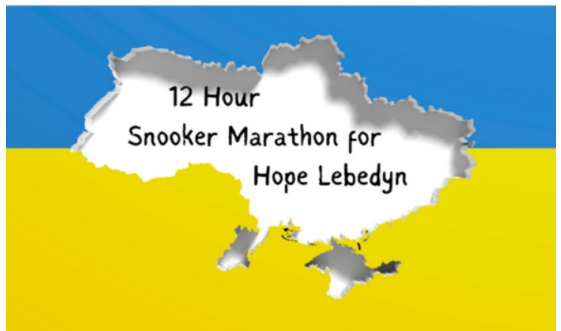
Sign up sheets for both courses are available in the Welcome Centre.. See Jez for further details.

## SNOOKER MARATHON

Our caretaker, Kevin, is undertaking a snooker marathon at his local snooker club and is hoping to raise some money through sponsorship of this event.

He is planning to play from midday until midnight on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April and he will be carrying sponsorship forms around with him for the next couple of weeks. He will also be looking for playing partners so do see him if you fancy a game .

Any money raised will be donated to Hope Lebedyn.



## BRIAR PATCH SPRING FAIRE

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March from 10am-4 pm

Please make every effort to support Kev and Pam at their upcoming event and support many talented local crafters from Woodcrafts to Handcrafts, Mrs McGoo's delicious Scottish Tablet, and loads more.



## PRAYER DIARY 11<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

On this Mothering Sunday, we can read the poem in **Proverbs 31** and reflect on our changing, damaged world and the role of women in leadership, politics, the workplace and at home.

**Monday** Pray for expectant mothers and those who have recently given birth. Ask God to still their fears about the future, their worries about work commitments and health. Pray for a peace to rule in their hearts and that gentleness and love will infuse their relationships today and in the years to come. Give them hope and joy.

**Tuesday** Ask God's comfort for those parents who are separated from their children and families. Pray for mothers in prison, or those who have to work away from home, and send money home to support their children. Pray for those mums who have been separated because of breakdown in relationships or only have supervised, occasional contact with loved ones.

**Wednesday** We are continuing to hear horrific accounts from conflict zones around the world. Pray for the mothers of Gaza, Israel, Russia and Ukraine. Pray for those parents and families displaced by the conflicts. Pray for those mothers who have children serving in the armed forces or serving in a humanitarian capacity. Pray for safety and good communication to be restored and that reunions will be swift in coming. Pray for God's comfort on those who have lost children in these wars.

**Thursday** Lift to God those parents who are struggling to provide for their families. Pray for those who have to use food banks, for those who lack capacity to care well for children and for those who are hospitalised, disabled or ill. Look to our Lord Jesus for the compassion for those who struggle. Continue to pray for those whose homes are inadequate for the needs of their families. Pray for women affected by the modern day mental health crisis and pray that those who are in a position to do so will have open ears and eyes to support and pray.

**Friday** Give thanks for adoptive parents, people who foster and those kinship carers who take on the role of raising children. Pray for strength and support for them, that they are given wisdom and patience to face daily challenges and long term consequences of our broken world. Give thanks too, for those professionals and good neighbours who give moral and spiritual support to others. Pray that the children will be healed and loved in their loss and comforted in grief.

FUEL FOR PRAYER



**Saturday** Praise God for your own mother, grandmothers or mother figure. Give thanks for wise counsel from older people and for prayer warriors who have faithfully lifted your needs to God. Remember to give thanks for the examples of Godly, serving women who have given good foundations to your own faith. Pray for leaders across the world who seek to serve others.

**Sunday** Give thanks for the women we read about in the Bible. Reflect on their examples and on what we can learn from their lives as we learn to be more like Jesus. Ask God remind us in our everyday lives of the faithfulness of Ruth, the servant hearted Mary, the bravery of Esther, the Godliness of Elizabeth, the sacrifice of Hannah, the legacy of Lois and Eunice and the hospitality of Priscilla. Praise God for all those men and women who have gone before us and served as good and faithful servants.

*Ephesians 6:1-3: "Children, if you want to be wise, listen to your parents and do what they tell you, and the Lord will help you. For the commandment, "Honour your father and your mother," was the first of the Ten Commandments with a promise attached: "You will prosper and live a long, full life if you honour your parents."*

# Nominations

## CLT Nomination Form



We nominate \_\_\_\_\_

as a candidate for election to the Core Leadership Team  
of Victoria Baptist Church at the forthcoming Church Meeting on  
Wednesday 24th April 2024

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

As a baptised member of Victoria Baptist Church  
who has been in membership for more than two years,  
I accept the above nomination.

Signature of nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination form to be handed into the office by  
Wednesday 27th March 2024

As reported at the church meeting last week, we still have one place vacant for the Core Leadership Team (CLT) and would like to fill this vacancy at the next meeting at the end of April.

If you feel you would like to nominate someone for this position you need to check first that they are willing to stand! Any potential candidate must be a current member of VBC and have been in membership for a minimum of two years. They must also have been baptised (as an adult, not infant baptism).

Forms are available from the office if you would like to nominate someone. It needs to be signed by yourself, and another member of the church then

has to second your proposal - and the candidate themselves also needs to sign it. Completed forms should be handed in to the office by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, i.e. 4 weeks in advance of the next meeting.

## PRAYER DIARY 18<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

*“Lean on, trust in and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own understanding or insight.” Proverbs 3:5*

**Monday** It seems to me that the above verse from Proverbs is as relevant today as it has ever been! Please pray today over the lack of God in our community and the effect on children and young adults. Many of them are facing a mental health crisis, partly caused by social media, the poor state of some schools and the struggling education system - and, of course, the continual removal of Christianity as the main faith in our society. Please pray for a revival among the young! Pray BIG !!!

**Tuesday** As adults, we are involved in non-Christian clubs and societies. Pray that anywhere we go and mix with non-Christians we will be in tune with what God is saying to us and asking us to do, to help others find salvation. It may be that we are just guided to pray at this stage and wait for His prompting.

**Wednesday** Many of us feel despair as we look at the state of our country - housing, roads, breakdown in trust in the police etc. Please pray that God will guide the future direction for our country, whoever is in government, and for Christians to be guided to choose politics as a career.

**Thursday** Please pray about the crucial industry of farming and the welfare of farmers which is often overlooked and ignored. Farmers can feel isolated and be struggling, so let us ask God to bless the efforts to set up support groups; and pray for the industry to be restored in public understanding and respected as a priority in our national life - we all depend on it!

**Friday** As Easter approaches, let's prepare ourselves by giving thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever. Hosanna to God. Despite the hardships right now, praise Him for every small blessing.

**Saturday** Messy Easter is taking place at church today! Please pray for the families, the craft, fun, safety and for God to reveal Himself and open people's eyes to the truth.

**Sunday** Today is Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem. It is a reminder to us to welcome Jesus into our hearts and be willing to follow where He is leading. Today, let's be like those first people waving palms, so happy to be praising Jesus. They thought they knew what came next, but they were wrong, their dreams were shattered and they became frightened. But we are wiser now, we know life does not always go where we think it should, but praise God anyway because we also know His plan is the best one for us. Praise the Lord!!

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

## HOLY SPIRIT DAY



Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Apr, 9.30am to 4.30pm here at VBC. In line with Chris's ongoing Teaching Series regarding the work and person of the Holy Spirit, we are setting aside a day to explore the work of the Holy Spirit together as a church. More details to follow nearer the time.

## ASKING OUR POLITICIANS THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

2024 is very likely General Election year. With the support of Our Lady of Ransom Church, former Head Teacher John de Waal wants to be ahead of the curve.

He plans to ask all the candidates in Eastbourne the same set of questions from a Christian perspective which will reflect particular concerns of Christian voters. Hopefully their answers will then help guide people on how they should vote.

John would like to draw up the list of questions in consultation with other local Christians.

You are invited to join him on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March** at **Our Lady of Ransom Church Hall** at **7.30 pm** to help draw up the list.

## LIVING LIFE



I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the church for their collection of Easter Eggs for our upcoming trip to Croatia. I would also like the church to know that over 100 eggs are given to families in our own community due to the lack of financial support that families struggle with. We continue to collect eggs up to 28<sup>th</sup> March and the church total of 100 takes us up to 700 to date.

Our heartfelt thanks to all concerned and a big thank you to Erik for helping with the graphics for our poster.

*Mick Trott*

## Flower Ministry

Last week's flowers were donated by  
**Ian & Jane Parratt**



A huge thank you to those of you who have responded to our plea for donations to the flower ministry. March and April are now full, in May we have 5th and 26th still available and then there are plenty of dates throughout the summer that need filling. If you are interested in donating flowers, please contact the office over the next couple of weeks whilst Chris McMahon is away. Many thanks.

