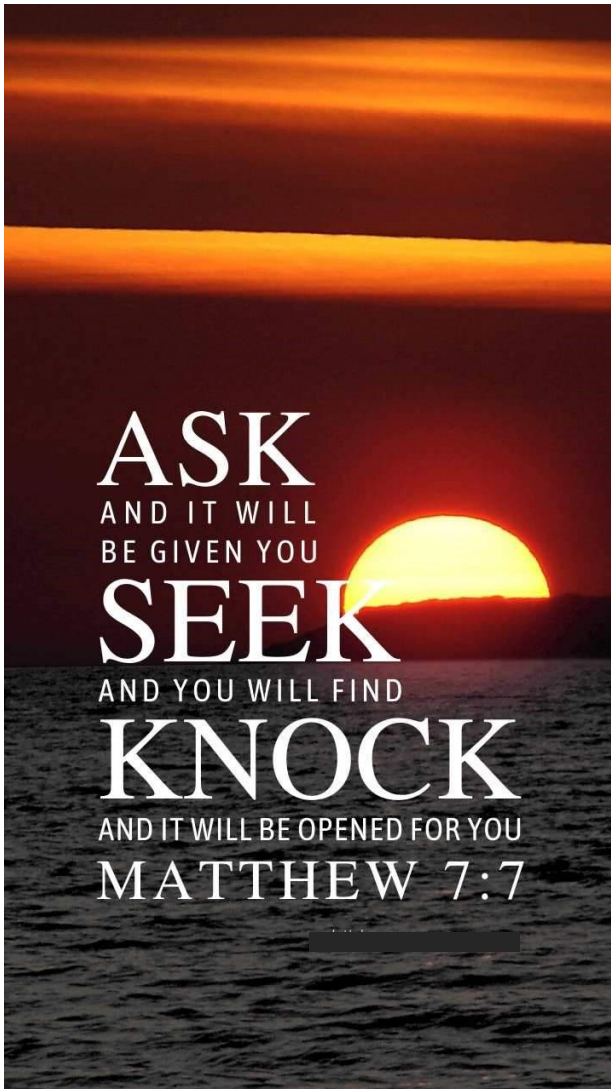




Sunday 10th October 2021

VICTORIA Baptist Church News



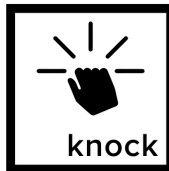


**This week's message is brought to us by our Youth Worker, Erik Cornelisse
 10am at the church and live online via YouTube.
 At 4pm, in our afternoon service we will be celebrating the
 40th anniversary of St Wilfrid's Hospice**



Asking is easy and quick. It only takes a moment. But, after asking, we move into seeking. Seeking implies time. Seeking implies search. Seeking implies learning through the search. Seeking leads us to knocking. Knocking implies eminence. Knocking implies face-to-face contact. Knocking implies a desire to enter deeper.

Much like a child at the supermarket insisting they want that, they want that now, mummy, can I have that .. I need it, I want it ... often followed by a little tantrum. This Sunday we're not throwing tantrums, but we're seeking deeper after God. Join us for another Harvest Festival.



Matthew 7: 7-8

Pre-SCHOOL CHILDREN



There will be an area set up in the Welcome Centre for babies & toddlers (below the age of 3) to use at anytime during the service. The service will be live on the Welcome Centre TV.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Another quiet week re staff movement is concerned, just the usual days off - Chris on Tuesday, Erik, Simon & Sandra on Thursday and Colin on Monday. Tim and Jack will be working in the office on Wednesday and Julie on Thursday.

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

01323 737974

Eldon Road, Eastbourne

BN21 1UE

helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

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)

BOOKING SEATS FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Please remember that you only have to book in advance for a seat if you want to be socially distanced. Your seat will then be reserved.

The Week Ahead

Sun 10	9.40am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
	10.00am	Harvest Festival with Erik
	4.00pm	Afternoon service - <i>St Wilfrid's Hospice 40th anniversary</i>
Mon 11	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
Tues 12	6.45pm	Alpha
	7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed 13	10.00am	Vicky Bees
	5.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)
	6.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 8-18)
Thu 14	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - with Lyn Gooding
	2.30pm	Celebration of the life of Rosemary Ward-Jackson
Fri 15	10.00am	Alpha Prayer Meeting - in the Small Hall
	10.00am	Vicky Bees
	5.00pm	Kids Club
	7.00pm	Xpect
Sat 16	9.00am	Baptism on the sea-front (see page 5 for details)
Sun 17	9.40am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
	10.00am	Live at VBC and online - Baptismal Service led by Chris Short
	4.00pm	Passion for Life



WE'RE BACK

SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER

Flow Cafe

10 AM TO 12 NOON
in aid of St Wilfrid's Hospice

Victoria Baptist Church Eldon Road Eastbourne BN21 1UE

And further ahead ...

Sat 30 Oct, 2.30pm	Thanksgiving Service for Jill McKay (please sign up in the Welcome Centre if you would like to stay for refreshments after the service.)
Wed 24 Nov, 7.30am	Church Meeting - CLT elections

BAPTISMS



Next weekend we have the joy of witnessing a number of candidates being baptised. This will take place during the 10am service - but one of the candidates, Katie Pulling, has requested that she be baptised in the sea! Hence, you are all invited to the beach at Holywell to witness this at **9am next Saturday (16th)**.

It promises to be a very special occasion and will only be cancelled if the weather is particularly bad. If it is bad, we will try to send an e-mail out to as many as we can but we are confident that we will be blessed with good (or adequate at least!) weather to enable it to go ahead. It is hoped that as many of you as possible will attend to support Katie. Just aim for the café at Holywell - where the Dotto train used to turn around in pre-pandemic times - and you will see it all happening on the beach there (see the arrow in the picture above).

And then on Sunday, the remaining candidates (Callum, Jess, Michael, Jas, Anakarina and Paul) will be baptised in the usual way here at VBC, giving their testimonies before being immersed in the baptistry.

An exciting weekend - God has been working in so many lives these past 18 months and I'm sure it will be a real encouragement to many to hear how He has changed the lives of many people during lockdown.

SHOEBOX APPEAL



Hello everyone. Christmas is just around the corner and we are now preparing for the Shoebox appeal. If you would like to participate this year, then just talk to Mick or Lyn, they will have the leaflets that you will need to fill a shoebox. Our cut off date is much earlier this year as we are anticipating problems at the borders so, much prayer needed please. The cut off will be **21st Nov**. We have already prepared nearly 400

boxes at the shop and we are in need of another 900 at least so that we can give to all those children who would otherwise go without.

Thank you and God bless you all. Mick & Lyn Trott

RIP

We were very sad to hear that Gill Thomas passed away on Sunday at the age of 83. Wes & Gill, who had been married for 59 years, were very active members here at VBC before moving to Cornwall about 10 years ago. Wes' address is available from the office to anyone who remembers them and would like to send their condolences. In his telephone call to the office this week he sent his regards to the VBC family - he has very happy memories of the time they spent here.



Blue Badge



Please note that we have a limited number of parking spaces for Blue Badge holders and they would very much appreciate it if those spaces could be kept for those with the greatest need, rather than being used by non-Blue Badge holders! I do appreciate parking can be a problem - but dropping off at the doors is of course an option, assuming you aren't the driver. I do think we are very blessed in the size of the car park we have - the envy of many churches in Eastbourne - and your cooperation would be much appreciated.

MILK BOTTLE TOPS

Despite our recent adverts informing you that we are no longer collecting milk-bottle tops, we have had 3 occasions recently when a bag full of them has been left outside the church! So another plea please - we are no longer collecting them and they will simply be disposed of if we get any more!



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Exploring Gods word together
WE NEED YOU!

Sunday School needs helpers and leaders!
If you feel you are able to help (once a month) with this ministry please let me know.
Simon
simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk

Volunteers are also needed for helping out at Vicky Bees on Friday mornings (9.30-12). Please see Simon if you would like to know more.

Book Review - BY JOHN DEMETRIOU

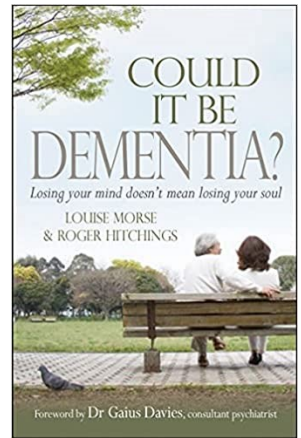
'Could it be Dementia?'

by L. Morse and R Hitchings, published by Monarch Books

Dementia is Latin for 'apart from the mind' and is a general term used to describe a variety of diseases affecting cognitive function of which Alzheimers is the most common and well known. The number of people suffering from dementia is growing at an alarming rate and you and I probably know someone with it. This poses a challenge as to how society cares for them, especially as we live in an ageing population who are most susceptible to this illness and there is no cure for it. This book helps explain this mysterious illness, looks at it from a spiritual perspective and provides guidance on how we can aid those with symptoms individually and in a more organised way as a church.

The authors are well placed to deal with the subject. Louise Morse works for Pilgrim Homes' communication team (a Christian charity caring for elderly people) with a history in journalism, while the Reverend Roger Hitchings is a former Director of Age Concern and care home manager, a trustee of Pilgrim Homes and pastor. They use their respective skills to explain the history of the illness, its varied forms, the latest research and remedies to alleviate and delay symptoms in layman's language. In addition, they help enlighten us as to what those with dementia go through, the pressure it puts on those caring for them and family members and how we as individuals and as a church can respond by not shying away from our responsibility to help them by providing spiritual and practical 'cups of water' (Mathew 10:42). The book is full of practical tips to help those groups with examples to follow and inspire us.

Roger Hitchings has a pastoral heart for the elderly in our congregations and he shares how he feels they have been neglected in our church life and organisation at the expense of more exciting ministries for the young and middle aged. He was shocked when challenging a Christian arranging a church event about making some adjustments to help older Christians to hear the organiser respond, 'older people have had their day'. He reminds us in the book how much emphasis the Bible throughout puts on the role older believers have in instructing and encouraging the young and, like Simeon and Anna, are examples of prayer and witness to Jesus as the Saviour of the world. He chastises the church for its neglect of their elderly and their carers, especially when ill and unable to attend meetings, as depriving them of the very thing they need to delay the onset of dementia: company, social interaction and respite help.



The book is easy to read and has a fine balance of information and practical examples, peppered with personal testimony by sufferers and their carers put into the context of relevant Biblical teaching. None more so than the underlying truth ‘that the Christian believer, however much disease of body or mind may later affect them, is forever in Christ’. A comforting thought both for the sufferer as well as those caring for them.

As our congregation’s age and dementia increases, those suffering from it, their carers and family and fellow church members will need books like this to help them understand what is happening, what they can do to mitigate the effects and maintain meaningful communication and how, as a caring church community, we can help ‘bear one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ’ to those affected by it. I encourage you to read and learn from it.

John Demetriou

PRAYER DIARY: 11TH – 17TH OCTOBER

Based on Hebrews 13

Monday vv 1,2 “Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” Were you able to speak to new people at church yesterday? Was it possible to show them hospitality? Let us pray for them, and other newcomers: also our friends and loved ones at VBC.

Tuesday v3 “Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering.” Our brothers and sisters in countries around the world are being killed and tortured for their faith, with many more suffering in prisons or re-education camps. Young Christian girls are being forcibly removed from families and “married” to their captors; boys taken to become unwilling soldiers or martyrs. We need to pray, pray and pray even more for them.

Wednesday v4 “Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” Biblical marriage is under attack in so many ways in today’s society, with non-biblical agendas being imposed in parliament, in education, and in churches. Heterosexual relationships are being devalued and attacked. Please pray for the protection of children and young people who are now being educated in ungodly behaviours. Please also pray about the legal attacks on what a marriage is, but also fervently pray for those marriages in your family; in the church or among your friends - that they will be strengthened with good communication and ever increasing love.



Thursday v5 “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’” We can thank God for His constant companionship, His provision for us which can help us be content, and His guidance for how we tithe, and where we should give support. We can also thank Him that the CAP course is helping people who struggle with financial management. However, prayer is needed for more Christians to get involved with this ministry to make it possible to help more folk who are in need.

Friday vv7,8 “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.” There will be a prayer time this morning about the Alpha course. As we remember those who shared the word of God and their lives with us giving us the example that changed our lives, let us uphold in prayer those currently committed to sharing the good news with those who are leading the Alpha course. Pray also for those who will attend, that they will respond to God’s invitation. Also, pray for all the practical issues to go smoothly for each gathering. There is also a group of people being baptised this weekend. It would be good to pray for each participant, that they know what God is saying to them.

Saturday vv11,12 “The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through His own blood.” God is so Holy that we are separated from Him by our sin unless we confess our sinfulness and accept His son Jesus as the courageous, gracious, precious, suffering sacrifice who paid for our sins. Let us pray for the leaders of every organisation at VBC, asking that they are able and willing to share the gospel with those who attend their meetings with gracious wisdom when there are opportunities to do so.

Sunday vv15,16 “Through Jesus, therefore, let us **continually** offer to God a sacrifice of praise - the fruit of lips that openly profess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Let us today offer that sacrifice of praise to God as we gather to worship Him. When in emotional or physical pain, that can be a real effort, but God knows, values and understands that. Let us pray for those we know who will struggle to do this, and pray for wisdom and discernment to recognise the opportunities to do good and share with others when He presents openings to us.

Message from Ian Doling

Ian hasn’t been too well recently but sent this message whilst taking part in last week’s communion service from the comfort of his home!

Missing you all - but please pass on my thanks for those streaming the service.



BERNHARD BARON VOLUNTEERS

Following on from last week's feature of Doctor Jay, two more members hit the headlines last week in the Eastbourne Herald!

A couple who have given 21 years' voluntary service to a Polegate care home have been thanked for their dedication.

When Janet Mottram's father moved to a Polegate care home in 1998, little did she realise it would soon become a second home for her and her husband Tony.

The couple started helping out with small day-to-day tasks when they visited Arthur Hicks before officially being taken on as volunteers at the Bernhard Baron Cottage Homes (BBCH) 21 years ago.

Since then they have become involved in a wide variety of roles, culminating with the dedicated duo helping out on a daily basis during the entire 13 months of lockdown.

With staff and other volunteers, Janet and Tony rose to the challenges that Covid-19 created in the home.

Each day during lockdown the couple, who walk to the BBCH from their home in Wannock, delivered meals on trolleys to the cottage residents. This involved delivering the correct meal choices from the three-course menus, with the addition of individual bottles of red or white wine - usually served from regular-sized bottles to all residents - when someone celebrates a birthday.

Tony said: "With 24 cottages to go around we soon got to know which residents lived in each one, which we hadn't done in the past, so it was really nice to get to know them better. When lockdown came you could no longer have four to a table in the main dining room so that's when the home started doing its own meals on wheels."

Over the years the couple have regularly helped out on Christmas Day and bank holidays and at special events such as musical evenings and outings. They help to serve food and clear up, Tony is one of the home's minibus drivers and Janet assists with the weekly Sunday service and plays the piano. Tony has also driven staff members to Brighton and Haywards Heath for their Covid vaccinations.

Janet, a retired magistrate, said: "We like to keep busy. We have a lot of fun and there is such a lovely atmosphere here".

Trudi Knight and Jan Andrews, Bernhard Baron Cottage Homes' managers, said their commitment has been 'truly outstanding'.



HARVEST GIFTS

The children bring to the church their harvest gifts.
Bright, smiling faces. Proud of what they hold.
Some, not so sure and holding back.
The teacher tells them **'just be bold'**!
Just follow the child in front and be not afraid.
Today is a good day. Be proud of what you have made.
Some with homemade cakes and jam.
Others with fruit and vegetables.
Carrots with knobbly bits, misshaped marrows, beans,
apple and pear.
Many grown by little hands who nurtured and watered with the **greatest** care.
They carefully place their gifts on the alter steps.
At harvest time there is so much to share.
All thanks to God's kind loving care.



Iris Davis



CALENDARS



Some of you will be aware of the fact that Rosemary Foss distributes calendars every year in various languages. This is to support a charity she is involved in. The cost of producing the calendars ranges from £1.20 to £5, depending on which calendar you want. There are no fixed prices, but donations are welcome.

Options are as follows: Postcard calendars, picture calendars, wall calendars and children's daily tear off calendars. Languages are: Dari, Pashti, Punjabi, Hindi and Tagalog.

If you would like to order one of these calendars, could you please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre by 12th October.

FLOWER MINISTRY

The flowers last week were donated by
Nancy Houston

We have 2 vacant dates left this year if you
would like to donate the flowers

Oct 31st & Nov 21st

Please contact Chris McMahan if you would
like to do so.



Life groups @ VBC

Friendship, Faith and Fun at the heart of our community



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 4th November 7.30pm

@VBC

An opportunity to discover about Life Groups.
A time to hear the vision, find out what goes on and ask
questions.

No pressure to join or sign up.

Contact: jez@victoriabaptist.org.uk

Please let Jez know if you want to come
otherwise he will have to eat all the spare biscuits.

