

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 11th January 2026

VICTORIA  
Baptist Church Eastbourne  
*All Age*

THE  
CHURCH

IS  
FAMILY.  
IS  
MISSIONAL.  
NEEDS YOU!



## The Church

Emily & Simon will be leading us through the first All-Age Service of 2026 today with the focus being on "The Church". The emphasis will be on the church as a family, the church being outward-focused, and the fact that the church needs everyone of us to help it fulfil its purposes in the community as we seek the Lord's guidance at the start of a new year.



We hope that you will all - no matter what your age - get on board with the message we are hoping to get across.

## This evening

Our Sunday Evening Services resume today - as usual, the second Sunday of each month - starting at 6pm. This week, Lucy will be speaking on how God draws close and speaks to us. Chris Jenkins will be sharing some of his story about how he came to know Jesus. There will be the chance to worship and wait on God ... and hot dogs and hot drinks will be served at the end of the service.

## Next Week (18<sup>th</sup>)

Chris Short will be leading our live@10 service next week, beginning a new series on "The Church".

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

Chris	off Mon	Phil	in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm
Colin	off Mon	Emily	off Mon & Tues
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed am & Fri am	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs	Lucy	in Weds am, Thurs, Fri am
Sandra	off Thurs	Jez	in Wed am & Fri am

## Senior Minister

Chris Short

## PA to Senior Minister

Sandra Taylor

## Church Administrator

Colin McMahon

## Caretaker

Kevin Virgo

## Head of Family Ministries

Emily Jenkins

## Children's Ministries

Simon Grimes

## CAP Debt Centre Manager

Phil Papps

## CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

## Treasurer

Mark Eavon

## Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

## Ministry Assistants

Lucy Craggs (Women)

Tim Nunn (Discipleship)

Jez Taylor (Life Groups)

## 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

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[www.victoriabaptist.org.uk](http://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk)

## The Week Ahead

Sun 11 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
10.00am All-Age service with Emily Jenkins & Simon Grimes  
6.00pm Evening Service  
7.00pm Sunday evening Youth

Mon 12 6.00pm Girls Brigade

Tue 13 12 noon Thanksgiving Service - Lily Chan

Wed 14 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
8.15am Community Fridge  
10.00am Vicky Bees

Thu 15 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting  
10.15am Men's Fellowship with Paul Tabraham (Emmanuel Church)  
2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Steve Finch (All Souls)  
7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting

Fri 16 10.00am Vicky Bees  
12.30am Friends, Food & Fellowship  
5.00pm Kids Club  
7.00pm Friday evening Youth

Sat 17 9.00am Ladies' Breakfast with Carmen Jones

Sun 18 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
10.00am live@10 with Chris Short  
6.30pm Prayer Meeting  
7.00pm Sunday evening Youth



### A Time to Remember

Please join us on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January @ 4pm as we take time out to remember friends and family who have passed away. Anyone is welcome to attend.

### Accommodation Needed

A family of 4 (+dog), with VBC connections, is looking for ground-floor (for health reasons) accommodation. Please contact the office if you feel you can help.

## PRAYER DIARY : 12<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> January

*“Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.” Psalms 51:12 NIV*

**Monday** Father, we lift up to You all those nations suffering the ravages of war and loss. Send Your Son, the Prince of Peace, to end these wars and bring peace and security. Strengthen those who work for healing, reconciliation and an end to hostilities. Lord, we pray for You to raise up leaders who pursue truth, righteousness and an end to violence. Help us, Father, to continually show empathy to the suffering around us and to always act with understanding and compassion.

**Tuesday** Lord, as we gather to honour the life of a faithful friend, we pray for Your comfort, strength and peace to fall upon all who are grieving. Surround them with Your loving presence as they walk this journey of loss. Father, let them know that the hope of eternal life belongs to those who declare Your son, Jesus Christ, as their Saviour and Redeemer.

**Wednesday** God Almighty, as we start this new year, put it upon our hearts to read and study the Bible more deeply. Father, let our hearts take hold of it, help us to see You in every page, to know You more deeply and to become more like You. Let Your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

**Thursday** Father, we lift up in prayer the two new life groups which will be meeting this month. Thank You for this opportunity for more people to meet, study the Bible and pray together. Please pray for Jez Taylor as he coordinates and encourages this important ministry at VBC. Open our hearts and minds to Your word every day.

**Friday** Lord of heaven, we bring to You in prayer, and ask You to bless, all those who work tirelessly in our church and the wider community to build Your Kingdom here on earth. Lord, put it upon our hearts to seek out Your purpose for us this year. Reveal to us the gifts You have blessed us with and, through the Holy Spirit, fill us with the courage to use these gifts to relieve suffering, to comfort those in need and to support the marginalised. Help us, Father, to be a light in the darkness and a source of hope and encouragement to those who seek You.

**Saturday** Pray for good attendance at the ladies breakfast being held today and for the speaker, Carmen Jones, as she shares her testimony. Lord, may this be a time of shared fellowship as old friends meet and new friendships are made.

**Sunday** Father God, we lift up to You those who come to church today perhaps with heavy hearts. Touch them with Your Holy Spirit through singing songs of praise to You and through Your word given by our minister. Heal their heavy hearts, restore their joy in Your salvation and grant them a willing strengthened spirit. Thank You, Father, for being such a faithful, loving God.

## **GREETINGS FROM Bayo,**

Deneese and the children from Battersea Chapel Baptist Church. On behalf of my family and all the members here at Battersea Chapel Baptist Church, compliments of the season to you all.



2025 has been our most challenging year, yet we give thanks to God whose promises to us are “yes and Amen”. We are also thankful of His word that says:

### **Philippians 1:29 (NIV)**

**“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him”.**

It is with joy that we thank God for our experiences this year which have brought us closer to God and developed our characters, patience and long suffering. We want to express our gratitude to all at VBC who continue to bless us and pray for us.

Having said all that, we have many things we can celebrate and rejoice as testimonies to you all.

**Born Again** Two people gave their lives to Jesus at a Sunday service this year and were baptised in water on Easter Sunday. Both have also registered as members of the Church.

**Easter Sunday Baptismal service** This year we collaborated with a local church (The Church of the Nazarene) to baptise 4 persons in water on Easter Sunday.

**Anniversary weekend with the community** In June 2025 we had our anniversary weekend. The Saturday event was for members of the community to come into the Church to celebrate with us. It was a successful weekend.

### **Other successful events of the year include**

Outreach success in September 2025

Water Baptism in September 2025

**Significant Spiritual growth** This year, with all glory to God, we experienced spiritual growth in members and church workers.

## For 2026:

### Please pray for us for the following

That God grants us church workers with the fear of God.

Church growth: Spiritually, Numerically, Financially.

That we can manifest the Power of God in the Church in 2026.

That we remain strong and resilient not to give up trusting God throughout the next year, whatever the circumstances.

Please pray for us that we continue steadfast in prayers without ceasing as we continue to confront the evil powers controlling the territory of Battersea.

**Thank you all for your continuing prayers for us and all your encouragements over the phone.**



## Men's CURRY NIGHT

**Date -**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 7.15pm**

**Venue -**

**Ashoka 30 Cornfield Rd, BN21 4QH**

Following a number of successful curry nights, we are going to try a new venue which comes highly recommended. There are a restricted number of seats, so please can you add your name to the sign up sheet in the Welcome Centre as usual.



## Women's ITALIAN NIGHT

**Date - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 7pm**

**Venue - Pomodoro e Mozzarella, Cornfield Terrace**

A sign-up sheet will appear in the Welcome Centre early in January, but get the date in your 2026 diaries!

## Alpha

All being well, we will be starting another Alpha Course, on Wednesday evenings starting on 4<sup>th</sup> March ... but it relies on all of us to pray, get involved and invite people!

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions running over nine weeks that allows people to freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. It's for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and ask questions about Jesus in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. Each session includes eating together, a short talk, and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts. At any point, if you think Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge.

Our Alpha Course will start at 6.45pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

For further information, or to sign up, contact Lucy Craggs:

[lucy@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:lucy@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

Here are two links that explain more about the Alpha Course:

National Alpha website:

<https://alpha.org.uk/>

Victoria Baptist Church website:

<https://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk/church-life/alpha-victoria/>

## Model Constitution Meetings - Postponed

At our last church meeting in November, we had planned two sessions for church members to discuss the proposed draft documentation. The BUC has responded to us to advise that their model Constitution was revised last summer and that we need to incorporate our proposals into this new document.

We are currently awaiting a copy of the new draft model constitution to assess the changes required and we will update you in due course.

We feel that in view of the foregoing it is best to postpone the planned January meetings until further notice.



## DEBT-FREE!

In the week before Christmas we had another client go debt-free! It was fantastic to hear that she had her first debt-free Christmas in years. And we start 2026 with news that another client has just gone debt-free – our 40<sup>th</sup> debt-free client! Thank you so much for supporting our CAP ministry to enable this to happen.

## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thank you so much for your support through donating chocolates, sweets and toiletries, volunteering (card writers, hamper packers, deliverers and drivers), giving financially and praying for our Christmas Hamper programme. We couldn't have done it without you! It was a huge effort at a busy time of year but well worth it. I want to specifically thank Lesley Corke for all her work in coordinating the project on a voluntary basis so that the hampers were available to those in need. We delivered 43 huge hampers (providing for around 125 people), and it made a tremendous difference to so many at a challenging time of year. A few of the responses and expressions of thanks were:

- *You just saved Christmas for me and my family!*
- *We had such an amazing Christmas Day feast!! What a blessing, thank you so much!*
- *Thank you so much, we will now have an amazing Christmas!!*
- *Thank you so, so much for the amazing hamper! I can't believe the quality and variety it contained. It is much, much appreciated thank you again!*

One of our clients, who has been closed to the Christian faith, messaged me to say that as a result of the generous hamper, they went as a family to their local church to attend a carol service! Who knows what seeds have been sown via this practical demonstration of God's love? Thank you again for your support for CAP.

*Phil Papps. CAP Debt Centre Manager*

## ELECTIONS

Our next church meeting will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> February, when we will be holding CLT elections. There will be 2 vacancies. Nomination forms are available from the church office, along with information regarding Trustee roles and responsibilities. We would recommend that anyone thinking about standing for election should read this information. Nominations must be received by 28<sup>th</sup> January.

christians  
against  
poverty

CAP



## The Giving Tree

The following note was received just after Christmas from the Through Care Service and is, I think, self-explanatory. You may recall our very generous Church Family contributed just over 200 gifts to this cause.

Thank you so much for your kind and very generous donation of gifts for our looked after children and care leavers Christmas party! Your generosity is overwhelming and we can't tell you enough how much we all appreciate this! We had around 120 young people at the party and your gifts bought lots of smiles to everyone! These may be the only presents these young people receive so it made a huge difference. We hope you have a lovely Christmas! The Through Care Service X

## Hope Lebedyn

As a part of our Christmas giving, we again had an offering at the Christmas morning service where an amazing total of £968 was collected. The whole of this offering has been donated to Hope Lebedyn as we continue to support the church in that area, as indeed we have been doing since the start of the Ukraine war. The trustees of Hope Lebedyn would like to express their sincere appreciation for the efforts you have all made on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.



## DELIGHT IN THE LORD

Another in the series of thoughts inspired by quotations from the Book of Psalms. These were put together in a booklet - "Delight in the Lord" - some 30 years ago by Margaret Barham.

### DELIGHT IN THE LORD



*"The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek You" Psalm 9:9,10*

Someone told me that she had been going through a difficult time – her daughter went into hospital for an operation, her father was in hospital many miles away, there was something wrong with the car and there were various other problems to face.

Sometimes we go through times in our life when it seems that everything is against us. There can be various reasons for this happening. It may be that we are being oppressed by Satan, or that God is seeking to

discipline us because He sees various things in our life that are displeasing to Him, or we may have wandered away from the Lord and He is seeking to stop us in our tracks in order that we turn back to Him.

Whatever happens to us and for whatever reason, God is watching over us and He sees how we react. Often we resent adverse circumstances and we become angry - with what is happening, with ourselves, and maybe, even with God. But all the time God is reaching out to us, longing for us to seek Him afresh, to trust Him, to seek refuge in Him, to know His presence with us no matter what problems we are facing.

Those who know the name of Jesus - who know that He is their Saviour and Lord - will find that they can trust Him no matter what happens. Whatever our circumstances, may our response be, "I will trust and not be afraid."

## PIANISTS

I'm sure there are a number of talented pianists in our church family. Recently, we have struggled to get someone to play at events during the week, particularly at the recent funerals. It would be great to compile a list of people we could call on to fill in when the need arises. Please let the office know if this is something you feel led to do. Many thanks.



# Flower Ministry

The flowers for Christmas services were donated by  
Luanda Hoxha



We have vacant dates to fill for giving the flowers in the coming months -  
Feb 8<sup>th</sup> OR 15<sup>th</sup>  
Mar 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
If you need more information, please contact Chris McMahon.