



# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 15th June 2025



Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20



## Bad Faith

**“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.” (Matt. 7:15)**

This weekend we’re celebrating the baptism of Golda Canete. Golda originates from the Philippines and has a powerful and moving story of God’s grace in her life.

We’re also continuing our series in the Sermon on the Mount. At the end of the Sermon, Jesus issues a string of warnings (7:13-27). This morning, we’ll consider the warnings about false teachers and false faith.

Understanding and applying what Jesus says in this section are two of the most pressing needs of our society and our churches. The times we live in are unique in the history of the world. Never before have people had access to so much information and so many different voices clamouring for their attention and subscription. Choice abounds but so does responsibility. How do we know who we should trust? Where is all this leading us? Jesus’ words help us to safely navigate the world in which we live and the judgment we all must face.

I hope you’ll be able to join us.



Please note that as well as the baptism this morning we will be celebrating communion.

## Next Week (22<sup>nd</sup>)

More baptisms on Sunday next week when Chris Short will be leading our morning service at 10.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

## Staff movements for next week

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

### Senior Minister

Chris Short

### PA to Senior Minister

Sandra Taylor

### Family Ministries

Simon Grimes - Children

### Church Administrator

Colin McMahon

### Caretaker

Kevin Virgo

### CAP Debt Centre Manager

Phil Papps

### CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

### Treasurer

Mark Evason

### Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

### Ministry Assistants

Tim Nunn (Discipleship)

Lucy Craggs (Women)

### Life Group Coordinator and interim Youth Leader

Jez Taylor

### 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 15 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short - inc Communion & Baptism  
 4.30pm Baptismal Class  
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting  
 7.00pm Xcav8
- Mon 16 6.00pm Girls Brigade  
 7.30pm CLT meeting
- Tue 17 Soaking in the Spirit - next meeting 24<sup>th</sup>
- Wed 18 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
 8.15am Community Fridge  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 6.15pm Boys Brigade  
 6.45pm Alpha
- Thu 19 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)  
 10.15am Men's Fellowship - see page 5  
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Gary Howitt (BHC)  
 evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)  
 7.00pm Bible Journaling  
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 20 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 12.30pm Friends, Food & Fellowship  
 5.00pm Kids Club  
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 21 9.00am Ladies Prayer Breakfast with Jacqui Archer
- Sun 22 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short - including Baptisms  
 7.00pm Xcav8

\*\*\* Please remember the members' church meeting  
 on Wed 25<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm as usual. \*\*\*

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



Erik Cornelisse Jun 15 Horam Chapel 10.30am

Erik Cornelisse Jun 22 Horam Chapel 10.30am



## Accommodation Requests

*A couple of requests this week, please let us know if you can help with either.*

I'm moving to Eastbourne for work from September and starting to think about where to plant myself in a new church family and in a new home. I'll be moving down from Redeemer Church Chester-le-Street where the

lovely Ali and Claire Scott send their greetings and speak highly of "Vicky B's"!

I look forward to coming to visit soon. At this stage, it would be so helpful to know if there are any accommodation vacancies within the Victoria Baptist community. I'd be interested to hear about:

Intentional community houses; an annex (giving me space to study/work from home while in close community with other believers); flat-shares; lodging

I'm 29, single and female. I've been a CU Staff Worker with UCCF in Durham for the past 4 years, moving down to work as an Evangelist with Speak Life part-time while studying Theology part-time. The dream combination! Thank you so much.

Naomi

***The office has Naomi's details if you feel you may be able to help.***

There is a family serving in Latin America with SIM who are coming to UK on Home Assignment and will be visiting Eastbourne briefly.

They're looking for a place to stay in Eastbourne from 21st - 25th July.

They're 2 adults with 3 boys (aged 9, 8 and around 4 I believe).

If anyone is able to help, it would be amazing.....

***If you can help please contact Steve Francis - or the office.***

## Men's Fellowship

This coming Thursday the Men's Fellowship are meeting for their last session of the term. They are going out in style with a lunchtime meal at the Smugglers in Pevensey, at 12 noon. Please contact Lester Miller or Steve Wise for more details.



## Core Leadership Team



There are 2 vacancies for the CLT and we will be having an election at the church meeting on Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>. Nomination forms are available from the office and will need to be submitted by August 27<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Information regarding the Roles and Responsibilities for this role are also available from the office and we would encourage anyone willing to stand to read through this information before making a commitment.

# Centenary Celebrations

What a wonderful weekend we have just experienced as Victoria Baptist Church celebrated 100 years of its existence with a variety of events, and something for everyone.

God has blessed us tremendously as a church over the past century and He certainly blessed us last weekend. The following pages and a variety of photos give you a brief snapshot of most of the activities and the fellowship we were able to enjoy.



The weekend began on Friday evening with the ever-popular VBC Quiz. Over a hundred people and 18 teams were in attendance and we were pleased that the winning team was our Xcav8 youth group, with a bit of help from two of their leaders, Mark & Sue Simmons.

Whilst we didn't have a prize for the best team name, the general consensus was that Dan Fairhead's team came out on top with their team name being "I, Jez, don't like Fulham FC anymore" - my suspicion is that James Bawn may have had something to do with this creative and very original name which, surprisingly, Jez found it very difficult to repeat in his role as quizmaster.

The quiz was held in the sanctuary which of course meant that all the chairs needed to be moved from their traditional positions - and then put back again after the quiz had finished. This in itself is quite a job but thanks must go to Kevin for supervising what can be quite an intricate operation in rearranging them back in their positions before Saturday morning's event.

A few hours sleep - and then on to Saturday ...

We were delighted to see Peter & Cheryl Morden in attendance - with Peter preaching on Sunday of course - as well as Paul & Anne Wilson, with their son, Douglas, Alan & Barbara Dinnie, Ian & Ros White, Bayo & Deneese Babalola, with their 3 "children" Jude, Joshua & Joanna, Margaret Ford (nee Mansfield), Lesley Downes, Tim & Sue Carter, and Neil & Jess Hilton and their children, Joel, Sophie & Stephen





## Open Morning - Saturday

On Saturday morning the main hall was taken over by a number of different ministries - eg Men's & Women's Fellowships, Girls Brigade, Flower Ministry, CAP, Hope Lebedyn, and more. There was a steady flow of people coming through from the other areas of activity and plenty of opportunity to meet some old faces. Refreshments were readily available, as well as the very popular burger van which we had booked!



# A Century of Memories



The Small Hall was taken over by a display of historical items - ranging from minutes of Deacon's Meetings from the 1930s to old Year Books to information about a range of events through the years. There were plenty of photographs for all to see and a video, featuring in particular the Millenium Project, was running in the background with John Murray and Brenda Dant being interviewed as a part of the story.



Probably the most fascinating feature however was the miniature model of the planned Welcome Centre, seen here on the left.



## Rocking!

Also on Saturday morning, we were treated to a short concert by the Eastbourne Rock Choir. Following a trial in October 2021, the Rock Choir started using our premises fully in January 2022. They rehearse on Wednesday mornings, 10.30am-12noon (term-time only), and our venue has proved so successful for them that their leader, Charlotte Nash, introduced a Monday evening group here in September 2023. They were only too pleased to be offered the opportunity to perform for us on Saturday and they seemed to be a real hit for those who watched/listened to them. If you feel you might like to join them, Charlotte would be delighted to hear from you.



## Lou Fellingham



What an inspired decision to invite Lou and her band to help us celebrate! Over 200 people came along on Saturday evening - many from other churches in the town - to hear and they were rewarded with an evening of vibrant, exciting music with the presence of God very much a feature of the performance and the experience of many who were gathered..





## Sunday Afternoon Picnic

The sun certainly shone on us after the morning service and a good number of us rounded off the weekend with a really enjoyable picnic in the garden area. The performance of a string quartet - courtesy of the Knights family - created a very relaxed atmosphere and significantly enhanced the event.



Another highlight was the production of centenary cakes. Pam Miller produced the cake on the left and Amanda Pye the small cup cakes below. Their efforts were so very much appreciated.



## Goody Bags!

One of our aims for the Centenary Celebrations was to bless our community and to spread God's love. We put together 100 family goody bags which included various items such as a Bible activity booklet for children, a Christian lifestyle magazine, a Try Praying booklet, sweets and chocolates. These were given out to our friends at the Community Fridge this week and to children and youth at Kids Club and Friday night youth.

We pray that those who received them will be inspired to find out more about Jesus and His love for them.



The Centenary Celebrations seem to have been - according to the feedback we have received - very successful in so many ways. God really blessed us, as indeed He has done for the past 100 years! Such a weekend however can only be successful with the commitment and efforts not just of the staff team, but also our amazing bunch of volunteers. It would be impossible to name everyone involved - but the



important thing is that you know who you are. Please accept our appreciation for all that you did to help things run so smoothly. Even more importantly though, God knows who you are and your reward awaits you in Heaven!



## PRAYER DIARY : 16<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> June

*“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments” Deuteronomy 7:9*

**Monday** Father, we lift up to You those who feel rejected, dispossessed and discriminated against. Through Your Holy Spirit, guide and encourage us to seek out these marginalised, suffering souls and befriend them in Your Name remembering we are all part of Your creation and You love us equally.

**Tuesday** Lord, we bring before You the people of the Ukraine and pray for Your peace to reign there. As the summer camps begin in Lebedyn, we pray for Your protection over the children attending: fill the leaders with courage and may there be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as Your word is shared. Put it upon our hearts, Lord, if we are able to sponsor a child to enable them to attend a camp.

**Wednesday** Father God, we bring before You all those of our church family taking exams and awaiting results. Fill them with Your strength and cast away their anxieties and fears. Assure them, Lord, that You have a plan for their lives and may they rest in Your peace as they decide the next step in their lives.

**Thursday** “One generation will commend Your works to another; they will tell of Your mighty acts” Psalm 145:4. Father, we thank You for all those who have laboured over the last 100 years to build Your kingdom here at Victoria Baptist Church. Bless this, our generation, pour out Your Spirit upon us, equip us with the gifts, the opportunities and the joy to commend Your mighty works to another generation.

**Friday** Heavenly Father, we thank You for the beauty and dignity of human life which is the crowning achievement of your creation. You further ennobled that life when You chose for Your Son to become one with us. As the Assisted Dying bill continues to make its progress through Parliament, we pray, Father, for its members to reflect. Help them to realise the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the very beginning through to the last moment, at death.

**Saturday** Pray for the Ladies Breakfast taking place at VBC this morning to go smoothly and for good fellowship to be enjoyed. Lord, fill the speaker, Jacqui Archer, with Your spirit as she shares her testimony, and may those attending draw nearer to You and to one another as they share Your Good News.

**Sunday** Bring to The Lord in prayer all those who are going to be baptised at the service this morning. Father, we thank You for the precious gift of new life received through baptism. Bless these candidates and work deeply within their hearts and souls to renew and refresh them each day. Lord, be a constant guide as they journey through life and fill them with a vision of a future serving You.

# Seeing CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

with the help of Tim Keller

## Part 17: The 2 Great Tests of Life: Prosperity and Disaster

*'Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; **give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me**, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.'* Prov. 30:7-9



1. How do you get on with tests? Their aim is to find out what you know. **God also tests us in two areas of life - prosperity and suffering** - to see where our allegiance lies. Proverbs deals with these two scenarios because how we face them determines how wise we are. Eg. Prov. 3:5 challenges us to *'Trust in the Lord with all our hearts...'*, then, a few verses on, in 9-11 it describes two scenarios to test that: in prosperity when *'our barns are full..'* and in times of trial; how we respond to *'the Lord's discipline'*

2. The **danger and challenge of prosperity is pride**, when you exceed legitimate boundaries and think more highly of yourself than you ought as Nebuchadnezzar (see Daniel Ch.4) and the devil (see Is.14:12-15 a reference traditionally associated with him) did. It does not end well!

3. **The danger in adversity is to become devastated** when the person or thing we have put at the centre of our lives eg loved one, work, health etc is taken from us. This shows they have **become our idols** and taken a place in our hearts only God should fill.

4. **What is the solution to these two tests of life?** James sums it up well:

*'Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.'* (Ja.1:9-10)

a. **When we prosper we need to thank God and show humility.**

b. **When adversity strikes we need to purposely remind ourselves of the good news and benefit the gospel message brings.** This includes God's personal love and ...

... commitment to those who believe in Him, whom He endearingly calls His 'little children' (Jn.13:33) or 'little lambs' (Jn.21:15). Part of that love involves His 'disciplining' us for our benefit. In English the word has negative connotations but in Hebrew it denotes allowing specific suffering/pain **to make us better people**. This is what Paul discovered regarding his 'thorn in the flesh' (2Cor.12:7-10). It led him to be less conceited, to know God's power in weakness, the sufficiency of God's grace and a settled contentment and peace with his lot.

#### 5. How do we make this real in our lives and apply it to our situations? By

reminding ourselves how Christ dealt with these 'two imposters of triumph and disaster' as Kipling called them. Jesus, as the perfect man, did not let success go to His head and, when He endured great suffering, He trusted God to help and deliver Him. The degree we recall and apply this, with the Holy Spirit's help, to our situation, it will help mould us to have the right attitude and be wise in this matter.

*'Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.'* Heb.12:3

Why not listen to the full sermon at: [The Two Great Tests – Gospel in Life](#)

*John Demetriou*

## PARCHE Co-ORDINATOR SOUGHT



PARCHE – THE CHURCH IN CARE HOMES – is a Christian Charity operating in the Eastbourne area. We are looking for a person who is passionate about bringing the love of God to older people living in Care Homes. This is a paid position with expenses paid.

Please email a letter of interest and your CV to PARCHE at [info@parche.org.uk](mailto:info@parche.org.uk)

The deadline is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025, we are looking to hold interviews the following week.

If you would like more information about this role before applying, please telephone Bernie Watts on 01323 325231 (up to 6pm)

#### Main tasks:

- Oversee co-ordination of work in local care homes
- Talk about PARCHE in local churches, to raise its profile and recruit volunteers
- Link new teams with care homes

# Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by  
**Christine Johnston**  
in memory of Bruce

