

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 15th March 2026

Amazing Women of God



VICTORIA
Baptist Church Eastbourne
All Age

**The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.
My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.**

Psalm 28:7



Amazing Women of God

This week we will look at some amazing women of God from both the Old and New testament. Esther, the courageous Queen who saved her people; Abigail, the swift peacemaker who stopped her household being destroyed; and Lydia, the open hearted church founder. God was powerful in all of their lives, using them to establish His kingdom in very difficult circumstances. We are going to spend some time considering who they are and what they can teach us.



The relevant passages are the Book of Esther (Chaps 1-10); 1 Samuel 25 and Acts 16:11-15.

THIS AFTERNOON At 3pm Chris will be leading the first in a new series of **Baptismal classes**. If you are interested in attending, please contact Chris.

THIS EVENING - Our twice-monthly prayer meeting will take place at 6.30pm.

Next Week (22nd)

Our live@10 service next week will be led by Chris Short as he continues his series on "The Essential Church"

LIFE GROUPS

You can find the Life Group notes for today's message through this link:

<https://victoriabaptist.org.uk/midweekgroups/life-groups/resources/most-recent-bible-studies.php>

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

Chris off Tues

Colin off Mon

Kevin off Sat

Tim in Wed am, Fri am

Nadine in Mon & Thurs

Sandra off Thurs

Phil Tues am, Wed , Thu pm

Emily off Mon & Tues

Simon off Tues, working from home Thurs

Julie in Thurs

Lucy in Weds am, Thurs, Fri am

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 Evason

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

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 All-Age Service with Emily & Simon
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Sunday Evening Youth
- Mon 16 6.00pm Girls Brigade
 7.30pm CLT meeting
- Tue 17
- Wed 18 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 11.30am Committal Service for Corrie Paxton at Eastbourne Crem
 12.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Corrie Paxton at VBC
 6.45pm Alpha - Why did Jesus die?
- Thu 19 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting
 10.15am Men's Fellowship with Margaret Bannister (The Mayor)
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Zilla Lowries
 6.45pm Omega (contact Tim or Ruth Nunn for details)
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 20 10.00am Outreach Prayer
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 12.30pm Friends, Food & Fellowship
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Friday Night Youth
- Sat 21
- Sun 22 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short
 7.00pm Sunday Evening Youth

The Week Ahead

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 26th Mar - Pearl Rendall's Thanksgiving Service 1.30pm

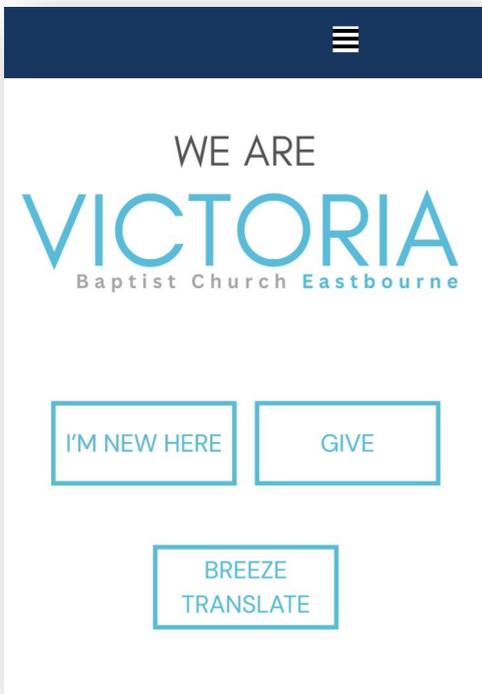
Sat 28th Mar - Messy Easter (1pm-3pm)

Sun 29th Mar - Prospective Members Meeting, 4pm

What's this on the chairs?



Scan the QR code with your phone camera and it will open up this page from the Victoria website.



Clicking on:

I'm New Here will take you to a page that tells you all about Victoria and how to contact us.

Give will take you to the Victoria Dona page. This will give you the chance to give to the church.

Breeze Translate will take you to the Breeze Translate website where you will be able to follow the sermon in a written language of your choice

PRAYER DIARY : 16TH - 22ND MARCH

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also He said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Revelation 21:4-5

Monday Father God we pray for the people of Iran and for the wider communities across the Middle East. Father we find it so hard to understand the terror, division, injustice and confusion that pervade so many homes and communities. We pray too, for those people we know and love in Victoria who are fearful for families in that country. Help us Lord to see the world as You see it, with compassion and love.. Help us Lord to be peacemakers, by Your spirit, guide us to dispel division, quieten disturbed minds and continue to pray for our troubled world until there is no more pain.

Tuesday God in heaven we continue to pray for the people of Ukraine. We pray especially for those who have been displaced for so long. For those who have no homes to return to, we ask for perseverance and comfort in their sorrow and hope in their mourning. We pray that a just peace will come to that land. We give thanks for the work of Your people there and pray Your protection over the church in Lebedyn. Help us to encourage those who are weary and to support their mission in different ways.

Wednesday As we are bombarded from the media and news, help us, Lord to seek Your truth. There are political agendas, personal aggrandisement and financial gratifications that blur the truth in our society. Help us not to jump to hasty conclusions, but to seek Your heart in what we say and do. Thank You that Your Word is trustworthy and true.

Thursday Lord, we are thankful that You are the one who wipes away our tears. Comfort those who have been bereaved recently. We pray particularly for those in our fellowship who have lost loved ones in the last few weeks. There are many across the world lost in conflict, accidents and through illness and we pray that families will be sustained with the Hope we have in You and the hope for Your return and when all things will be made new.

Friday Thank you, Creator, Redeemer that You are seated on the throne. Thank You for the peace which passes understanding that we have in Your steadfast love. Your patience is often incomprehensible and Your plan sometimes seems incredible when we see world politics in action. Help us to encourage one another and to remember that one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Your name. Lord we pray for humble leadership to become the norm, for people of integrity to be appointed and for Your will to prevail in our world.

Saturday Father God we pray for those men and women who are being despatched to war. We pray for peacekeeping forces and humanitarian groups who are facing danger. We pray, too for those who are serving in medical centres and refuges in areas of conflict. Help us to hold the many places around the world where pain and crying are everyday realities. God of Peace, hear our prayer

Sunday When we come together today, Lord, help us to hold love in our hearts. Help us to resolve any disagreements among Your people. Help us, Father to be united in love and unity and to do what we can in our community to honour You and show Your way to those around us. Give us the insight to love our neighbour, friends and relatives as You love, and to hasten a time when all things will be made new. Bless our gathering at Victoria and bless our brothers and sisters in Christ who worship in this town today.



I am leading a 'Quiet Day Retreat' for a group from the Methodist Circuit in Stoke this weekend. Any prayers appreciated!

Tom Duncanson

BIBLE NOTES

Please check your pigeon hole if you have ordered Daily Bible Reading Notes from Sandra- this is the April-June edition.



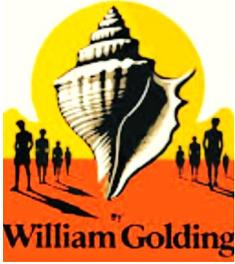
THANKSGIVING

Corrie Paxton's Thanksgiving Service will be next Wednesday, 18th.

Recent notices in Victoria Life have asked for tributes from those of you who knew her well and we have been delighted with the contributions received so far. However, we feel that we now have sufficient material, so a big thank you to those who have already shared their memories with us. *Keith & Jo*

Pearl Rendall's Thanksgiving will be on Thursday week (26th), as advertised last week.

And those of you who have been here at VBC for a long time will be sad to hear that our former member, **Ros Griffiths**, passed away last week. The funeral service will be a family-only affair.



Have you been watching the four part adaptation of William Golding's novel, 'Lord of the Flies' on BBC and available on iPlayer recently? (I still prefer the 1963 film version by Peter Brook for accuracy and capturing the spirit of the story.) The book has been a staple English Literature text in secondary schools for over forty years, exploring the themes of civilization versus anarchy through the prism of a group of stranded school boys. What piqued my interest and made me re-read this excellently crafted novel, which helped its author get a Nobel prize for Literature in 1983, was how Golding captures the basic Biblical doctrine of original sin - *'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?'*, and *'evil from his youth.'* (Jer. 17:9-10 & Gen. 8:21) - in this parable of human nature and modern society with its quarrels, fighting and wars.

The story takes the best that England can offer in the form of a group of boys, aged between 6-12 years, from a privileged public school background, and maroons them on an uninhabited tropical island after a plane crash, during a time of international war, where they have to survive, without any adults, till rescued.

It all starts well, with order, cooperation and friendliness as they declare, *"We've got to have rules and obey them. After all, we're not savages. We're English, and the English are the best at everything. So we've got to do the right things."* They use a conch they discover (which represents order and the benefits of civilization) to call meetings and discuss problems.

But, as the story progresses, we see that, despite their best intentions, they descend into selfishness, rule breaking, pride, jealousy, hatred, superstition, tyranny and even murder. Their education and good upbringing is no match for *'the beast'* within them. *'The beast'* is an imaginary hidden creature on the island they all fear which is a symbolic representation of the evil inside them. It is the more meditative, spiritual Simon who realises and expresses this, *"maybe, it's only us....We could be sort of...."* *Simon became inarticulate in his effort to express mankind's essential illness.'*

I am not sure if the author, Golding, was a Christian, but we know he was influenced by the church's doctrine of original sin, John Milton's Paradise Lost, and especially his own experience of seeing man's brutality while serving in the Second World War - as well as observing boys in the school where he taught. This all convinced him of man's capacity for evil which was only restrained by societal rules. It made him react to the more optimistic children's island adventure stories, popular at the time, such as Treasure Island, Swallows and Amazons and, especially, Coral Island, by writing Lord of the Flies in response in 1953.

.... At the end of the story, tyranny rules and there is fear and the thought that rationality (represented by Ralph and Piggy) is no match for a world gone mad (represented by Jack and his tribe). The naval officer arriving to rescue them is incredulous at the sight that confronts him on the beach of a collection of painted savages, almost naked and bedraggled, with sharpened spears about to kill Ralph. All the naval officer can do is dismiss it as *'fun and games'* and, as Ralph breaks down and *'weeps for the loss of innocence and darkness of man's heart'*, the officer looks away stoically *'on the trim cruiser in the distance'* as he prepares to take them back to civilization and another war!

Thankfully, the Bible has a more optimistic answer to the evil we see in society and ourselves. *'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.'* (1John 1:8)

Piggy and Ralph make repeated cries in the story for outside help in the form of adults to aid them in the crises they face but the reality is, adults and civilization are not enough. We need God's power to change us within and *'take away the love of sinning'* which God does when we believe in Jesus Christ, the only one who can truly rescue us.

John Demetriou

Men's Non-CURRY NIGHT

Please note the details for the next men's night-out, being held again at Cedarz Lebanese Restaurant in Grove Road. If you would like to join us, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Centre. A great opportunity to reach out to your non-Christian friends or work colleagues.

Date: **Wed 15th Apr**

Time: 7.15pm



CONGRATULATIONS ...

... to one of our young people, Rebekah Ebdy, who celebrates her 21st birthday next Saturday, 21st March.

Thank you...

To those of you who supported Flow Café on Saturday. We raised £440 for Eastbourne Street Pastors.

The next Flow Café will take place on **11th April**, when we will be giving the proceeds to St. Wilfrid's Hospice.



Prospective Members Meeting

If you would like to know more about becoming a member of the church, then join Richard Kirk, our Membership Coordinator, on **Sunday 29th March, 4pm** in The Hive, when he will explain the benefits and responsibilities of membership.

**membership
MATTERS**

You can contact Richard by email: richard@victoriabaptist.org.uk

Bernhard Baron
Care Home
Care through Friendship

SPRING FAYRE

Wednesday 18th March
10am-12noon

JOIN US FOR

HANDMADE GIFTS • TOMBOLA
BRIC-A-BRAC • CARDS • CAKES • JEWELLERY • REFRESHMENTS
CLOTHES • BOOKS • COMPETITIONS

Entry £1 - Children Free
to include a cup of tea or coffee

Bernhard Baron Care Home
Eastbourne Road, Polegate, East Sussex, BN26 5HB
T: 01323 483613 www.bbch.co.uk
Charity no: 1070891

The Silent Distance

Standing here under the grey, drizzling skies of England, the air feels heavy -
not with rain, but with a crushing sense of helplessness.

Every time I look at my phone, my heart sinks.

While the world around me moves on in peace, my homeland, Iran, is bleeding.

It is a strange and painful torture to be physically safe
while your soul is in the streets of Tehran, Isfahan, and Zahedan.

I walk through quiet parks here, but, in my mind, I hear the echoes of chanting,
the sound of gunfire, and the screams of a generation that refuses to be silenced.

The news is a nightmare from which I cannot wake up:

The Brutality: Seeing the government turn its weapons on its own people -
the very people they are meant to protect.

The Loss: Every day, more faces of young heroes appear on my screen,
lives cut short simply for demanding the basic right to be free.

The Guilt: The "survivor's guilt" of having a roof over my head
and a peaceful street to walk on,
while my brothers and sisters are being murdered in cold blood
just for standing their ground.

I miss the scent of jasmine and the warmth of a Persian sun, but more than that,
I ache for a country that doesn't break its children.

My heart is a bridge spanning thousands of miles,
carrying nothing but prayers and tears.

Iran, for me. is not just a place on a map; it is my family, my identity,
and right now, it is a wound that won't stop bleeding.

Heavenly Father, I bring the people of Iran into your presence,
for You are their only refuge.

Pouria. 5th February 2026

FLOWER MINISTRY

Last week's flowers were donated by
Alice Purkiss in memory of her mum & dad



*Thank you so much for my
beautiful flowers,
accompanied by such an
encouraging verse LC xx*

