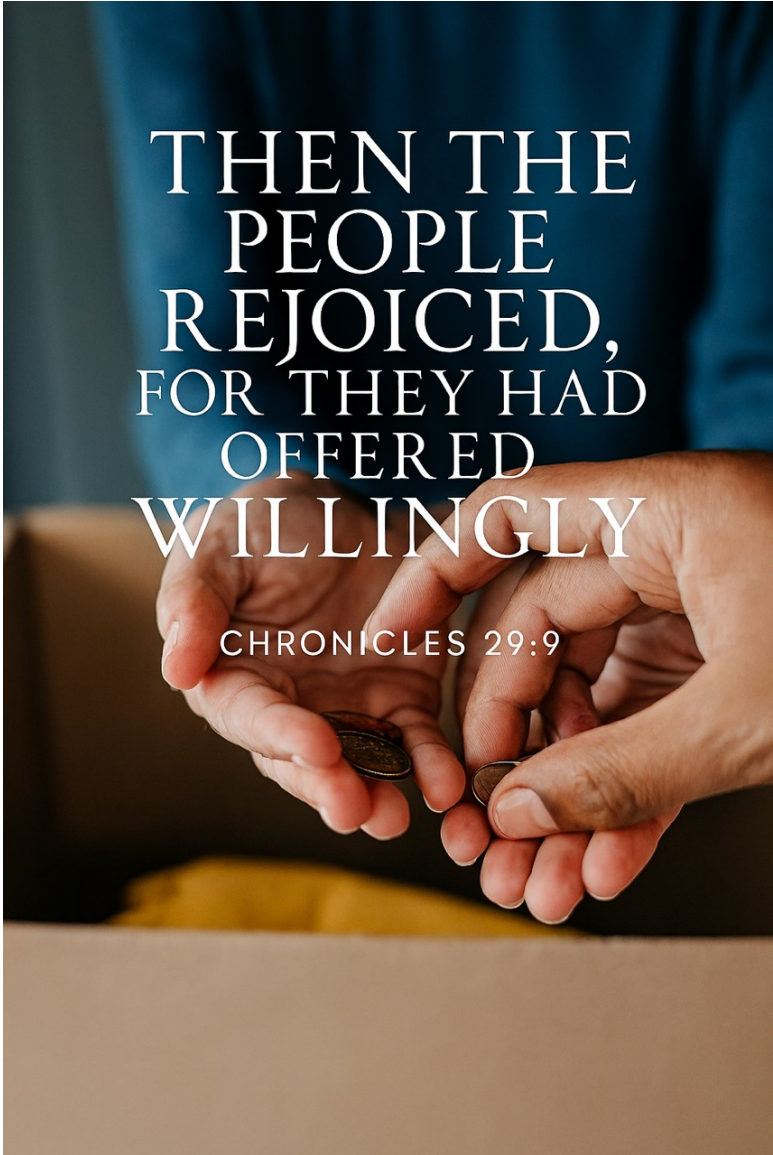


VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 16th/23rd November 2025

A photograph of a person's hands, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, holding two small, dark coins. The hands are positioned over a light brown cardboard box. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the box and the person's shirt.

THEN THE
PEOPLE
REJOICED,
FOR THEY HAD
OFFERED
WILLINGLY

CHRONICLES 29:9



JustGiving – Gift Day 1000 BC

1Chronicles 29:1-28

“Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand.”

1Chron. 29:14



This Sunday is our Gift Day. Hopefully, as we've been considering our financial giving in light of God's word, the Spirit of God has been stirring us to review our giving and commitment to God's work at Victoria.

I've heard it said that the last part of a man to be converted is his wallet. I doubt that's how Jesus would have put it. His words suggest that if our wallets haven't been converted, it's doubtful whether our hearts really have. Either love for money drives out love for God, or love for God drives out love for money because "No one can serve two masters ... you cannot serve both God and money" (Matt. 6:24).

On this important day, we'll look back at one of the most extraordinary days in the history of Israel – King David's Gift Day. It's a long chapter and you may want to read and consider it before you come. I hope you can join us for what promises to be an inspirational time.

Next Week (23RD Nov)

Jez Taylor will be preaching at next week's live@10 service - John 21:1-18

Our fortnightly prayer meeting will be at 6.30pm

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next two weeks - Week 1: 17th-23rd; Week 2: 24th-30th

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	annual leave (wk1)	Emily	off Tues
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	off Tues
Tim	annual leave (wk1)	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs	Lucy	in Weds am, Thurs, Fri am
Sandra	annual leave (wk2)	Jez	in Fri am
Phil	in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm		

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

Sort Code: 40-52-40

01323 737974

Eldon Road, Eastbourne BN21 1UE

helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

- Sun 16 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am live@10 - with Chris Short
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8
- Mon 17 6.00pm Girls Brigade
 7.30pm Core Leadership Team Meeting
- Tue 18
- Wed 19 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
- Thu 20 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.15am Men's Fellowship with Anna Reid
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Mick Trott
 7.00pm Bible Journalling
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 21 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 22 9.00am Ladies' Prayer Breakfast
 1.00pm Messy Christmas
- Sun 23 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am live@10 - with Jez Taylor
 7.00pm Xcav8
- Mon 24 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 25
- Wed 26 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 7.30pm Members Business Meeting
- Thu 27 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 Men's Fellowship - next meeting 4th Dec

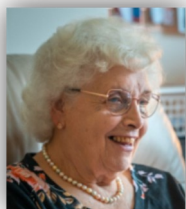
- Thu 27 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Hugh Lowries
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 28 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 3.00pm Funeral Service for Beryl Hancock at EB Crematorium
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 29
- Sun 30 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am live@10 - with Chris Short
 4.00pm Prospective Members' Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*

Dan Fairhead Nov 23 Living Stones Community Church, 10.30am



Funeral Details



Please note that the funeral service for Beryl Hancock (Friday Nov 28th, 3pm at Eastbourne Crematorium) will be live-streamed for those of you unable to attend. You need to access the following website

www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view

Once on this page, enter the following PIN: 862-5217 to get into the service.

The funeral service for Hanny Balmer meanwhile will take place on Wednesday 3rd December. Her funeral will take place at Eastbourne Crematorium with the service there at 1pm, followed by a Thanksgiving Service here at VBC at 2.30pm. If you wish to join the family for refreshments after the Thanksgiving Service, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Centre.



PRAYER DIARY : 17TH - 23RD NOVEMBER

Monday: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name ...

You are light unshadowed, love unending, and truth unchanging.

Let every breath I take today honour Your name.

May my words and work reflect Your holiness,

And may my heart be still in awe of who You are. Amen.

Tuesday: Your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven ...

King of all, Let Your reign break into my routines.

Where there is fear, bring peace; where there is pride, bring humility.

Shape my life to echo heaven's justice, mercy, and joy.

Come, Lord, rule in me today. Amen.

Wednesday: Give us this day our daily bread ...

Generous Provider, Thank You for the grace of this day.

Feed me with what I truly need,

Not just food for the body, but wisdom for the mind,

And peace for the soul. Help me to receive and to share. Amen.

Thursday: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us ...

Merciful God, I bring You my failures, my harsh words, my hidden thoughts.

Wash me clean in Your kindness.

And help me to release the debts I hold against others,

Not with clenched fists, but with open hands. Amen.

Friday: Lead us not into temptation ...

Faithful Shepherd, You know the paths I walk and the snares I do not see.

Guard my heart from what draws me away from You.

When I am weak, be my strength;

When I am restless, be my stillness. Keep me close. Amen.

Saturday: But deliver us from the evil one ...

Mighty Deliverer, You are my refuge and shield.

Rescue me from the lies that accuse, the fears that bind,

And the shadows that whisper despair.

Clothe me in Your light, and lead me in Your truth. Amen.

Sunday: For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory ...

Glorious Lord, all things begin and end in You.

Yours is the kingdom that cannot be shaken,

The power that never fades,

The glory that fills all creation.

I rest in Your majesty and rejoice in Your grace. For ever and ever, Amen.

Elections

The forthcoming Members Business Meeting will feature elections for the CLT (Core Leadership Team). We have had two nominations and you will read below a brief profile of each of the two candidates -



Paula Burr

Jesus called me to follow Him in my early teens after a challenging period in my life, and I have witnessed God's faithfulness and support through life's changing seasons, whether in times of joy or difficulty, whether I am doing well or making mistakes.

I have been a member of VBC since 2011 and currently volunteer with Girls' Brigade and Sunday School, as well as leading a Life Group. Additionally, I sometimes join the Worship Team on Sunday mornings and serve on the Prayer Team.

In the community, I volunteer with Linking Lives and Hope into Action.

Previously, I served as a trustee of Homelink (Lewes District Churches Together) and the Breakout Community Trust in Newhaven, as well as a staff trustee at the University of Sussex.

I am now retired, having worked in a supervisory technical role at the University of Sussex. I also participated in negotiations and mediation as a trade union representative. Furthermore, I supported colleagues as a mental health first aider.

Previously, I had the privilege of serving on the CLT for 6 years and believe that God is calling me to continue working with others to build on our church's vision.

Richard Kirk

Richard Kirk has been part of Victoria Baptist Church for over forty-five years, serving the fellowship faithfully in a variety of roles. Over the past two decades he has been involved in church leadership, both as a member of the Church Leadership Team (CLT) and, before that, as a Deacon.

Throughout his working life, Richard built a career in engineering and marketing, which took him across the world before his retirement. Now happily retired, he devotes much of his time to writing and has published thirteen books of theological reflection, fiction, and poetry on Amazon under the pen name *Joseph R. Mason*, with more works currently in preparation.

..... Within the life of the church, Richard has served as Membership Coordinator since 2015, overseeing and welcoming new members as they join the fellowship, a role he took on from Corrie Paxton. He is also actively involved in the Thursday morning prayer group and serves as part of the TASC team, which focuses on recovering the church's assets and conversion to a CIO. Each week, he volunteers at Vicky-Bees, helping to provide a warm and friendly space for families in the community and also regularly cooks the sausage and bacon butties at Flow Café.



Richard has a strong interest in communication and outreach, particularly through digital media. He set up the VBC Facebook page some years ago and continues to help run it as part of the church's online team. He also manages *Daily Bible Dose Eastbourne*, a Facebook page that shares daily verses and reflections to encourage others in their walk with God, and he contributes regularly to the church's Twitter feed, @VBCEastbourne, providing Scripture and encouragement each day. In addition, he helps to maintain the church's website and online diary.

In previous years on the CLT, Richard's responsibilities included GDPR compliance and staff training thereof, as well as serving as the member responsible for Safeguarding.

After taking a one-year break from the CLT, Richard spent time in prayer considering whether to return to leadership. During recent weeks, several people approached him independently to ask if he might be willing to serve again, a confirmation, he felt, of the Lord's leading.

Richard writes: "I don't see membership of the CLT as something to be achieved, or as a position of status, but as a calling, a humble opportunity to serve the Lord, His church, and His people."

BIBLE BY THE BEACH

If anyone is interested in going to *Bible by the Beach* 1st - 4th May 2026, and would like to be part of a group booking, please speak to Rebekah Fairhead. Please let Rebekah know by 23rd November so that we know if we have enough people for a group booking, which has to be done by the end of the month.



See the BBTB website for all the info you need.

<https://www.biblebythebeach.org/>



Bernhard Baron
Care Home
Care Amongst Friends

Christmas Fayre

BERNHARD BARON CARE HOME
WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER
10AM -12 NOON

JOIN US FOR

HANDMADE GIFTS • TOMBOLA • BRIC-A-BRAC • CARDS • CAKES
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£1 ENTRY - INCLUDES A TEA OR COFFEE

EASTBOURNE ROAD, POLEGATE, EAST SUSSEX, BN26 5HB
WWW.BBCH.CO.UK

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1070891

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 30th November, 4pm** in The Hive, when he will explain the benefits and responsibilities of membership.

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

HOSPITALITY

Following Ruth Newton's recent talk on hospitality, I thought it worth resubmitting a book review I wrote of Rosaria Butterfield's book on the same topic in case people wanted to read further on the subject and see how, '*practicing radically ordinary hospitality in our post-christian world*' (its sub title) can make a difference to church life and evangelism.

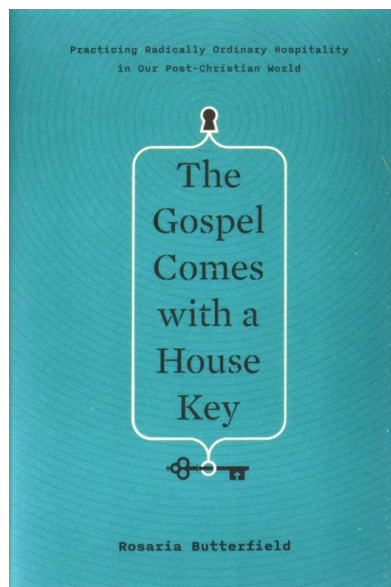
Book Review: **'The Gospel Comes with a House Key'** by Rosaria Butterfield, Pub. Crossway 2018

You might find this book a hard read. Not because it is difficult but because it appears extreme and unattainable. That would miss the author's purpose though and, more importantly, be an excuse to not practice a clear Biblical exhortation to use your home for God's service, help God's people and spread the gospel.

Rosaria Butterfield shows how Christians have a unique great resource 'close to home' that they can utilise to benefit their neighbouring community, socially and spiritually, which an official church does not have. To perform this type of hospitality well, she enumerates the following biblical attitudes as key to its success. The need to be: unpretentious, welcoming to all kinds of people, sacrificial, ready for some mess in your life, biblically rooted, practical and intentional. She is adamant you do not need to be young, have a large home or facilities to do this well either. In the Bible we have the example of a very old man and a very poor woman with limited resources offering hospitality (2 Sam.19:31 & 1Ki. 17:7-24). Rosaria illustrates those principles by describing how she, her family and other members of her church put them into practice in her local community, not hiding the difficulties they encountered, or mistakes they made along the way, as well as sharing the wonderful successes.

The book's style shows the author is well read and abreast of secular, social trends, and has a teaching background, by the way she cleverly, pertinently and deftly intertwines and applies Biblical teaching with well described, endearing and moving true life stories to illustrate her points.

The book is set in North Carolina, USA and there are a number of names and acronyms she uses from simple household goods to public welfare bodies that are lost on a non-American audience. A simple explanatory note appendaged to each would have helped the reader be more engaged and understand the context better, but that doesn't stop us still benefiting from the



..... main theme of the book.

With society becoming more insular, and people more detached from one another, this book highlights an important Biblical way Christians can reach out to their neighbours in practical gospel living. Do you have the courage to read it and let it challenge you to play your part?

John Demetriou



Please note - tickets are selling fast
- only about 20 left!

PRAYER DIARY : 24TH - 30TH NOVEMBER

As we commemorated Remembrance Sunday recently, we were asked to remember God's goodness. We reflected on Old Testament promises and on prayers answered swiftly, like that of the thief on the cross, and those prayers that took many, many years to be answered, such as the Israelites entering the Promised Land.

The Old Testament is full of pleas to remember. David says in Psalm 103 -

Bless the LORD, my soul;
all my being, bless His holy name!
Bless the LORD, my soul;
and do not forget all His gifts,
Who pardons all your sins,
and heals all your ills,
Who redeems your life from the pit,
and crowns you with mercy and compassion,
Who fills your days with good things,
so your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Recently, construction has begun, in Warwickshire, of a huge Christian monument . The Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer. It will be built right next to the M6 and M42 where many thousands of people pass every day. It will have one million bricks, each of which will represent an answered prayer. Let us quietly and thankfully reflect this week on how God has answered our prayers.



Monday Thank God for answered prayer about your family.

Tuesday Reflect on relationships, romantic, platonic or neighbourly, and how God has answered your prayers around those people you know.

Wednesday Quietly sit and reflect on those who have been ill and the times when we haven't quite known what to pray but still felt God's comfort.

Thursday When we have been worried about an important life decision - where to study, whether to take a job, plans for the future - it is often overwhelming, Think back to remembering to pray, and for God being there.

Friday Thank God for putting you where you are, in Eastbourne, among those neighbours, in that home. He knows the plans He has for us, give thanks for His hand in those decisions.

Saturday Concerns about finances, whether big or small can often blur our vision of God's love for us. Give thanks for times when £5 has been saved, found or given, and also reflect on times when much bigger anxieties have arisen. Quietly thank God for His provision in the past and in times to come.

Sunday As we gather together again, give thanks for the opportunity to remember God's love for us, and your love for Him. 1 John 4:19 - "We love because He first loved us."



Dear church family, I would like to thank you for showing kindness and concern to both my wife and myself over the last few weeks. Thank you to Chris Short and those that have prayed for my continuing recovery.

Sam Blundell

Thank you to those of you who supported Flow Cafe last Saturday. We raised £190 for Help for Heroes.



CHRISTMAS 2025 – SHOWING PRACTICAL LOVE TO CAP clients



It is with thankfulness that we recall the brilliant team of volunteers who helped to make the packing, delivering and funding of Christmas gift hampers last year possible. It's time again to think about our CAP clients who will be blessed by similar gifts this year. We aim to include a full Christmas dinner with treats in each hamper which will cost about £50 for single clients or £70 for families. They will also include a Christmas card, a toy for any children, Christmas leaflets with the good news of Jesus and invites to our Christmas services and events.

Can you help us?

Card writing: We are looking for a couple of people to write cards for our clients to show our love and to send out the Christmas message of God's love. Please contact Phil or Lesley.



Gifts of chocolates and toiletries: Gifts of tins of chocolates/sweets or toiletries are most welcome and can be left in the welcome centre collection point from the start of December. All other items for the hampers are sourced by the CAP team.

Financial donations: We would love to receive your monetary gifts to buy the food for the hampers. Please use the usual Victoria Baptist Church Trust Account Number 00010297, Sort Code 40-52-40, with the reference **“CAP hampers”**. If you prefer to use cash, please give to the office, or to Phil or Lesley. Don't forget to indicate if we can collect the Gift Aid on your donation.

Packers, Drivers and Deliverers: A team of packers is needed Thursday 18th December in the afternoon and Friday 19th December all day. We need drivers to deliver the hampers in pairs on Friday 19th in the afternoon and Saturday 20th December in the morning. If you are not a car driver, we would be happy to pair you with a driver. Deliveries will be grouped by area and each pair will be asked to deliver 5 or so hampers. There will be sign up sheets on the desk in the Welcome Centre from 23rd November for these roles.

Prayer: Please pray for this opportunity to show God's love to those in great need in our town, that clients will be blessed and that all the practical arrangements will work smoothly.

If you are able to help in any capacity, we would love to hear from you. Thank you.

MADE FOR YOU

1 DAY CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

WITH
Lon Fellingham + FRIENDS



 EASTBOURNE

Saturday 14th March 2026

With Cathy Madavan
& Philippa Hanna



7 Eldon Rd,
Eastbourne BN21 1UE

 **OpenDoors**
www.opendoorsuk.org

TICKETS: MADEFORYOU.EVENTS



Please note that you can either book online, or by contacting the church office. Lucy Craggs is happy to book a place for you if you do not have access to online booking. Early bird tickets are currently available for £26.50.

If cost is a barrier to you, please contact Lucy. We are keen to make this available

Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Deirdre Dean



The past week was a bit tough for me & my family. The flowers brightened my day. Thank you very much. SN



Thank you so much for the lovely flowers and verse that I received from VBC recently. Such a lovely surprise. SK

Thank you so much to everyone for the absolutely gorgeous flowers, they are really beautiful. What a wonderful surprise. L&R