

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 17th/24th August 2025

A SWARM OF
VICKY BEES



^{BE}
Strong
& COURAGEOUS
DO NOT BE AFRAID
Do not be discouraged
FOR THE LORD
YOUR GOD
will be with you
WHEREVER YOU GO
JOSHUA 1:9



A SWARM OF VICKY BEES

"Be strong and courageous ..."
(Joshua 1:9)

This week we explore the very popular verse ***Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you.*** This verse is often used as a motivation for us in our Christian life, but we have to remember it was not spoken to us, it was spoken to Joshua. What did it mean to him? What were the circumstances that he faced that required him to be strong and courageous? We will explore the message to Joshua and see what principles we can apply to our faith and walk with Jesus.



Please join us for our fortnightly prayer meeting at 6.30pm.

NEXT Week (24TH AUGUST)

Chris Short will be preaching at the Morning Service at 10am, continuing in the Swarm of Vicky Bees series.

VICTORIA LIFE

Please note that this week's edition is another 2-in-1, i.e. there will not be an issue produced next week.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next two weeks

Chris	off Tues, and week comm 24 th (annual leave)		
Colin	ann leave week comm 18 th		
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	off Thursdays
Tim	in Wed & Fri	Julie	in Thursdays
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs	Lucy	2 weeks ann leave
Sandra	off Thursdays	Jez	in Wed & Fri
Phil	2 weeks ann leave		

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

*The office will be closed for the Bank Holiday
on Monday week (25th)*

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 17 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Jez Taylor
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting

Mon 18 7.30pm CLT Meeting

Tue 19

Wed 20 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 8.15am Breakfast Club

Thu 21 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting

Fri 22 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting

Sat 23

Sun 24 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short

Mon 25 Bank Holiday - Office Closed

Tue 26

Wed 27 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 8.15am Breakfast Club

Thu 28 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting

Fri 29 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting

Sat 30

Sun 31 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Trevor King
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*

Jez Taylor Aug 31 Newhaven Baptist Church 10.30am



Lebedyn Summer Camp

One of the girls from the teen camp, Christina, lost her stepfather in the war. She adored him and is struggling to come to terms with her loss. After the camp, she wrote a poem to try and express her feelings. She has given permission for us to share it with you:

My Father

He went into battle and gave his life there.

*I am grateful for peaceful dawns,
knowing he sacrificed everything
so that I may live my life in tranquillity.*

*My gratitude is boundless
for trying to save us all.
My love for him goes on,
reaching out even in these difficult times.*

*You shall become my guardian angel,
watching over me
You will protect me for the rest of my life.
Through pain I thank you for a bright and kind future.*

*I do not know how to go on,
How to carry on in this darkness.
You have become a stork in paradise
In the emptiness and sorrow.*



*When asked if I feel pain, the answer is yes - it burns within me.
I do not know how to live without you or how to smile again.*

*You fly as an angel in heaven,
You protect me from adversity.*

*You became my fortress;
My thoughts are always with you.
Forever in our hearts, we will never forget,
and we will never forgive.*

Hopefully, with the help and support of the team, she will begin to heal emotionally and spiritually and find peace.

PRAYER DIARY : 18TH - 24TH AUGUST

Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46 This Bible verse formed part of a very powerful sermon preached by Chris a few weeks ago. This week, we will focus our prayers around those in our world who need to take time out and follow the command to "be still" and acknowledge that God IS God.

Monday Father God, we bring before You now the world leaders of Putin, Trump and Zelensky and pray that they will "be still and know that YOU are God as they plan the future of Ukraine. May they all hear Your voice and choose to act in accordance with Your will.

Tuesday Heavenly Father, we pray for prisoners (as in the Bible You teach us to care about the prisoner) for prison officers and prison chaplains. We pray that in an environment of distrust, violence and broken lives, You will guide all parties to "be still and know that YOU are God" and that You will work among them to bring about life changing renewal that will demonstrate Your power.

Wednesday Father God, in many countries of the world people's lives are being ruined by corrupt governments exploiting the population financially and spiritually. We pray that You will meet with government leaders as powerfully as You did with Saul on the Damascus road so that they are fully persuaded of the need to govern and allow Christian religious freedom in accordance with a new found understanding that "YOU are God"

Thursday When we look at v8 of Psalm 46 we can relate it to recent natural disasters such as the flood of mud that poured into a village in a valley in the Himalayas about two weeks ago, burying houses and people under up to fifty feet of liquid mud. Please pray for those who witnessed this tragedy and survived, that they will stop in their tracks and reflect on their lives and find the truth that God is to be worshipped. Pray that they will be set free from false gods.

Friday In our own lives we can become so caught up in work problems, upsetting and time consuming health issues, mental health problems etc. Father God, help us to prioritise time to be still with You, let You control and guide our responses to life's challenges as we spend time just being "still" in the company of our God.

Saturday Father God, we pray for the worldwide Christian church to truly know that "the Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress" as so many Christians face persecution and death at the hands of God's enemies. We always marvel at their "sure and certain hope of the resurrection" and pray that You will keep their minds fixed on Jesus Christ.

Sunday “I will be exalted among the nations” Exalted comes from the Latin word exaltare, to lift up. Father God, today we lift You up. We exalt You – help us to believe in Your promises and act on them. Help us to believe in Your word and submit to it so that You will be glorified and we will bear much fruit for Your kingdom. Amen.

National Week of Prayer

6 - 14th September 2025

Gather. Remember. Return.

We are arranging to meet at Beachy Head opposite the car park on Saturday 6th September at 10am. We are delighted that Graham Kendrick will join us there to lead us all in an hour of outdoor worship and prayer. We will pray for ourselves, our town and our country ... praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. A

prayer walk will then take place from Beachy Head down to Terminus Road. We will assemble at Bankers Corner for a further hour of prayer and worship led by Graham and the team starting at 1pm.

Read all about the National Week of Prayer - <https://www.nationalweekofprayer> - to prepare to join in via live-stream.

We are in faith that the Lord is hearing our prayers - many initiatives are happening across the country - worship on the streets in London; a gathering of 50 churches worshipping and praying together at Gloucester Cathedral; an initiative in Tyneside led to 55 Alpha groups taking place; in Newcastle a pioneer is galvanising churches to join together to visit every home in the country offering a free Good News for Everyone New Testament, starting with Newcastle itself; a huge Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer Monument is being built in Coleshill, Birmingham (see [Eternal Wall: A symbol of hope](#)); in Liverpool, churches have divided the city between them and are visiting every house; recently in Bournemouth five churches together baptised 90 people on the beach; the Bible Society are reporting rises in Bible sales ... including our own Eastbourne where over 200 “Why Jesus” booklets were given out during our outdoor service on the Wishtower slopes on 1st June, with two people led to the Lord.



The Pray Eastbourne Team

Community Fridge Summer Breakfasts



Cynara & Janet in action

Some of you may know that, during August, we offer our fridge clients a breakfast when they have done their shopping. Usually, they can choose from pastries, cereals, fruit, yogurt, toast, coffee, tea and fruit juice. This summer however, we are trying something different. On Wednesday, Janet and Cynara were making eggy bread and smoothies as extra choices. Both options proved extremely popular and were delicious. In a fortnight, we will be adding pancakes and omelettes to the menu.

Some of the Community Fridge team recently attended a cookery leaders training course and we hope to use their skills to offer cookery sessions to our clients. This will hopefully help them to make the best use of the food we offer.

CLT Elections

Just a reminder that we have vacancies on the Core Leadership Team and will be holding elections at the next Church Meeting on 24th September.

Nomination forms and prospective CLT members' information packs are available from the office. Please be aware that nominations **must** be received by **Wednesday 27th August** at the latest. Unfortunately, any nominations received after this date will not be valid.





COOKERY COURSES FOR MEN EASTBOURNE

LEARN TO COOK - EAT DELICIOUS FOOD - HAVE FUN - SOCIALISE



**THE NEXT 5-WEEK COURSE STARTS ON
TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2025, 11AM - 2PM**

COURSES RUN AT **VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH**, EASTBOURNE

PLACES ARE LIMITED AND PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

BOOK ONLINE HERE: WWW.COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK/MAN-WITH-A-PAN-NEW/

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

OFFICE@COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK OR **07766 526217**

(IT IS FREE BUT THERE IS A SMALL BOOKING FEE)



www.communitychef.org.uk



PRAYER DIARY : 25TH - 31ST AUGUST

“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth, Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day” Psalm 96:1-2

Monday Father Almighty, we lift up to You those of our church family who are being cared for by our local hospice. Help them, Father, to discover peace by dwelling in You. Let them receive Your comfort and let them have rest knowing they are loved by You. Lord, be a rock and presence for their families, strengthen them in their vigil and fill them with the hope of eternal life that comes through our Saviour Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

Tuesday “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you have a grievance against someone.” Col 3:13 Almighty God, we lift up to You our communities in distress with political, racial and gender tensions spilling over into civil unrest. Father, help us to reach out to our neighbours with love and compassion, and heal the divisions which keep us apart. Guide our community leaders to build trust between neighbourhoods, leading to a greater understanding of each other’s fears, needs and hopes. May Your Son, the Prince of Peace, reign.

Wednesday “Show me Your ways Lord, teach me Your paths. Guide me in Your truth and teach me for You are God my Saviour, and my hope is in You all day long.” Psalm 4-5 Father God, we lift up to You our young people who have been receiving their exam results over the last few weeks - many will be pleased and some disappointed. Father, we pray that, no matter what the results, they turn to You for guidance and wisdom on which new path to take. Reassure them, Father, that they are NOT defined by their exam results but by their faith in You our Lord and Saviour.

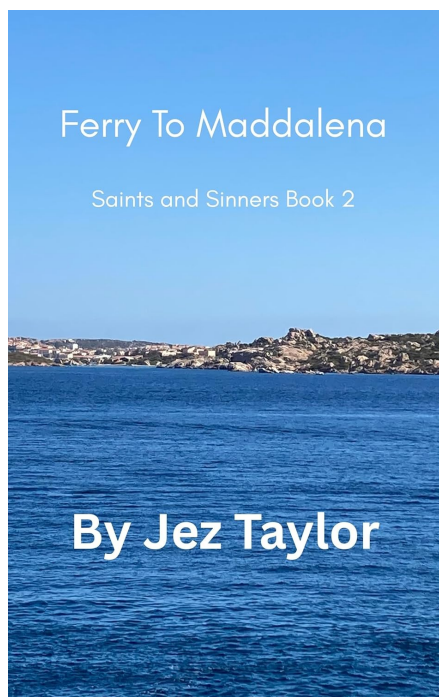
Thursday “Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established.” Proverbs 16:3 God Almighty, we lift up to You the leaders of our churches, our local councils and our government. In these complex and difficult times, we pray that they turn to You for wisdom and guidance. May they, through seeking Your will first, find greater purpose and success in their endeavours.

Friday Almighty God, we bring before You in prayer our new Head of Family Ministries, Emily Jenkins, Chris, her husband, and their three daughters as they settle into life in Eastbourne. Thank You for putting it on their hearts to join us in our mission to bring honour to Jesus Christ in Eastbourne and beyond. Through the Holy Spirit fill her, Father, with wisdom, understanding and a deep love of Your purpose to strengthen and support the families that have made Victoria Baptist their spiritual home.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Saturday Dear Lord, we lift up to You all the first responders who serve us in an emergency, especially the police, the ambulance crews, the Fire Brigade, the RNLI and our street pastors. Lord we thank you for the courage, skill, dedication and compassion they bring to every situation, often risking their lives to save others. Father, be their refuge and fortress and in times of stress and, through Your faithfulness to them, be their shield and rampart.

Sunday Father, as we gather this morning to praise and glorify You, we yearn for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit amongst us. Pray that this leads to a personal revival of spirit. Father, revive our hearts, renew our spirit and restore our wonder in You. Pray for the revival that has begun and is spreading amongst our young people as they search for spiritual meaning for their lives. Father, may they turn to Your son Jesus Christ and make Him their Lord and Saviour.



Jez's latest novel **"Ferry to Maddalena"** is out now on [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk).

It is the sequel to his last thriller, **"I am John."** Currently only on Kindle, but will be out in paperback next week.

Nadir Safar is the surviving member of The Six, a sinister atheistic organisation determined to rid the world of religious belief. The Six were previously foiled by millionaire philanthropists Sam and Sally Tucker in their attempts to kill John, a mysterious religious figure. Safar now plans to destroy key religious sites and initiate a worldwide religious war, leading to the demise of religious faith altogether. Sam, Sally and their friends at Downs Wood Farm are on the trail again. Can they prevent Safar from completing her mission? From Sardinia to Saudi Arabia and back again, Safar outwits them until everything comes to a head on the ferry to La Maddalena.

Jez will have copies to buy at a discounted price of £6 available soon.

The UNSTOPPABLE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY IN FOOTBALL



With the new football season starting - to the delight of many and to the despair of others - this seemed an appropriate time to include an article seen in the Spectator a couple of months ago, and submitted by our football correspondent, Richard Brown.

The Christianity is thriving on the football pitch. Despite the declining number of Christians in the UK, Instagram, X, and other social media sites are awash with biblical quotes. And those responsible? Professional footballers.

Over recent years, something of a movement appears to have developed in English football. Players, previously so determinedly secular, have become not only practising Christians, but also individuals who are happy to broadcast their faith to a wide audience.



Every weekend, top flight footballers either use quotes as motivation for their approaching match, or thank God if the contest reached a successful conclusion. Arsenal's Bukayo Saka met the news of his recent injury by describing it as '#GodsPlan'. Following last weekend's draw with Chelsea, Crystal Palace's Eberechi Eze declared the outcome to be 'not by might nor by power, but by His spirit'. Jurrien Timber, Arsenal's Dutch defender, leaves supporters scrabbling for their nearest Bible by cryptically stating 'Isaiah 43:19',

or 'Luke 1:14'. If you follow your favourite footballers online, the chances are that you'll be familiar with these invocations.

A spotlight was thrown on this trend recently, when Palace captain Marc Guehi wrote 'I love Jesus' and 'Jesus loves you' over a rainbow armband worn to support LGBT+ communities. Amidst commentators' performative gasps and groans, everyone overlooked that Guehi's stencilled note was not in any way surprising. It was merely symbolic of the rise of evangelical Christianity across elite football.

The church's relationship with football in England is long and complex. Early forms of the game were disdained because of the violence that sometimes erupted on, and off, the pitch; traditionalists also didn't like the fact that some games were played on a Sunday, the Sabbath. However, with the turn into the 20th century, churches around Britain increasingly advocated the sport as something that fostered 'healthy bodies'. Everton, Fulham, Manchester City, and Southampton were all formed by local church organisations; north of the ...

... border, Celtic have always been intimately linked to Glasgow's Catholic community.

Individual English players rarely made their own religious views overt. In the latter half of the 20th century, tales of footballers' faith are few and far between. World Cup winner Nobby Stiles attended Mass every day during the 1966 campaign. Wolves forward Peter Knowles quit football to become a Jehovah's Witness in 1969. But these stories formed the exception rather than the rule. If anything, Christianity was looked down upon. Renowned 'hard man' Roy McDonagh was frustrated by what he described as Cambridge United's 'Holy Trinity' in the 1980s. In his words, the club's trio of Christians, including future Manchester United manager David Moyes, were 'discussing their beliefs when they should have been getting psyched up for a relegation scrap'.

But in recent years, bucking the trend of diminishing Christianity elsewhere in British society, footballers have become far more open about their faith. At the recent European Championships, a self-described English 'God Squad' was formed, comprising Eze, Saka, Ivan Toney, and Guehi. This mirrored a Bible study group held by the Dutch national team, attended by 15 of their 26-man squad. Saka publicly presents himself as 'God's Child', while Dutchman Memphis Depay defines himself by 2 Corinthians 5:7 – 'walking in faith, not by sight'.

Why has football become so proudly Christian? The reasons are predictably various.



In the early 1990s, a set of footballers including Cyril Regis and Justin Fashanu began to normalise overt faith in dressing rooms. Graham Daniels, one of those pioneers, describes how a 'precedent' was set, with players pointing to the 'holistic' benefits a strict Christian lifestyle could provide. When tied into the increased professionalism and pressures

that the modern game has brought, Christianity was seen as providing a mental outlet and moral reference-point. Premier League demographics and the rising number of participants from outside Britain also play a role. In 1992, there were 13 foreign players in the Premier League. Now, 66.2 per cent of players ...



... are from outside the UK. With many hailing from religious countries like Brazil and Spain, these new players have had an influence, offering more open displays of their Christian faith than their English counterparts. After Liverpool's Roberto Firmino was baptised by his teammate Alisson Becker in 2020, the pair went viral for sobbing while clutched in each other's arms.

But what has had the greatest impact is a change in wider British society. While church attendance has more than halved in the country as a whole, evangelical churches have bucked this trend. In immigrant communities, and especially in areas of south London, where many of England's new generation of footballers were brought up, religion is far more present; a more overt vision of Christianity has been propagated there.

Those players explicitly espousing their Christian faith often come from immigrant (first, or second or even third generation) backgrounds; most are from evangelical or Pentecostal communities, reflecting the Premier League's ever-increasing ethnic diversity. Nearly one in five players were from black and minority ethnic backgrounds in 1992, with that number rising to 43 per cent in 2022. It is natural that such trends should lead to the increasing visibility of the faiths that thrive within such communities. There is also the fact that, aided by social media, one of



the key tenets of evangelicalism is that you talk about your faith, espouse it and spread the word; this marks a stark contrast to the quieter, more domestic expectations of Anglicanism.

The question posed by the response to Guehi's statement is whether, moving forward, players may find themselves put under increasing pressure to mask their faith and beliefs. With football one of the few areas where Christianity is visibly resurgent in the UK, this is not a debate that will likely go away.



DELIGHT IN THE LORD

About 30 years ago, one of our members, Margaret Barham, produced a booklet inspired by quotations from the Book of Psalms:

“If daily we commit our life to God, He will show us the way to go and His Spirit will lead us. If we trust God and obey His leading, we shall have the delight of knowing God’s unfailing love filling our lives”.

A big thank you to Margaret for giving us permission to use her booklet. We will be dipping into it from time-to-time in the hope that we can all be inspired by the readings.

DELIGHT IN THE LORD



Margaret Barham

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night” Psalm 1:2

As I was thinking about Psalm 1, I had the following happy thoughts:- Happy is the person who delights in reading the Bible, who spends time thinking about God’s Word and putting it into practice. He does not take notice of those who tell him he is wasting his time and that he should be out enjoying himself and “living it up”. No. He would rather spend time with God and His Word. He is like a tree - firm and sure. He is not rushing around trying to make a good impression. He is not trying to convince himself and others that he is a good Christian. He is in the place where God has planted him and he is bearing fruit for God. He does not have to prove himself to others or himself that he is fruitful. Anyone looking at him can see the life of Jesus shining out of him. When trouble comes, he does not shrivel up or give way under it - his leaves remain green. His roots go deep into God’s Word, so that he has an abundant source to draw upon when the winds of adversity hit him. He still bears his Christian witness with joy, even in the most adverse of circumstances. All this is possible because he delights in the law of the LORD.

May we have such a desire for God and His Word, that these things may be true of us.

Flower Ministry

The flowers donated the week before last were from
Ian Doling in loving memory of Joy



Sonya's parents were deeply touched to receive some flowers from the church on Monday and asked that their gratitude would be conveyed to us all.

LB also wanted to express her love and gratitude to the church family at this very difficult time.



Last week's flowers were donated by Luanda Hoxha and her boys Nicholas, Benjamin & Maxwell in celebration of Elasia's first birthday.



Please note we have vacancies for anyone wishing to donate the flowers on both Aug 17th & 24th.