

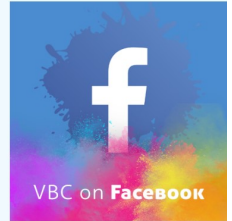
Live in CHURCH



VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH
to see Jesus Christ honoured in Eastbourne and beyond

HOME JESUS ABOUT SUNDAYS FAMILIES CHURCH LIFE CONTACT US

**Live and online
WITH
CHRIS SHORT**



The Wrestler - Cries Unheard - Genesis 34:1-31

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 12:13

One of the things that we’ve all become accustomed to is the presence of ‘trigger warnings’.

“This news story contains distressing images.” “This article contains details some viewers may find upsetting.”

People, who have had trouble-free, peaceful lives, may consider them an unnecessary nod to ‘safety-culture’. But if you’ve had traumatic experiences and occasions of significant distress in your life, you may be grateful for the warning. You can decide not to read the article or watch the news story. You may still watch it but be on guard for emotionally upsetting things.



This chapter requires a ‘trigger warning’. It contains things that some, perhaps all, readers will find distressing. We may be surprised to find such stories in the Bible. We may wonder why they are there at all. This week, treading as carefully as possible, we’ll try to answer those questions.

This Evening

Our fortnightly Prayer Meeting will be held at 6.30pm. All are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to attend!

Next Week (24TH Nov)

Chris Short will be leading the 10am service, the last in his series on Jacob.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the coming week are as follows

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	off Mon	Phil	in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed & Fri mornings	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	in Mon & Thu mornings	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 17 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8!
- Mon 18 6.00pm Girls' Brigade
 7.30pm CLT meeting
- Tues 19 7.15pm Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
- Wed 20 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.30am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 6.30pm Boys' Brigade
- Thu 21 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.15am Men's Fellowship with Carl Slezacek
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Mick Trott
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
 7.30pm Bible Journaling
- Fri 22 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 23 9.00am Ladies Prayer Breakfast
 1.00pm Messy Christmas
- Sun 24 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short
 7.00pm Xcav8!

The Week Ahead



Rebekah Fairhead is organising a group booking for **Bible by the Beach**. One more week to get in touch with her (by next Sunday, 24th) if you'd like to be included in the group booking which means you pay a slightly reduced price.

Core Leadership Election

We have had just the one nomination for the vacant spaces on the CLT, Daniel Fairhead. Frances Hall meanwhile is up for re-election having completed her first 3-year term on the CLT. At the next church members business meeting, on Wednesday 27th November, you will be asked to vote so we therefore encourage you to attend this meeting to ensure that we have a quorum and that the vote will be validated.

Do bear in mind that proxy votes or online votes are not permitted, as outlined in the church constitution. The only way to vote, therefore, is by being present at the meeting

Please see below a profile of Dan who most of you will have seen preaching at VBC on odd occasions over the past few months. In next week's news sheet, we will have a profile of Frances for the benefit of those of you not too familiar with her background.



I have been a member of VBC for five years, together with my wife Rebekah and children Hannah and Peter.

I was born in Eastbourne and grew up in Old Town in a Christian family, attending Living Stones church. I can't remember a day that I didn't believe and trust in Jesus and I am grateful for the love and guidance of my parents and church family in bringing me up in the faith. An important step for me was when I was baptised at a church camp in the lake at Ashburnham Place when I was seventeen.

After studying maths at Bristol University, I volunteered for a couple of years at a Christian drug rehab centre in Hong Kong. Since then, I have worked

as an accountant, living in London (where I met Rebekah at an Anglican church) and Croydon (where, as a family, we attended a small Baptist church) before moving back to Eastbourne in 2019. Wherever I have lived I have always been involved in a local church, serving in different ways. I have also done some practical and theological training in my spare time (Equipped to Minister course at Spurgeon's College when we lived in Croydon, and more recently a Bible Training Course with the Sussex Gospel Partnership). I currently lead a life group with my wife Rebekah, I help with the youth and occasionally preach.

I was asked by a few members of the church to consider standing for the CLT. If elected, I pray that God will use me to serve Him in this role.

Friday *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, Ephesians 1:17-18.* Pray for those recently baptised, that they may grow in grace and the knowledge of their Lord. Pray that God may strengthen them with His Spirit to face the challenges that will inevitably come. Pray for those who are struggling with issues they had before coming to Christ so that they may know the freedom that He brings. Pray that their roots may go deep down into His love and that they will grow strong and stable in a changing world through God's word of truth filling their minds and hearts.

Saturday *You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:19* Thank God for all those who have been able to settle here, find a home and work, and be reunited with their families. Pray for Anna Reid and the work of NetworX in supporting refugees. Pray for those still waiting to be settled in homes or reunited with family members. Pray for those in Government with responsibility for policies about helping refugees so that their decisions may be just and compassionate. Pray for the well-being of those who have come from difficult situations in their home country.

Sunday *Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. Mark 10:29-30*

We thank God that we are free to worship and meet. We are grateful for ready access to the bible and the freedom to live out our faith. Pray for those Christians in many countries of the world whose livelihood and even their very lives are at threat if they tell anyone that they are a Christian or are found reading a bible. Pray that God will give them courage and strength and that by their witness those who now persecute will come to believe in the God they oppose.



A big thank you, as always, to all who attended last Saturday's **Flow Café** and helped us to raise £253 for the *Eastbourne Blind Society*. This is also an opportunity to thank our loyal band of volunteers who get involved in a variety of ways each month - leading activities and serving the refreshments - and help to make the event run so smoothly. Your efforts are so much appreciated! *Sandra*



JOIN US FOR A
FAMILY

MESSY Christmas

ADVENT CRAFT

FESTIVE CRAFT

GAMES

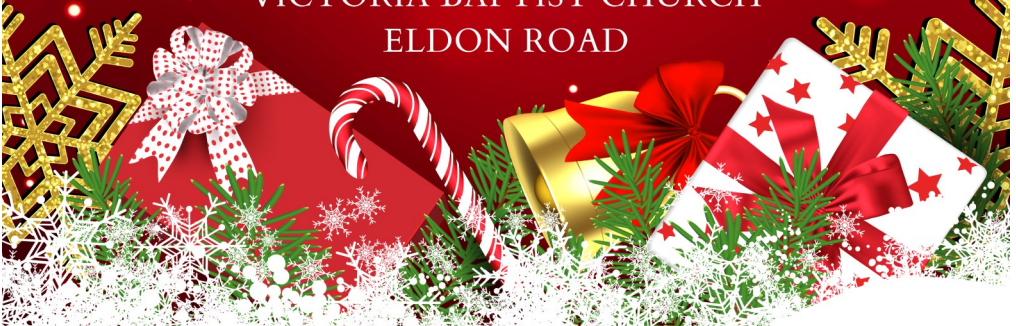
SNACKS

FREE ENTRY

23RD NOVEMBER 2024

1PM TO 3PM

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH
ELDON ROAD



The GATHERING (from the Creative Writing Group)

I was ready and waiting when the first people arrived. As I stood at the door, they slowly made their way up the path. Some had walking sticks, others linking arms, while others had more sophisticated walking aids. Their physical appearance spoke of their advanced years. There was the woman whose back was bent, showing the affects of the crippling disease she endured.

Then there was the one who struggled to see and was being guided by a younger friend. As each one approached, I opened my arms to welcome them and gave them a warm embrace. They hugged me in return. Along came the woman who was confused, she was very agitated and I held her gently until she was calm.

There was almost a pattern to the arrivals as if a memo had been sent out telling people in which order they should arrive.. The next people were neither old nor young. Many of them came in twos, with a friend or a spouse. They were lighter on their feet and as I embraced them, they smiled and chatted. Then the couple came who had received heartbreaking news about their son's health. I held the wife in my arms and she clung to me. No words were spoken.

The next group were younger. Some were teenagers arriving in groups, talking to each other, mobile phones in their hands. Most of them waved and called "hello" to me, others mumbled and one or two kissed me on the cheek. There were those who arrived holding hands, engrossed in each other, almost missing the fact that I was standing there.

Then the families arrived. Children ran or skipped up the path. Some of the girls wore princess dresses while some of the boys were dressed as Batman or Superman or some other super hero. The children laughed and shouted and the parents carried the younger ones. The single mum arrived with three young children, one on her hip, one holding her leg and another holding her hand. She looked exhausted. The dad with his two young children arrived, hot and sweaty from cycling. It was hard work cycling with a trailer attached. He carried a bag full of things young children might need. On his shoulders was the youngest one and the older one held his hand tightly.

A lone, elderly man arrived and took my hand and squeezed it. They were from all the countries of the UK, from Europe, from North



America, from South America, from Africa and from Asia. I looked at my watch and took my seat. It was time to worship with this diverse group of people. **My family.**

'And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.'

Connecting

@ Christmas

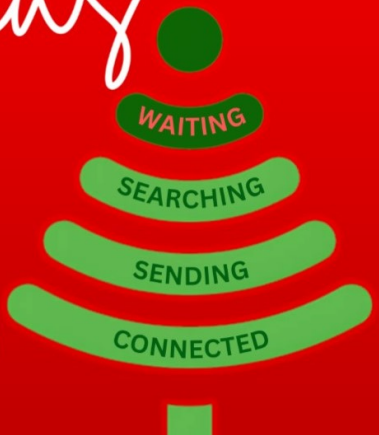


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01323 737974



Just over 5 weeks to go!

The next page outlines the events at VBC over the next few weeks. The pictures on these pages will be available in postcard form for you to distribute to family, friends and neighbours - available from today (Sunday).

Other Christmas points -

With our Chief Postman, Brian Wightwick, having moved on to Bexhill this year, we will not be using the Christmas postal system as we have done for many years. We will try to encourage the *Men's and Women's Fellowships* - and perhaps the *Friends, Food & Fellowship* attendees - to do their own thing rather than opening it up to the whole church.



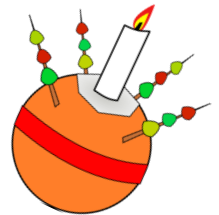
We will, however, be continuing with the electronic greetings whereby you send a short greeting to the church as a whole - together with a fairly recent photo so people can recognise you! The aim is then to publish the greetings in the last 2 news sheets before Christmas. Please send your greeting by e-mail to colin@victoriabaptist.org.uk



I would appreciate some help assembling Christingles for the Christmas Eve Service. If you have an hour to spare, I will be making them from 10am on Monday 23rd December.

Please let me know if you are able to give me a hand.

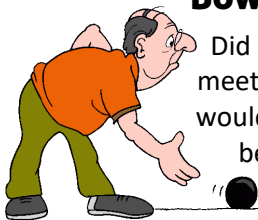
Many thanks Sandra



WREATH-MAKING

Please note this event has already been sold out!

BOWLS



Did you know Victoria Baptist Church has a bowling club which meets on Monday afternoons at 2pm? We need more players and would welcome new people. Even if you have never played bowls before, instruction would be given. Please consider joining us if you are free at that time and contact Sam Blundell for more information.

Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Deirdre Dean



This is to say thanks again for the lovely flowers from VBC delivered to me this week. It was good to be encouraged in this way and be prayed for at the door. NH