

VICTORIA

Life

Sunday 19th January 2025

SERMON
ON THE
MOUNT





The Sermon on the Mount – The Teacher

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.” (Matt.5:1-2)

Anger, murder, adultery, revenge, love, hate, hypocrisy, money, anxiety and ruin are all dealt with in the first sermon Jesus preached. It sounds more like an advert for a new series on Netflix, or the contents of a tabloid newspaper, than a sermon you’d expect from the Son of God. However, when Jesus taught, He taught about life and the human heart as they really are, as well as calling for us to change.



This week we’re beginning a new series, looking at the Sermon on the Mount. This long block of teaching at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry (Matt. 5-7) is part of Matthew’s presentation of Jesus as the true teacher God’s people had been waiting for.

Many Christians today focus more on Jesus as Saviour than they do on Him as a Teacher. However, as we’ll see, the two are inextricably linked. I hope that, as we begin to look at this part of Jesus’ teaching in the coming weeks, we can rediscover its importance and value.

TONIGHT

Please remember that our fortnightly prayer meeting takes place at 6.30pm.

NEXT WEEK (26TH)

Chris Short will be preaching at next week’s morning service, continuing his series on the Sermon on the Mount.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for this coming week

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 & Thurs am	Lucy	in Wed am, Thurs, Fri am
Sandra	off Thurs pm, Fri	Jez	in Wed

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:

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(eg *chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk*)

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- Sun 19 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
- Mon 20 6.00pm Girls Brigade
 7.30pm CLT meeting
- Tue 21 Soaking in the Spirit - next meeting 28th Jan
- Wed 22 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.30am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 6.30pm Boys Brigade
- Thu 23 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 Men's Fellowship next meeting 30th Jan (Toby Carvery)
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Janet Mottram
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
 evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)
- Fri 24 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 25
- Sun 26 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short
 5.00pm Baptismal Class

The Week Ahead

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*



- Francis Bates Jan 19 Punnetts Town , 2.30pm
 Erik Cornelisse Jan 19 Horam Chapel, 10.30am

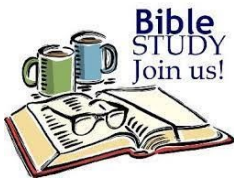


Sun 16th Feb

Baptism Service - please note that the preparatory classes, for those considering baptism, begin at 5pm next Sunday (26th)

Sat 22nd Feb

Hope Lebedyn anniversary event at 4pm



BIBLE TIME WITH CRÈCHE

A new monthly event starts soon giving parents and carers the opportunity to enjoy a Bible Study session in the Garden Room whilst their babies/toddlers are looked after in a crèche set up especially for this.

The first session will be on Thursday week (30th) at 10am so please take this chance to have some quiet time looking into God's Word as well as some quiet child-free time too!



If you want to learn more before committing yourself, please contact Lucy Craggs - either directly or via the office.

Ladies Away Day

We are excited to welcome Carrie Baker as our guest speaker at the Ladies Away Day on Saturday 17th May, at Glyndley Manor.

Details of the activities planned for the day will follow but, in the meantime, do put the date in your diaries!



Carrie writes:

I'm passionate about helping women discover and live the purpose-filled life God created them for. Through coaching, speaking, and encouragement, I guide others to step into their potential.

Eight years ago, my British husband, our three children, and I moved from Australia to Eastbourne. Along the way, I've not only embraced the adventure of a new life but also discovered my own purpose and fulfilment here in the UK. I am excited for all that the Lord is doing amongst His women!



LOST PROPERTY

We don't often advertise items that have been left behind - but I think this is worthy of an exception to the rule! Has anyone lost a small notebook and pen? The notebook contains notes from Sunday sermons, starting Nov 2023 until Dec 22 2024. Please contact the office if this might be yours!

PRAYER DIARY : 20TH - 26TH Jan

Monday “For we are God’s co-workers; you are God’s field, God’s building – a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood” Father God, help us to appreciate how privileged we are to be called by You to work with You to achieve Your plans on earth. Give us each the faith to hear Your voice today and to prioritise whatever You want to use us for, while being aware that Your great achievement today may be what we consider to be a minor detail, a few kind words or act of love that needs to be blessed by our prayers.

Tuesday Please pray – “search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Lord, we come daily to You seeking forgiveness for the sins we have committed that You reveal to us. Have mercy on us as we repent. We pray, Lord Jesus, in thanks that You forever pray to the Father on our behalf.

Wednesday “I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. I am troubled; O Lord come to my aid” Everywhere in our town there are people struggling with abuse, drug addiction, poverty, hunger. Lord we pray that all Christians involved in caring for the needy and vulnerable in our town will be filled with the Holy Spirit and have the scriptures to bring comfort ready in their minds to draw the desperate out of their situations and to bring the true hope through Jesus Christ.

Thursday “No one who trusts in Him will ever be put to shame.” A new year, a new start. In January many non-Christians will be wondering what it is they are looking for that will fulfil their hearts desire. Lord we pray that Your Spirit will guide our friends and colleagues to Alpha courses or other similar courses this year where they will meet with You. And guide us to know the right time to encourage them to turn to You.

Friday Father, we pray for all pastors in Ukraine. Renew their physical, mental and spiritual strength to endure more months of terrible suffering. May they bear much fruit for the kingdom knowing nothing they do in Your name will ever be wasted. We beg You to end this war and to bring healing and we pray that Your Spirit will descend on all the people.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Saturday “Abba Father” Please pray that children in all churches will develop a personal and powerful relationship with God, that they will be protected from being deceived by the world and that all churches will be filled in years to come and now, with a new generation of young believers and servants of God.

Sunday Father God we pray that today will not just be “another Sunday” when we dutifully attend church. Thank you for reminding us in a recent sermon (December 29 2024) that you could return any day any time like a flash of lightning in the sky, so fast, so quick, no time to wonder, no time to look back. Help us to “wait with expectancy” and during this wait we pray that You will continue to transform us into His likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.



Flow Café

A big thank you to those who came along to Flow Café last Saturday. We raised £280. This money will be reinvested in Flow Café but we will be raising money for the *Children with Cancer Fund* (Polegate) in February.

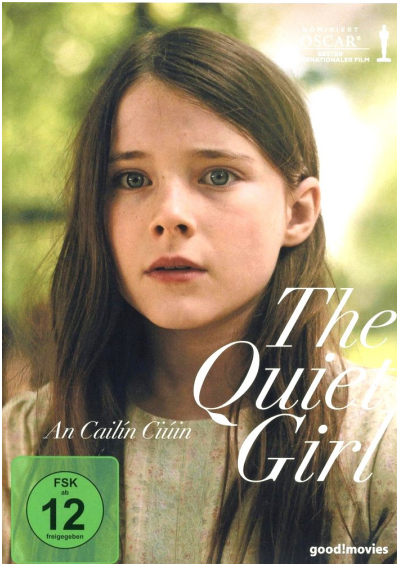


CARRIER BAGS needed!

We are running low on carrier bags in the Community Fridge, so would be grateful for any donations.

Many thanks

Film Review: *The Quiet Girl*, An Cailín Ciúin, (2022)



This is a real gem of a movie that has won many awards. In a cinematic world often dominated by superfluous, fast moving, brash themes this 'quiet' film touches some of our deeper emotions and reminds us of that which is essential and meaningful in life.

The story is set in rural Ireland and the dialogue mainly in Gaelic with English subtitles, It concerns a ten year old girl called Cait living in a dysfunctional, poor farming family sent to stay with distant relatives, acting as foster parents, on another rural small holding, one summer, during the mother's pregnancy, as she is struggling to cope.

The girl is a loner, at home and school, observant and inquisitive of all around her but no one, even

her family, pay her much regard. In contrast (and the film skilfully shows this) the couple she stays with are organised, clean, considerate, caring and better off but childless and have a hidden past that's left them sorrowful.

The foster parents show Cait kindness, ask her questions and take time to show her different skills to which she responds positively. By so doing they turn her 'banishment' into a means of healing that benefits them also.

The story is viewed from the child's perspective using close ups, views from below or the side, fragments of things overheard or glanced, as a child would experience them. It is also purposely slow moving, with a complementary quiet music score, giving subtle hints of the plot and developing story whose significance you might miss if you are not attentive eg the bed wetting or its absence, classroom scene, train wallpaper in Cait's bedroom, a cookie left on the table or the nocturnal chat with her foster father. It's when Cait returns home, is confronted with her previous home life and realises how much her foster parents helped her, that we are set up for a powerful emotional finale and we see the full force of the stealth with which the director led the audience to this point.

The film was recently shown on Channel 4 and for a limited period can be watched on its catch up service at: [Watch The Quiet Girl | Stream free on Channel 4](#). I commend it to you.

John Demetriou

Urgent need!

Following the notice in the e-mail that accompanied last week's news sheet, and given the urgency of the matter, we thought we would repeat the message in this week's edition.

As you read this, please think through what this is all about.

Imagine Sunday mornings with no words on the screens and no opportunity for the preacher to show video clips, pictures

for the sermon, and so on. Imagine no microphones being available at the front. Imagine not being able to record, and indeed transmit live, the services for people around the country and beyond. Perhaps an exaggeration but this is what this plea is all about - enabling God's Word to be broadcast and reaching out to those watching online. And of course, enabling those of us attending the service to see and hear without any difficulty.



Sound

We currently have 6 people who can do sound, but 3 of them also cover cameras. That sounds like enough but 2 of them often work on Sundays. One is on other rotas as well and can usually only cover one slot if that, and one is away a lot for family reasons and holidays.

Projection

We became one short on projection when one of our young lads left to go to uni. We managed to recruit one guy who is not quite ready to fly solo. Recently another projectionist has told me that he wishes to stop doing tech as soon as possible. We therefore need at least one, preferably 2 more people for projection. **This is the most pressing need.**

Cameras

We have 3 people who only do cameras, all of whom are on other rotas as well. I always need to use at least one of the sound team to cover cameras. **We need another person for cameras ideally.**

Please give this matter prayerful consideration and contact Doug or Vanessa Howard if you require further information. Full training is provided, including working with one of the existing team before going it alone!

The Joys of Traffic Jams!



WHAT?! ... Google maps tells me that the Conquest Hospital to an address in Eastbourne will take me well over an hour!! (if you read this and you're not local – usual travel time is about 40 minutes) Maybe it is down to the nature of this 'new' job, maybe I have been aware before but not given it any attention. But being stuck in

traffic is no fun activity. No parent ever (hopefully!) would say one Saturday afternoon: "Let's go and sit in a traffic jam for a laugh."

Temporary traffic lights just keep popping up all over the place. Road works, where a few weeks before 'other' roadworks had been finished. Cables being laid, gas pipes being fixed, water leaks being fixed (well .. not that last one maybe). But more and more traffic jams seem to exist than ever before .. and this is before the inevitable ones caused by accidents. It's chaos out there, I tell ya.

But what if I believe that life is ordained by Father Himself, so when I am 'forced' to slow down a little (and sometimes even come to a standstill) .. is He trying to tell me something? Is it an opportunity to just touch base with Father before work requires my full attention again? Could it be that those annoying jams are there for my good and not for evil?

Lord teach to me to take hold and enjoy the slow times, the stationary times, the temporary halts in life times. May I reflect Your glory instead of my frustration – even in a traffic jam.

James 1:2 "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, or you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

What would it look like for me to be joyful the next time God frustrates my journey and allows a series of temporary traffic lights, roadworks and speedbumps to slow my progress?

Erik Cornelisse

Here i am ... is Erik's weekly thought. If you'd like to receive this email please get in touch at ecornelisse@aol.com

New Beginnings

There's a children's roundabout on Horfield Common.

As kids we'd spin it and grimly hang on
as faster and faster it went as it spun.
Pleasure no longer it turned into terror,
best hang on than fall off in error.

Life's roundabout can be much the same,
an endless cycle of guilt and pain
and you can't jump off to relieve the strain.
Like Paul we confess we don't do the good
but manage to do things we never should.

Round and round, faster and faster,
is there no end to this disaster?

Gales blow winds of temptation and guilt,
people laugh crying "start again, don't wilt!"

Remember the ditty of Michael Finnagan,
He grew whiskers on his chin-a-gan.

The wind came along and blew them in-a-gan,
poor old Michael Finnagan begin-a-gan!

Then we remember God had a plan,
the Son of God became Son of Man.

There at the Cross He takes my sin
as I kneel in tears and invite Him in.

Burdens are lifted, spinning ceases,
immeasurable peace replaces the pieces.
Now I can build on this one time redemption
Instead of repeating my own resolution.

When I stand before Him all in white,
robed in forgiveness and clean in His sight,
as I look into His lovely face
I'll thank Him for His mercy and grace,
grateful I can take my place
with myriads who have been redeemed
and worship for ever the King of Kings.

Eric Pavey

Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Friends of VBC



Thank you so much for the bouquet of flowers from the church. Such a beautiful surprise and much appreciated. I love the verse that came with the flowers - Psalm 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." MB



A sincere thank you for the beautiful bunch of flowers, and encouraging text, I received on Monday. It was such a kind thought and I feel really blessed to be a part of such a caring church family. SW