

Connecting @ Christmas



Sunday 1st December 2024

Victoria Baptist Church News



What are you waiting for?

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**



Connecting@Christmas – Genesis 49:1-12 – Waiting

“The sceptre will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.” (Gen. 49:10)

This morning begins the first session of our Christmas series, ‘Connecting @Christmas’. The four themes are things we’re all used to when we try to connect: waiting – searching – sending – connecting. Our first session highlights the significant theme of waiting in the Bible.

Almost all God’s people spend significant periods of time waiting for God to fulfil His promises to them. Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David and the prophets all spend time waiting. In the New Testament, the disciples wait, all creation waits, and we wait too. Even Jesus is waiting. That’s a whole lot of waiting. No wonder the Psalms say: “Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.” (Psalm 27:14)



This morning we’ll consider what we are waiting for, what He is waiting for, and how we can wait well in the time we have. I hope you’ll be able to join us.



Our service includes a time of Communion when we will be welcoming some new members into our fellowship.

Next Week (8TH Dec)

Simon Grimes and Jez Taylor will be leading the 10am all-age Nativity service. Children (and adults) are encouraged to come dressed as a character from the Nativity story! Jez will be speaking on “Searching for Jesus”, the second in our Advent series.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the coming week are as follows

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	off Mon	Phil	in Tues am, 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	Jez	in Mon, 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

CLT

For those of you unable to be present at last Wednesday's Mmembers' Business Meeting, Dan Fairhead was elected on to the Core Leadership Team, and Steve Jupp and Frances Hall were re-elected for a second three-year term.

- Sun 1 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short, including Communion
 7.00pm Xcav8!
- Mon 2 6.00pm Girls' Brigade
 7.30pm CLT Meeting
- Tues 3 7.15am Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
- Wed 4 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.30am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 6.30pm Boys' Brigade
- Thu 5 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.15am Men's Fellowship with Rev David Jackman
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Erik Cornelisse
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 6 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 7 10.00am Flow Cafe
 10.30am Creative Writing & Book Club
 7.00pm Wreath-Making
- Sun 8 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am All-Age service @ 10 with Simon Grimes & Jez Taylor
 7.00pm Xcav8!

The Week Ahead



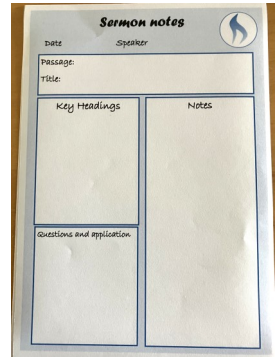
Friday 13th - Xpect and Xcav8 are having their Christmas party, 7pm-8.30pm. All aged 11-18 are welcome. See Jez for further details.

Please note that we are planning a Ladies Day Away next year. This will be on Saturday 17th May at Glyndley Manor. More details of the activities planned for the day will follow. In the meantime, do put the date in your diaries!



Sermon Notes

For those who like to make notes during the sermon, there are A5 forms available that will help you organise notes. Perfect for slipping into your Bible after the service, an excellent way of remembering what was said! They can be found at the back of the church.



The form is titled "Sermon notes" and includes a small circular logo in the top right corner. It has a header section with fields for "Date:" and "Speaker:". Below this is a section for "Passage:" and "Title:". The main body of the form is divided into two columns: "Key Headings" on the left and "Notes" on the right. At the bottom, there is a section labeled "Questions and application".



Flow Café

We'd love to see you at our Festive Flow Cafe next Saturday (7th). There will be the usual activities on offer, along with the very popular sausage and bacon baps! This month, all proceeds will be given to *SeeKenya* (see page 7).

Creative Writing

Our next meeting will be on Saturday (7th) during Flow Café, at 10.30am in The Hive. Our theme/homework is to write something with the title, 'No room ... in the inn'. All welcome. For more information contact John Demetriou.

Book Club will be taking place at the same time, in the Snug.



BABY BOOM!

We are looking at re-opening a
manned creche on a Sunday morning.

Help Needed

If you are interested in helping
our young families access
church please contact Simon
either by email or by phone.

simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk

01323 737974



The leaders of the Old Town Churches
**INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM IN A
VIGIL FOR PEACE**



**4PM ON 7TH DECEMBER
IN ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD**

Bring a Light and a hope for a peaceful world

And the PRAY EASTBOURNE 24 Team invites everyone who can to join in as we continue our united Eastbourne Prayer Walks ...

1. Town Centre On Saturday week (14th) we pray for our Town Centre, Street Pastors, Hope into Action and Sanctuary Cafe ... praying for the cafes, shops, theatres, businesses and churches ... Meet at the War Memorial Roundabout by Cornfield Law pavement at 10.30 am ... finishing in a coffee shop of your choice .

2. Langney On Thursday 19th, meet at 10 am at St Barnabas Church near Langney Shopping Centre ... pray for the Shopping Centre Chaplains, they're doing such a fabulous job there the Management has asked them to come more often ... all welcome to walk and pray with east-side churches ...

3. Sea Front On New Year's Day, meet at 2 pm at the Wish Tower slopes, walking eastwards along the prom, to pray for God's presence and blessing in Eastbourne in 2025 ... children more than welcome. Prayer guidelines will be supplied along with flags for children ... just turn up ...

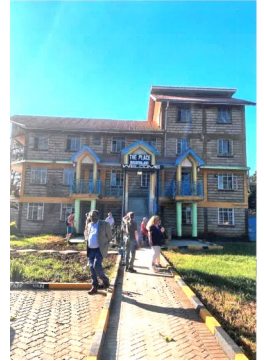


SeeKenya

I am supporting SeeKenya by raising money for the charity at our next Flow Cafe next Saturday. The charity was started many years ago when Bishop Edward (co-founder of Edfri International) met a British optometrist at a Christian convention. The service was started by handing out spectacles from a suitcase and since then it has grown to become an established charity registered in 2013.

There is no permanent eye care service in Northern and Central Kenya. Poor eye health and sight impairments that are easily fixed here in the UK, are usually untreated there causing needless sight loss and limiting peoples' lives. They already have the use of a large building that was previously a training centre and have been raising money to refurbish it as a permanent vision centre and eye clinic, rather than having random eye services.

The pop-up clinics that SeeKenya have set up, currently run in Bishop Edward's Kambakia Christian Centre in Meru, twice a year and can only serve 2,000-3,000 patients a year. A permanent clinic could serve 10 times that number. The local staff are all volunteers and have been trained up at each visit to do the initial detail taking, eye pressures, vision charts and dispensing, but the optometry and eye health checks are done by fully qualified optometrists from the UK. Lizzie is currently on the core team that visits twice a year, which of course involves taking unpaid leave to do so.



With each trip, the team are able to take out donated equipment, lenses, spectacle frames etc. Each patient is checked thoroughly for eye health too, with the result that glaucoma, keratoconus, diabetes, high blood pressure, and of course high refractive errors are identified and treated there, or referred through to Nairobi. Interestingly, keratoconus is more common in Kenya, compared to here, and this is due to the harsh surroundings of dust, dry climate (high pollen counts triggering allergy), and bright sunshine, leading to the patients continually rubbing their eyes.

Each day, the clinic begins with the team praying together, then we explain to the long line of waiting patients that we are here because we love God and the clinic is done out of the love we have for Christ. Everyone is welcome to attend. By word of mouth the numbers grow daily, so that by the end of the week, sadly, many of those who have travelled far, are turned away. **Sue King**

(For more info, see <https://www.seekenya.org/history> and <https://www.seekenya.org/permanent-clinic>)



COOKERY COURSES FOR MEN EASTBOURNE

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



**THE NEXT 5-WEEK COURSE STARTS ON
THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2025, 11.00 - 14.00**

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 07766526217

THIS COURSE IS FUNDED BY THE EASTBOURNE FOOD PARTNERSHIP

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



Thurs 12th Dec, 7pm

to see the trailer

[CLICK HERE!](#)

A Cinematic Concert Experience

Eastbourne Cineworld

Is showing a Christian Carol Concert

“A Drummer Boy”

by the duo ‘for King and Country’

“ a sonic journey that blends the sights and sounds of the season with the musical mastery, heart-warming storytelling, and dazzling production the duo is renowned for.

PRAYER DIARY 2ND - 8TH Dec

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Ephesians 6:10-17

Monday Lord, we pray for our newly elected CLT. We pray that they are strongly equipped to enable and uphold Your message. We ask that in all they consider, do and propose, that Jesus Christ continues to be honoured in Eastbourne and beyond. We give thanks for the commitment of all the volunteers and staff to serve You in many different ways with the huge range of skills given by our Father God.

Tuesday God in Heaven, we pray that as our Government struggles with huge moral, strategic and financial issues, Your will and righteousness will prevail. We pray for decision makers. Give them wisdom, Lord. Open their ears to hear the worries of the people they represent. We pray that they will look to the servant-heart of Your son, Jesus, and reflect His grace and love in their deliberations.

Wednesday Father God, we pray for truth to gird our world. Give determination to face battles to those who have suffered injustice, injury or disruption. May this be rooted in Your Truth. We pray that false news, lies, deception and exploitation will be revealed in the spotlight of truth. Help those who are supporting victims of imbalanced power. We think of those living under regimes that do not care for truth, we pray for those duped into false belief. We ask that agreements made, especially in conflicts, will be upheld and that suffering will end.

Thursday Lord God, we pray that the shield of faith will protect Your people the world over. We pray for those who live in fear because they love You, we pray for the leaders of these persecuted brothers and sisters to stand firm in their battle of obedience. We pray against regimes and authorities that seek to suppress the Good News and Your loving Mighty power.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Friday We give thanks to God for His Word, we give thanks for those who will be reached, as we come into Advent, of the gospel message of joy. We pray that Christ the Word will reach those who have not yet heard, those who have turned their back and those who have let the flame dwindle. We pray that the words spoken in churches and communities will prevail, by the power of the Spirit and equip those we love to come to know our Saviour.

Saturday Lord, for all those who are sick we ask Your peace. We pray for those who are enduring unpleasant treatments, we ask for strength for those who have a long journey to recovery and for those who are receiving physiotherapy. We pray peace and compassion for families and carers and for the medical teams and others working in the health sector. Give them Your faith to stand alongside those they care for in love and hope.

Sunday Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Give thanks for Christ and the team who equip us from the word of God and encourage our walk of faith. As we gather today to worship together, pray that our joy, hope, peace and love will radiate into our community and families.



WOMAN'S FELLOWSHIP
invites all ladies to the King's table

CHRISTMAS
in the Old Testament

"You will always eat at my table."

2.30pm
Thursday 5th December
with E. Cornelisse

WREATH-MAKING

Please can those attending the wreath-making bring some **foliage and berries**, if you have any in your garden. **Crab apples and eucalyptus** are good to use too. It was recommended the foliage be cut and put in a bucket of water for conditioning until it is brought to church on the evening. If you want to add some fairy lights to your wreath, you can buy them from Poundland. Could we also ask those of you not coming to bring in foliage from your gardens for us to use? Thank you!



Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Trevor & Sue King,
celebrating their 45th Wedding Anniversary



Looking ahead to the New Year, we have vacancies for flower donations for both January & February - only 2 dates have been taken thus far so please give some thought as to whether there are any special occasions you would like to commemorate. See Chris McMahon for more details.

Thank you for the beautiful flowers that were delivered to us on Monday, totally unexpected but much appreciated. We are thankful to belong to such a loving church family. S and H D



Please would you pass on my thanks to all involved in sending me flowers and a verse this morning. So uplifting and encouraging to be a part of God's family at VBC. I am truly blessed. BB

