

Sunday 1st February 2026

Matthew 18:18

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”





The Essential Church – Matthew 18:10-35 – The Beautiful Church

“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, whatever you loose on earth will be loosed on heaven.” (Matt. 18:18)

One of the most common mistakes we make as believers is to underestimate the importance of the Church. Modern Christians tend to see the Church as a resource to help them live their lives rather than the focus of Jesus' plan for the world.

Jesus loved the Church and gave Himself to make her holy (Eph. 5:25f.), He calls believers to do the same. In Matthew 18, He describes how He expects believers to relate to one another, revealing the extraordinary potential each church has for good, in their local communities and into eternity. What we do together is far more significant than what we do apart. The community we create on earth has repercussions in heaven. Becoming the community Jesus intended, however, requires some challenging things. I hope you can join us as we consider them together.



Prayer

Our fortnightly/twice-monthly Prayer Meeting will be at 6.30pm. Plenty to pray about in these challenging times. Please come if you can.

Next Week (8th)

Chris Short will be leading us next week at our live@10 service, continuing his series on the Essential Church.

At 6pm we will be having our monthly Evening Service.

Next Month

Please note we have a change in March with the All-Age Service moving from the usual slot of the 2nd Sunday to the 3rd Sunday - so it will be on the 15th, not the 8th. 2

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

Chris	off Tues	Phil	unavailable
Colin	off Mon	Emily	off Mon & Tues
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed am & Fri am	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs	Lucy	in Weds am, Thurs, Fri am
Sandra	off Thurs	Jez	in Wed am & Fri am

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 Eavon

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

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The Week Ahead

Sun 1 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
10.00am live@10 with Chris Short, including Communion
6.30pm Prayer Meeting
7.00pm Sunday evening Youth

Mon 2 6.00pm Girls Brigade

Tue 3

Wed 4 7.00am Prayer Meeting
8.15am Community Fridge
10.00am Vicky Bees
7.00pm Women's Italian Night @ Pomodoro

Thu 5 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting
10.15am Men's Fellowship
2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Chris McMahon
6.30pm Omega (contact Tim or Ruth Nunn for details)
7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting

Fri 6 10.00am Vicky Bees
10.00am Outreach Prayer
5.00pm Kids Club
7.00pm Friday evening Youth

Sat 7 10.00am Flow Cafe
10.30am Creative Writing

Sun 8 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
10.00am live@10 with Chris Short
6.00pm Evening Service
7.00pm Sunday evening Youth

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*

Dan Fairhead Feb 1 East Dean Church 9.30am AND

Dan Fairhead Feb 1 Friston Church 11am



Date FOR your Diary

Sat 21st Feb Hope Lebedyn Anniversary Event, 4pm



PRAYER DIARY : 2ND - 8TH FEBRUARY

" ... let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

Monday As we begin a working week, ask God to guide you to speak the Word of Truth to those around you. *John 8:32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.* There are so many in our world that are struggling - to achieve, to survive or with relationships. The adverts, feeds, blogs, false news and all other media make many folk unable to find their way. Stand against these influences. We know Christ sets us free – pray for those who need to hear this Gospel message.

Tuesday Pray that your words and actions this week will be in line with one another. Ask God to reveal any hidden untruths in your life and ask forgiveness as you seek to know Him more. Ask God to make the words that you say be honest and truthful. *Ephesians 6:14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.*

Wednesday Pray for world leaders to conduct our affairs with truth and integrity. Pray that those who are self-promoting, deceitful or broadcasting falsehoods will be reflective and know that God's love in Jesus shows true leadership. *1 Corinthians 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*

Thursday Ask God's blessing on those you know personally who have set their lives aside to bring God's message to the world. Pray for those working in churches in the UK, for those living far away on mission, and for those in churches across the world. Pray for the behind the scenes workers and the evangelists. Ask God's blessing on those studying for the ministry -*John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.*

Friday *John 14:6 I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* As we look forward to another Alpha course, pray about potential participants, ask God to strengthen those who are running the course, and pray that guests will come to know our Father as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Saturday Bring to God members of your own family who you long to know our Saviour. There is more joy in heaven over *one sinner who repents.* Reflect that joy as you give thanks for those who brought you to know Jesus. *3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

Sunday As we gather to worship, give thanks for Chris, the worship team, our tech people and all who set things up for us. Pray that we ourselves might worship in Spirit and in Truth. Pray that our spirit is in line with God's, and that we honour Him in our worship. Let our praise be pleasing to our Creator, our awesome God. *Psalm 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.*

Flow Café

The next Flow Café will be next Saturday (7th) February at the usual time of 10am till 12.00pm. We will be giving the proceeds to Hope Lebedyn and we are hoping to have a group of Ukrainian Dancers putting on a performance for us during the morning. This small group of dancers practise regularly at the church twice a week and it would be so encouraging for them if you were able to come and show your support.



Creative Writing

Running alongside Flow Café, the Creative Writing Group will be meeting in their usual venue - downstairs in the Hive - at 10:30. 

Please note that we are asked to access the stairway via the small hall on this occasion.

Our topic will be "The Eye of The Child", and the writing exercise in preparation can be in any format, written from the child's viewpoint.

Alpha

Next course - starts Wed March 4th, at 6.45pm, runs for 9 weeks.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Lucy Craggs:

lucy@victoriabaptist.org.uk



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.opendoorst.org

TICKETS: MADEFORYOU.EVENTS



Ladies Only ... BUT

For this event, we would like to ask you men whether you would be able to help us by serving refreshments during the day.

We need people to serve refreshments at 12.30pm and 3.30pm. Ideally we would like 2 teams, one for each refreshment break, to make and serve tea and coffee so that all the women can enjoy the day without any responsibilities.

If you think you could help out, please contact Sandra.

Dear Iran ... PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN



The Iranians in the Church and beyond are all struggling with the blackout over their country so that they are unable to connect with their friends and families. Nobody really knows what is going on inside the country. What is becoming very clear is that many thousands have been executed.

*When all lines of connection are cut,
you feel buried alive...you exist,
but your hands are tied,
you see, but you cannot act,
you hear, but you cannot answer.*

*No word from mother, no voice from father, only fear...
only silence.*

*Exile is being alone with your worries
in the middle of a crowded world.*

*And despite all this pain...deep inside,
I still cling to hope for freedom, for better days in Iran.*

Dear Iran ... protect your children

Dear God protect themand us so far away.

Pouria

PRIVATE PRAYER

We are aware that some people would like the opportunity to come into the church sanctuary for private prayer occasionally and so we have created a prayer space that you are welcome to use. It is situated in the far corner of the sanctuary by the door to the external balcony and is screened off for privacy and will be ready for use from **Monday 2nd February**. Should you wish to come in and use this space, please ensure that you come into the building through the office door at the side and sign in and out. With the exception of Wednesdays, this space will be available every weekday from 10am.



Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by

Chris & Sue Coles



*Thank you so much
for my beautiful
flowers. They are
so very much
appreciated. AP*



*I was delighted to
receive such
beautiful flowers
on Monday, so
unexpected. Thank
you all so much. CF*



*Please will you pass on my thanks for the flowers and
verse I received this morning. A total surprise but a
glorious one! Gestures like flowers and a verse mean
an awful lot because they cement the fact that others
in our church family are thinking of me and praying
for my wellbeing. I am blessed by all at VBC and very
grateful to our Lord too. BB*

Can we ask that if you are donating the flowers that you either transfer your donation via the bank electronically - remembering to add the words "Flower Ministry" as your reference - or hand your cash donation in a well-marked envelope to someone in the office? Your cooperation in this would be much appreciated.

We still have 2 blank dates in March which need filling - plus 1 for April.