

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 20th July 2025

A SWARM OF VICKY BEES



JESUS SAID

“You should not be
surprised at my saying,
‘You must **BE** born again.’”

John 3:7



A Swarm of Vicky Bees

John 3:1-18 – Be Born Again

Bees are wonderful creatures and have an honourable place in the Bible. The promised land is repeatedly referred to (21 times) as “a land flowing with milk and honey”. Archaeological discoveries have borne this out with the world’s oldest bee hives discovered in the Jordan valley dated around the time of Solomon – estimated to accommodate over a million bees, producing 500 kilograms of honey and 70 kilos of beeswax a year.

There are also many commands in the Bible telling us things we should be. *Be* still and know that I am God (Ps. 46:10); *Be* holy because God is holy (Lev. 11 & 1Pet.1:16); *Be* strong and very courageous (Josh.1:7) etc. This summer we’ll look at seven of the Bible’s “*Be ...*” with the goal of becoming a swarm of Vicky Bees ourselves and bringing God’s blessing into our community.

We’ll begin with the most essential: “You must *be* born again.”



Chris Short

This Evening

Our fortnightly prayer meeting will take place as usual at 6.30pm.

Next Week (27TH)

The Morning Service at 10am will be led by Pete Martin with Lucy Craggs bringing God’s Word to us.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	off Mon	Phil	in Tue am, Wed, & Thu pm
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed am & Fri am	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs	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 20 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8
- Mon 21 7.30pm CLT Meeting
- Tue 22 Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
- Wed 23 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
- Thu 24 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 2.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Dorothy Durrant
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 25 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
- Sat 26
- Sun 27 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Lucy Craggs
 4.00pm Prospective Members Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8

membership MATTERS

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

If you would like to find out more about membership of VBC, please join Richard Kirk at the next meeting for Prospective Members on Sunday 27th July at 4pm - NOT 5pm as previously advertised. The meeting will be held downstairs in the Hive.

Flow Café

Thank you to all who came on Saturday to support Flow Café. We raised £350 for Girls' Brigade. We take a break in August, but will be back on September 13th, when we will be raising money for Diabetes UK.



VICTORIA
Baptist Church Eastbourne

THE RESTORATION STATION

HOLIDAY CLUB

**Thursday 7th August
to Saturday 9th August**

Concluding with a Sunday Morning celebration service

**10am to
12:30pm**

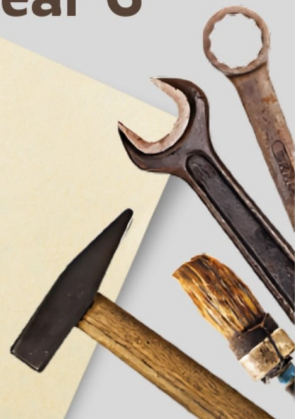
**Reception to
Year 6**

Sign Up Here



**£10
per child**

Info: simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk
or 01323 737974



PRAYER DIARY : 21ST - 27TH JULY

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way, and the mountains fall into the sea, though its waters roar and foam, and the mountains quake with their surging". Psalm 46 :1-2

Monday Father, we lift up to You those who have lost loved ones and property in the many floods and forest fires occurring across our world. Comfort them, Lord, in their time of loss and deep despair.

Father we recognise You as the creator of our world and all that is in it. Help us to use its resources wisely and to be good stewards of Your kingdom so we can pass on to future generations a land worthy to be called the garden of Eden.

Tuesday Heavenly Father, we bring in prayer those who feel isolated, be they housebound, in nursing homes or struggling with frailty. Lord, surround them with Your presence so in their hearts they know they are never forgotten by You - think of someone who would be encouraged by a call or a visit and pray into this.

Wednesday Loving Father, we pray for Your protection over our children and young people as the summer holidays begin. Guard them physically, mentally and spiritually over the holidays, and especially from potentially harmful internet sites. We pray for a good response to the Restoration Station Holiday Club. Strengthen Simon as he organises the event, for sufficient volunteers to come forward, and for the children to meet with You, Lord, during that week.

Thursday Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true king of peace. In You alone is freedom found. Father, free our world from conflict. Bring unity and peace to the war-torn peoples of the Ukraine and of Israel and Gaza.

Give wisdom we pray, to the leaders of the free world and especially to the President of the United States. Free them from selfish ambition and guide them towards peaceful resolutions, using the tools of compassion and reconciliation to release the world from the chains of conflict.

Friday Pray for all those facing employment insecurity and financial hardship. May they know that You are their refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Thank You Lord, for the work of Foodbank, the CAP Ministry, and the Community Fridge, all of whom provide support for people and their families throughout the year. May we all do our part, when able, to share what we have with others.

Saturday “Blessed are those who mourn.” Matthew 5:4

Eternal Father, we lift up to You all those in our church who mourn the loss of loved ones. Comfort them, Lord, and ease the pain of their separation. Fill them with happy memories of treasured times shared. Reassure them, Father, that those who sought salvation through the Risen Lord Jesus Christ will have the certainty of eternal life with You

Sunday “Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy” Ps 47:1

Father, we gather this morning to worship You, to offer our praise in song and in word and give thanks for Your love and blessings. Open our minds and hearts to hear Your word and receive Your grace. Fill our repentant hearts with Your eternal forgiveness and may the word we hear today strengthen us as we strive to serve You in the coming week.



Answered Prayer!

At the last church meeting, at the end of June, we prayed for a safe delivery of the baby that James and Keely Grey were expecting. Keely had in fact gone into labour within the previous few hours. We are delighted that our prayers were answered and baby Christopher is now safely at home with his mum and dad.

PAPER OR CROCKERY?

We are using a significant amount of paper cups each month, particularly on a Sunday morning, which is costing the church money. We have enough crockery to use, but we need volunteers to wash up. We have a few teams now allocated to some Sundays, but we need more. It only needs around 3/4 people (1/2 to collect and 1/2 to operate the dishwasher), so grab a couple of friends or family and create a washing up team. If you do not know how to operate the dishwasher it will only take a few minutes to learn, and it's not the scary machine you might think it is! Please speak to Sandra in the office if you are willing to go on the washing up rota. Several people will be able to show you the ropes with the dishwasher.



Street Pastors

Most of you will have noticed that the Eastbourne Street Pastors use our car park for their Safe Space - the vehicle pictured to the right is known as the Safe Space, a place where distressed youngsters can take refuge on a Friday or Saturday night when things aren't going well in the pubs and clubs of Eastbourne. The Street Pastors website states that "it gives us a place where those looking for help can come and find us ready and able to assist."



We have been happy to accommodate the Safe Space here at VBC and they make every effort to return the vehicle on a Saturday and Sunday morning (about 3am-4am!) as quietly as they can without waking our caretaker, Kevin!

In the last few days however, the Safe Space has undergone quite a transformation with the aim of making it more welcoming and visible! I just

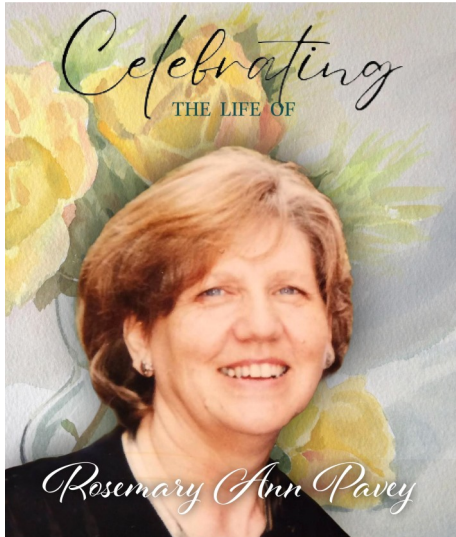
hope the glare of the newly decorated Safe Space doesn't burst through the curtains as Kevin tries to sleep! Other changes will follow with the inside being reconfigured to make it more user friendly for both the public and the team, and to increase the storage available. Later in the year, the engine and all the moving parts will be checked and the ageing CCTV and defibrillator will be replaced.

Street Pastors are also looking to extend their team too so if you feel you might like to get involved, contact Graeme Bunn via the office.

One plea from the Street Pastors revolves around the need they have for sleeping bags. If you have any spare lying around, and you feel you're unlikely to use it again, please consider donating it to this very worthwhile cause. They - and the youngsters who benefit from them - would be so very appreciative of your generosity.



Funeral Details



Eric and family invite you to join them to remember Rosemary Pavey who passed away peacefully on Monday 23rd June. The Thanksgiving Service is here at VBC at 3pm on Monday 28th July. In celebration of Rose's life, please feel free to wear bright colours.

In lieu of flowers, we invite you to consider donating to Hope Lebedyn, a Christian charity based in Eastern Ukraine.

Thank you for all your love and prayers.

Please sign up in the Welcome Centre if you would like to join the family for refreshments after the service.

The Thanksgiving Service for Dorothy Durrant has now been confirmed as 2.30pm next Thursday, 24th, here at VBC. Please let the office know if you would like to join the family after the service for refreshments.

And the Thanksgiving Service for Ruth Simmonds will be on Wednesday August 6th, 11.30am. As advertised last week, this will be followed by the burial, 1pm at Willingdon Cemetery, and then refreshments here at VBC from about 2pm onwards. A sign-up sheet is available in the Welcome Centre.



Life Groups

If you live in the **Sovereign Harbour area, Hampden Park or Langney** areas and would like to be in a life group, I am keen to start new ones. Could you possibly host a group of up to 10? Would you be able to take on leadership of the group? This involves communicating with them, usually via email or WhatsApp, and leading a Bible study (using notes provided). Being part of a group is an excellent way to build friendships, become more involved in the life of VBC and deepen your faith in Jesus.

We have about 15 groups running (mostly full up!) but it would be amazing if we had more. Please pray about this over the summer. Feel free to contact me at VBC or via [email:jez@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:jez@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

GIRLS BRIGADE

We just wanted to say thank you for the £350 that was raised at Flow Cafe last Saturday. It is very much appreciated and will go towards the work we do at Girls' Brigade.

We have been very busy over the summer term and I thought you might like to see some evidence of what we have been doing. As well as the weekly craft activities, badgework, which is linked to a Bible story, and games, we have also had a trip to Drusillas. We have also eaten what feels like copious amounts of ice cream (well, it is the summer and the weather has been a great excuse for doing so!).

We now have a summer break to look forward to. Our first meeting of the Autumn term will be on Monday September 15th at the usual time of 6pm. We can then start planning for Christmas!

Jenny Collins





Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
a friend of VBC

Please pass on our thanks to the flower team for the beautiful bouquet and card that was left for us yesterday. I took a photo on my phone so that Chris could see it! S&C C



Thank you very much for the beautiful bunch of flowers I have just received. Totally unexpected, but greatly appreciated FH

