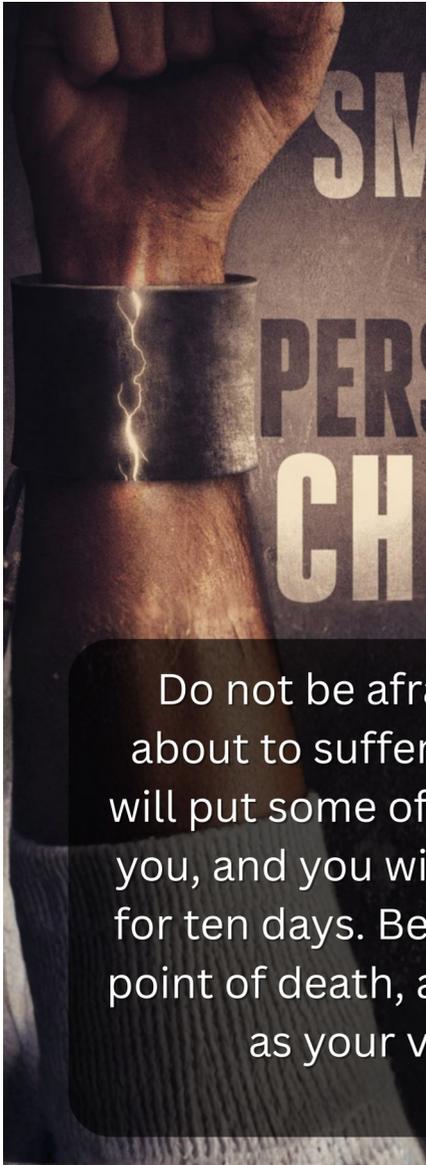


VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 22nd February/1st March 2026



SMYRNA: THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

Revelation 2:10



The Essential Church

Revelation 2:8-11 Church Under Pressure

Receiving a letter is almost a thing of the past ... It's all emails and WhatsApp messages now. We have lost the excitement of a letter dropping through our mailbox from a friend or loved one.

When Jesus wrote, via John in Revelation, to the churches in Asia Minor it must have caused much excitement and some trepidation. What would Jesus say about our church?

These letters from Jesus to the churches in Asia Minor paint a picture for all generations of the state of the Church. The letter to the church at Smyrna is one of encouragement to a church under pressure. As we remember the anniversary of the war in Ukraine, we reflect on how our partner church in Lebedyn is coping. What message did Jesus give to Smyrna and how does it relate to our friends in Lebedyn? What can we learn from this important message from Jesus?



Next Week (1ST)

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

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.



Please also note that there will be no *Victoria Life* published next week.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the next 2 weeks

Chris SEBA conference (24th,25th,26th); off Tues 3rd
Phil Tues am, Wed, Thu pm Sandra off Thurs
Colin annual leave both weeks Emily off Mon & Tues
Kevin off Sat Tim annual leave, back in Fri 6th
Julie in Thurs Jez in Wed am, Fri am
Nadine in Mon Lucy in Weds am, Thurs, Fri am
Simon SEBA conference (24th,25th,26th); off Tues 3rd

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 Evason

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

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

- Sun 22 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am live@10 with Jez Taylor
 7.00pm Sunday evening Youth
- Mon 23 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 24
- Wed 25 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 7.30pm Church Members' Business Meeting
- Thu 26 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting
 Men's Fellowship - next meeting 5th March
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Jez Taylor
 6.45pm Omega
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 27 10.00am Outreach Prayer
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Friday Night Youth
- Sat 28
- 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
 7.30pm CLT meeting
- Tue 3
- Wed 4 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 6.45pm Alpha
- Thu 5 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting
 10.15am Men's Fellowship - with David Lockwood (Beulah Baptist)

Two Week Ahead

- Thu 5 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with John Jones
 6.45pm Omega
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 6 10.00am Outreach Prayer
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Friday Night 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 11th Mar - As we announced last week, the funeral for Daphne Phillips will be at Eastbourne Crematorium at 12 noon. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre if you would like to join the family for refreshments at 1.15pm.

Wed 18th Mar - Corrie Paxton's Thanksgiving Service meanwhile will be at 12.30pm. Again, please sign-up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre if you would like to join the family for refreshments after the service.

Keith & Jo P have asked if those of you who knew Corrie well might like to respond to this request - "We are aware that Corrie was extremely supportive and helpful to many people, especially within Victoria. In a few sentences, please send any details you may like mentioned at her Thanksgiving Service to the Church Office by email."

FLOW CAFÉ/CREATIVE WRITING

Our next meeting is on Saturday week (7th March) when proceeds from the refreshments will be donated to **Eastbourne's Street Pastors**.



Meanwhile, the Creative Writing Group will be meeting as usual, at the same time as Flow Café, starting at 10.30am.

Our writing task this month is to have a go at writing and delivering a speech. Any format, prose, letter or poem. Any subject - serious, passionate or humorous. If you find you have written a sermon (!) please be prepared to share an extract. Any questions, please contact Helen Trimmings. There will be no Book Club this month.

PRAYER DIARY : 23RD FEBRUARY - 1ST MARCH

Monday Father, today we remember our brothers and sisters in Lebedyn, we ask Your continued hand of protection over them during these still uncertain times. In particular, we pray for Bohdan and his team as they faithfully serve You and share Your love with those around them in so many ways.

Tuesday We pray for the families of Bohdan and his team as they serve. Grant them peace and reassurance that their service is for You and that You are watching over them as they serve. We pray for every interaction, every journey, every service and all of the outreach opportunities.

Wednesday Ultimately, we pray for a swift end to this conflict. Not only are they dealing with the constant threat of drones, missiles or ground attacks but also plummeting temperatures of -30°C coupled with power failures and water shortages. Thank You that You continue to protect the Centre from damage.

Thursday Lord, we pray for the leaders of Ukraine and Russia, that they will see that war is not the solution but peace. We pray for other world leaders, that they too will seek ways to bring peace in this situation, and in other conflicts around the world.

Friday Thank You that despite what is going on - from our very own doorstep to international strife and turmoil - You are our peace and comfort. We turn to You in times of trouble. You are our rock, an ever-present help in times of trouble.

Saturday Today, we bring to You all of those within our congregation facing difficulties and challenges of any sort, whether it is illness, grief, stress or mental health. Help them and their families to know Your peace and Your comfort even though the world around can often seem dark and difficult.

Sunday We rejoice today that, because of Your goodness, grace and mercy, we are part of Your family and we can celebrate together in that. Our future is secure because of You and because of the sacrificial love of Jesus who, when we were still sinners, bore the weight of our faults and failures upon the cross. Thank You.



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2026

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SCAN FOR INFO



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Join us for a fantastic weekend together - You don't want to miss out!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

Nigeria 2026

**All Saints' Church
21a Grange Road
Eastbourne, BN21 4HE**

2.00pm: in the Church
Followed by refreshments and slide show
in the Hall

Further information from
East.wdp23@gmail.com



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
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Registered Charity Number 233242

TRANSFER OF ASSETS SUB COMMITTEE (TASC)

CONVERSION PROGRESS

Dear Church Members, we are pleased to advise that there has been progress with the Baptist Union Corporation. We have now scheduled three meetings when church members can come along to discuss the new draft Constitution and the new draft Handbook. More information and details will be provided at our church meeting on Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm.

The dates and times of these meetings are:



- Saturday 7th March 10.30am (Flow Cafe also taking place that morning)
- Monday 9th March 10.30am
- Monday 9th March at 7.30pm.

Please will you book a place for one of these meetings via the church office so that we have an idea of the numbers as this will determine which room we meet in.

We will shortly be emailing these two draft documents to all church members who can receive electronic communications. Those who receive information in hard copy format will have a hard copy provided in the usual way. As previously mentioned, these consultations are for church members who want to discuss or ask questions and to consider these documents in more detail. The consultations will cover similar aspects so you should only need to attend one meeting, unless you are particularly enthusiastic! We are not planning to have detailed discussions at church meetings so that we can consider other matters affecting church life in a timely manner. We are also aware that not all members are inspired by this topic, but we will highlight the significant changes that the new documents cover.

We look forward to seeing you at the church meeting, and at these TASC consultations, but in the meantime happy reading!

Andrew Phillips - on behalf of the Core Leadership Team

PRAYER DIARY : 2ND - 8TH MARCH

Monday

Psalm 107:1 *"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!"*

Prayer Focus: Give thanks for the blessings received and the gift of a new week.

Personal Reflection: What are you grateful for today?

Tuesday

Acts 2:42 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

Prayer Focus: Pray for the church community, its leaders, and those serving others.

Personal reflection: How may I serve in my community today?

Wednesday

James 5:13-14 *Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.*

Prayer Focus: Lift up those who are ill, grieving, or struggling in body, mind, or spirit.

Personal reflection: Who might benefit from your prayers?

Thursday

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

Prayer Focus: Pray for peace in our world, our country, and our local neighbourhoods.

Personal reflection: Where do you see a need for peace?

Friday

Ephesians 4:32 *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

Prayer Focus: Reflect on forgiveness – for yourself and others – and pray for reconciliation

Personal Reflection: Are there relationships that need healing?

Saturday

Psalm 25:10 *All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of His covenant.*

Prayer Focus: Seek guidance for upcoming decisions and wisdom for all church members.

Personal Reflection: What decisions are weighing on your heart?

Sunday

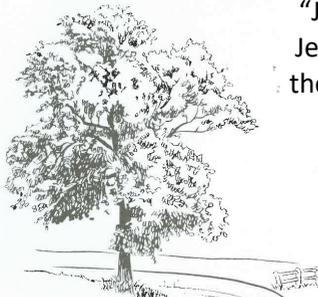
Psalm 103:1-2 *Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits.*

Prayer Focus: Celebrate God's goodness and join in worship and fellowship.

Personal Reflection: How will you honour God today?

"But You, O God, do see trouble and grief; You consider it to take it in hand" Psalm 10:14

DELIGHT IN THE LORD



Margaret Barham

As I was reading the story of the feeding of the five thousand in John Chapter 6, I was struck by the words, "Jesus already had in mind what he was going to do." Jesus had asked Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" and Philip had given an answer, looking at the situation from a practical viewpoint. At times we may feel Jesus is asking, "What shall we do in this situation, how shall we deal with this trouble and grief?" We try to give some kind of answer, suggesting the use of the resources we have available, which are completely inadequate. Jesus knew the situation which He and the disciples were going to face, even before it happened, and He knew what He was going to do

about it.

Jesus knows what troubles and griefs we are going to face, and He knows what He has in mind to do. He is waiting for us to give the whole situation over to Him so that He can do what He already has in mind to do.

FLOWER MINISTRY

The flowers last week were donated by

Margaret Reilly



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers I received on Monday. A big thank you to those who donated them, to those who arranged and prepared them, and to those who delivered them. Their efforts are so much appreciated. PR



We are looking for someone to fill a gap in our delivery team on Monday mornings. It involves collecting the flowers from the church and then delivering them - usually 4 bunches - to people generally in the local area. It would involve about 1-1.5 hours of your time - a car is essential! Please contact Chris McMahon if you would like more info. Many thanks.