

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 23rd August 2026





The Revelation of Jesus CHRIST

Sweet and Sour Revelation 10:1-11:14

"..it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour." (Revelation 10:10)

The pause between the sixth and seventh seals is repeated between the sixth and seventh trumpets. Both pauses create space for significant questions to be answered. During the first (see chapter 7) the question answered was "Who can stand before the wrath of Him who sits on the throne and the Lamb?" What was impossible for human beings, was shown to be possible for God with a huge and diverse number who had washed their clothes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (7:14). The questions before us in this section (10:1 – 11:14) appear to be, what is the church to do as they wait for the return of Jesus and what should they expect?



This week we'll focus on the first of those questions. I suggest the message of Revelation 10 is that believers are to wait patiently and proclaim urgently the message that is both sweet and sour. I hope you'll be able to join us as we consider these things together.

Next Week (30TH Aug)

John Jones will be bringing God's Word to us, "A Warrior for Christ", based on Judges 6.

See page 7 for details of next week's Church Picnic.

Contact Details

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

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Lucy Craggs (Women)

Tim Nunn (Discipleship)

Jez Taylor (Life Groups)

Staff contact details:

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VBC Bank Details

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Victoria Baptist Church Trust

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Sort Code: 40-52-40

01323 737974

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VBC AGM

The next church business meeting will be our Annual General Meeting . Please put the date in your diaries - Wednesday Sept 23rd at 7.30pm. The agenda will be available early in September.

Sun 23 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short
 5.00pm Baptismal Class in Chris Short's office.

Mon 24

Tue 25

Wed 26 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 8.15am Breakfast Club

Thu 27 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting

Fri 28 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting

Sat 29

Sun 30 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with John Jones
 12noon "Bring Your Own" Picnic - all welcome
 4.00pm Meeting for Prospective Members



Ladies' Prayer Breakfasts

As previously advertised, the next Ladies' Breakfast will be on Sat Sept 19th at 9am when Keren Newth will be speaking. If you would like to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Centre.

In next month's full edition of Victoria Life, we will again focus on the extended Ladies' Prayer Breakfast - "Made in the Image of God". This will be on Saturday 14th November, between 9am and 12 noon. Please note it in your diaries.



Friends, Food & Fellowship

The next gathering of this group will be on Friday September 18th. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre if you haven't already done so.



Safeguarding

We are running Level 2 Safeguarding Training here at VBC on Tuesday 27th October 7pm - 9pm and Saturday 31st October 10am -12 noon. If you work with our young people or vulnerable adults and you **did**

not attend our last training sessions in 2024, then please make every effort to attend this training. It is **very** important for all who work with our young people and vulnerable adults to be aware of our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

Please sign up in the Welcome Centre for the session you will be attending.

Bible Ministry Training

Would you like to be better equipped to live for the Lord and serve him? The Sussex Gospel Partnership offers Bible ministry training courses to increase your knowledge and how to communicate its message effectively in the company of like-minded Christians from different churches across Sussex. There are 2 options: either all-day weekly Tuesday sessions in Cuckfield or monthly Saturday mornings at All Saints Eastbourne starting in September. For more details: [Training Courses - Sussex Gospel Partnership](#) or contact John Demetriou



Prayer Points This week we focus on the **Women's Fellowship**.



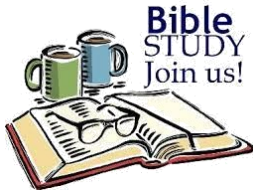
The Women's Fellowship starts meeting again on Thursday 3rd September and needs prayer for the following:

- *Please pray for the team/committee who lead the WF, that they might continue to provide the women with an engaging and inspirational programme.*
- *With different speakers each week, pray that they might be filled with the Holy Spirit.*
- *Several members are struggling with cancer and ill health and need Jesus to strengthen their faith and hold them steady.*



Please note that for those of you considering church membership, or perhaps just wanting to find out more, there will be a meeting on Sunday week (30th), led by Richard Kirk at 4pm downstairs in the Hive (accessible via the entrance around the back of the church).

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY - LADIES ONLY



Are you free on a Thursday morning from 9.30-11am? We would love you to join us on a Thursday to have time to meet with ladies for a tea/coffee followed by a Bible study. We work through books of the Bible together and consider how we can apply what we have learnt. We encourage each other and pray for each other. It is a very welcoming and relaxed environment for all ages, in the garden room, with some meaty and enlightening discussions! We begin again on 3rd September.

For more information talk to Lucy Craggs -
or email Lucy at lucy@victoriabaptist.org.uk.

QR Code

A reminder that the QR code on the seats in front of you has 3 functions. Scanning it with your smart phone will give you the opportunity to 1) find out more about life at VBC; 2) to donate to the work of the church; and 3) to use Breeze - enabling you to have the spoken word translated into your preferred language. Give it a try!



MONEY COACHING FROM CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY:



Ever wanted to be better at managing your finances? Money coaching is a free service designed to empower you with the knowledge, skills, tools and confidence to better manage your finances. Anyone can benefit – from seasoned budgeting experts to those struggling to get to grips with their spending. Join our new course:

Sat 19th and Sat 26th September 10am - 1pm, here at VBC.

To join, or for more information, contact Janet Wintle, via the church office on 01323 737974, or via the CAP website: capuk.org/get-help/money-coaching

Harvest Festival

Advanced notice that this year's Harvest Festival will be slightly earlier than recent years and will take place on Sunday September 27th. Details of when and where donations can be delivered to the church will follow in future editions of Victoria Life.



Harvest Festival 27.9.26

Suggested donations:

Tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, baked beans, tuna, tinned meat, tinned fruit, pasta sauces, rice, pasta, UHT milk, cereals, tea bags (40s), coffee, sugar, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, toothpaste.

The image features a warm, golden-yellow background with autumn leaves in the corners. At the bottom, there is a still life of harvest produce including pumpkins, pears, apples, corn cobs, and bread on a wooden surface, with a soft-focus landscape of rolling hills in the background.



**All donations will be shared
between Eastbourne Foodbank
and Community Fridge.**

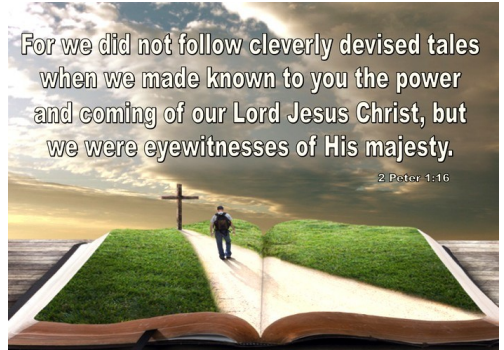
Thank you

This block has the same background as the one above, featuring autumn leaves and a harvest-themed still life of pumpkins, fruit, and bread on a wooden surface, with a soft-focus landscape of rolling hills in the background.

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

2 Peter 1:12-21 John Demetriou

'You're gonna have to serve somebody' sang Bob Dylan in the first track on his album *'Slow Train Coming'*, echoing Jesus' words, *'You cannot serve two masters'* but need to submit to God (Matt.6:24). Such submission implies letting God's word, as Peter reminds his hearers in the above text, rule their lives because it comes from God and Jesus, our ultimate authority, lived His life by it. This is not popular today, but if we let God's word be *'a lamp for our feet and a light for our path'* (Ps.119:105) it leads to true happiness, peace, purpose and a personal relationship with God.



For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

2 Peter 1:16

What is the basis of its authority?

1.As Peter reminds his hearers, the Bible is *'not cleverly invented stories'* (v16) or myths but a historical record with its teaching intertwined with stories of real places and real people, many of which have been supported by archaeology. The New Testament is based on eye witness accounts and what the Apostles, commissioned by Jesus, or those close to them, wrote down. Likewise, Peter says *'the prophetic message'* (i.e. the Old Testament) is *'something completely reliable'* (v19). Jesus based all His ministry on it, showed the two disciples on the road to Emmaus how *'all the Scriptures'* spoke of Him (Lk.24:27) and rebutted the devil in the wilderness by quoting the words from Deuteronomy, *'Man shall not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'* (Matt.4:4).

2.The Bible is a library of 66 books written by more than 40 authors over 1600 years, yet with one unifying theme about *'The Kingdom of God'* centred on the sovereignty of God, human rebellion, and the redemption and restoration of the creation through Jesus Christ, all inspired *'not by the will of man'* but by God's Spirit.

3.The Bible and Christianity, with their unchanging message, have stood the test of time, opposition, as well as different cultural beliefs and philosophies. For example, when Augustine wrote his *'City Of God'* to defend Christianity in the 5th century there were many other religions at the time but only Christianity has survived today.

4.Its message resonates with people and life as it is, answering fundamental questions about God, the world around us, human origin and worth, man's purpose, evil, love, how man can have a personal relationship with God, and gives instruction how to live a good and happy life. It gave the founders of ...

modern science in Western Europe the foundation, confidence and desire to explore and understand God's world.

5.The fulfilment of hundreds of prophecies in the Bible, not just generally but in specific ways. Most notably, about the coming of the Messiah, in Jesus Christ, regarding specific details about the nature and place of His birth, His life, type of death and resurrection. Jesus Himself foretold the destruction of Jerusalem that took place in AD 70, giving us confidence to trust His prophetic messages yet to be fulfilled about His return, the final judgement, and 'a new heaven and a new earth' for believers to look forward to.

What is the Practical Application?

The above are some of the main reasons Christians can trust in the authority of the Bible. It is worth turning our attention to the benefits this brings.

A.The reason Peter speaks of the reliability of the Scriptures was because *'there were false prophets ..and teachers among them'* (2 Peter 2:1) and they are still around today, both within and outside the church. A right understanding of Biblical doctrine therefore will help Christians to distinguish truth from error and keep them on the right course.

B.In a world of changing ideas and fashions, it gives us an independent, tried and trusted way of understanding the world and how to live. We don't have to be ashamed to follow the Bible's teaching, knowing it gives a reasonable answer to what we see in and around us as mentioned in point 4 earlier. Like Paul, we can offer the gospel boldly as the answer to man's ills. To copy Spurgeon's analogy, defending the Bible is like a caged lion under attack from a mob. The best way to handle the situation is to open the door and let *'the pure gospel go forth in all its lion-like majesty and it will soon clear its own way and ease itself of its adversaries.'*

C.Lastly, millions of Christian believers have testified that it is a 'living word' able to change lives within, rebuke, encourage, guide and give comfort as the situation requires. As in all good human relationships, speech is important and God uses His Word to speak to His children as the writer to the Hebrews reminds us - *'In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son'* (Heb.1;1-2).

The arguments for the authority of the Bible will not convert anyone on their own for *'the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him, because they are spiritually discerned'* (1 Cor. 2:14). But when, by God's grace, our eyes are opened, they help to strengthen our faith and show us, as well as those opposed to Christianity, that we have good reasons to believe the Bible and confidence to trust it more than the shifting sands of human reason alone.

For further study: [The Authority of the Bible: A sermon on Acts 17:1-3](https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/the-bible-and-experience/) <https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/the-bible-and-experience/>

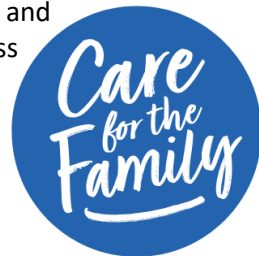
Care FOR THE Family

We are hosting a Care for the Family event - **An Evening with Rob Parsons** - on Wednesday October 15th. Tickets for this event are currently £6, and they will remain at this price until September 15th, when they will increase in price to £11.

From the boy described as 'making no use of what little ability he has,' to an international best-selling author, speaker and founder of Care for the Family, Rob Parsons has a lifetime's experience of overcoming obstacles. In his new event, *An Evening with Rob Parsons*, you're invited to pull up a chair and settle in for a poignant night of storytelling and timeless wisdom that will stay with you long after you head home.

You'll hear about:

- Escaping from imposter syndrome
- Finding hope beyond shattered dreams
- Letting go of the labels others put on you
- Enduring the hard times you just can't fix
- Why tomorrow doesn't have to be like yesterday



Put this date in your diary now!

Social Event

And another date for your diaries!

You will recall that we are planning to hold these social events on the 5th Sunday of the month - which occurs about 3 or 4 times each year. The next one will therefore be on Sunday 29th November—though this is unlikely to be an outdoor picnic!



Everyone is welcome!



CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

Victoria Baptist Church

After church until 2pm

Share • Enjoy • Connect

Please stay after church on the 30th August to enjoy a friendly picnic lunch together!

Bring whatever food you and your family/friends like to eat - and a garden chair or blanket, if possible!

☀ Outside in the garden / ☁ Inside the church

VBC Open 2026

I know many of you have been anxious to find out who was crowned this year's Open Golf Champion at Willingdon Golf Club recently. Unfortunately, the new format of Victoria Life has resulted in sleepless nights for many of you waiting for an announcement to be made. I am very pleased to report though that we have another name on the shield with the winner being Stuart Macvean (pictured here with last year's winner, Pete Martin). That means we have had 5 different names in the 5 years we have been competing for the highly-coveted trophy!



For those of you who don't know Stuart, he is a regular at Flow Café, has a daughter in Girls Brigade, and is involved with the Kings Church - but we don't hold that against him! He beat off the challenge from 13 other guys, most of whom you will recognise in the photos below, but we also had a couple of



"outsiders" joining us.

We hope to keep the competition going as long as we can so hopefully we will have even more players next year - and it is not just open to the men of the church. The ladies seem to be a little reluctant to step forward but we can but hope!

FLOWER MINISTRY



26th July
donated by
The Pilgrims Life
Group (formerly
known as the
Saffrons)



We still have a vacancy
for September - so if
you would like to
donate the flowers
please contact Chris
McMahon.

*We recently had
some beautiful
flowers left by
our door. Would
you kindly pass
on our sincerest
thanks to the
Flower Team.
D&P O'C*



2nd August
donated by
Ian Doling
in loving
memory of Joy

*Thank you for bringing me the beautiful flowers and
the birthday card this morning. The flowers were very
much appreciated and the message with the flowers
was really beautiful. MK*

*Dear Church family Thank you so much for the card
and flowers. I feel so blessed to be part of VBC's family.
RB*

16th August
donated by
John & Ingelore Demetiou

