



VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 23rd February 2025

**HOPE**  
L E B E D Y N

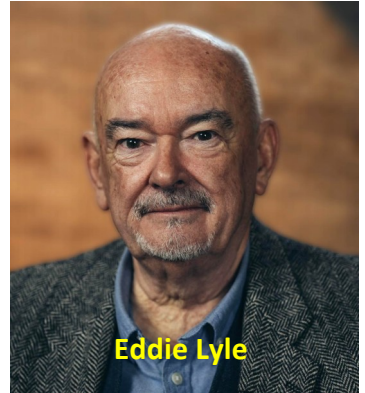
EST. 1999



## Amazed by Jesus

Mark 10:24-32

Over an intense 3 year period the disciples walked and talked with Jesus, ate with Him, watched as He spoke to cynical religious leaders, how He healed the sick, touched the hearts of those who came under the sound of His voice, even watched Him sleep. And still time and again, they were amazed and astonished at the Son of Man. Amazed by Jesus, is a talk designed to help us affirm who we believe Jesus is and why we should continue to be amazed at who He is. Jesus continues to invite us into a deeper walk with Him, and to be open to the faith adventure that awaits all of us no matter young or old we are, us as devoted followers. He is simply amazing!



*Eddie Lyle is the former CEO & President of Open Doors UK & Ireland. During his tenure of 20 years he has travelled intensively in the world of the persecuted church. He is a bible teacher and story teller. His first book WITNESS, co-authored with Nick Page, will be published on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.*

*Eddie is also the founder of the Springbrook Partnership an international consultancy and leadership coaching ministry. [www.springbrookpartnership.com](http://www.springbrookpartnership.com) As a Trustee of Hope Lebedyn he brings his significant knowledge of working in conflict zones to the team. He is married to Christine, a Scot, and they have one son Adam. They live in Witney in the English Cotswolds. Jonty a miniature German Schnauzer completes the family.*

## Next Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> Mar)

Chris Short will be preaching, and leading our communion service, at 10am.

At 6.30pm we have our fortnightly prayer meeting.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for this coming week

Chris	Tues, Wed, Thurs at SEBA conference		
Colin	off Mon & Fri	Phil	in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed & Fri am	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs am	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**

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- Sun 23 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office  
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Eddie Lyle  
 7.00pm Xcav8!
- Mon 24 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 25 7.15pm Soaking in the Spirit - ladies only
- Wed 26 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
 8.15am Community Fridge  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 6.30pm Boys Brigade  
 7.30pm Church Members' Meeting
- Thu 27 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)  
 Men's Fellowship - next meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March  
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Gill Caroe  
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting  
 evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)
- Fri 28 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 5.00pm Kids Club  
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 1
- Sun 2 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office  
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short, inc Communion  
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting  
 7.00pm Xcav8!

- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Mar** Men's Curry Night  
**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Mar** World day of Prayer (here at VBC, 1.30pm)  
**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Mar** Ladies' Prayer Breakfast  
**Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Mar** Messy Church for Adults, 7pm-9pm  
**Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Mar** Prospective Members' Meeting, 5pm  
**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> May** Ladies Away Day at Glyndley Manor



## BIBLE TIME WITH CRECHE

Please note that our second "Bibletime with crèche" session will be next Thursday (27<sup>th</sup>) from 10-11.30am in the Garden Room.



# FUEL FOR PRAYER

*“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.”*

John 1:5

**Monday:** Pray for the team working in Lebedyn. Thank God for His protection over them so far and pray that He will continue to care for them as they work for Him in such trying circumstances. Pray for continued resilience and energy. Name each one of them before God: Bohdan, Pastor Sergey, Farmer Sergey, Valentyn, Lyuba, Sasha, Victor & Musical Sergey

**Tuesday:** Ask God to protect the children from the trauma of the war. Pray for open hearts to receive the gospel as they attend the children’s clubs and camps, and for them to feel safe in the knowledge of God’s love for them. Pray for their parents as they try to support their children through these uncertain times.

**Wednesday:** Pray for the young people who are showing such hunger for God’s Word. Remember Egor & Sasha in particular, who are studying the Bible with Bohdan and hope to become pastors themselves.

**Thursday:** Ask for God’s continued blessing on the ministries at the centre: the bakery, seed ministry, computer classes, blankets and sheets for the hospital, puppet ministry, and the distribution of aid. Thank God that, alongside these ministries, the Word of God is proclaimed.

**Friday:** Pray for the refugees arriving in Lebedyn, having lost everything. Thank God for the aid and support they receive from the team. Pray that accommodation and resources will be made available so that they can settle

**Saturday:** Pray for the soldiers that Bohdan visits, that they will read the Bibles they have been given and will be open to receiving the gospel. Thank God that Bohdan has a good relationship with the Commanders and pray that this will continue.

**Sunday:** Ask God to be present in any peace talks. Pray that the world leaders will be inclusive of President Zelensky in their negotiations and for Godly men and women to be among those at the table. Pray for wisdom for the leaders and for them to have hearts for peace and not for conflict and destruction.



## Local Football and Faith

Football sometimes gives itself a bad name – overpaid players, bad-tempered super-stars disputing every referee’s decision, crazy prices to watch the top teams... It’s good to know, however, that here in our town is a beacon of light: Eastbourne Borough FC, currently chasing promotion from the Vanarama National League South to the National League, have a Christian chaplain – local youth worker Ben West. Ben’s dad, Alan, was a well-known professional footballer with an England under 23 cap and a successful career at Burnley, Millwall and Luton, where he played over 300 games and in later years worked as the club chaplain. He also worked as a church minister.



**Alan West, former chaplain at Luton Town**

Ben grew up in a Christian household with two passions, his faith and his football. He recently completed a course at the UK Chaplaincy and, having made himself known at the Eastbourne professional club, he has been welcomed as the club chaplain. The club’s manager, Adam Murray, a man with a strong Christian faith that he isn’t shy of sharing, has been happy to involve Ben in many of the club’s activities: joining in the dressing room prayer before the game; travelling with the team on the coach to away games; supporting training sessions; chatting with the club’s team of employees –groundsman, cleaners, chefs, analysts, sports science expert, physio.

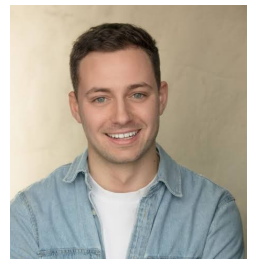


**Adam Murray, current manager of Borough**

The Borough is a professional club with a professional team supporting the players, as well as a board of directors and an ongoing search for sponsors.

Ben is gradually building up a rapport with the players, of whom there’s probably a hundred at the different levels. Somewhat to his surprise (but also great delight) most of the first team squad came to his first bible study. Without pushing himself, Ben is there for a coffee and a chat if desired.

Young men can find the life of a professional footballer challenging, often juggling the demands of a young family as well as keeping themselves physically and mentally fit, and often living far from the club they play for. A listening ear with someone not directly involved in the football itself, can be very helpful. ...



**Ben West Chaplain at Borough**

Football can be a cruel sport for some: a sudden injury putting a player out for many months or even ending a promising career; wondering why he or she doesn't have a regular starting slot in the first team; not being retained at the end of the season; struggling to find another club; a childhood dream seemingly in tatters.



What about the effect of the result of the game on the players? A narrow win – good, but what about our goal difference? A draw – at least it's a point but could have been better. A defeat? Perhaps best if the chaplain isn't invited into the changing room after the game.

As well as the first team there's a women's team (at the time of writing top of their league) and an under 18 side – so, lots of players who might welcome a friendly ear at some point. The Borough prides itself on being a community-minded club, providing midweek social events and soccer camps in the school holidays for both boys and girls.

Ben regards his role in the club as a 'privilege' and a 'blessing'. He is also conscious that a new owner or manager could decide they no longer require the voluntary services of a chaplain. So, just like a player or a manager you could be given a sudden boot. Ben has this very strong faith and hopes that others of faith or none will pray for him and wish him well. He knows there's more to life than football.

*(This article first appeared in Churches Together Eastbourne, Feb 2025)*



## **Men's CURRY NIGHT**

A sign-up sheet is now available in the Welcome Centre for this not-to-be-missed event on Wednesday March 5th (7pm).

Please note in particular the instructions as to your choice of menu - either choose from the menu when you arrive, or book one of the Tahli options available.

This is a new venue for us and promises to be an enjoyable evening for us all - as always!

## VBCFC

Some of you may know, but many are probably not aware, that there is an adult football team closely connected to the church. Victoria Baptists FC play on Saturday afternoons in the East Sussex Football League against teams from around the county. The standard is quite high with the team currently 2nd in Division 2 being unbeaten in the league and having reached the Semi Final of the Sussex FA County Junior Cup (due to be played on 1st March at Old Town Rec.).



Whilst there used to be a number of Victoria members in the team, Colin and Pete McMahon, Jez Taylor, Brian Knights and Peter Morden to name a few (Ben West from the article on the previous page has also played a few times for the team). Over recent years the number of VBC players involved has declined to just 3 (Mark, Felix and Sam). However, the majority of the team have a connection to VBC or another local church and a few attend Flow Cafe once a month. We even have descendants of the team's founding members playing key roles in the squad.

Before every game there is a prayer led by a player asking God to help the team play in the right spirit and attitude, protect us from injury and that we will enjoy our Saturday afternoon run around - something that is easier to do when you win!

Players who have come from other teams are impressed with the team spirit and the friendship/welcome they receive when joining whilst still being part of a competitive team.

If you would like to find out more about the team talk to Mark Simmons.



We have had another client go debt free this week! We thank God for this good news and ask that you pray for her as she goes forward without the burden of unmanageable debt. We really appreciate your ongoing prayers for our clients and the wider ministry of Christians Against Poverty.

*Phil Papps, CAP Debt Centre Manager, VBC*



# Gather Eastbourne

SATURDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2025

Imagine the 2.5 billion Christians in the world praying together on one day for the 5.5 billion who do not yet know Jesus.

That's the ambitious aim of Gather 25: a 25 hour cycle of prayer in which every home, home group, congregation and area-wide church can join.

The themes of the day are worship, prayer, repentance and commissioning.

**HERE IN EASTBOURNE:** each individual and local church is invited to take part by planning their own bespoke prayer programme during the day, either corporately, in small groups, in a 'chain of prayer' or at an agreed time at home.

And from 6.30pm onwards meet all together at THE GATEWAY CENTRE in Lottbridge Drive, BN22 9BP to join the Gather 25 global live-stream from London at 7pm and to pray together for our town, our country and our world.

Check out more and register your interest at:

[www.gather25.com](http://www.gather25.com)

Pray Eastbourne Team is happy to facilitate this exciting initiative.

Please let us know if you plan to take part by emailing:

[prayeastbourne@aol.com](mailto:prayeastbourne@aol.com)

**PRAY** *Eastbourne*

[www.prayeastbourne.co.uk](http://www.prayeastbourne.co.uk)

# Seeing CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

## Part 8: Wisdom re. How to Manage Money and Possessions

(with the help of Tim Keller)

Chapter 11 and the rest of Proverbs has much to say about money, negatively and positively, and the Bible provides us with a wise attitude of how to handle it.

1. A number of verses in chapter 11 highlight the power, deception, misuse and danger when we give money undue importance. Eg. verses 1,4,16,24,25, 26, 28.

2. Wealth creation is not wrong in itself and is part of the creation order found in Genesis. God created the world for good, to be stewarded and worked for man's benefit. *"Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense."* Prov. 12:11

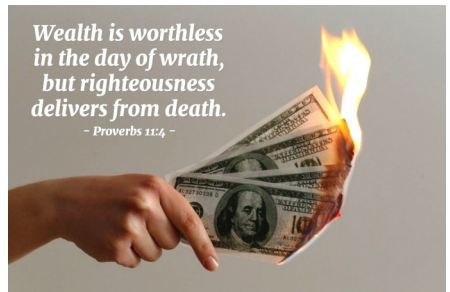
3. The danger arises when selfishness and greed make us misuse wealth and we give it undue importance. It clouds our judgement and decision making, makes us proud, and harms ourselves and others *"Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death."* Prov. 11:4

4. Why is it so subtly overpowering like a drug?

It is because it appears to offer us something we, as humans, crave for- **significance and security**. *"The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor."* Prov. 10:15. But the Biblical view is the opposite; money cannot buy you true significance and security, only God can, *"The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."* Prov. 18:10

5. That leads us to the question, 'How do we break the power of money over us? Firstly, **don't deny the problem**, especially in our Western materialistic society where it has a subtle hold on us. Realise it is an offence to God just as sexual sin is, though it might not be so obvious. *"You cannot serve God and money"* as our Lord said in Matt.6:24.

Secondly, **Grasp the generous scattering principle**, *"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want."* Prov. 11:24. Generosity is encouraged in the Bible with a promise it will come back with a reward. But care is needed to understand this is not a mechanical formula to get rich or get outward blessing as that would be just another form of bondage. This generosity must come from the heart as Paul shows in 2 Cor. 8:9, when appealing for money. He does not appeal to the Corinthian's will or emotions but to their heart, which includes the mind in Jewish thinking. He reminds them of Jesus' ...



ultimate 'scattering'/giving out of Himself for us on the cross and the great harvest of believers He will have as a result. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich". He wants that to be their motivation, and ours also, for sacrificial living and thus break our entrapment to 'mammon'.

You can hear a full account of this sermon at: [Scattering Gathers; Gathering Scatters – Gospel in Life](#)

*John Demetriou*



Sat 29<sup>th</sup> March, 7-9pm

Tickets, costing £5 each, will be on sale this coming Sunday. Card payments or cash will both be accepted. Activities available include Floristry, Mosaic Making, Caricature Drawing, Card Making, Cake Decorating, Scrap Bible Journalling.

Contact Lucy Craggs for more details.

## **VICTORIA LIFE**

Next week's edition will be another "2 weeks-in-1" with an abbreviated version the following week. This will allow your editor to have a break! Please think ahead and let us have any items for inclusion next week by Wednesday morning at the latest. To confuse matters even more, we are hoping to send out next week's edition a day early, on Thursday.

**Flower Ministry**

The flowers last week were donated by  
**Mark & Joanne Venter**



*Thank you VBC for thinking of me at this sad time and sending a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Tony is now with his Lord & Saviour and will suffer no more. Tony & I were soul mates and I will miss him very much.*  
*Christine F*

