



Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

**VICTORIA** Baptist Church News



**“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart”**

**Jeremiah 1:5**



**10am - live at VBC and online - Romans 7: 14-25**

**Please note the new time for our evening service.**

**6.30pm Passion for Life - Seasoning Conversation with the Gospel.**

## **Jesus, Jekyll & Hyde** Romans 7:14-25

**“So I find this law at work: when I want to do good, evil is right there with me.” (Romans 7:21)**

There are many good reasons to believe the Bible. One of the best is that it provides the clearest and most compelling description of what it means to be a human being.

Human beings are the strangest things in the universe. We are capable of extraordinary heroism and humiliating cowardice. We are capable of extreme kindness and cruelty, gentleness and brutality, self-sacrifice and self-centredness, generosity and meanness.

Popular culture and social media encourage us to divide the world into heroes and villains, to believe that there are good people who do good things and evil people who do evil things. The Bible warns us not to be so simplistic. It tells us, as Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn saw, “That the line between good and evil runs through every human heart...”

This morning we’ll see why understanding this is so important for the world and for our own lives. We’ll also see why the Bible’s answer to the problem is the most wonderful answer in the world.



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This morning’s service will feature the dedication of Paige Meakins, daughter of Hannah and Ollie.

## STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Sandra is taking leave on Wednesday (rumour has it she is celebrating a special birthday that day!), everyone else is in the office as usual. Days off are as follows: Colin - Monday, Chris - Tuesday, Erik, Sandra & Simon - Thursday. Julie is in the office on Thursdays and Tim & Jez are both around for part of Wednesdays and Fridays - though naturally Jez will also be away on Wednesday this week!)

### Senior Minister

Chris Short

### PA to Senior Minister

Sandra Taylor

### Family Ministries

Simon Grimes - Children

Erik Cornelisse - Youth

### Church Administrator

Colin McMahon

### Caretaker

Kevin Virgo

### CAP Debt Centre Manager

Helen Diplock

### Treasurer

Louise Hughes

### Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

### Pastoral Team Leader

Tim Nunn

### Life Group Coordinator

Jez Taylor

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Victoria Baptist Church Trust

*Account Number:* 00010297

*Sort Code:* 40-52-40

Staff contact details:

*firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk*

(eg *chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk*)

Sun	23	9.40am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online - Chris Short
		6.30pm	Passion for Life - Seasoning Conversation with the Gospel
Mon	24		<b>NO</b> Girls Brigade at present - reviewing at end of January
		7.30pm	CLT prayer meeting - all welcome
Tue	25	7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed	26	8.30am	Community Fridge (until 10.30am)
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		2.00pm	Thanksgiving Service for Anne Drew
		5.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)/ 6.15pm (ages 8-18)
Thu	27	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only) <i>Next Meeting for Men's Fellowship - 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb</i>
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Anna Reid
Fri	28	10.00am	Vicky Bees <b>NO</b> Kids Club at present-reviewing at end of January
		7.00pm	Xpect!
Sat	29	10.00am	Praying with and for families
Sun	30	9.40am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online - Rev. Tom Duncanson
		5.00pm	Meeting for potential members
		6.30pm	Healing Service with John Glover

## The Week Ahead



Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 12.30pm - Church BBQ celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



## Wedding Invite!

Andy Holter and Cherie are getting married on Sat Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, here at VBC at 1pm. They would love the church family to join them and to celebrate with them at the ceremony!



“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

This week in our evening service, we will be focusing on “Gospel outlines and personal stories.” The aim of this session is to equip us with practical tools that will help us to share the gospel and help us to make sure we know what to say when an opportunity arises to talk about Jesus with someone. There will be a video presentation and time for discussion and prayer. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

If you are unable to make it this week, then here is a link to the video and a few questions for you to consider once you have watched it:

<https://ap4l-resources.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Gospel-outlines-and-personal-stories-FW4.mp4>

- What do you think are the benefits of being familiar with a gospel outline?
- Practise drawing and talking through the gospel outline demonstrated. You may want to do this with a Christian friend.
- Take some time to think through and write out your testimony. When ready, share it with a Christian friend and ask for helpful feedback.

Finally, spend some time in prayer:

- Thank God for His grace and the work He has done and continues to do in your life.
- Ask Him to work in people’s lives and use you to explain the gospel and testify to Him through your own story.
- Ask Him to help us to be prepared to tell our story and explain the gospel when opportunities arise.

## HELP NEEDED

As you may have heard, Kingdom Way Trust (who amongst other things ran the former weekend drop-in at the Seaside Community Hub) is taking over use of the Christian Resources Centre premises on Seaside Road (the Christian Bookshop building).



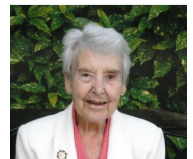
KWT has decided that at weekends, the premises will be used as a weekend drop-in for the street 'community' (ie the homeless, those in temporary accommodation, etc). The plan is that, following some modifications, the premises will be ready to open as a drop-in from Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The intention is to staff the drop-in from 10.00am until 4.00pm every Saturday and Sunday, with the drop-in open to guests from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Similar to the pre-Covid drop-in at the Seaside Community Hub, the centre will provide a safe place for guests to hang out, be served tea/coffee, read a newspaper, etc. However, light snacks will be provided instead of a hot lunch.

The main purpose of this note is to see whether you would wish to be involved as a volunteer. There will be a supervisor on duty, supported by two volunteers who would be based within the servery area. Volunteer shifts could run either for 3 hours (10.00am-1.00pm or 1.00-4.00pm) or for the full day (10.00am-4.00pm).

I'd be delighted to hear from you if you think you might like to help. If you'd like to chat it over, please do contact me, Graham Horsnell, of the KWT.

**Irene Amey** It is with sadness that we report the passing of Irene last week, just 9 months short of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She had been in Berry Pomeroy Care Home for a number of years. Funeral details will follow shortly.



And we are also sad to report that **SYLVIA DUDKIEWICZ** passed away on Dec 28<sup>th</sup>. Sylvia was 89 and had spent the last few months in Inglewood Care Home in Hampden Park. A small family funeral is taking place next Thursday (27<sup>th</sup>) in Brighton.

## CALLING ALL BOOKWORMS

Thank you to those who have expressed an interest in a BOOKCLUB at church, to be held once a month for one hour during Flow Cafe in one of the downstairs rooms, open to all, to discuss books we have read.



Anybody else interested, please get in contact with me, best by landline or email. If you don't have access to the church directory, please contact the office.

For different reasons Feb 12<sup>th</sup> seems not a suitable date for an initial meeting, so I suggest instead that we have a short chat after church on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb in the church hall to draw up a list of books. Please think of one of your favourites. I am thinking of secular literature – both modern and classical, could also be Christian or with a Christian theme.

Looking forward to hearing from you

*Ingelore Demetriou*

## BOOKSTALL News

We have some new stock in the bookstall this week, including commentaries on Romans by Tim Keller which come highly recommended by Chris Short. We also have a variety of Christian greeting cards for sale. Come and have a little browse.



We have recently created a book shelf next to the bookstall where you can bring books you have read and borrow books left by others.



## CLT Prayer Meetings

All are welcome at these prayer meetings, once a month on a Monday at 7.30pm. Dates are as follows: 24<sup>th</sup> Jan, 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 17<sup>th</sup> Oct and 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. Put the dates in your diary and try to join us if you are able.



# SANCTIFICATION

*'Offer the parts of your body in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness'* Rom. 6:9

Some of you might remember I wrote a brief exposition on the doctrine of our 'Union with Christ' in the 12<sup>th</sup> December edition of the news sheet last year. I mentioned then its link to other related doctrines such as faith, assurance and sanctification. It is the latter I would like to expand on now as we return to our study in Romans where it is referred to, especially in chapters 6-7:6 and because of its relevance to how we live as Christians.



**What is it?** It is to live a distinctive, dedicated life in obedience to God. *'Be holy, because I am Holy'* 1 Peter 1:16

**Why is it important?** It is important because it is part of our new nature in Christ. *'Just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a NEW LIFE.'* Rom.6:4

Having died with Christ, by believing in Him, we share in His resurrection to live a new, righteous life pleasing to God that is different from our old former selfish life. It is unnatural and absurd to think we can go back to our old way of living. God's Spirit now lives within us and His Spirit prompts us to obey Him and follow His instructions for righteous living. Paul in his reasoning sees it as inconceivable to go back to the old ways:

*'What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? BY NO MEANS!'* Rom. 6:15

He puts it even stronger in v18 when he reminds us we have now become *'slaves, or enslaved, to righteousness.'* We don't like the word slave but it reminds us of our duty and responsibility to our new, good master and Lord Jesus Christ as opposed to the bondage to sins and the devil we were in previously.

**How does it work?** Here Christians have stumbled and got into difficulties causing confusion and defeat so it is important to understand what the bible teaches. Paul provides useful guidance here in these verses by:

- A. Reminding us first to use our mind, God's greatest gift to us, to *'Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.'* Rom 6:11  
As a man thinks, so he is and it is important we start by reminding ourselves of the privileged position we are in. Faith in Jesus' death for our sins has put us into God's kingdom as an objective fact, independent of our feelings. We are now 'sons of God', possess His Holy Spirit and, as John reminds us, *'kept safe by God and the evil one cannot harm us.'* 1Jn5:18
- B. With the help of the Holy Spirit we are encouraged to make every effort to .....





..... live a holy life by obeying God *“Do not offer the parts of your body to sin but rather offer yourselves to God and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.” Rom 6:13*

Christians are sometimes tempted to be passive and wait for God to deliver

them but that is not biblical. Instead we are reminded of our responsibility and need to act in many places in the New Testament eg *‘make every effort to add to your faith....’ 2 Peter 1:5*

- C. This effort for our sanctification continues throughout our earthly lives: *‘...but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.’ Math. 24:13.* We might fail and go astray along the way but we repent and carry on in an upward trajectory.
- D. Lastly, it is encouraging to remember our success is guaranteed because God has promised to see His children through: *‘For sin shall not be your master because you are not under law but under grace.’ Rom 6:14*  
*‘Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.’ Phil.1:6*

**What is the purpose?** The purpose is summed up by Paul:

*‘The benefit you reap leads **to holiness** and the **result is eternal life.**’ Rom 6:22*

*‘So my brothers you also died to the law through the body of Christ in order that we might **bear fruit.**’ Rom. 7:6*

As we obey God we grow in holiness, please Him and bear fruit in the Spirit eg love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and self control (Gal. 5:22) and ‘so fulfil the law of Christ’ to love God with all of our hearts and our neighbour as ourselves which prepares us for the hope of heaven and a ‘rich welcome’ into it.

Dear brother or sister in Christ, have you grasped this important liberating doctrine to be holy as your Father in heaven is? Are you making every effort to obey your new master Jesus Christ with the help of His Holy Spirit in order to bear fruit for Him and fit you for heaven?

*John Demetriou*

## PRAYER DIARY: 24<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

*“Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘peace, be still’ and the wind ceased and there was a great calm.”* Mark 4 v 39

**Monday** Having read the above verse, as you begin this new week with all its potential stresses, worries and uncertainties, take a moment to be still before God and allow Him to speak into your heart - “peace be still”. Go into this week knowing He is walking with you.

**Tuesday** Please pray for children sponsored by the charity Compassion this week, many of them remain at home due to covid and unable to attend the Christian Children’s Centre in their area that supports them. Pray for the Compassion workers on the ground who are making every effort to keep in touch with each child; and pray too that the children’s faith will continue to grow.

**Wednesday** Please pray for the relief efforts for the people of Tonga, and that opportunities will arise for aid workers to talk about Christ as they bring comfort to the residents.

**Thursday** Father God, we pray that You will bless our Royal Family with a deep and meaningful faith in You. We thank You for the many years that our Queen has honoured You through using church services at the centre of public celebrations and we pray that Kate and William will follow her lead both now and into the future. Amen.

**Friday** The fate of The Ukraine remains a concern that we need to give to God in prayer. Please pray for the many Christians who have found Jesus in recent years. Pray for protection and growth for their churches at this time. Please also pray for wisdom for the world leaders involved in discussions to avoid an invasion.

**Saturday** Our families are the communities where the seeds of faith are so often first planted. Pray for all involved in influencing young lives including parents, other family members, teachers, social workers, and youth club volunteers. And ask God to help each of us to know how we individually can help the children in our sphere of influence to draw closer to Jesus; even if it’s as simple as being the kind friendly Christian lady or man who lives next door.

**Sunday** Pray - forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen. As we come to worship God today whether at church or joining the online service, we become acceptable to God when we are put right with Him by acknowledging and confessing our sins. Heavenly Father, give us humble, teachable hearts purified through Jesus’ blood and humbled by Your grace and mercy so that we are at one with You and each other and fill us with Your Spirit we pray. Amen

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

# Hammer and Nails

*Another of Malcolm Robertson's messages*

*from his booklet - "It's for you!"*



I suppose most folks would agree that life is becoming extremely complex these days – from the business executive to the busy housewife - from the nursing sister to the long distance driver; the increasing pressures of life are bearing down on us all. We're all caught up in the so-called "rat race", and our lives in all departments seem to accelerate in our struggle to survive. "Give us back the old days", some say, "when life was slower, and more peaceful, and more to be enjoyed".

But would they really like to return to the old oil lamp and grandmother's twin roller mangle? Of course not! Progress has brought its rich harvest of benefits to all mankind – gone for ever are many of the problems that have plagued society down the ages.



Science and education have played vital roles in the solution of what I suppose we might call the mechanical and physical problems. It seems to me, to be these human problems that defy solution and which tend to spoil so many lives today. Jesus was a master in understanding human nature and He dealt with individuals with love and compassion, and He who was occupied with HAMMER AND NAILS during His early earthly life, has become the mender of broken lives down many years, and He's still the same today. Yes, Jesus is actually alive today and He claims entrance into every heart that will receive Him in simple faith. He brings a new dimension to everyday living - a satisfaction and fulfilment that alone comes through knowing Him.

Invite the Saviour in today – and you'll feel the difference!

## FLOWER MINISTRY

The flowers last week were donated by Colin & Chris McMahon



### Thank You!

Please thank, on behalf of **Joan Romain**, all those who have sent their best wishes over Christmas, and also on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday yesterday (16<sup>th</sup> Jan). Joan is unable to make contact herself due to her dementia but I would be grateful if you could put something in a newsletter or wherever it is appropriate. Many thanks. Carolyn (daughter)



We would like to thank our wonderful Church family and our lovely Life Group for the beautiful flowers, cards and kind messages we received with the passing of Dave's mom Kay who was such a special lady. We truly appreciate your kindness. Love **Dave and Iryl Thomson**.