

Live in Church and
online



VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH
to see Jesus Christ honoured in Eastbourne and beyond

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Live at Ten with
CHRIS SHORT

the latest
ONS

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VBC on Facebook

JONAH 4:1-11: HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

“I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.” (Jonah 4:2)

This week is our last week in Jonah and whilst many people have a good idea of most of the story, very few people know how it ends. It is the most unexpected ending – after everything Jonah has been through and experienced, chapter 4 comes as a big surprise.

The main message is that Jonah is angry; very, very angry. The last recorded words of Jonah are remarkable: “I’m so angry I wish I were dead” (4:9). We’ll look together at why he’s so angry and why would he rather die than see Nineveh saved? It doesn’t make sense and yet it tells us much about the human heart and condition. It points us to the real hope for the world and what it will actually take before we can all live happily ever after.



THIS EVENING



The last of the Bible Academy Deep Dive sessions, with Jez Taylor, is at 6.30pm.

There is no Alpha session this week.

NEXT WEEK (30TH JUNE)

We welcome Neil Hilton back to bring God’s Word to us at our 10am service. Most of you will be aware that Neil was once a Youth Minister here at VBC and is now spearheading the *goodnewsbrighton* initiative in Moulsecoomb.

The final Alpha session in this series will be held at 6pm - the topic for discussion will be “Does God heal today?”

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for this coming week are as follows:

Chris	off Tues & Thurs		
Sandra	off Thurs	Tim	annual leave
Colin	off Mon & Tues	Jez	in Wed & Fri mornings
Erik	off Thurs	Simon	off Tues
Julie	in Thurs	Nadine	in Mon & Thurs mornings
Kevin	annual leave	Phil	in Tues, Weds am, and Thurs pm.

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

Phil Papps

CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

Treasurer

Mark Evason

Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

Pastoral Team Leader

Tim Nunn

Life Group Coordinator

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 23 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live and Online with Chris Short
No Alpha this evening
 6.30pm Bible Academy Deep Dive
- Mon 24 6.00pm Girls Brigade
 7.30pm CLT meeting
- Tues 25 Soaking in the Spirit (next meeting 2nd July)
- Wed 26 8.30am Community Fridge and Cafe
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 6.30pm Boys Brigade
 7.30pm Church Members' Meeting
- Thu 27 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Trevor King
 6.30pm Bible Academy
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 28 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 29
- Sun 30 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live and Online with Neil Hilton
 6.00pm Alpha ("Does God heal today?")

The Week Ahead

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*



Francis Bates	Jun 30	Punnetts Town, 3pm
Erik Cornelisse	Jun 30	Horam Chapel

ANDY HOLTER

Our former member, Andy Holter, sadly died last Saturday, aged 48. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Cherie and the children. Since leaving VBC a couple of years ago, Andy & Cherie have been attending Suncoast Church in Courtlands Road. The funeral is likely to be at the end of July. Details will be announced when they are finalised.





- 29th June - Gardening Working Party (10.30am-12noon)
- 7th July - Prospective Members' Meeting, 5pm
- 17th July - Ladies Evening Out at Pomodoro e Mozzarella, 7pm
- 19th July - VBC Open at Willingdon Golf Club, 4pm
(see Colin or Jez for details)

FOODBANK INITIATIVE

Eastbourne **foodbank** PRESENTS...

CANDIDATES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

YOU
ASK THE QUESTIONS THAT MATTER

ANTI-POVERTY Q&A WITH OUR ELECTION CANDIDATES

ST ELISABETH'S CHURCH
268 VICTORIA DRIVE
BN20 8QX

**25 JUNE
12.30PM**

PIZZA LUNCH PROVIDED

CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday 26th Jun, 7.30pm

Please note item 3! The two candidates - for the one vacancy - are Andrew Phillips and Sarah D'Amato.

1. Introduction, Welcome and Prayer
2. Agreement of Minutes and Matters arising
3. CLT Election
4. Membership Report - **Richard Kirk**
5. Finance Report – **Ian Doling**
6. Property Report – **Chris Short**
7. Ethos Statement - **Chris Short**
8. Youth Work report – **Erik Cornelisse**
9. Charitable Status Update – **Andrew Phillips**
10. AOB: **Items for consideration to be emailed to the church office by Monday 24th June**
11. DONM: 7:30pm, 25th September 2024



Sunday Bees

Sunday Bees is in need of helpers

We need people willing to be helpers in our Sunday Bees class

Sunday Bees is our Sunday group for 2 ½ to 4 year olds

Contact Simon

DIARY OF A DISCIPLE

£10
per child
for the 3 days

**LUKE'S STORY
HOLIDAY
CLUB**

8th - 11th August
 Thurs - Sat (+ Sunday)
 10.00am - 12.30pm
 reception - year 6
 games, crafts, songs,
 snacks & more!

For queries contact Simon Grimes
 simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk / 01323 737974

SCAN ME
 for details and
 an application form

Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team

This year we celebrate 20 years of BHCT. Since 2004, BHCT has been seeking out, reaching out, giving support, offering hope and saving lives at Beachy Head.

In that time there have been 102 Chaplains operational at Beachy Head, all members of local churches and all called to serve Jesus and follow His example to serve others. *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* 1 Peter 4:9-10.

On 20th August at 7:30pm there will be a re-commissioning of the BHCT team, a celebration event at St John the Evangelist Church. Also, to celebrate our 20th anniversary, we have produced a video about our work. The video is available in two formats -

(10 min video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnRw4qM7zpk&t=31s>

(3 min video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CMbr_INoW0&t=9s

PRAYER DIARY 24TH - 30TH June

Reflection on Love - *'And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging symbol. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I have nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.'*

1 Corinthians 12 v.31-13 v.3

Monday Thank You, Lord, that all believers have the Holy Spirit and have been given gifts by the Spirit. We pray that all believers in the body of Christ know that they belong and are needed; that at VBC we will all be able to use our gifts, in love - a love that 'always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'

Tuesday Love is patient. Lord, we ask for Your patience and mercy. We ask for Your forgiveness. Thank You for not abandoning us to our mistakes, but for reaching out to us in love. Help us as a body to show the same patient love and forgiveness to our brothers and sisters in Christ - and so bring unity.

Wednesday Love is kind. Thank You, Lord, for the service of those who are a part of the Community Fridge team. We ask that their acts of kindness may give You glory. We pray that those coming to the Community Fridge may 'taste and see that the Lord is good.' May each act of kindness and the hand of friendship be given in love.

Thursday We thank You, Lord, for the Omega group who meet regularly on a Thursday. We thank You for the leaders of that group who show a selfless love to their peers. Thank You for the encouragement they are to each other, as young adults, and the strengthening that brings to their faith.

Friday We pray for our youth and children's teams who will be running groups over the weekend. We pray that the children will know the love of God, they will know that nothing can pluck them from His hand and that His love is unconditional. Please, Lord, reveal to the children that 'love never fails' despite their circumstances.

Saturday 'Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with truth'. The last Alpha session is being held tomorrow evening. We give thanks for all the prayers which have been answered and the rejoicing of hearts in the truth. We ask for continued protection over those who have encountered the love of God over the last few weeks.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Sunday ‘And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.’ Thank You, Lord, that these three will never be taken away. Help us to serve You, Lord, in faith, hope and love. Let us love one another as You have loved us. We pray for Neil and Jess Hilton and their family as they serve faithfully in Moulsecomb and thank You, Lord, for Neil who is bringing Your Word to us today.

John – The son of Thunder who became the Apostle of Love

The last of the writings penned by John Purkiss, who recently passed away after a long life serving the Lord.

John was the son of Zebedee and the brother of James. He was a fisherman and it was while he and his brother were mending their nets in the boat by the lakeside that Jesus called them.

“Jesus saw John and James in a boat preparing their nets. He called them and they left their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men and followed Him.” Mark 1:19,20

John’s friendship with Peter was very close. Peter was John’s partner in the fishing business. John went to Peter’s house after the Sabbath service in Capernaum.

“James and John went to the home of Simon. Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever.” Mark 1:29

In the last days, Peter and John were sent together to prepare the last Passover feast for Jesus and the other disciples. In the book of Acts in the early days of the church, Peter and John were always acting together, Peter always the spokesman, and they were partners in the task of being fishers of men.

“Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Mark 1:17

It would seem that John, before he became a disciple of Jesus, had been a disciple of John the Baptist. John’s gospel tells of the two disciples. John points to Jesus, “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” One of these disciples is named as Andrew, and the other is not named at all. The conclusion is that the unnamed disciple is John. John 1:35–40.

Along with Peter and James, John became one of the inner circle of the apostolic band. John appears to be closest to Jesus. In the first three gospels, John seldom appears apart from James. James and John are inseparable and act and speak as one, not always attractive in what they say. They emerge as men of ambition. Mark records how they came to Jesus with the request for the chief places ...



... in His Kingdom. I just wonder what the rest of the twelve thought?

Were James and John a little better off than the other disciples? Were they socially a little higher? Their father, Zebedee, was sufficiently prosperous in business to employ hired servants. Mark 1:20 Did James and John consider themselves a cut above the rest?

It may be that James and John were closely akin to Jesus. It may be we can learn from the list of the women who were by the cross of Jesus at the end.

In John, the list is Jesus' mother, His mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Cleopas and Mary Magdalene. John 19:25

In Matthew, the list is Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James and Joses. (Matthew 27:56) Mary Magdalene appears in all the gospel lists, plus Salome, the sister of Jesus' mother and the mother of Zebedee's children. From the lists, James and John were cousins of Jesus. I wonder if that was the reason they had a claim to a special place in the Kingdom?

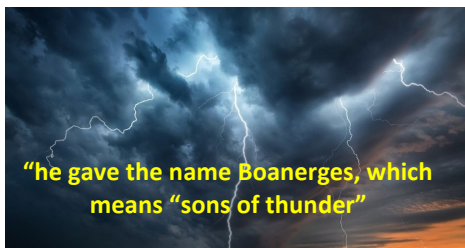
It appears that James and John had quite a temper. The direct route from Galilee to Jerusalem passes through Samaria and the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans. On His last journey to Jerusalem, Jesus took that route. He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to make preparations to stay there, but the ancient feelings produced a shut door. Hospitality was refused. The reaction of James and John was violent. Luke 9:51–56 "Lord, will You command fire to come down from heaven and consume them even as Elijah did?" Jesus had to remind them they were followers of one who had come not to destroy but to save.

John and James received their nickname Boanerges, Sons of Thunder, as Jesus called them. Mark 3:17 They must have been very violent, with tempers on a short fuse, with voices ready to thunder out.

On only one occasion does John appear alone in the synoptic gospels. He appears as a man of an intolerant heart. He has seen a man casting out devils in the name of Jesus. This man was not part of the inner circle. It was John who stopped the healing work. Mark 9:39–40 But Jesus gently told him to let the man be, for He who was not against them was for them.

At first sight, John appears as a man of overreaching ambition, a man with an explosive temper, a man with an intolerant heart.

John appears frequently in the synoptic gospels but never does he appear by name in the fourth gospel. But in John's gospel, there appears a character who is called The Beloved Disciple. There is much disagreement if this was John or another...



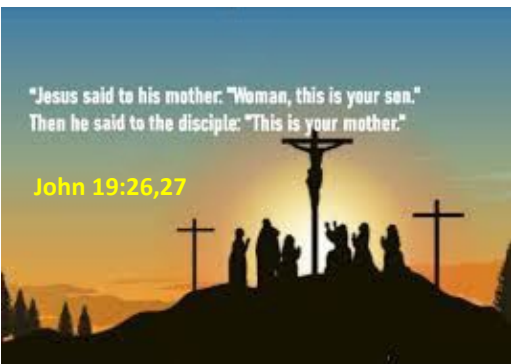
... Many doubted The Beloved Disciple was John. Some writers think it was Nathanael “the Israelite in whom there was no guile,” a person very near to the heart of Jesus. John 1:43 –51

The Beloved Disciple - could it have been the young man (Mark 14:51) or Lazarus? Jesus loved him three times, or could it have been the rich young ruler? Mark 10:21

The argument used against John – here was a man, ambitious, angry, intolerant, of violent temper. But The Beloved Disciple is the figure of love changed by Jesus from the Son of Thunder to the Apostle of Love.

What does the New Testament say about The Beloved Disciple? At ancient feasts, people reclined on low couches with feet stretched out behind, leaning on the left

arm, leaving the right hand free to deal with the food. At the Last Supper, The Beloved Disciple leaned on Jesus’ breast which means that he must have been sitting at Jesus right hand. It was The Beloved Disciple that Peter asked who the traitor was. John 13:21–25



It was to the care of The Beloved Disciple that Jesus entrusted Mary, His mother. John 19:26–27

It was The Beloved Disciple who arrived first at the tomb on Easter morning. John 20:1–10

It was The Beloved Disciple who was at the lakeside when Jesus appeared to the disciples. It was about his future that Peter asked, only to be rebuked! It is here that his authority lies behind the gospel which bears the name of John. John 21:24

So we come to the end of the gospel evidence which leaves us with the picture of a man of a tempestuous nature who, under the hand of Jesus, became a man of love.

In Acts, John is still prominent, but he never speaks. It appears he was found in the company of Peter, spokesman for both of them. John was there when the lame man was healed at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. Acts 3:1–10

He was with Peter when they were both imprisoned, and when Peter made his courageous speech before the Sanhedrin. Acts 4:1–22

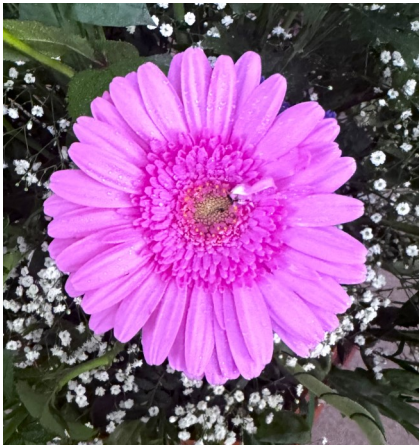
Paul names John as one of the great leaders of the Christian Church. Galatians 2:9

When one looks at The Beloved Disciple, he was a man changed by Jesus who became a wonderful leader of the early Christian Church, with the gospel bearing his name, a man totally devoted to our Lord.

John is a supreme example of how Jesus can take a man as he is and use his natural gifts, powers and temperament. In John, there was always power, united with loveliness when it is controlled by Jesus.

Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Nancy Houston



What a beautiful bunch of flowers arrived on Monday. I thought of all the lovely people who are behind this ministry. Thank you so much church family. God bless. JK



Dear Church Family Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers - such a heart-warming and uplifting ministry. THANK YOU! JS