

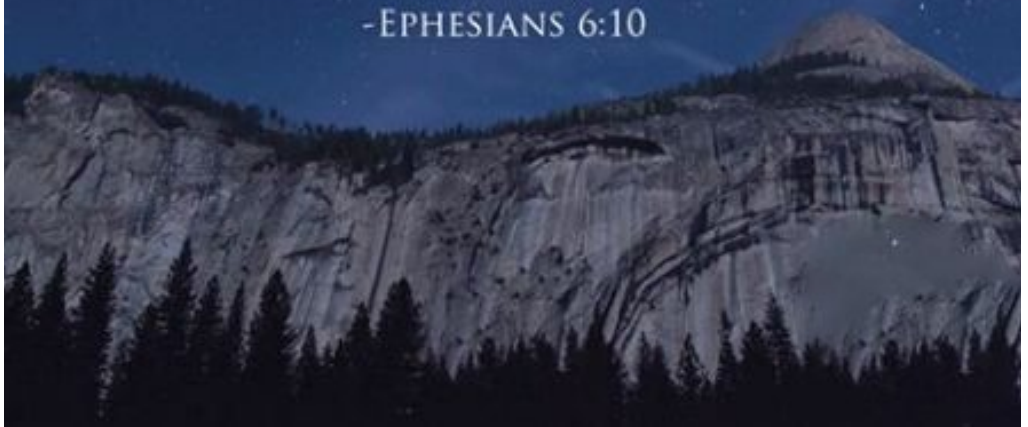


Sunday 25th February 2024

Victoria Baptist Church News

“  
BE STRONG  
IN THE LORD  
AND IN HIS  
MIGHTY POWER.  
”

-EPHESIANS 6:10



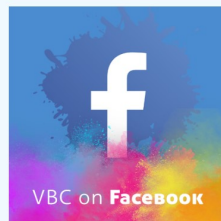
**Live in CHURCH and  
online**



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

HOME JESUS ABOUT SUNDAYS FAMILIES CHURCH LIFE CONTACT US

**Live at Ten with  
Chris Short**



## **Ephesians 6:10-18 – Baptism Service – Stand Firm**

**“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” (Eph 6:10)**

This week we’re celebrating three baptisms. Please pray for Charlene Morfil, Yanti Liao and Sepidah Kazemi as they prepare to tell the own stories of how God has brought them to faith in the Lord Jesus.

At the first baptismal class, with other believers attending for different reasons, we had people from China, South Africa, Columbia, Iran, Germany and the UK, all together. It is one of the great triumphs of the gospel that it reaches people in every part of the world and unites people from every culture in love for Jesus. He once said, to an entirely Jewish audience, “I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.” (John 10:16). We only have to look at our own church family to see how those words are being remarkably fulfilled.



The Bible passage we’ll be reflecting on tells us that baptism is the entrance to a battlefield. It also tells us what God has provided to ensure we can be victorious in the Lord and in His mighty power.



### **NEXT SUNDAY (3<sup>RD</sup>)**

Chris will be continuing his series on the Holy Spirit. This service will include a time of communion.

## **HOLY SPIRIT DAY**

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Apr, 9.30am to 4.30pm here at VBC. In line with Chris’s ongoing Teaching Series regarding the work and person of the Holy Spirit, we are setting aside a day to explore the work of the Holy Spirit together as a church. More details to follow nearer the time.

## Staff/Office Matters

Staff movements for this coming week are as follows:

Chris            off Tuesday  
Colin            off Mon, & Fri pm  
Erik             off Thursday  
Simon           off Tuesday  
Julie            in Thursday

Sandra          off Thursday  
Kevin           off Fri & Sat  
Tim             in Wed am & Fri am  
Jez             in Wed am & Fri am  
Helen          in Mon am & Wed am  
Nadine         annual leave

### **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

### **CAP Debt Coach**

Nadine Crawford-Piper

### **Treasurer**

Mark Evason

### **Finance Assistant**

Julie Hanks

### **Pastoral Team Leader**

Tim Nunn

### **Life Group Coordinator**

Jez Taylor

**01323 737974**

Eldon Road, Eastbourne

BN21 1UE

[helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

[www.victoriabaptist.org.uk](http://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk)

### **VBC Bank Details**

*Account Name:*

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 25    9.30am    Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
              10.00am    Baptismal Service with Chris Short
- Mon 26    6.00pm    Girls Brigade
- Tues 27    7.15pm    Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
- Wed 28    8.30am    Community Fridge and Cafe  
              10.00am    Vicky Bees  
              6.30pm    Boys Brigade  
              7.30pm    Church Members Meeting
- Thu 29    7.30am    Prayer Meeting (men only)  
              12 noon    Men's Fellowship Meal Out (Toby Carvery)  
              2.30pm    Women's Fellowship with Arthur Cornell  
              7.30pm    Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 1       10.00am    Vicky Bees  
              10.00am    Outreach Prayer Meeting  
              5.00pm    Kids Club  
              7.00pm    Xpect
- Sat 2
- Sun 3       9.30am    Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
              10.00am    Communion Service Live and Online with Chris Short  
              6.30pm    Prayer Meeting  
              7.00pm    Xcav8

## **Preaching Engagements** *Please remember in prayer*



- Jez Taylor                Sun 25<sup>th</sup>    Downsview BC, Woodingdean, 10.30am
- Brian Wightwick        Sun 25<sup>th</sup>    St Barnabas, Langney 9.45am
- Brian Wightwick        Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>     Polegate Free Church, 6.30pm
- Francis Bates            Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>     Punnetts Town, 2.30pm

**Prospective Members Meeting - Sun Mar 24<sup>th</sup> 5pm in the Hive.**

## **Advance Notice -**

There will be NO service here at VBC on Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>. We want to encourage everyone to join us and other Eastbourne churches at the Bandstand that morning for this year's Thy Kingdom Come event.



# Journey to King's Cross

## EASTER 2024 AT VICTORIA, KEY EVENTS:

23rd MARCH - Messy Easter

1:00pm Crafts For all the Family

28th MARCH - Maundy Thursday

2:30pm - He thought of me

29th MARCH - Not so Good Friday !

10:00am - A Funeral Service For Jesus

31st MARCH - HE DID WHAT ?!

6:15am - Churches Together Sunrise Service (place tbc)

10:00am Easter Celebration

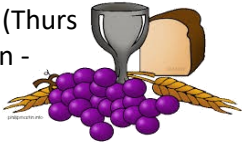
7:00pm - Service of Light (Like Carols by CandleLight)



It is Finished!

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

For those available, there will also be a **Maundy Thursday** communion service, led by Rev.Tom Duncanson, at 2.30pm in the sanctuary (Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March). This service - a time of contemplation and reflection - will be open to all and we would be delighted to see as many of you as possible attending.



We are taking Easter Eggs to Croatia.  
This year, for every egg that is donated,  
a very generous donor will match it with another egg so:

**ONE EQUALS TWO !!**

please drop your donated eggs in at the Welcome Centre

**THANK YOU**

† = heart

deadline: March 24th

## LIVING LIFE

Contact  
Mick Trott  
for more  
details



# AGM and Church Meeting Agenda

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7.30pm

1. Introduction, Welcome and Prayer
2. Agreement of Minutes and Matters Arising
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Safeguarding Statement
5. Membership Report
6. Omega Report
7. Property Matters  
Report on conversation with Baptist Union Corporation
8. Finance Report
9. Overview of 2023
10. Ethos Statement
11. Evangelical Baptists Request
12. Forthcoming CLT Elections (next Church Meeting)
13. AOB - **Items for consideration to be emailed to the church office by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February**
14. DONM – 7:30pm, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024





## Ladies' Italian Night Out

A reminder that the next Ladies' Night Out is coming up very soon - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. We will be meeting once again at Pomodoro e Mozzarella (23-24 Cornfield Terrace) at 7pm -

with the usual format of everyone paying for themselves!

I would suggest you sign up quickly to be certain of your place - sign-up sheets are in the usual place in the Welcome Centre. Frances Hall is the person to speak to if you want any further information.

## Coffee Time

We are very blessed in that we have a faithful number of teams of people preparing and serving refreshments after the service each week. Unfortunately, we are still having to use paper cups most of the time, which has an impact both on our finances and the environment. If you feel you could help out by washing up after coffee on a Sunday, please let me know. The more people who volunteer, the less often they will have to do it. Could I also remind you to try and bring your own reusable cup to church on a Sunday to help us out?



**WEST END HAS FAITH**

*An evening of music and faith with singers from London's West End*

**Saturday 9th March, 7.30pm**  
 Tickets £10 online or on the door  
[www.allsaintseastbourne.church](http://www.allsaintseastbourne.church)

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

christians  
against  
poverty

CAP

## CAP Update

Next Monday (26<sup>th</sup>) I start my training (50 hours) as the CAP Debt Centre Manager so I am ready to take over from Helen after Easter. I'm really looking forward to the role and continuing the CAP ministry to the next phase. For those of you who don't know me, my wife Shirley and I became members again at Victoria recently after moving back to Eastbourne some 27 years after we left because of my work. We grew up at Victoria, were baptised and married here, serving in different ways,

and are delighted to be back. Shirley has recently started a new job in Eastbourne as a Chiropractic Assistant and we have 2 adult daughters - Emily who lives in Ipswich and works supporting families with young children, and Chloe who lives in Worthing and whose main job is supporting a young person with special needs.

My working background, after graduating from Spurgeon's College with a degree in Theology, was supporting children, young people and their families with challenges to do with education. I started on the frontline doing case work before moving into management and then becoming Head of Service. Then for the last 20 years I have been working in Christian ministry, mainly in the role of Operations Director at two churches (Worthing and Ipswich) and currently I'm doing some part time project management work with a Christian charity supporting refugees, and another Christian charity helping young people gain independence after leaving the care system in Kolkata, India. My role with CAP is 2 days a week so I shall be dovetailing it with my other roles. I'd appreciate your prayers for a smooth transition into the team, to quickly be able to engage and support the clients and to know God's guidance and grace in all I do.



The Papps  
Family





## The Comoros

Here at VBC, we have recently been privileged to hear from two people who work with the Persecuted Church throughout the world - Open Doors. They have compiled a list of 50 countries where Christians risk everything for Christ. In this list are two countries where I lived over 40 years ago. It would be tempting to think that these countries had 'moved on' since then but that is a doubtful conclusion. Let me share a small part of life in one of them - The Comoro Islands.



Where? They comprise four islands situated in the Indian Ocean roughly between Tanzania and Madagascar. Even before my time there, three of the islands were independent whilst the other had voted to stay under the umbrella of the French. God called me to one of the independent islands, Anjouan to do medical work. There was one small hospital for the whole island. If you are a squeamish person, maybe skipping the following description would be advisable! Hens wandered in and out of the ward areas, and drugs were given out once a day with no checks on when these were taken. The only bath should have been available for the patients but it was occupied by a coelacanth - a prehistoric fish kept in formalin and awaiting any museum who would take it away for a good price. There was no electricity at night and when I went to tube feed sick children late in the evening the myriad of cockroaches running over the cots might or might not scurry away. All Comorians were, and still must be, Muslims and to confess faith in Jesus Christ meant taking a huge risk with unknown consequences.

Have you ever wondered why God allows an experience or situation where there seems no reason or explanation? After about 4 months our team had to be evacuated. The Comoros at that time was known as the coup capital. Unrest was increasing as the Jeurnese group were becoming unpredictable and we were



Christians in a hostile Muslim environment.

I do not know or understand why God led me to the Comoros for such a brief time (I was committed to two years short term service) and why it was so abruptly ended. But I do know He was faithful and gave me many experiences of His goodness and care day by day.

These thoughts I share for anyone who may be in a season of wondering why? God never makes mistakes. But He does ask us to trust that His way is perfect even when we don't understand.

## PRAYER DIARY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY - 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

***“There are different ways of serving but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their particular service”.*** 1 Corinthians 12: 5-6

**Monday** *“she opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy”* Proverbs 31:20 Pray for all who work in the caring professions within the NHS, our local Hospice, the various residential and care homes and all who visit our homes as carers week by week. Pray for those aiding the homeless and destitute. Remember Living Life in the former T.J. Hughes building, Matthew 25 and Kingdom Way Trust as they support the vulnerable at this time.

**Tuesday** *“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord.”* Ephesians 6:7 Many people serve our fellowship “behind the scenes.” Their service can go unnoticed or taken for granted. Give thanks for our caretaker, Kevin, and for those who maintain and keep an eye on our properties. Give thanks for the many who exercise a ministry of intercessory prayer. May we all fulfil our God-given tasks whether upfront or behind the scenes this week.

**Wednesday** *“Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ”* Galatians 6:2. Uphold the work of our Life Groups ministering through personal contact this week. Remember those no longer able to attend regularly through frailty, advancing years or because of parental responsibilities or work patterns. Give thanks for modern means of communication by text, e-mail or phone to maintain these links and remember our students living away from home. Remember tonight's A.G.M. and Church Meeting.

**Thursday** *“Be faithful unto death and receive your crown of life”* Revelation 2:10 Remember the service of those working amongst our senior folk and especially all who are on the final lap of their earthly race. Pray for those contending with various forms of dementia, living with a terminal illness or for whom advancing years are bringing them frustration and the need to depend on the support of others. Remember those who care for loved ones at home.

**Friday** *“It was He who gave gifts to mankind...to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service...”* Ephesians 4:12. Pray for all who have been given responsibility for the building up of God's people here at VBC. Those who preach/teach on Sundays and in the various children's and youth groups, those who disciple new Christians through Alpha; those who minister in practical ways through our CAP ministry and through Community Fridge on Wednesdays and in recognising and encouraging the equipping of all of God's people.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

**Saturday** *"We are partners working together for God, and you are God's field" 1 Corinthians 16:11.* Remember the work and ministry in some of our local, smaller churches by some of our retired ministers. Pray, too, for the other churches of our Old Town group and the various ministries offered. Remember the work we support in Ukraine. Uphold the many situations throughout the world where Christians face severe persecution for their faith.

**Sunday** *"So then, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless" 1 Corinthians 15: 58.* Pray for any feeling discouraged in any way; those struggling without the ready support of others; those who are disappointed by lack of apparent results; those who have seen their children depart from the Christian pathway. Pray that all of us will look to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Pray that all who gather for worship today will benefit from the fellowship shared and that *"those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint". Isaiah 40: 31*

## Hope Lebedyn



Thank you to all of you who supported *Hope Lebedyn* last weekend. What a delight it was to be able to see and hear Pastor Bohdan speaking to us via the wonders of modern technology. It was a very moving occasion and has been followed this week by some very encouraging prayer sessions as we move towards the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the invasion on Saturday (24<sup>th</sup>).

We are so thankful to God for answered prayers and would encourage you to continue to pray for the work being done in Lebedyn.

### Hope Lebedyn

#### Trustees

L to R:

Pete, Joe, Eddie, Sandra,  
Wendy, Alan



## FLOWER MINISTRY

Last week's flowers were donated by  
**Friends of Lebedyn**



*Thank you so much for the beautiful bunch of "birthday celebration" flowers that were on my doorstep when I arrived home on Monday. It was so much appreciated. LJ*



*Thank you very much for the lovely flowers I found waiting for me when I came back from a shopping trip on Monday. They are so beautiful and such a welcome addition to my room during these dark days. I am sorry I was not at home to say a 'big thank you' to the person who delivered them. BA*

**Please note - all dates have been allocated until the end of March but there are plenty of dates available throughout the spring and summer to anyone who would like to donate the flowers one week.**

**Please contact Chris McMahon for details.**