

VICTORIA

Life

Sunday 25th January 2026

**For when I am
weak
then I am
strong**

2 Corinthians 12:10





SERVING WITH a LIMP - WITH Ian Coffey

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Can we only serve the Lord when we are feeling 100%, up-to-date with our 'quiet times', and facing a horizon that is free of problems?

The Bible suggests otherwise. When we are weak we discover God's strength in new ways. The Apostle Paul knew this at a deep and personal level. Today we consider his testimony that Christ's strength always shows up best in weak people.



We welcome back Ian Coffey this morning to bring God's word to us. Ian retired at the end of 2022 after 15 years on the teaching team at Moorlands College. His final post was as Acting Principal. He has also been extensively involved with Saltmine Trust, the Evangelical Alliance and Spring Harvest. He was the senior minister at Mutley Baptist Church in Plymouth for a number of years and has had many books published.

Ian and Ruth live in a small village in Dorset and continue to travel extensively serving local churches.



THIS evening - A Time to Remember

Please join us today at 4pm as we take time out to remember friends and family who have passed away. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Next Week (1ST)

Chris Short will be leading us next week at our live@10 service, continuing the series he started last week - the Essential Church. Being the first Sunday of the month, the service will also incorporate Communion.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

| | |
|--------|---------------------|
| Chris | off Tues |
| Colin | off Mon |
| Kevin | off Wed, Thurs, Sat |
| Tim | in Wed am & Fri am |
| Nadine | in Mon & Thurs |
| Sandra | in Wed & Fri |

| | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| Phil | unavailable |
| Emily | off Mon & Tues |
| Simon | off Tues |
| Julie | in Thurs |
| Lucy | in Weds am, Thurs, Fri am |
| Jez | in Wed am & Fri am |

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

Treasurer

Mark Eavon

Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

Ministry Assistants

Lucy Craggs (Women)

Tim Nunn (Discipleship)

Jez Taylor (Life Groups)

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 25 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
10.00am live@10 with Ian Coffey
4.00pm A Time to Remember
7.00pm Sunday evening Youth

Mon 26 6.00pm Girls Brigade

Tue 27

Wed 28 7.00am Prayer Meeting
8.15am Community Fridge
10.00am Vicky Bees

Thu 29 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting
Men's Fellowship - next meeting Feb 5th
2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Alan Packard
7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting

Fri 30 10.00am Vicky Bees
10.00am Outreach Prayer
5.00pm Kids Club
7.00pm Friday evening Youth

Sat 31

Sun 1 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
10.00am live@10 with Chris Short, including Communion
6.30pm Prayer Meeting
7.00pm Sunday evening Youth

The Week Ahead

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Women's Italian Night

Date - Wednesday 4th February 7pm
Venue - Pomodoro e Mozzarella,
Cornfield Terrace

A sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Centre.

Sat 21st Feb Hope Lebedyn Anniversary Event, 4pm



PRAYER DIARY : 26TH JANUARY- 1ST FEBRUARY

After being baptised and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit the fellowship of believers met together every day. 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to breaking of the bread and to prayer'

Acts 2:42

Monday *"they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching"*. Thank You Lord for Your word and for the gifted teachers who open it up to us. Please help us to feed on Your word each day and freely share the treasures of truth we find in the Bible.

Tuesday *"they devoted themselves to the fellowship"*. As we follow the teaching series on the church, we pray that in 2026 we may commit joyfully to our church family. Help us, Lord, to love, serve and encourage each other as we devote ourselves to this fellowship.

Wednesday *"they devoted themselves to breaking the bread"*. The Lord's Supper would have been celebrated as part of regular meals in the early church. As we join to take communion as a church, Lord, please bring unity as we receive the bread and wine and remember Your sacrifice for us on the cross.

Thursday *"they devoted themselves to prayer"* - as they met in the temple courts daily they would have set prayers. Lord, please help us to unite in prayer; to choose to meet and pray regularly, to bow before you and give up our prayers as a fragrant offering.

Friday *"selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as they had need."* Lord, help us to seek You and ask how we can give and share with a loving heart. May this be a way of life in this community at VBC so no one will have need.

Saturday *"they ate together with glad and sincere hearts."* Lord, as we enjoy our weekend and time with friends and family, may we eat together and be glad. Or may we have a cup of tea with a friend with a sincere heart, knowing You bring us into community with our neighbours.

Sunday As we receive teaching today, inspired by God and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray that the Lord may add *"to our number daily those who are being saved"* (Acts 2:47).

Sussex Rehabilitation Centre

Many of you will be aware that one of our members, Sonya Cronin, suffered a couple of major strokes nearly 6 months ago. Her son, Justyn, is planning on running a marathon in Canberra (he lives in Australia) on 29th March for the *Sussex Stroke Rehab Centre* and he would very much appreciate any support you can offer via the JustGiving website.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/sussexrehabfacility>

JUSTYN'S STORY

In August 2025, my Mum, Sonya suffered 2 major strokes resulting in her being rushed to Royal Sussex Hospital in Brighton and being placed in a medically induced coma in critical care. Against all odds, she miraculously pulled through and thankfully is still with us.

Unfortunately, due to the strokes, there was a large bleed on her brain and she subsequently lost all movement on the right side of her body. After she woke up, she was still incredibly vulnerable to infections and further strokes due to clots still being present. The cause of the strokes made it particularly hard to navigate as there was no NHS guidance and every case/person is different.

The doctors, nurses and physios at Royal Sussex Hospital were absolutely amazing with the care and support that they provided for Mum.

When Mum was deemed medically stable, she was able to move onto the Sussex Rehab



Facility in Haywards Heath. I was able to meet the team, see the facility first hand, and even able to sit in on her Physical Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy sessions. Having this opportunity gave me the reassurance I needed that she was in the best place possible to start her road to recovery. I was blown away by how caring and compassionate all of the members of staff were towards Mum and also how passionate they were about changing lives through the rehabilitation process.

... I'm running this marathon to not only give back to the outstanding charity who provide this life changing funding for countless stroke victims, but also as a massive thank you to everyone who has helped my Mum both mentally and physically through this journey - from the nurses who provide around the clock care, the chefs, the cleaners, the physical therapists, occupational therapists and doctors who monitor her health, they all do life-changing work everyday.

Any donations to this amazing charity will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you!

'My Charity University Hospitals Sussex is the dedicated charity partner for the Trust. We are the vital extra heartbeat, empowering the exceptional, round-the-clock care delivered by our remarkable teams across our diverse network of hospitals. Every day, our doctors, nurses, and support staff provide healthcare to over 2.2 million people, healing, comforting, and inspiring hope.'

We're more than clinical buildings - we're a dynamic hub of innovation, a renowned teaching institution, and a pioneering force in ground-breaking research.'



Linking Lives Eastbourne (LLE) is an independent local Christian charity, which runs a befriending service aimed at older adults who live on their own, are experiencing loneliness and who are referred to us. We offer support and friendship through volunteer visiting with regular home visits, outings, and / or telephone calls.

We will soon have a vacancy for a Referral Assessor. The successful candidate will have a pastoral heart and will be responsible for assessing new referrals. He / she will work with the Scheme Coordinator in establishing and supporting matches with volunteers. The role is part-time with 10hrs/wk worked flexibly; home /community based. We are a small team, and we work closely and collaboratively together. A full Extended DBS will be required paid for by LLE.

For further information please email admin@linkingliveseastbourne.com.

To apply please send your CV and a Covering Letter – The closing date for application is 30th January 2026.

ALPHA

Next course - starts Wed March 4th, at 6.45pm, runs for 9 weeks.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Lucy Craggs:

lucy@victoriabaptist.org.uk



Elections

Our next church meeting will take place on 25th February, when we will be holding CLT elections. Although there will be two vacancies in February, we are able to advise that both Trevor King and Steve Francis are willing to stand for a second term. Other nominations are still welcomed however.



Nomination forms are available from the church office, along with information regarding Trustee roles and responsibilities. We would recommend that anyone thinking about standing for election should read this information. Nominations must be received by 28th January.

Members Directory



Sometime in the near future, an updated directory will be produced so please let the office know if you have any updates to let us know about - new address, change of e-mail address, change of telephone number etc.

And whilst on the subject of telephone numbers, I am proposing a radical change! In the past, I have listed 2 telephone numbers where appropriate, usually a mobile number and a landline. From this next update, I will only be giving one contact number - the majority of you now only have one number anyway. So, if you still have 2 numbers, please let me know which one you want me to use. If I don't hear from you I will use my judgement so it's probably in your interest to drop me an e-mail with your preference!

Hope that all makes sense! I look forward to being flooded with e-mails over the next few days! Colin

Linking Lives

Huge thanks to all who came to Flow Cafe and supported Linking Lives. The money raised makes such a difference to all we are trying to achieve. The absolute bonus to the morning was gaining new volunteers. Thank you!!



Blessings, Deirdre

WILLIAM TYNDALE

This year marks the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's first printed copy of the English New Testament and there are various celebrations planned to commemorate it in Bible societies and churches throughout the country. Why should we take note? The reason is, we owe this man a great debt, as you will see, for his courage, love of God, love of his fellow Englishmen and desire to see the Bible in their own tongue, as well as having a profound effect on the English language and culture.

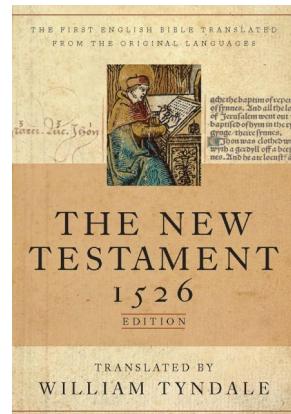
Synopsis of the historical facts

Tyndale's birthplace is not certain but historians put it near Dursley, Gloucestershire, about 1494, where he attended school and, as he grew up, was influenced by John Wycliffe's Lollards (preachers), who carried on Wycliffe's desire for church reform, and their early attempt to produce hand-written Bibles in Middle English (1382). Tyndale later attended both Oxford and then Cambridge to study and teach, where he learnt Latin and Greek and later mastered Hebrew and skills in German, French and Italian. It was at Cambridge (1517-21) he became more acquainted with the Reformation views started by Luther in Germany and became convinced of them.

After his ordination to the priesthood in the Church of England (1515) he served in London and then went on to become chaplain to the Merchant's Guild in Boston, Lincolnshire, and tutoring the children of Sir John Walsh at Little Sodbury Manor, Gloucestershire (1521-23). Here he started his English translation and under the protection of his host entered into lively discussions with the suspicious local Catholic clergy at the dinner table where he is reputed to have made this poignant remark, *"I will cause a boy that drive the plough, shall know more of the scriptures than thou dost."*

In 1523 he travelled to London to get the Bishop's permission and support for his translation but was refused because the church feared a challenge to their teachings on subjects such as: salvation by faith alone, priestly and Papal authority and the centrality of the Bible alone for right doctrine and edification.

In 1524 he went to the continent to get more support and found it in Germany where he met Martin Luther and finished his translation in Cologne, later publishing it in Worms in 1526. Copies of the pocket sized New Testaments were smuggled into England through his merchant contacts as there was great demand back home. Unfortunately, the Bishop of London ordered copies to be collected and burnt and Henry VIII and Cardinal Wolsey, on behalf of the Catholic Church, declared him a heretic and sent spies to track him down. Undaunted, Tyndale evaded capture, continued his work (1527-30), translating half of the Old Testament,



..... and, in Antwerp, published his revised version of the New Testament as well as other reformation booklets which he continued to send to England. This edition



was prized by the high and lowly and even Henry VIII's Chief Advisor, Thomas Cromwell, and the Queen, Anne Boleyn, had copies, being secret admirers (followers of the Celebrated book and TV series 'Wolf Hall' by Hilary Mantel will remember references to this).

While staying with Thomas Poyntz, an English merchant in Antwerp, he was betrayed by a fellow Englishman who lured him into a trap and he was imprisoned in Brussels for 18 months on the charge of heresy. Then, in October 1536, he was executed by strangulation followed by burning at the stake where he made his final prayer crying out, "Lord, open the King of England's eyes."

In 1539 his prayer was answered when King Henry, after breaking with the Catholic Church, changed his mind for political reasons and ordered the 'Great Bible', in Tyndale's English, to be placed in every church in the land.

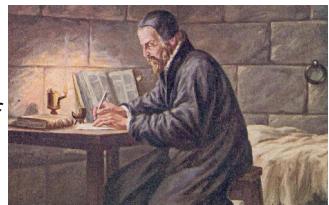
Why was Tyndale's Translation so influential and popular?

He gave the English people something they did not have before in their religious lives. The church service was in Latin, like the Bible the priests read from, and the Latin text was in an abstract, polysyllabic, complex form. Tyndale though, with his linguistic skills and going back to the original Greek (recently made more exact by Erasmus) and Hebrew texts not only recaptured the accuracy of translation lost in the Latin Vulgate version but was able to understand the Greek and Hebrew thinking/nuances behind them. This, along with his knowledge of the Anglo-Saxon, which everyday English people used, enabled him to produce a translation that had clarity, vibrancy, simplicity, plus an engaging sense of rhythm and poetry, capturing the hearts and minds of the English people. He translated it '*as people spoke, not as scholars wrote.*'

He simplified complex words: 'illuminate' became 'light', 'ingest' 'eat', 'cultivate' 'grow', 'incinerate' 'burn'. He introduced new words and phrases that have stood the test of time such as, 'beautiful', 'atonement', 'scapegoat', 'Judge not, lest ye be judged,' 'let there be light', 'he went out and wept bitterly', 'you are the salt of the earth' and 'fight the good fight'. As well as this simpler, meaningful vocabulary he changed the syntax (structure of sentences) to have more beautiful, memorable, emotive shorter words and sentences. 'The **beasts** of the **field**', 'the **birds** of the **air**'. Luke 2:8-11, describing the Angel's message to the shepherds is made up of 87 words with only 1 greater than 2 syllables in the King James Version.

*'And there were in the same country shepherds **abiding** in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,*

..... and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.'



What is Tyndale's Legacy?

When the King James Version came out in 1611 over 85% was Tyndale's work and he has influenced translators up to the modern day. His work was also foundational to modern English, providing future writers, such as Shakespeare, with words and phrases to make great literature and aid English becoming a 'world recognised, robust and expressive language.'

Most importantly, he achieved what he wrote in his preface to his New Testament, *'I have here translated (brethren and sisters most dear and tenderly beloved in Christ) the New Testament for your spiritual edifying, consolation and solace'*, helping many through the succeeding 500 years to know God personally through his Word in their own language. Now that's worth celebrating!

More information about his life and celebratory events can be found at The Tyndale Society: [William Tyndale](https://williamtyndale.org/)

A full length film of his life can be seen for free on You Tube:

<https://youtu.be/Lc6a-VqGfLU?si=JZBDzvK0M3BpBUkV>

John Demetriou

PRIVATE PRAYER

We are aware that some people would like the opportunity to come into the church sanctuary for private prayer occasionally and so we have created a prayer space that you are welcome to use.

It is situated in the far corner of the sanctuary by the door to the external balcony and is screened off for privacy and will be ready for use from **Monday 2nd February**.



Should you wish to come in and use this space, please ensure that you come into the building through the office door at the side and sign in and out. With the exception of Wednesdays, this space will be available every weekday from 10am.

Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by

Friends of VBC



*Thank you for the
lovely flowers.
They were a real
blessing. MP*

*Please thank the
church for the
flowers I was sent
on Monday - a
lovely surprise.
ME*



Can we ask that if you are donating the flowers that you either transfer your donation via the bank electronically - remembering to add the words "Flower Ministry" as your reference - or hand your cash donation in a well-marked envelope to someone in the office? Your cooperation in this would be much appreciated.

And we still have 3 blank dates in March which need filling!