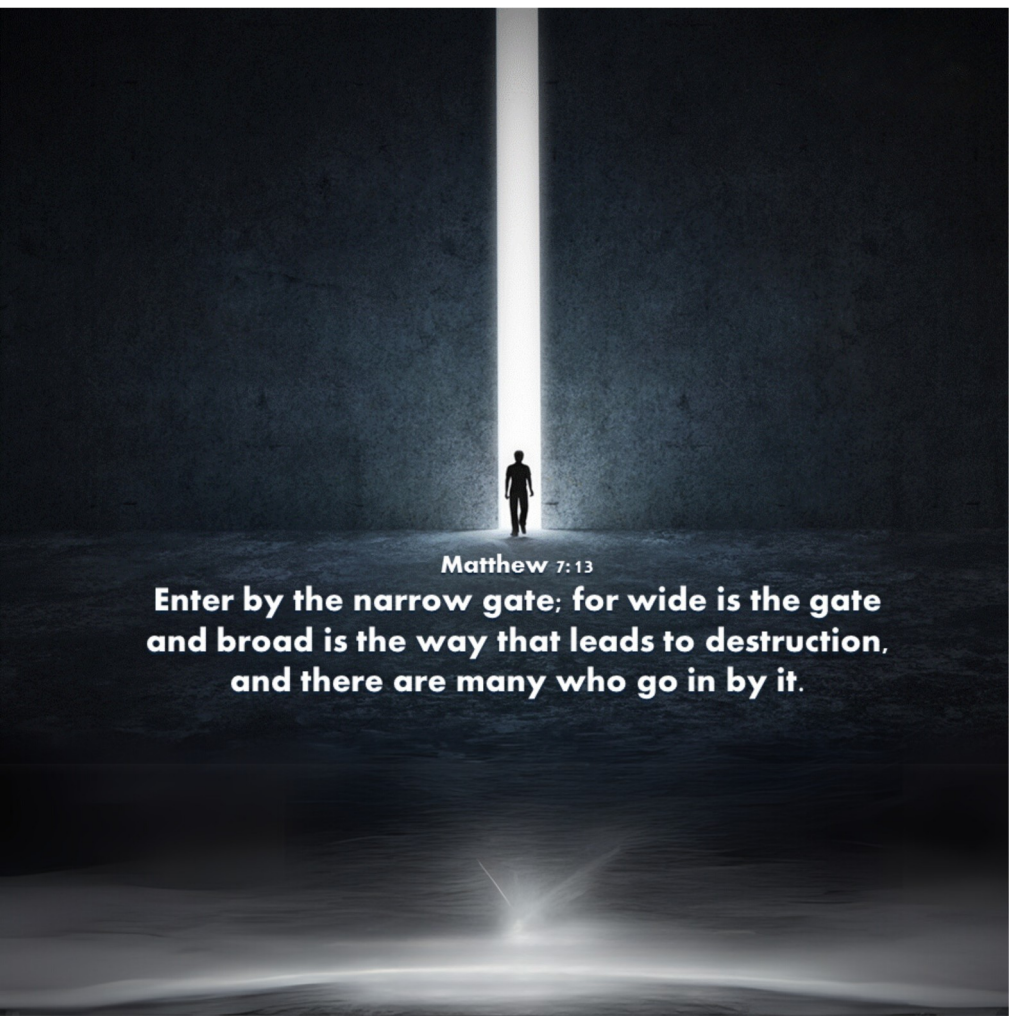


An aerial, blue-tinted photograph of a city street. A 'NO PARKING' sign is visible on the left side of the road. The image serves as a background for the title and date.

# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 25th May 2025

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a person standing in a narrow, vertical beam of light that cuts through a dark, textured space. The person is silhouetted against the light. The floor is dark and reflective, showing a faint reflection of the light and the person. The walls are dark and textured.

Matthew 7:13

**Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate  
and broad is the way that leads to destruction,  
and there are many who go in by it.**



## MATTHEW 7:7-14 - FINDING LIFE

*“Enter through the narrow gate.” (v13)*

It is often said that the gospel comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable. No statement could be truer about the passage before us this week. In it, Jesus speaks of the extraordinary generosity of God, the gift of life and the way every single person can freely receive it. We're also told the reason we must receive it and the consequences of refusing to do so.



These words of Jesus are, at the same time, some of the most comforting and disturbing words we could ever hear. Please pray that our consideration of them together, may result in people passing through the narrow gate and walking the road that leads to life.



### Next Week (1<sup>ST</sup>)

There will be **NO morning service at VBC on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June**. The churches of Eastbourne will be meeting at the Wish Tower slopes - NOT the bandstand as previously advertised - for the annual *“Thy Kingdom Come”* event. You will need to bring your own chair or a blanket to sit on. It starts at 10.30am.

**Next Sunday's (1<sup>st</sup> June) 6.30pm Prayer Meeting is also cancelled** whilst tonight (25<sup>th</sup>), we are encouraging those who are able, to join with **Suncoast Church** to pray for next week's *“Thy Kingdom Come”* event. This meeting will also be at 6.30pm.

**Please note also that our monthly communion service - invariably held on the first Sunday of the month - will have to be moved and will therefore be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

## STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week - office closed on Bank Holiday Monday

Chris in Tuesday

Colin

Phil in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm

Kevin off Sat

Simon annual leave

Tim in Wed am & Fri am

Julie in Thurs

Nadine in Thurs

Lucy annual leave

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**

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 Chris Short
- Mon 26 BANK HOLIDAY - Office Closed
- Tue 27 morning World Religions with Jez Taylor (postponed to 3<sup>rd</sup> June)  
12.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Sue Collier  
7.15pm Soaking in the Spirit - ladies only  
7.30pm World Religions with Jez Taylor
- Wed 28 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
8.15am Community Fridge  
6.45pm Alpha
- Thu 29 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)  
Men's Fellowship - next meeting 5<sup>th</sup> June  
2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Rev. Colin Crook  
evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)  
7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 30 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
- Sat 31 10.00am Gardens Tidy-Up
- Sun 1 10.30am Thy Kingdom Come @ the Wish Tower Slopes  
7.00pm Xcav8

**The Week Ahead**

## BAPTISM



It's not too late to tell us of your interest in being baptised. We already have 3 candidates interested for our next baptismal service, planned for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Please have a word with our senior minister, Chris Short, if this is something you would like to consider.

## TIDY UP

Many thanks to those of you who have already stepped forward to help with the tidy-up of the church grounds next Sat 31<sup>st</sup> (10am) In preparation for our Centenary Celebrations. We could still do with a couple more people so please speak to David Trimmings, or Colin or Sandra, if you feel you would be able to help.





## VBC Open GOLF

We have a provisional date booked for our very own Open Golf Tournament - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July with the first tee-off time at 3pm, at Willingdon Golf Club. If you have any queries, please see either Colin or Jez.



We have had another CAP client go debt free this week! This person had 20 debts and now can move forward without this burden on them and their family. Pray that they may know God's provision and protection for their future.

## MARGARET REILLY ...

... would like to say thank you for the love and support that has been shown to her after her fall. She has really appreciated the phone calls, visits and flowers and hopes to be back to church very soon.



## CONGRATULATIONS ...



... to Lily Chan who celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday last Friday (16<sup>th</sup>) with a Thai Curry! She is pictured here with Sonya and a couple of other long-standing friends, enjoying a meal at the Tweed Care Home.



## PRAYER DIARY : 26<sup>TH</sup> May - 1<sup>ST</sup> June

**Monday.** *"We have this certain hope like a strong, unbreakable anchor holding our souls to God himself. Our anchor of hope is fastened to the mercy seat, which sits in the heavenly realm beyond the sacred threshold."* Hebrews 6:19

Thank God for the strong hope we have in Jesus Christ, which holds us when life gets stormy. Pray that our lives may be beacons of hope pointing to Jesus in our workplaces, schools, and neighbourhoods. Pray for your next-door neighbours that they may find this hope. Pray for those recently bereaved that they may experience hope amid their grief,

**Tuesday.** *"I have deeply loved you with a forever-love; that is why I have been so patient and kind to draw you to my heart."* Jeremiah 31:3

Look back on your journey with God through your lifetime and thank Him for the everlasting love He has shown you over the years. Pray for members of your family and friends, that God's love may draw them to Himself. Pray for the youth and children's work at the church, that people may have the opportunity to know Jesus from an early age and have the joy of Him walking beside them throughout their lives with all the challenges they will face.

**Wednesday** *"He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that He cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end."* Ecclesiastes 3:11

Only God can fill hungry hearts. Pray for anyone you know who is looking in the wrong places to fill a void in their life, that they may find what they are looking for in God. Pray for those attending the current Alpha Course, which is meeting on Wednesdays, that those who are attending will commit their lives to God. Pray for those who are seeking but didn't make it to the course for various reasons, that God will bring them to that point where they believe.

**Thursday** *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* John 10:10

Pray for those who have recently come to faith. Ask that they develop deep roots and grow strong in their relationship with God, fully embracing the blessings that are theirs in Christ. Also, remember to pray for those you know who are facing struggles, that they may experience God's overcoming power in their lives and find supportive friendships..

**Friday** *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* Ephesians 6:12

Pray for those in authority in the UK and the World Leaders. May they be instruments of God's will and govern for the good of the people God has called them to serve. Pray for negotiations for an end to the war in Ukraine and an end to the violence in the Middle East. Pray for Christians who live in ...



... countries where they are persecuted for their faith that God will strengthen and encourage them and that by their witness, even those who currently oppose the gospel will repent and turn to God.

**Saturday** *"Then, on the most important day of the feast, the last day, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, 'All you thirsty ones, come to me! Come to me and drink! Believe in me so that rivers of living water will burst out from within you, flowing from your innermost being, just like the Scripture says!'" John 7:37-38*

There has been much discussion in the media about the 'quiet revival'. Pray that this will grow into a significant turning to God, transforming many lives and turning our society back to God. Pray that the spiritually thirsty may encounter God when they visit our churches looking for something, even if they're not sure what it is they're looking for.

**Sunday** *"I pray that the light of God will illuminate the eyes of your imagination, flooding you with light, until you experience the full revelation of the hope of His calling - that is, the wealth of God's glorious inheritance that He finds in us, His holy ones!" Ephesians 1:18*

Please pray for the United Service taking place today on Eastbourne seafront. Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal more about who God is and what He can do in our lives. Additionally, pray that God will touch the lives of those around us who do not know Him or have not yet experienced His presence. Pray for new and fruitful connections with others.



## Ladies' Away Day

We thank God for a day together last Saturday in a beautiful, sunny setting - for the teaching, worship, and time to reflect, and for adventures on our walks! Please keep sending in your feedback forms so we can make the next away day even better!

Lucy Craggs has the speakers' questions which she can e-mail to you if you would like to see them.

VICTORIA  
Eastbourne

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH

LOU

PRESENTS

# FELLINGHAM

— IN CONCERT —

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

**TICKET DETAILS:**

REGULAR: £5.00

**07.06.2025**

ELDON ROAD – EASTBOURNE



Visit our website for more details [victoriabaptist.org.uk](http://victoriabaptist.org.uk)  
For tickets email [helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk) or call 01323 737974

**Tickets are on sale in the office - and going well!**





# *The Fabric of Faith*

*An exhibition weekend to celebrate  
a beautiful history with displays of  
textiles, artefacts & guided talks*

## **Exhibition Opening Times**

Fri 6th & Sat 7th June ~ 10-4pm

Sun 8th June ~ 1-4pm

Free entry but donations welcome

Refreshments will be served

*Come and see your parish church in detail*



# Seeing CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

## WITH THE HELP OF TIM KELLER

### Part 16: Seeking Justice

*'The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.'*

Prov. 29:7

1. **The concept of justice** is mentioned a lot in Proverbs, and indeed the whole Bible, and is **an important quality of Christian character and wise living**. The Hebrew word implies more than just a legal meaning; it is related to 'righteousness', 'charity', 'equality' and 'giving what is due to someone'. Proverbs 29:7 tells us that the wise man 'cares about justice' and the Hebrew word for 'care' is the same word used of Adam 'knowing' his wife' in Gen.4:1 to have children. I.e. it denotes **the wise man has intimate knowledge and concern about justice**, as we shall see.

2. **Why do we need justice?** *'Her (wisdom's) ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.'* (Prov. 3:18) When God created the world He made it



with care and balance creating 'shalom', the Hebrew word used for 'peace' and 'blessedness'. But since 'the Fall' we lost that balance, including a right understanding of what justice is. Christian people are called to help restore it in our society. They know what 'justice' is because they follow **a God who is just**. Without belief in God, justice is in danger of being forgotten/misunderstood and society seeing it only as the 'survival of the fittest'!

3. **What does justice look like?** *'Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due,*

*when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbour, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it" - when you have it with you.'* (Prov. 3:27-28) There is a revolutionary principle here in the words **'to whom it is due'**. The teacher is reminding us **we have a 'duty' to help others when we see a need** because the Hebrew word implies 'they own your goods!' No wonder Paul and Jesus make this an imperative in the New Testament eg Acts 20:35, *'In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*' Individual Christians through the ages have taken this to heart and pioneered campaigns to improve health, education, abolish slavery, and improve working conditions etc for the disadvantaged. ....

4. **Who are the people who do justice?** *'When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.'* (Proverbs 11:10-11). **They are the 'righteous' and 'upright' wise believers following God's teaching, willing to disadvantage themselves to serve/help and benefit their communities** - as indeed Jeremiah exhorted the exiles in Babylon to do (Jer. 29:7). Paul also exhorts us to *'pray for all people'* (1Tim.2:1-2) and to *'add brotherly kindness, love* (ie 'agape', sacrificial love for others) to our faith. (2 Pet.1:7)



5. **How do we do justice like this?** It is a high calling! *'Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for His deed'. (Prov.19:17)* NOT by using a guilty conscience as our motive, but by doing it as a willing, natural response unto God because **we have truly grasped what Christ has done for us**. He came into this world, lived as a poor man, experienced injustice, especially in His passion where He was stripped of His clothes, imprisoned, went hungry and thirsty

and then was crucified by an unjust court. The more we understand and feel this undeserved love shown towards us, the more we will want to show righteousness and justice in our lives and follow in Christ's steps, as depicted by the 'wise believers' in Jesus teaching of Matt.25:31-45. *'Then the King will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."*

You can listen to the full sermon at: [Creation Care and Justice – Gospel in Life](#)

John Demetriou

## Core Leadership Team

There are 2 vacancies for the CLT and we will be having an election at the church meeting on Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>. Nomination forms are available from the office and will need to be submitted by August 27<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Information regarding the Roles and Responsibilities for this role are also available from the office and we would encourage anyone willing to stand to read through this before making a commitment.



## Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by  
**Gavin & Pearl Rendall**



A big thank you again to all of you who have stepped forward to fill the vacant dates recently advertised for donating flowers.

We now have 3 dates in July free but then only 3 further dates between August and Christmas. If you would like to consider contributing in this way, please contact Chris McMahon for more details.