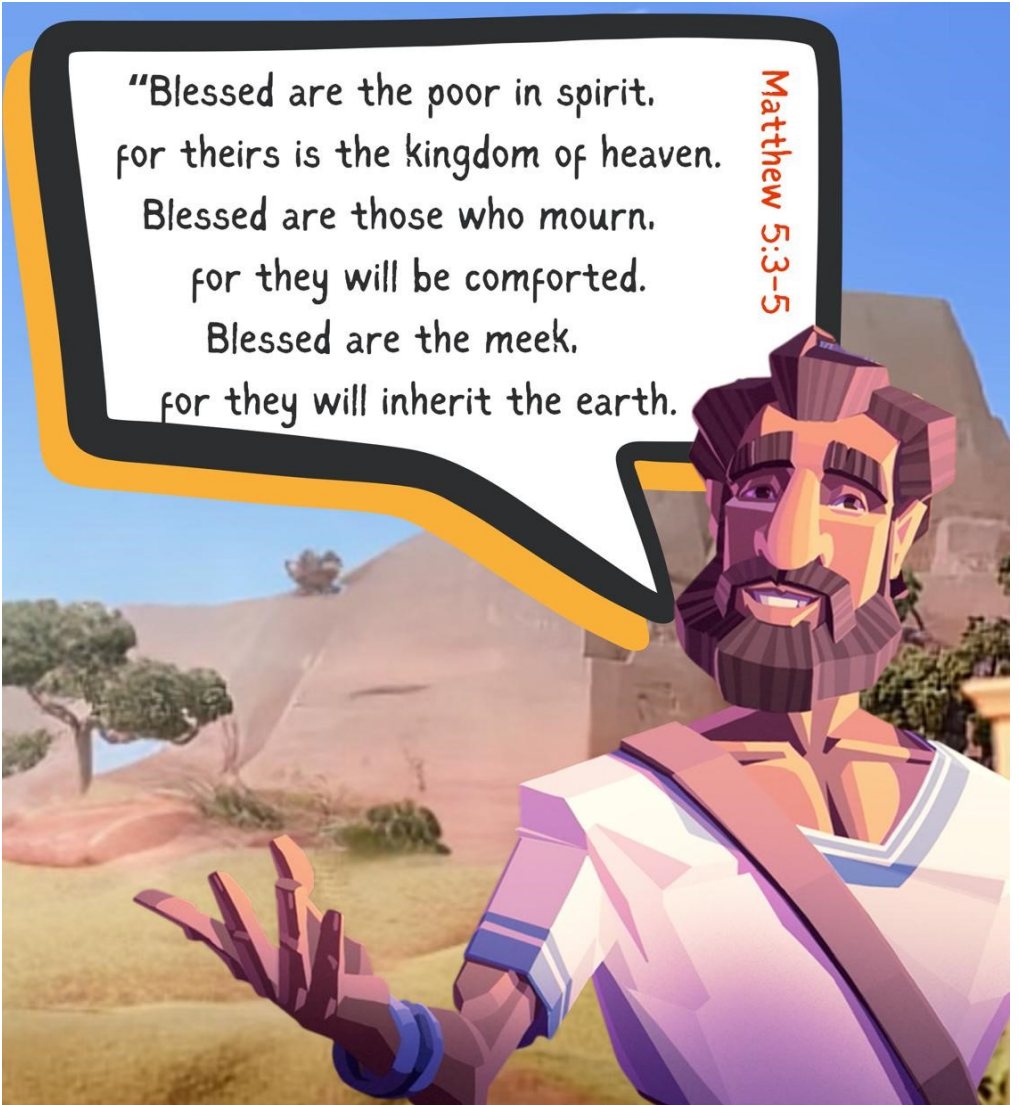


# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 26th January 2025

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:3-5





## The Sermon on the Mount – The Good Life

“Blessed... Blessed... Blessed...” (Matt. 5:3-5)

What do you think of when you think of the Good Life? If it's Richard Briers and Felicity Kendall you're giving your age away! What would it mean for you to be living the Good Life? What brings deep satisfaction, peace and a sense of well-being?

I guess some of us may think about sunshine and holidays or success at work and financial security. For others it's about good relationships and seeing our children prosper. For others it's taking the dog for a walk, swimming in the sea or going out for a meal with friends. I guess for our friends in Lebedyn it would be to live free from the threat hanging over them.



Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with nine statements beginning with the word 'Blessed'. We call them the beatitudes. This week we'll see that the first three turn his listeners' expectations of the Good Life upside down.

### TONIGHT

With a Baptismal service scheduled for Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, Chris is holding the first of a short series of baptismal classes this evening at 5pm. It is not too late to sign up so if this is something you have been thinking about recently and want to find out more, do have a word with Chris - or indeed just turn up to his office at 5.



### NEXT SUNDAY (2<sup>ND</sup> FEB)

Chris will be continuing the Sermon on the Mount series, and the 10am service will include communion.

## STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for this coming week

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	off Mon	Phil	in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm
Kevin	in Thurs & Fri	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed morning	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	annual leave	Lucy	in Wed am, Thurs, Fri am
Sandra	off Mon, Thurs	Jez	in Wed

### 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

Please note that **Jez Taylor** is undergoing a knee operation on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan and consequently will be absent for a week or two. He will still be contactable via text or e-mail - or a message via Sandra perhaps - but do please remember him in your prayers.

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 26 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office  
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short  
 5.00pm Baptismal Class
- Mon 27 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 28 7.15pm Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
- Wed 29 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
 8.30am Community Fridge  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 6.30pm Boys Brigade
- Thu 30 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)  
 12noon Men's Fellowship meeting at the Toby Carvery  
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Chris Short  
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting  
 evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)
- Fri 31 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 5.00pm Kids Club  
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 1
- Sun 2 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office  
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short - inc Communion  
 5.00pm Baptismal Class  
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting

**The Week Ahead**

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



Tom Duncanson Jan 26 Shoreham Baptist Church 10.30am  
 (Tom is the moderator at Shoreham)



**Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Baptism Service - please note that the preparatory classes, for those considering baptism, begin at 5pm today (Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>)

**Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb**

Hope Lebedyn anniversary event at 4pm

## ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



Many of you will be aware that VBC has a very significant milestone rapidly approaching this year. It's 100 years since the original church in Victoria Drive was opened and 50 years since the "new" church was opened here in Eldon Road. We couldn't let this occasion pass without marking it in a special way and giving thanks to God for 100 years of blessings. We have therefore set aside 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> June for a weekend of special events and an opportunity to meet up with some "old" faces.

More details will follow in due course but we would certainly recommend you put

the dates in your diaries. Apart from our normal Sunday congregation, we have also made contact with a number of names from the past and we hope to see a good number joining us for at least the Sunday, if not the whole weekend. We are planning a series of events which will hopefully appeal to people of all ages - and, even if a particular item doesn't appeal to you, it will be a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship with people you may not have seen for literally decades!



Watch this space for more news as we get closer to the weekend itself!

## CAPERNRWAY Team

We will shortly be welcoming a group of students from Capernwray (an international Christian Bible School situated near the Lake District). They will be staying with us for a week and getting involved in all sorts of activities during their time with us. Please bear in mind that we will need to accommodate them so we would appreciate it if you would give some prayerful consideration to offering them a room or two. More details about their stay will follow.



## BIBLE TIME WITH CRÈCHE

A new monthly event starts this coming week on Thursday morning (30<sup>th</sup>) at 10am.

This will give parents and carers the opportunity to enjoy a Bible Study session in the Garden Room whilst their babies/toddlers are looked after in a crèche set up especially for this.



Please take this chance to have some quiet time looking into God's Word as well as some quiet child-free time too!

If you want to learn more before committing yourself, please contact Lucy Craggs - either directly or via the office.

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## ANNIVERSARY



*Join Hollin and Lucy from Bramber Bakehouse on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February between 7.30pm - 9.00pm at King's Church as we celebrate our 10th anniversary. There will be an opportunity to hear more about the journey of Bramber Bakehouse, how they are supporting female survivors in Sussex, stories of God's faithfulness and plans for the future. There will also be an opportunity to give thanks and pray together.*

Book your place online <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bramber-bakehouse-10-years-on-tickets-1218097365009?aff=oddtcreator> or

contact [hello@bramberbakehouse.co.uk](mailto:hello@bramberbakehouse.co.uk) to book your place.

Alternatively, if you don't have access to a laptop/smart phone, etc contact the VBC office and they will do the booking for you.

## Urgent need!

Following the notice in the e-mail that accompanied last week's news sheet, and given the urgency of the matter, we thought we would repeat the message in this week's edition.

As you read this, please think through what this is all about.

Imagine Sunday mornings with no words on the screens and no opportunity for the preacher to show video clips, pictures

for the sermon, and so on. Imagine no microphones being available at the front. Imagine not being able to record, and indeed transmit live, the services for people around the country and beyond. Perhaps an exaggeration but this is what this plea is all about - enabling God's Word to be broadcast and reaching out to those watching online. And of course, enabling those of us attending the service to see and hear without any difficulty.



## Sound

We currently have 6 people who can do sound, but 3 of them also cover cameras. That sounds like enough but 2 of them often work on Sundays. One is on other rotas as well and can usually only cover one slot if that, and one is away a lot for family reasons and holidays.

## Projection

We became one short on projection when one of our young lads left to go to uni. We managed to recruit one guy who is not quite ready to fly solo. Recently another projectionist has told me that he wishes to stop doing tech as soon as possible. We therefore need at least one, preferably 2 more people for projection. **This is the most pressing need.**

## Cameras

We have 3 people who only do cameras, all of whom are on other rotas as well. I always need to use at least one of the sound team to cover cameras. **We need another person for cameras ideally.**

*Please give this matter prayerful consideration and contact Doug or Vanessa Howard if you require further information. Full training is provided, including working with one of the existing team before going it alone!*

## PRAYER DIARY : 27<sup>TH</sup> Jan - 2<sup>ND</sup> Feb

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Matt 5:3,4.*

**Monday** “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” Matt 5:7  
Father, we lift up and thank You for the recent peace deal in the Middle East which has ended the violence and allowed the exchange of hostages for prisoners. Lord, fill the hearts of both sides with mercy, compassion and reconciliation so that a permanent way can be found for Israelis and Palestinians to live peacefully as neighbours.

**Tuesday** Thank You, Father, for sending us Your Son, the greatest teacher, as we study and learn from His Sermon on the Mount. Pray for the appointment of a family worker and for them to have the right qualities to teach our children and young people so they may grow their faith and know Jesus as their Saviour and Redeemer.

**Wednesday** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” Matt 5:6  
Lord, we lift up to You the many people who are struggling to pay their bills, heat their homes and feed their families. We pray for the continued donation of resources so that their needs may be met through Foodbank and Community Fridge. Father, bless the CAP ministry team and all those it has helped to become debt-free.

**Thursday** “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth “ Matt 5:5  
Almighty God, as a new president, and leader of the western world, starts his second term in office, we pray for the Holy Spirit to impart spiritual meekness amongst those that lead us. May this president find his spiritual meekness as strength under God’s control, and being filled with the fruit of the spirit, wisdom, piety and most of all a respect for You.

**Friday** “Carry each other’s burden and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.” Gal 6:2  
Please pray for volunteers to come forward to help manage the cameras, projectors and sound desk. These systems allow God’s word to reach those online at home as well as ensuring the music, words and illustrations are seen on the screens in our church. Father, we thank You for all the blessings we have in this world, remembering they are a gift from You that requires the collaboration of many hands.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**



**Saturday** Pray for the Ladies Away Day planned for May 17<sup>th</sup> that it be well supported and that those attending will grow their relationship with the Lord and with one another. Bless Carrie Baker as she prepares to speak and Lucy Craggs and her team as they plan the day .

**Sunday** “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” Matt 5:8  
Lord, we pray, as we gather together to worship this morning, that through the Word You have given to our minister, we can search our hearts, make them pure and see You clearly. Give us, Father, Your heart for our neighbours and for the world around us. Help us every day to see through Your eyes, the truth of what is, what has been and what is to come.



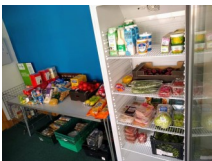
## Men's CURRY NIGHT

Please note the next night out for men will be **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7pm**. We will be trying out a new curry venue as a result of our VBC mystery diner research. The menu will be with the sign up sheet in the Welcome Centre within a couple of weeks.

## Ladies' Breakfast

Please note that there has been a change to the list of dates recently advertised for this event. The meeting originally scheduled for **Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>** has been changed to **Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>** .

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.



## COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Please note that the team have sufficient carrier bags for now. Many thanks to those of you who responded to our appeal.

# Seeing CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

WITH THE HELP OF TIM KELLER

## Part 5 'How to really Know God thru Godly fear'

Having looked at introductory lessons from the Book of Proverbs in previous articles, we now come to some of the specific teaching to be found there. In it, and the rest of the Bible, there are many references to the effect that 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning and continuation of wisdom'. What does that mean in practice?



1. We must begin with God in our mindset. 'In the beginning God ...'(Gen.1:1). We must keep God central to our lives if we want to keep in touch with reality and be wise. 'Love the Lord your God with all your soul .... This is the great and first commandment.'

2. Learn to 'fear God' as the Bible means that term, not by being scared of Him, but in joyful awe, wonder and humility. The word is linked to love and forgiveness in scripture (eg Deut.10:12, Ps.130:4). Psychologists tell us that what we most fear is what we most desire; so if what we most fear is to displease God, we show how much we love Him. The test of our love of Him is not head knowledge but how much we know Him personally and experientially, i.e. when spiritual truths become more real to us than physical things as many Godly people have attested in their journals.

3. The 'fear of the Lord' means to trust Him unconditionally with no 'ifs' to modify our discipleship/relationship with Him. As one Godly lady put it, "Can you imagine the God who made the universe just being regarded as your assistant?"

4. If realising this is our aim as Christians how do we get to that point of trust? Proverbs hints at an answer in its middle section. "Who can say, 'I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin'" (Prov.20:9). "Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the Lord evil is avoided." (Prov. 16:6). We must realise our sinfulness before God and **our need for steadfast love/trust to bring us close to Him**. This was fulfilled in the NT in a real concrete example of love WHEN Jesus took our sins on the cross and obeyed God to be our sin offering, trusting implicitly in His ability to rescue Him.

“He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him,” (Matt.27:43) said the religious leaders, and God honoured that trust as He will do for all who follow Jesus’ example and put all their confidence in Him.

5. One final bit of advice; this trust is not a once for all experience but something, as Christians, we work at daily to grow into in our different situations. *‘Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - **continue** to work out your salvation with fear and trembling’, Phil.2:12*

To hear and benefit from the full sermon by Tim Keller go to:

<https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/knowing-god-4/>

John Demetriou



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## Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by  
a friend of VBC



*AP was delighted to receive, and very appreciative of, the flowers delivered to her this week as she celebrated her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. She has them on public display in the care home where she lives to show everyone what a caring, loving church family she belongs to.*



Vacant dates for flower donations -  
**Feb 16, Mar 2, Mar 9**  
and plenty of dates  
from April onwards.