

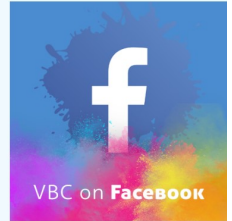
Live in CHURCH and
online



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



Jonah 1:4-17: How Can You Sleep?

“The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.” (Jonah 1:6)

This week we’re returning to our series on the book of Jonah. The section 1:4-17 has a similar in-out shape as we saw when we looked at the whole book. If we follow that we can see that the section has two parts v4-10 and v11-17. The first part is the problem revealed, the second is the problem resolved. This week we’ll focus our attention on the first part.

Together, we’ll see that Jonah’s disobedience, indifference and hypocrisy makes him a danger to those around him. We should be able to see in that a few lessons and surprises for the church. We may also see that we all need one “greater than Jonah” and can give thanks to God that He has come.



This Evening

There is **no** Alpha course this evening.

Jez will be leading the next session of Bible Academy Deep Dive at 6.30pm

Next Week(s) (2ND June/9TH June)

Chris Short will be continuing his series in the book of Jonah at our 10am service next Sunday (2nd), which will also be a **Communion Service**, and there will be a **Church Prayer Meeting** at 6.30pm that evening.

Daniel Fairhead will be preaching on 9th June, also on the book of Jonah, whilst **Alpha** will take place at 6pm on both evenings. The next **Bible Academy Deep Dive** will be on 9th June at 6.30pm.



STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the coming two week are as follows:

Chris	off Tues		
Sandra	off Thurs	Tim	in Wed & Fri mornings
Colin	annual leave, back Tues 4 th		
Jez	in Wed & Fri mornings		
Erik	off Thurs	Simon	annual leave, back Fri 31 st
Julie	in Thurs	Nadine	in Mon & Thurs mornings
Kevin	off Sat	Phil	in Tues am, Weds, Thurs pm

The office will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday (27th)

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:

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- Sun 26 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live and online with Chris Short
 6.30pm Bible Academy Deep Dive
- Mon 27 BANK HOLIDAY - Office Closed
- Wed 29 8.30am Community Fridge and Cafe
- Thu 30 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Rev Colin Crook
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 31 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 12 noon Men's Fellowship meal @The Smugglers, Pevensey
- Sun 2 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live and Online with Chris Short to include communion
 6.00pm Alpha (Why and How should I read the Bible?)
 6.30pm Church prayer Meeting
- Mon 3 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tues 4 7.15pm Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
- Wed 5 8.30am Community Fridge and Cafe
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 2.45pm Thanksgiving Service for John Purkiss
 6.30pm Boys Brigade
- Thu 6 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.15pm Men's Fellowship - AGM/Communion
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship- Annual Report
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 7 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 8 10.00am Flow Café and BSL Café
- Sun 9 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live and Online with Chris Short
 6.00pm Alpha (How does God guide us?)
 6.30pm Bible Academy Deep Dive

The Weeks Ahead

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*



Francis Bates	May 26 th	Polegate Free Church, 10.30am
	June 2 nd	Five Ash Down, 11am
Erik Cornelisse	Jun 2 nd	Woodingdean Baptist, 10.30am

1st June - Please support Kevin & Pam in their Briar Patch Summer Fayre, 10am-4pm, with woodcrafts, handicrafts, and much more. Nikki's Burger Van will be an added attraction!

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)

8th-11th Aug - Summer Holiday Club - details to follow



JOHN PURKISS



Please note that the Thanksgiving Service for John Purkiss will be held here at VBC on Wed 5th June at 2.45pm. The family have requested that those of you attending do not wear black, but wear brightly coloured clothes as we all celebrate John's life.

Refreshments will follow the service at 4pm or thereabouts and if you would like to join the family for this, please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre as soon as possible, purely for catering purposes. And for those of you who enjoyed John's articles for the news sheet over the past 2 or 3 years, we have access to what were probably his last three articles which never made it to print. The first of these can be found on page 9.

Ann Haxton - former member Ann Haxton's Thanksgiving Service was held in Leatherhead on Monday. VBC was represented by Keith & Jo Pamphilon, who very kindly brought back a few orders of service booklets for anyone here who wants to see it. They are available in the office if you are interested.

Sheila Stubbs - some of you will remember Sheila Stubbs who was a fairly regular attender at the Reflections and Women's Fellowship prior to Covid. We were sorry to hear that Sheila passed away last weekend. As I write this (Thursday), today would have been her 78th birthday. If there are any funeral details forthcoming, we will pass them on to you.



PRAYER DIARY 27TH MAY - 2ND JUNE

“Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore He will rise up to show you compassion, for the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him.” Isaiah 30:18

Monday Father, we lift up to You all those who speak out in Your name for justice, at great risk to their careers and well being. Lord, where there is neglect of care in government services, the NHS or Social Services, may those that make it public be honoured and protected. We thank You, Father, for giving courage to the faithful who live by Jesus’s example at all times in their place of work.

Tuesday “ They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will wage war against the Lamb and the Lamb will triumph over them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings”. Rev 17:14 Father, as an arms race gathers pace, and the countries run by dictatorships become more belligerent, we pray earnestly for Your intervention. We lift up to You the people of Ukraine, struggling to hold back Russia; the Middle East with war raging in Gaza; and the many other areas of conflict around the world. Lord, bring peace to our world and convince the dictators that those who faithfully follow You will triumph in the end because You are the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Wednesday Dear Lord, in our Ethos Statement we pledge, through the Holy Spirit, to engage in evangelism and mission in every aspect of our lives. Father, fill us with the Holy Spirit so we may boldly speak of Your Son to those with listening hearts, whenever the opportunity arises. We especially lift up to You the Alpha group, the Omega group, the Community Fridge and the Men’s and Women’s fellowships. May these gatherings be fruitful opportunities to help people to begin their journey of salvation.

Thursday “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in harmony.” Ps 133:1

Father, in these fractured times, we pray that the churches of the world would unite around worshipping one God, You, the Almighty Lord, and follow the teaching of one gospel, the God-breathed scriptures, the Bible. We lift up to You the Baptist Union, our own VBC leadership team, and our own families. Father; fill us with the wisdom and grace to be understanding of others, but always to seek out the truth You have shown us through the life and teaching of Your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Friday Heavenly Father, we lift up to You those suffering memory loss (or dementia). Fill them with Your presence so they are aware that You will never forget them. Pray for those caring for them. Give them patience, resilience and grace as they look after their loved ones 24 hours a day.

Saturday Loving Father, we pray Your blessing on all the children and students preparing for, and taking, exams. Fill them with Your peace and let them know You are ever present in their time of need. May they know they are loved by You and that You have a plan already mapped out for each one of them.

Sunday Psalm 118:24 "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it". Father, as we meet to give You thanks and praise, we celebrate the joy and freedom we have to meet and worship with other Christians from every walk of life, joining together to be one body and one voice for You.



PRAYER DIARY 3RD - 9TH JUNE

Psalm 65 *You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. You crown the year with Your bounty, and Your carts overflow with abundance. The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.*

Monday Jeremiah 32:17 Give glory to God for His awesome creation, which He gave to us to care for. Be thankful for His sustaining hand over all things. Ask God to prompt us how to care and nurture our environment with our eyes on Him and with thankful hearts.

Tuesday Revelation 4:11 Praise our Father for the seasons, the miracles of seeds and joy of the harvests. Give thanks for the diversity of nature and for the beauty of our landscapes. Think about all science tells us of water cycles, of ecosystems and of habitats for creatures; pause and think "This is our God." Ask God for opportunities to speak this truth out.

Wednesday Genesis 2:15 Ask God's forgiveness for when we have not taken our responsibility to His world seriously. Reflect on good stewardship and how we can make improvements to avoid wastefulness or exploitation of the amazing resources He has provided for us. Give thanks for the increasing opportunities we have to use renewable or less harmful resources.

Thursday Psalm 41:1 Pray about those who are suffering from environmental disasters or from climate change. Pray for quick, compassionate relief and for plans for the future which have sustainability and integrity at their heart. Pray for victims of flood, earthquakes, drought and the subsequent human consequences such as homelessness, sickness, or famine. Ask God to show us how we can love our neighbour and do what we can to prevent these events.

Friday Proverbs 29:4,7 Pray for those nations that have scarce resources, reflect on how we can alleviate the injustice.. Lift to God those people who are suffering because of pollution or exploitation of their minerals, forests or waterways for profit or for development. Think about communities who have lost their livelihoods and are split up in the search for work. Pray for those organisations such as Water Aid that work to right wrongs and support those who are suffering through no fault of their own.

Saturday Leviticus 25 Pray for decision makers and environmental pressure groups. Ask God to pour His oil on those who campaign with aggression, ask that their message can be delivered with grace so that we can see the issue or problem more clearly. Open our eyes and ears to give support to those who seek to improve our environment, right injustice and provide a better future for our earth.

Sunday Read through **Psalm 104** as a prayer and give praise to God for His great goodness. Worship Him on this day with thankfulness for His creation, for His word and for the freedom to look with awe to the Downs surrounding our town.

***Psalm 33:6-9** "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; He puts the deep into storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere Him. For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm".*



For those of you who enjoyed my previous books, here is my new one! A new genre for me, a thriller. It is not "Christian" but has positive Christian undertones. My purpose in writing it is to challenge the usual writer's concept that religious people are the bad guys and an atheistic approach is rational and normal.

The book contains clear conflict between good and evil. There is some violence, bad language and suggested scenes of intimacy. The book is available on Amazon. **Jez Taylor**

PETER – THE Man who became a Rock!

In every list of the twelve, it is Peter who is named first. Peter is the name which we know best, the leader of the apostolic band but, in the New Testament, he has three other names as well.

The first is in Mark 1:16 “As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother, Andrew, casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.” And then Mark speaks of Simon’s house and of Simon’s wife’s mother. “As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever ...” Mark 1:29. When Cornelius is directed to Peter, it is Simon for whom he is told to enquire. “Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter.” Acts 10:5

He is called Simon in the intimate moments of his relationship with Jesus. Jesus calls him Simon when he bids him to launch the nets into the deep. “Jesus said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch.’” Luke 5:4

In his great commendation at Caesarea Philippi: “Jesus asked, ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’” Matthew 16:15

Twice in the New Testament, Peter is called by the name Symeon: By James: “Simeon has described to us how God at first showed his concern by taking from the Gentiles a people for himself.” Acts 15:14 Symeon is the original Hebrew form of his name and Simon is a Gentile modification of Symeon. It was in the church at Jerusalem that Peter was called Symeon, and it was natural that in the church, the original Hebrew form of his name should be used.

How then did Simon become Peter? It was Jesus himself who gave Simon his new name. “He appointed Simon to whom he gave the name Peter.” Mark 3:16. When Andrew brought his brother, Simon, to Jesus, Jesus said, “You are Simon, the son of Jona: you shall be called Cephas” which is by interpretation, a stone. As we shall see, Cephas and Peter are different forms of the same name. Jona means ‘dove’ and Cephas and Peter mean ‘a rock.’ Jesus is saying, “Up until now, you have been like a fluttering, timorous dove but, if you give your life to me, I will make you a rock.” In the new name, he gave to Peter, Jesus put all his hopes and purposes for Peter’s future. In speaking of Peter, the gospel writers very frequently put his old and new names together, and call him Simon Peter. “Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’” Matthew 16:16

We have already said that Peter and Cephas are the same name. Peter is the Greek and Cephas is Aramaic for a rock. In the ancient world, nearly everyone spoke Greek, as well as his own native language. The result was that most people had two names, Greek known in the business world, and the second known in private amongst friends. We know more about Peter than any other of the twelve. This may well be because of ... 9



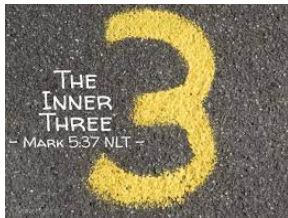
the very close connection between Peter and Mark. So close was it that when Peter wrote his own first letter, he spoke of “Mark, my son,” 1 Peter 5:13. Mark became Peter’s interpreter. He wrote down accurately everything he remembered. We can see that Mark’s gospel is nothing other than the preaching material of Peter. Peter kept nothing back. He tells of his own mistakes - rebukes from the master; his disloyalty – Peter concealed nothing for he wished to show the lengths to which the forgiving love and grace of Christ had gone for him.

Peter was a **fisherman**, and it was from the boats and nets that Jesus called him. “As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother, Andrew, casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ‘Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will make you fishers of men.’” Mark 1:16

Peter was a **married man**. “Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas?” 1 Corinthians 9:5

Peter was a **Galilean**, never short of courage, quick tempered, impulsive, emotional, easily aroused by an appeal to adventure.

Peter reached the **leading** place among the twelve. “These are the names of the twelve apostles: the first, Simon....” Matt 10:2



Within the twelve, there emerged an inner circle of three who were especially close to Jesus: Peter, James and John. They were with Jesus at the raising of Jairus’ daughter. Mark 5:37. The trio were close to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt 17:1), in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt 26:37), and prepared for the last Passover (Luke 22:8).

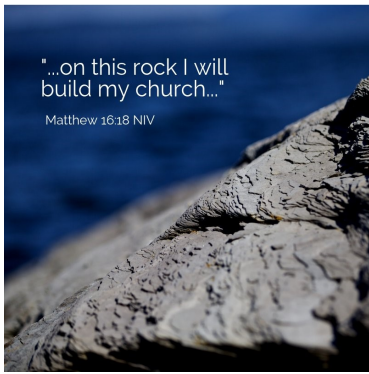
In the gospel records, Peter stands out as the **spokesman for the twelve**. It is Peter who asks “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” Matt 18:21

It is Peter who asks about the fig tree which had withered away; it was to Peter the Jews came to ask if Jesus paid his taxes. Matt 17:24. It was Peter who answered when Jesus asked who had touched him in the crowd. Luke 8:45. It is Peter who asks questions of the Risen Christ. John 21:20–22

Peter’s Great Declaration

Jesus asked his chosen men if they were going to desert him. Peter made a great declaration, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” John 6:69.

Jesus took his disciples away to the north of Caesarea Philippi for a time of intimate teaching. Jesus asked what men were saying about him. Some said that he was John the Baptist, some said he was Elijah and some said he was Jeremiah. So Jesus put a direct question to Peter. “Who do you say I am?” Dear old Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Mark 8:27–29. Peter appeared always to be the first to discover who Jesus of Nazareth was. It was then that Jesus said to Peter, ...



... “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church” (Matt 16:18) which meant that Peter was the first member of Christ’s Church on earth.

Following Peter’s answer, there came the great rebuke. No sooner had Peter made his great confession than Jesus foretold his own inevitable death Mark 8:31 Peter was shocked and horrified, and protested to Jesus that these things should never be. Jesus’ answer to Peter’s protest was, “Get behind me, Satan!” Mark 8:32.

What a shattering rebuke: Peter’s horrified reaction, and we ask why? It came from love. Peter loved Jesus with a passionate heart. It was very painful for him that Jesus’ life was to end upon a cross. The announcement of Jesus ran counter to everything that Peter had been taught or believed. Such action for Peter was to him incredible.

Peter was to endure an even blacker time. There was the night of great denial. In the Upper Room, Peter affirmed his unbreakable loyalty to Jesus. Matt 26:31–35

In the courtyard of the High Priest’s house, Peter’s Galilean accent betrayed him. When he was challenged on his association with Jesus, he denied that he had ever known him. Mark 14:66–72. Meanwhile, the other disciples had melted into the shadows, terror-stricken, and they fled.

Peter does not end with denial. He received the Great Commission! After the death of Jesus, Peter rejoined the other disciples, which must have taken great courage as they would have known about Peter’s denial.

It was Peter who was the first to enter the tomb of the risen Jesus. John 20:6

It was to Peter that Jesus sent a special message. “But go tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you,’” Mark 16:7

Then, by the lakeside, Peter was given the commission to be the shepherd of the flock of Christ. John 21:15–17

The story of Peter continues in the early chapters of Acts that Peter had become the leader of the Church. It was Peter who made the first move to choose a replacement for the traitor, Judas. Acts 1:15

It was Peter who: preached the first Christian sermon. Acts 2:14–40; with his friend John, healed the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. Acts 3:1–11; defied the Sanhedrin when he and John were arrested for preaching Christ. Acts 4:1–22; healed Aeneas and Dorcas. Acts 9:32–43; was instrumental in opening the door of the Church to the Gentiles. Acts 15:7–11

It was the tradition of the early Church that Peter went to Rome about AD 61 where he was martyred. From fisherman to preacher, he had many faults but, shining through was a loving heart, always demonstrating his love for Jesus! What a man!

Flower Ministry

No Service - no flowers last week.
Normal service will be resumed this week.



And the reason for the no service/no flowers, was of course the churches combined service at the Bandstand. Very well attended, including a good number from VBC. Thanks to Erik for the photos!

Just want to thank you for the lovely bunch of flowers re Francis 80th!

*Knowing there was no service on 19th assumed no flowers so even more of a surprise! My neighbour left them in water for us in our kitchen and we are enjoying them
Thank you so much F&JB*

We still have a vacancy for someone to join the rota for bunching the flowers on Monday mornings. If you would be interested - training given if necessary - please contact Chris McMahon for more info.

