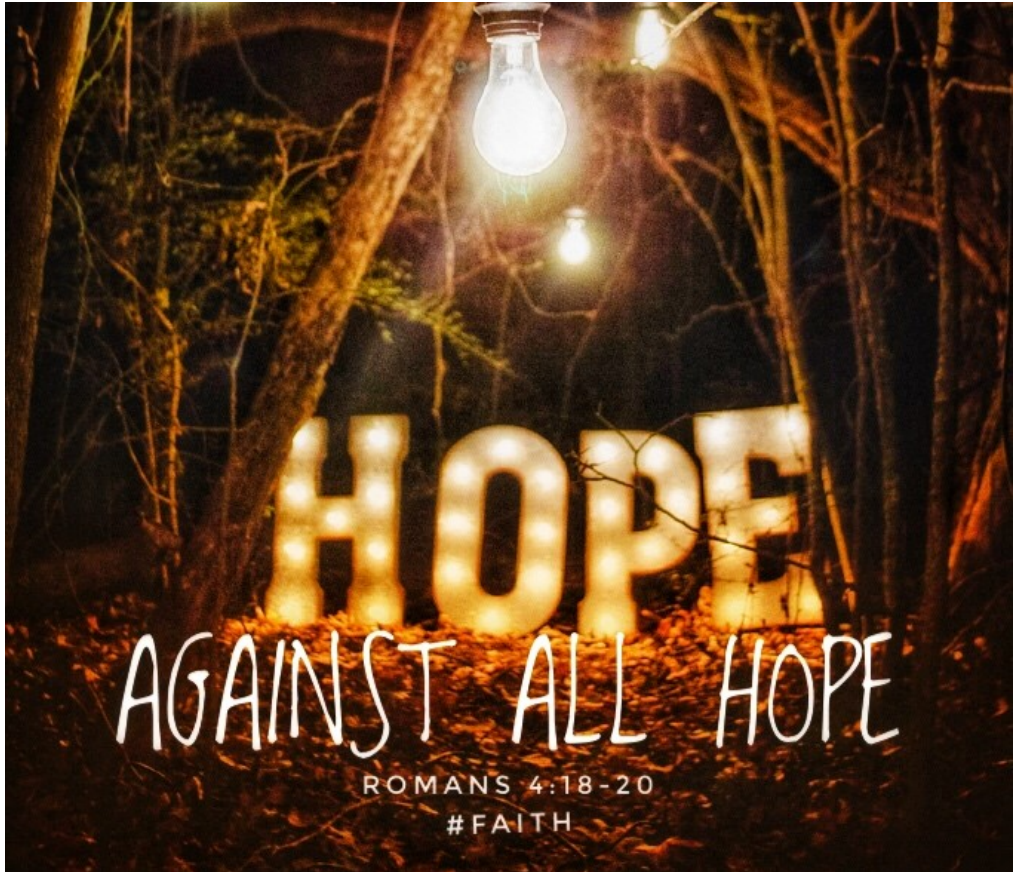




Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**VICTORIA** Baptist Church News





**This week's message is brought to us by our Senior Minister, Chris Short  
10am at the church and live online via YouTube.  
And at 4pm we will be continuing the Passion for Life series (see page 5)**

## Faith - Romans 4:13-25

**“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations.” (Romans 4:18)**

Faith is often portrayed by secular people as irrational. In *The God Delusion*, Richard Dawkins wrote: “Of course, dyed-in-the-wool faith-heads are immune to argument, their resistance built up over years of childhood indoctrination using methods that took centuries to mature.”

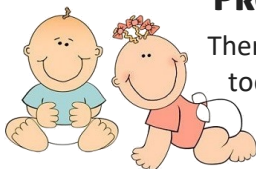
My own experiences of childhood indoctrination were entirely the other way, but you get the point. Faith, according to Dawkins, is incompatible with reason. That view has been popularised in our society in all kinds of ways. Faith in God is privatised and dismissed. God is driven out of the public sphere and before you know it, the false gods of greed (gambling) and lust (pornography) are mainstream.

But is faith in God really incompatible with reason? When Paul describes faith he points to Abraham. As we shall see Abraham's faith was far from irrational but rather based on very clear thinking. It was also lived out in the mess and complications of life.

We'll look at that faith this week and consider if our faith reaches the level of Abraham's.



## Pre-SCHOOL CHILDREN



There will be an area set up in the Welcome Centre for babies & toddlers (up to 4 years of age) at anytime during the service. The service will be live on the Welcome Centre TV. The good news is that Sunday Bees (for 2-4 year olds) will be starting up next week!

## STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Chris will only be in on Monday this week as he is on a retreat from Wednesday to Friday. Sandra will be back to normal working hours after her holiday and will be taking Thursday off; Erik & Simon have their usual day off, also on Thursday, and Colin will be off on Monday and Tuesday. Tim will be working in the office on Wednesdays and Julie continues to work on Thursdays.

**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

**Treasurer:**

Louise Hughes

**Finance Assistant:**

Julie Hanks

**Pastoral Team Leader:**

Tim Nunn

**01323 737974**

Eldon Road, Eastbourne

BN21 1UE

helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

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](mailto:firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk) (eg [chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk))

## BOOKING SEATS FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Please remember that you only have to book in advance for a seat if you want to be socially distanced. Your seat will then be reserved.

## The Week Ahead

|         |         |   |
|---------|---------|---|
| Sun 26  | 9.40am  | Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office   |
|         | 10.00am | Live at VBC and online via YouTube - with Chris Short   |
|         | 4.00pm  | Afternoon service - <i>A Passion for Life</i>   |
| Mon 27  |         | Girls Brigade - first meeting back postponed until 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct<br>(approval not yet received from GB headquarters to start back on 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept) |
| Tues 28 | 7.15pm  | Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)   |
| Wed 29  | 10.00am | Vicky Bees  |
|         | 10.00am | Rosemary's funeral at Eastbourne Crem - all welcome   |
|         | 5.15pm  | Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)   |
|         | 6.15pm  | Boys Brigade (ages 8-18)  |
| Thu 30  | 7.30am  | Prayer Meeting (for men only)   |
|         | 2.30pm  | Women's Fellowship with Tim Nunn  |
| Fri 1   | 10.00am | Alpha Prayer Meeting - in the Small Hall  |
|         | 10.00am | Vicky Bees  |
|         | 5.00pm  | Kids Club   |
|         | 7.00pm  | Xpect   |
| Sat 2   |         |   |
| Sun 3   | 9.40am  | Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office   |
|         | 10.00am | Live at VBC and online via YouTube - with Jez Taylor<br>Communion led by Chris Short  |
|         |         |   |
|         | 4.00pm  | Afternoon service - Interview with Steve & Sherree Francis  |



## AND FURTHER AHEAD ...

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Sat 9 Oct, 10am        | Flow Café                                     |
| Sun 10 Oct, 4pm        | St Wilfrid's Hospice Thanksgiving Service     |
| Tues 12 Oct, 6.45pm    | Introduction to Alpha                         |
| Thu 14 Oct, 2.30pm     | Celebrating the life of Rosemary Ward-Jackson |
| Sun 17 Oct, 10am       | Baptismal Service                             |
| Sat 30 Oct (afternoon) | Thanksgiving Service for Jill McKay           |
| Wed 24 Nov, 7.30am     | Church Meeting - CLT elections                |



# a passion for life

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 (ESV)*

This week, in our afternoon service, we will be focusing on “Loving our neighbours.” This session aims to encourage us to be involved in and help build community, thus creating opportunities to share God’s love and the gospel.

There will be a video presentation and time for discussion and prayer. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

If you are unable to make it this week, then here is a link to the video and a few questions for you to consider once you have watched it:

<https://www.apassionforlife.org.uk/sessions/loving-our-neighbours/>

- What communities has God called you to? Think about where you live, work, study etc. Are there any communities you could try and get involved in?
- How can you be more intentional about praying for those in that community to come to know Jesus? Are there other Christians in this community who could pray with you?
- How could you be a light for Jesus within these communities?
- Think about some ways you can share about and speak clearly to people in in your communities.

Finally, spend some time in prayer:

- Thank God that He is a relational God who humbly came in Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.
- Ask God to help you to be involved and active in building community and friendships with those in your life.
- Ask God to help you to love dearly and speak clearly to those in our communities about the gospel.

**Let's get inviting.**

## **Alpha 2021**



**This October, VBC is running an Alpha Course.**

**Alpha is a course which explores the foundations of Christianity. It's relaxed, low key, and gives guests the chance to ask questions and explore the Christian faith. Dinner is also included**

**Do you know anyone that you'd like to invite? Why not attend the first few sessions with them?**

**Alpha 2021 starts Tuesday 12th October, 6.45pm, VBC.**

**To book or for more information, please email [tim@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:tim@victoriabaptist.org.uk)**

## **HARVEST SERVICE**



Please bring whatever you are able for our Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021; to Church **by** midday on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021. We gratefully receive not only dried goods/drinks; but also toiletries etc. and would also like some foliage or plants. All Harvest Festival donations will go to Foodbank.

Thank you.

*Bev Ebdy*

## Flow Café

We are delighted to say that Flow Café is starting again in October! Our first session back is on October 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12pm. Please join us for cake, coffee, crafts and chat. This month we are celebrating St. Wilfrid's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and all proceeds will be given to them.

We are looking forward to welcoming you back.



**Live Streaming** A reminder to you all that our morning services are live streamed. Please bear this in mind during children's talks and family services, when children may be invited onto the stage. If you do not feel comfortable with your child appearing on YouTube, then please don't allow them to be on stage at any time.

## Rosemary Ward-Jackson

We are planning an afternoon tea here to celebrate the life of Rosemary. Some of Rosemary's family will be here, including her husband Roger and daughter Helen, and we feel it would be a good opportunity for us to remember her together in an informal setting. Also ... Rosemary really loved her cake!!

The tea will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm.

If you would like to attend, then please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre so we know how many people to cater for.



 **SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**  
*Exploring Gods word together*  
**WE NEED YOU!**



**Sunday School needs helpers and leaders!**  
**If you feel you are able to help (once a month) with this  
ministry please let me know.**

**Simon**  
**[simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk)**

## Update

From last week's photo of the 1980s choir we have had some updates to the list that was published, Many thanks to those who have contacted us with these updates. The latest names to be added are in red (or in bold and italics if you're reading a non-colour version).

|    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1  | Gerry Page                               | 27 | June Elledge                               |
| 2  | John Newth                               | 28 | Diane Game                                 |
| 3  | Peter Wain                               | 29 | Jan Harrison                               |
| 4  | Steve Huxley                             | 30 | Margaret Francis                           |
| 5  | Malcolm Hayes                            | 31 | Connie Young                               |
| 6  | Mark Basford                             | 32 | ?  |
| 7  | <b><i>Stuart Gammon</i></b>              | 33 | Joyce Prentice                             |
| 8  | Tim Firth                                | 34 | <b><i>Carol Stanley (nee Prentice)</i></b> |
| 9  | David Francis                            | 35 | Averil Huggins                             |
| 10 | Cyril Young                              | 36 | Julia Kirk                                 |
| 11 | Bert Francis                             | 37 | Rosalie Jacques (nee Stevenson)            |
| 12 | ?  | 38 | Shelagh McNulty                            |
| 13 | <b><i>Tony Donaghue (BB Captain)</i></b> | 39 | Christine Robson (nee McCullough)          |
| 14 | ?  | 40 | Shirley Papps (nee Francis)                |
| 15 | Pauline Francis                          | 41 | Kath Latham                                |
| 16 | ?  | 42 | Lynn Parry                                 |
| 17 | <b><i>Tony ?</i></b>                     | 43 | ?  |
| 18 | Glynis Chappell                          | 44 | Keren Newth                                |
| 19 | Maureen King                             | 45 | Marguerite Warburton                       |
| 20 | Rose Bunn (nee McKendrick)               | 46 | Elizabeth Newth                            |
| 21 | Liz Walke (nee McKendrick)               | 47 | Mary Wain                                  |
| 22 | ?  | 48 | <b><i>Christine Warwick</i></b>            |
| 23 | Joyce Ayres                              | 49 | ?  |
| 24 | ?  | 50 | ?  |
| 25 | ?  | 51 | Lynn (? An American lady?)                 |
| 26 | Jackie Woodhouse                         |    |  |



## Coffee

As you know, we are beginning to start serving coffee and tea after the morning service. To make things easier, we are asking if you would kindly bring in your own reusable mug. We will have a limited number of paper cups available for those of you who forget or for visitors. This will mean we won't need a washing up team for now.





## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ST WILFRID'S HOSPICE

Forty years ago in October the churches in Eastbourne were very active in the founding of St Wilfrid's Hospice in the town. We are now very pleased to give thanks to God for the wonderful work that has been done over those forty years. On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 4pm a Thanksgiving Service will be held at Victoria Baptist Church. Staff and friends of the Hospice, along with one or two people who have benefitted from the work of the Hospice, will be taking part. We trust that many will come to give thanks to God for St Wilfrid's and to pray for the on-going work that is so vital for people at very challenging times in their lives.



### COMMUNITY CRAFT



One of our newer members at VBC, Barbara Scrutton, was very involved with the Norfolk Knitters and Stitchers. This group's website says that, *"There are now 2191 members and 135 groups around the county knitting, crocheting and stitching for charity. We support many charities from orphanages and families abroad to small projects at home. Age is no barrier - members range from the young to some well over 100."* Barbara

would very much like to initiate something similar here in Eastbourne so if this is something that appeals to you, you might like to contact her or let us know in the office. We have already had interest following last week's publication of this notice so let us know if you would like to add your name for this very good cause.

If you want more information, before committing yourself, you might like to look at the website mentioned above <https://www.norfolkknitters.org.uk/>

### TOOLS WITH a MISSION ...

... is a charity which doesn't get as much publicity as it might! Brian Simmonds is our local rep and has been carrying out this work for many years. As the TWAM website says:

*"We are a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts*

*them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation. We send around 20 containers filled with over 300 tonnes of tools every year."* So, if you are looking at getting rid of some unwanted tool (including sewing machines, IT equipment and all sorts in fact, we can store them here until it's time for Brian's next collection.

# TWAM

## Tools with a Mission

## PRAYER DIARY: 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER

*Isaiah 40:29&31: “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.”*

**Monday** An “Eternal Wall” is to be built in the centre of Britain near Birmingham. It is to be constructed of a million bricks, each one to represent an answer to prayer given by Jesus. Pray for the success of this new project & that it will be a reminder to people of our Christian faith.

**Tuesday** Pray for the continued rollout of the Covid vaccine programme. Remember those involved in this process in all its stages through the community.

Pray also that richer countries will strive to supply vaccines to poor countries like those in Africa where infection is rising dramatically.

**Wednesday** VBC has sent ministers and other Christian workers into new roles in this country and the world. Pray for these people in their new roles, that they will further the gospel of Jesus in their communities.

**Thursday** Our world today is a very unstable and insecure place, both physically and politically. Pray for people affected by geographical events and those worried for the future because of shortages and price rises of daily necessities.

**Friday** Pray for all who have been bereaved or who are unwell, that God’s healing and peace will be with them and their families supporting them during this time. Pray also for the clinical and caring staff in hospitals, and in the wider care community, who treat them.

**Saturday** Pray for our ministry and leadership teams as they prepare for tomorrow’s services. May they be led by the Holy Spirit to inspire and encourage us in our walk with God.

**Sunday** Give thanks to God for the work of the Scripture Union which has been bringing the message of Jesus to children and young people for almost 150 years. Pray for this vital work in the community trying to reach the 95% of children who do not go to church. Many have come to faith through the work of this organisation.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**



# JOB APPLICATION

With this letter, I would like to respond to the opportunity to apply within Your workplace. First of all, I would like to let You know that I am enthusiastic about the stories I have heard and read about You and it seems to me a great challenge to start to work for You. I am a man, aged 52 and am not scared of hard work. I would like to introduce myself as a candidate for the position of Christian.



In the job description, You state that it concerns a job of approximately 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I would like to add a small caveat here: I have a social life that I like to schedule time for too. I also like eating, travelling and times of rest. I really want this job but unfortunately I only have a few hours a day for this position within Your work environment. Some days, maybe even less. I would also like to talk to You about my possible future salary. You speak in Your vacancy about the reward that will be great in heaven. I would like to propose that I would receive my wages weekly. If this causes problems, a monthly payment is also an option.

In the job requirements You have: Believe in Me, that's all I ask. Despite the fact that You do not set any requirements in terms of experience, education and qualities, I would like to summarize how much I have already done and what I have already achieved. I have many years of experience in attending church services, I am nice to my fellow man and I have the Bible in the cupboard and easily accessible when needed. In terms of education, I tried to pay attention during RE lessons, even if I found them mostly boring. I have qualities in abundance. I am: sweet, cheerful, peace-loving, patient, good, faithful, gentle and composed. I just want to say that I have a lot to offer You.

Then I would like to talk to You about the employment contract: It is a permanent appointment for eternity. This is a bit on the long side for me. I'd like to do a trial run first, just to see how things go between us and then decide whether to stay or not. Just in case things don't gel between us and we would be stuck with each other. Furthermore, I did not have the time to read Your vacancy cover to cover, as it has almost 1,200 chapters. This was too much for me and I was too busy with all kinds of other important things. Despite these - I think - reasonable demands on my part, I think I am the perfect candidate for this position.

I therefore hope that this letter is sufficient to be invited for an interview.

With best regards,

Christian

## FLOWER MINISTRY

The flowers last week were donated by Shirley Whittle, in memory of Les.



And from one grateful recipient of the flowers on Monday -  
*it was a really caring gesture and means a lot to us to know we are in your thoughts. ...*  
*... the flower ministry is a real blessing to the congregation ...*

