

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 27th April 2025

VICTORIA
BOOKS

SORT YOUR LIFE OUT

MATTHEW
6:19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”



Matthew 6:19-24

Sort Your Life Out!

TV is full of programmes whose aim is to show how you can reorganise your life, clear out the clutter or renovate a shabby part of your house. At times they can be compelling viewing as people struggle to shed years of clutter and possessions that they have been clinging to in the hope that these objects will somehow bring them happiness or joy. In our passage today, Jesus challenges us to sort our lives out, to make important choices to either store up treasure with Him or store up earthly treasure. What we fill our lives with reveals our deepest desires; these are our treasures. Jesus wants us to choose Him over the things the world has to offer, so that He becomes our treasure!



Next Week (4TH)

Chris Short will be bringing God's Word to us. He will be continuing the series on the Sermon on the Mount and this service will include a time of Communion.

The regular fortnightly Church Prayer Meeting will be at 6.30pm.



Advance Notice

There will be NO morning service at VBC on Sunday 1st June. The churches of Eastbourne will be meeting at the Bandstand for the annual "Thy Kingdom Come" event.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	off Mon	Phil	in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm
Kevin	sick leave	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed am & Fri am	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs	Lucy	in Wed am, Thurs, Fri am
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 27 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Jez Taylor
 7.00pm Xcav8
- Mon 28 6.00pm Girls Brigade
 7.30pm CLT Meeting
- Tue 29 10.00am World Religions with Jez Taylor
 7.30pm World Religions with Jez Taylor
- Wed 30 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 6.30pm Boys Brigade
 6.45pm Alpha
 7.30pm Church Members' Meeting
- Thu 1 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.15am Men's Fellowship with Sandra Voss
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Alan Packard
 evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 2 10.00am Vicky Bees
 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 1.00pm Thanksgiving Service for Brad Greening
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 3
- Sun 4 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short, including Communion
 6.30pm Church Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8



Men's non-Curry Night - 7th May (see Keith Pamphilon for info)
Friends, Food & Fellowship - 16th May



Brad Greening

Brad's Thanksgiving Service will be held here at VBC on Friday 2nd May at 1pm. If you would like to join Nancy & the family afterwards for refreshments, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Centre.

Henry Kirkman - Thursday May 8th has now been confirmed as the date for Henry's Thanksgiving Service, again at 1pm. As with Brad, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Centre for refreshments after the service.



Eddie Purse - many of you will remember Rev. Eddie Purse and his wife, Cynthia Purse, members here over 20 years ago before moving down to the Bournemouth area. Prior to joining VBC, Eddie played a leading role at Frenchgate (now known as Gateway) They fairly recently returned to a nursing home in Horam but Eddie was admitted to the DGH last week and passed away on Tuesday evening.

Sue Collier We were sorry to hear the news that Sue passed away at 6am today (Friday) after a short illness. Please continue to uphold Nigel and the family in your prayers.



PRAYER DIARY : 28TH APR - 4TH May

John 17 - Just before His arrest and crucifixion Jesus' prayed for Himself, His disciples and finally for all believers, i.e for us.

Monday v20 – “I pray also for those who will believe in me through their (the disciples) message” Lord, we thank You for the faithful people through time who have spread Your message. We give thanks for those friends, family or church workers who influenced us along the way. Thank You for their obedience to You to spread the good news of the Gospel. We give thanks that the message is one of hope in You, Lord, and in the sacrifice of Jesus. Help us to remember this great love through the whole year and not just at Easter.

Tuesday Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the living message that is still proclaimed today. We pray for church leaders, pastors, ministers and priests who continue to uphold Your Truth in our post truth society. We lift to You our own ministry team and particularly Chris. We pray for the future Head of Family Ministries - we know You have plans for us. We give thanks for the Alpha Course, due to start `on Wednesday, we pray for those who will attend and for those that continue to spread Your message. We pray again for the strengthening of the believers spreading Your message in Lebedyn and in all Ukraine.

Wednesday v21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in me and I am in You. Lord, Your pattern of unity is so special, sacred, holy. We give thanks that we have Your great example to follow. Help us to be in unity with You and with one another. Lord, we pray for friends within VBC, particularly those who are struggling at the moment. Lord, we pray for believers across Eastbourne and we give thanks for Churches Together.

Thursday v21b May they also be in us so that the world may believe that You have sent me God our Father, we pray for Christians around the world, we are united by Your love. Help us to show that love so others may believe. Strengthen us, Lord, to be Your hands and feet, to honour You with our talk and to be salt and light in our daily lives. We pray for those mourning the loss of the Pope and we ask that this time too will reflect Your love and message to a watching world.

Friday v23 let the world know ... You sent me and have loved them even as You have loved me. We thank You, Father, for Your great love that You gave Your only begotten Son, that whoever believes shall not perish. You have lavished Your love upon us, blessed us with abundance, freedom, and hope. We give You thanks. Help us to spread Your love in our communities and over the world. Make us diligent to pray, as Jesus did, for the poor, the hungry and those that suffer. We pray for workers among the displaced, we lift peacemakers ...

FUEL FOR PRAYER

... to You, and medical teams working around the nations. We bring to You those Christian brothers and sisters bringing Your hope into the world.

Saturday v24 I want those You have given me to be with me...

We can only just begin to understand, God in Heaven, of the great hope we have because of Jesus. Thank You for the hope of the perishable becoming imperishable, the dishonoured being raised in glory, weakness becoming power. We struggle, Lord, to understand the impact of Your resurrection. Help us to trust in Your unfailing Word, in Your great love and the hope we have in You. Thank You that when the trumpet sounds we will be raised with You. Help us Lord.

Sunday v25 Righteous Father, though the world does not know You, I know You and they know that You have sent me. Help us Lord, to draw near and learn more today. We worship You in unity, our great, righteous, loving God. Help us Lord to fix our eyes on Jesus, to continue to give thanks for His sacrifice made for all times and for all people. Help us to rejoice with others around the world because of our Salvation. May the message we hear today help us to make You known to others.

'Le Pas Opton' in France



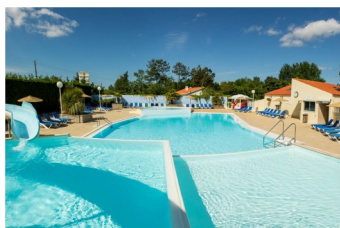
The 2025 Season for Le Pas Opton (Spring Harvest Holidays) begins on 12th May in the Vendee region of Western France, It promises to be another fruitful year providing a safe place in a Christian environment where families are encouraged to relax,

have fun together, and at the same time have opportunity to be spiritually refreshed ready for the return home. Unlike the Spring Harvest Main Event in the UK, this is predominantly a holiday park and all activities are totally optional. However, there is opportunity for Worship and various 'Feature Weeks' are highlighted throughout the season (See www.springharvestholidays.com for further details)

In preparation for the season, the weekend of 2-4 May is a training weekend for the new Animateurs and staff, during which the site will also be soaked in prayer.

Ruth and I will be involved and then leading the first of the feature weeks which will be in the form of a 'Retreat'. These are somewhat quieter and more focused on reflection and meeting with God in a personal way, yet still being able to enjoy the holiday environment.

Tom Duncanson



A very big thank you to all who came to Flow Café on 12th April to support our CAP Ministry. We managed to raise an amazing £290 for CAP. This money has been sent straight to CAP Headquarters to help with their Welfare Cuts Response. Please join us on **10th May**, when we will be raising money for our **Boy's Brigade**.



Please note that the following Flow Café on 7th June will take a slightly different format as we will be celebrating our centenary over that weekend.

HOPE^{into}
ACTION

EASTBOURNE

Enabling churches to house the homeless

You will be pleased to hear that Kingdom Way Trust (KWT) has now bought a house in Old Town which will be a Hope into Action property. You may remember that VBC is going to be working alongside KWT to support the tenants and help with furnishing the property. There is currently a small group of people involved in this (always room for more volunteers) who will be doing some training in the next couple of weeks. You can also get involved by praying and by helping us to source furniture for the house.

We will need the following: sofa/armchairs, dining table and chairs (4 people), undercounter fridge, undercounter freezer, microwave, toaster, kettle, bin, basic crockery, cutlery, kitchenware and utensils (think sending a teenager off to Uni!).

We also need 3 single bed bases with “as new” mattresses if possible, 2 bedside cabinets, 2 chests of drawers, small desks and chairs, bedside lamps and waste bins. If you can supply any of these items, please contact the office and we can arrange collection. If you want to know more about this ministry, please visit

<https://www.kingdomwaytrust.org/hope-into-action>

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO BE OUT ON THE ROAD

There are some lovely ladies who would like to come to the Women's Fellowship on Thursday afternoons 2.30 – 3.45 p.m. They need transport to and from Victoria Baptist Church. While they sit at home all on their own, they could be with their friends enjoying the reading of the Bible, prayer time, listening to an encouraging speaker, or a testimony about how Jesus has saved and helped someone, even an up-date on missionary work. **Could you be a driver** (to join others on the rota) during term time? It would be a 'labour of love' and such a blessing making the sacrifice of time. (You could bring your laptop or a book and sit comfortably in the Welcome Centre between runs, if you don't want to go home, unless you would like to join the meeting!!)



Please contact **Avril Coombe**, or the Office.

**The Good
Friday
service
poem
(written by
Bob
Hartman) -
published
here after a
number of
requests.**

JESUS LOOKS DOWN

There are people down there who want him dead.

The Roman soldiers who nailed his hands and his feet to this wooden cross, and are gambling for what little he has left in this world.

And the religious leaders too – laughing their heads off and making fun of him.

‘You thought you were somebody special.’

‘You thought you knew better than us.’

‘Well, just look at you now.’

JESUS LOOKS RIGHT

There’s a thief hanging on the cross next to him. And his words are filled with hate as well.

‘You saved other people – the blind, the sick, the lame. So why can’t you save yourself – and me with you?’

JESUS LOOKS LEFT

There’s another thief hanging there. But his words are very different.

‘Leave him alone!’ croaks the second thief to the first. ‘We’re here because we deserve it. But this man has done nothing wrong.’

And then he looks Jesus in the eye. ‘Take me with you, please – to a better place when I die.’

And Jesus looks back. And nods. And says, ‘Today you will be with me in Paradise.’

AND THEN JESUS LOOKS DOWN AGAIN

His mum is standing there.

His mum – who talked to an angel
and had a baby in a stable
and watched that baby grow into a man
and turn water into wine
and talk to thousands at a time
and now stands there watching him die.

There are tears in her eyes. And so Jesus calls to his friend.

‘John,’ he says. And it hurts so much to talk. ‘Take care of my mum for me, please. Just as if she was your mum too.’

AND FINALLY JESUS LOOKS UP

The sky is dark. The rain is falling. It’s as if there are tears in his Father’s eyes too.

‘I’ve done what you asked me,’ he says to God. ‘I’ve told them about you. I’ve showed them how to live. And now, with my death, I’m taking away all the bad things anyone will ever do. It’s finished. It’s over. It’s done.’

AND THEN JESUS CLOSES HIS EYES

And, for you and for me, he dies.

SEEING CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

WITH THE HELP OF TIM KELLER

Part 14: Guidance: Which Way?

**Commit to the LORD
whatever you do,
and your plans
will succeed.**

- Proverbs 16:3 -

♡ heartlight.org

What an important subject to understand and get right for Christians, as there are pitfalls to avoid and this subject has caused much confusion. Proverbs provides some helpful lessons on how to be wise regarding this subject.

1. First, some Biblical foundational ground rules. The Bible teaches two apparently opposite mentalities in

Proverbs that are relevant (a paradox). On the one hand, we are responsible for our actions and it is unbiblical to have a fatalistic/passive attitude to life where we just say, *'It is all in God's hands so we don't make an effort to change things'*. No, the Bible teaches, **we are meant to take responsibility**, use our minds and act wisely, including when making decisions. *'The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.'* (21:5). On the other hand, the Bible also teaches **God's sovereignty in our affairs**. *'The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.'* (16:9) *'The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.'* Even in our sorrows and difficult times God is working out His purposes. The key to wisdom when seeking guidance therefore is **to apply both aspects in our thinking and practice**.

2. How does this work out in practice?

a. **There is a cost to it.** We must be prepared to surrender to God's will wherever He takes us and accept whatever situation we find ourselves in, whether good or bad. This is the deeper meaning many miss from the verse in 16:3 *'Commit your way to the Lord, and your plans will be established.'* A superficial reading sees us bringing our plans to God for blessing and us benefitting, but it has the opposite meaning. We need to come to God **completely open to how and where He will lead us**. It's people with that attitude whom God will help. An example of this is Paul in the New Testament. Before, as Saul, his plans were self-centred. *'I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth'* (Acts 26:9 KJV) but how different he was after his conversion on the road to Damascus. We find him subdued and *'behold, he is praying'* (Acts 9:11) waiting and now open for God to guide him.

b. Because of the two foundational Biblical principles mentioned in 1 above, **we must not be afraid to make our own decisions!** God expects this of us rather than waiting for some big feeling or sign etc. Proverbs message is that the wise man who lives close to God **can be trusted** to make wise decisions and we need not be afraid to take on this responsibility because **we know God is sovereign and working out His purposes.** An example in the New Testament is when Paul, as a prisoner, on his way to Rome by ship, was involved in a storm. God had shown him through an angel that he and all on board would be safe but it did not stop him acting, using his initiative, to stop the sailors getting away or encouraging them to take heart and have some food (Acts 27:21-36).

c. We can also get advice and test our ideas, by **discussing them with other mature Christians** to help us *'The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.'* (12:15)

3. Where can we find help to trust God implicitly, realising how weak we are? Our **faith in Jesus covers our shortcomings.** The New Testament teaches, *'He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with him graciously give us all things?'* (Rom. 8:32) The more we understand this truth the **more confident we can be** to make difficult decisions because we know a Sovereign God is with us and has our good at heart. Joseph discovered this, after his long ordeal of hardships, when he told his brothers, *'You intended to harm me but God meant it for good'* (Gen.50:20) or when Thomas asked Jesus, *'How can we know the way?'* and Jesus replied, *'I am the way....'* John 14:5-6. May we have the courage and faith to do likewise.



Why not hear the whole sermon online and get the full benefit of its message at:
[Your Plans: God's Plans – Gospel in Life](#)

John Demetriou



Ladies Away Day

We have been really pleased with the initial response to this event - Sat May 17th at Glyndley Manor, 9am-4pm. If you haven't yet bought your ticket, they will be on sale again on Sunday with next week being your last opportunity.

Please see Lucy Craggs for more details.

Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Joan Wells



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers below that were delivered to me on Monday. A lovely surprise. YC

