

# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 28th June 2026



BE  
MERCIFUL,  
JUST AS  
YOUR  
FATHER IS  
MERCIFUL.

LUKE 6:36



## **Natalie Williams Jubilee+**

Natalie Williams grew up in relative poverty in the deprived seaside town of Hastings. She is now chief executive of national Christian charity Jubilee+ and speaks and writes on poverty, class, justice, and the mercy of God. Natalie describes her latest book, *'Tis Mercy All – the power of mercy in a polarised world*, as her life's message. Her previous books include *Invisible Divides* (on class issues in the church) and *The Myth of the Undeserving Poor*. Natalie is passionate about the church being a place of overflowing mercy, especially for those trapped in poverty.



Natalie will be speaking on the mercy of God – first of all exploring how incredibly merciful He has been to us, then reflecting on Jesus' call to His followers to "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36). She will illustrate her points by referring to a number of Bible verses from the Old and New Testaments .

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## **Next Week (5<sup>TH</sup> JULY)**

Chris Short will be bringing God's Word to us as he continues in his series in the Book of Revelation.



and  
the twice-monthly Prayer Meeting will take place at 6.30pm

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week -

Chris is off on Monday & Tuesday

Colin is off on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Julie is off on Thursday

You may not be aware that Phil and Shirley Papps will be leaving us in a few weeks, relocating to be near their daughters. You will see on page 6 an advert for Phil's position as the Cap Debt Centre Manager and naturally we have very mixed feelings on their departure - disappointment that he is leaving the role he has filled so admirably these past couple of years, and of course, leaving behind the friendships they have developed - but we are pleased that he is following God's calling in this move. We pray now that we will soon fill the vacancy.

## Senior Minister

Chris Short

## PA to Senior Minister

Sandra Taylor

## Church Administrator

Colin McMahon

## Caretaker

Kevin Virgo

## Head of Family Ministries

Emily Jenkins

## Children's Ministries

Simon Grimes

## CAP Debt Centre Manager

Phil Papps

## CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

## Finance Manager

Mark Evason

## Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

## Ministry Assistants

Lucy Craggs (Women)

Tim Nunn (Discipleship)

Jez Taylor (Life Groups)

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](mailto:helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

[www.victoriabaptist.org.uk](http://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk)

- Sun 28 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
 10.00am Live@10 with Natalie Williams  
 7.00pm Sunday Evening Youth
- Mon 29 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 30
- Wed 1 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
 8.15am Community Fridge  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 1.00pm Wedding of Steve Elliott & Josephine
- Thu 2 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting  
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Eric Pavey  
 6.45pm Omega (contact Tim or Ruth Nunn for details)  
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 3 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 5.00pm Kids Club  
 7.00pm Friday Night Youth
- Sat 4
- Sun 5 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short  
 7.00pm Sunday Evening Youth

**The Week Ahead**



Wed 15 July - **Men's Curry Night:**

Sign-up sheet is now in the Welcome Centre.  
 With places limited you need to sign in asap!

Fri 24 July - **VBC Open Golf Tournament**  
**Willingdon GC - 4pm**

Please register your interest with Colin or Jez by  
 next Sunday (5<sup>th</sup>)

VICTORIA  
Baptist Church Eastbourne

# KINGDOM BUILDERS

Holiday Club

Reception to Yr 6

WE NEED YOUR  
LEGO

6 AUGUST  
10am - 12:30pm

THURSDAY

7 AUGUST  
10am - 12:30pm

FRIDAY

8 AUGUST  
10am - 12:30pm

SATURDAY

Do you have any LEGO you no longer need? Please can we have it for this years Holiday Club 'Kingdom Builders'?

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

or 01323 737974



## Victoria Baptist Church is recruiting for a CAP Debt Centre Manager 20 hours per week

**Are you passionate about sharing your Christian faith? Are you drawn to support those in great need?**

Victoria Baptist Church has worked in partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) since 2020, to provide a free debt advice service to those in need in Eastbourne. We have a thriving and highly regarded Debt Centre, seeing 4 new clients a month.

### **Debt Centre Manager**

We are looking for a 'people person' who can engage with the local community and provide the first line of support for families struggling under the weight of unmanageable debt.

In-depth financial knowledge is not essential because the debt advice is prepared by CAP's head office team who also negotiate with creditors and work with each client until they are debt free. CAP will also provide full training and ongoing support for the role.

This exciting role will include:

- continuing to build and grow the Eastbourne CAP Debt Centre
- promoting the CAP debt service locally
- recruiting a team of volunteers
- visiting clients in their homes (accompanied by another volunteer)
- looking for opportunities to share the Christian faith with clients and connect them with the local church
- carrying out a fact find with clients and then returning to communicate the financial plan produced by CAP
- going above and beyond in supporting clients whilst on their journey to becoming debt free, together with the volunteer team
- managing a CAP Debt Coach
- working with other local charities, NHS services and the local Council

We will employ someone for 20 hours a week, starting in Autumn 2026. At least two half-day sessions need to be within regular working hours (9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday).

Salary: £15.50 per hour. Travel expenses for client visits are included. You will be provided with a laptop and mobile phone. If you are new to working as a CAP Debt Coach, training will be delivered in November. You will be paid during this training period.

**If you are interested please contact Phil Papps ([philpapps@capuk.org](mailto:philpapps@capuk.org) 07851 501126) or the church office ([helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk) 01323 737974) by 9am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July or sooner. Initial interviews will be conducted in the week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2026.**

There is an occupational requirement for the Debt Centre Manager to be a Christian and to become a member of Victoria Baptist Church.

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## DELIGHT IN THE LORD

### DELIGHT IN THE LORD



Margaret Barham

*“The LORD is in His Holy temple; the Lord is on His Heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; His eyes examine them.” Ps 11:4*

We live in times of increasing violence and wickedness and it seems that the foundations of our society are being destroyed. Sometimes I feel like running away from it all and hiding, but where can I go? Running away from things does not solve the problem. The only person to whom I can go is God because He is my refuge and strength in times of trouble.

God is watching what is going on and He knows about the seeming prosperity of the wicked and the increase of violence. God is Holy and righteous and just, and one day, those who deliberately choose to do evil will

receive the due punishment for their wickedness, maybe not in this life, but in eternity. We see things from the point of view of our time lived here on earth, but God sees the whole of eternity stretched out before Him. Those who love wicked ways will receive eternal punishment, but those who love God, who know salvation in Jesus and delight in Him, will see Jesus face to face. God is working out His just and righteous purposes, and we can trust Him.

## PRAYER DIARY : 29<sup>TH</sup> June - 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105*

**Monday** As I write there is news of the tragic train crash near Bedford. Lord we pray for all those involved in this incident. We pray for injured passengers, for loved ones as they hope for recovery, we pray for the family of the train driver who was killed. We give thanks for those who helped others at the scene and for the emergency services who attended. We ask that they may be surrounded by love and protected from trauma.

**Tuesday** The holiday season is fast approaching and we pray for airport workers: pilots, cabin crew, terminal attendants, ground staff, catering teams, air traffic controllers, and border security. We know that there are many who work in stressful situations, and we pray for their well-being and safety. We pray for safe travel for the passengers and for restful holidays. We ask that respect is maintained between all parties. We pray for safe travel for our own young people as they go on their weekend away

**Wednesday** Our roads and motorways are becoming increasingly busy. We pray for everyday journeys, for parents and carers on the school run, for children cycling or walking to school. For commuters who set off early for jobs to keep families. We pray for observance of regulations, patience when problems arise, tolerance of other travellers and thankfulness when arriving at a destination.

**Thursday** There are hundreds of coaches that arrive in Eastbourne each week. We pray for those passengers and drivers as they come to our town. Help us to be welcoming at VBC to any that join us in worship. We pray too for the many thousands of coach trips that enable friends to be reunited, families to visit, and friends to be made. We give thanks for all our relationships and connections no matter how infrequent.

**Friday** Give thanks for the bus service around our town. Pray for those who travel together regularly but never speak, pray for the bus drivers who often face abuse. Pray for safety of travel, good organisation and for the people who have weary journeys at the end of the day. Give your rest to them, Father God.

**Saturday** Jesus used his travels to speak to others, and we reflect on the woman at the well, the lepers who hailed Him on the way to Jerusalem and the disciples He met on the road to Emmaus. Help us, Lord to see fellow travellers as You do and to show compassion. Help us to discern their needs, and their hopes. Give us boldness to use our travel opportunities to spread Your Word.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

**Sunday** Many of our church family use their cars for helping others. Give thanks for those who give lifts to church regularly to less mobile friends. Lift to God their safety and ask him to bless their friendships. Pray for those who go out on pastoral visits, those who travel to serve others, deliver flowers, accompany to medical appointments, or help out in other ways. Ask God to multiply these small acts and to build our church family into a true reflection of His Kingdom.

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." Isaiah 6:8*

## Prayer Needed



Please remember our Youth work in your prayers for the next couple of weeks. Emily is leading a group of 14 youngsters and 6 leaders, travelling to Carrotty Wood, near Tonbridge for the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> July. They will be studying Psalm 139, learning about their identity in Christ. Accommodation is in

bell tents and they will also be enjoying a variety of activities including high ropes, low ropes and swimming.

Please pray specifically for:

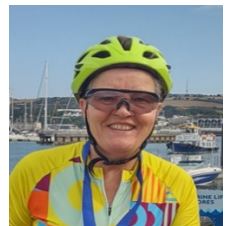
- Sunshine
- Safety
- Sleep
- Super-Fun, and
- the presence of the Holy Spirit

## The Wilfride Challenge

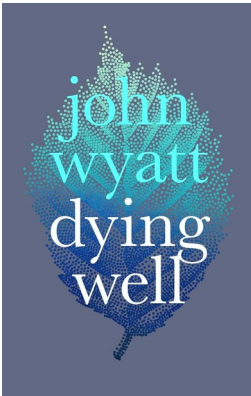
The support that our local hospice gives to patients and their families is invaluable, and they are in real need of additional funds. In order to do my bit to help, I have signed up for the 'Wilfride' this coming September. This entails cycling from Eastbourne to Paris - 290 miles in 4 days!

I am covering all the costs of the trip myself, so any money raised will be going directly to the hospice. If you feel able to contribute, however small an amount, please go to the link below where you will be able to donate. Alternatively, speak to me directly. Many thanks in anticipation of your support for this challenge. **Frances Hall**

<https://events.stwhospice.org/fundraisers/franceshall3955>



## Book Review by John Demetriou



'In this world nothing is certain except death and taxes', said Benjamin Franklin. Just as it is prudent to minimise your tax burden, it is even more wise to prepare for death, for your own benefit and to help others. The Bible through its teaching, testimony of believers and especially Christ's Passion aids us in this task. Professor Wyatt, former consultant in Neonatal Paediatrics at University College London, with concern for the sanctity of life, at beginning and end, shares his thoughts on how patients and those close to them can face death with dignity, without fear and be a good witness for the Christian faith.

For inspiration, Wyatt turns to the 'Ars Moriendi' (Art of Dying) literature genre that started during the Black Death (1348) and continued till the nineteenth century as Christian self-help books to aid the dying, their relatives and friends. These books welcomed death as an opportunity to turn a sad time into a blessing by facing the problems and temptations that looming death brought with Christian virtues. For doubts:faith, despair:hope, self-centredness: love, pride (doing it our way): humility and two modern-day temptations; denial of death: acceptance of it and for self-reliance:willingness to receive help.

To encourage us in this task, Wyatt points to how Jesus Himself faced death at the end of His life. The desire for companionship in the garden of Gethsemane (Mk.14:33), a readiness to forgive those who hurt us (Lk.23:34), an acceptance of forgiveness like the dying thief(Lk.23:43), considering the needs of others, as Jesus did for His mother and John (Jn.19:26-27), using Godly lament to bring our suffering to God in the light of the hope and promises He offers (Matt.27:46 based on Ps.22), to embrace the victory over sin, Satan and death which Jesus accomplished (Jn.19:30) and lastly, to finally give ourselves over to the care and protection of our Father (Lk.23:46) as Simon and Stephen also did.

Wyatt reminds us, the euphemism the Bible uses for dying is 'falling asleep'. We practice this every day of our lives to help us face death when it comes, unafraid, and when we awake, the scriptures remind us, we will see God's face (Ps.17:15). .....



**Prof John Wyatt**

..... There are practical issues Wyatt also helpfully explains to navigate the NHS system for end of life care, to make it more bearable, reduce misunderstanding and ensure, as far as is practicable, the patient's wishes are taken into consideration, such as the government approved Advance Care Plan or preparing beforehand a 'Written statement of wishes and values'.

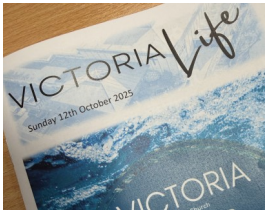
This is a helpful book for us all to benefit from as we do not know when 'death calls', but especially for those in pastoral ministry and those caring for the dying. It helps make death a subject for discussion, eases its pain and shows how the Christian faith shines a bright light in a dark place.

*John Demetriou*

## **VICTORIA LIFE**

A reminder that this edition (28<sup>th</sup> June) is the last full edition of Victoria Life now until the edition dated 26th July. The plan is to produce a full edition on the following dates so please plan accordingly -

26 July



30 Aug

27 Sept

25 Oct

29 Nov

20 Dec

On the weeks in between we will produce a 2-page edition with the basic notices and dates.

## **QR Code**

A reminder that the QR code on the seats in front of you has 3 functions. Scanning it with your smart phone will give you the opportunity to

- 1) find out more about life at VBC
- 2) to donate to the work of the church
- 3) to use Breeze - enabling you to have the spoken word translated into your preferred language.

Give it a try!



**FLOWER MINISTRY**

Flowers for last week were donated by  
**David & Wendy Dick**



*Thank you for the beautiful flowers  
which were delivered to us  
yesterday, what a lovely surprise.  
We are so thankful to be part of a  
loving church family , S & HD*