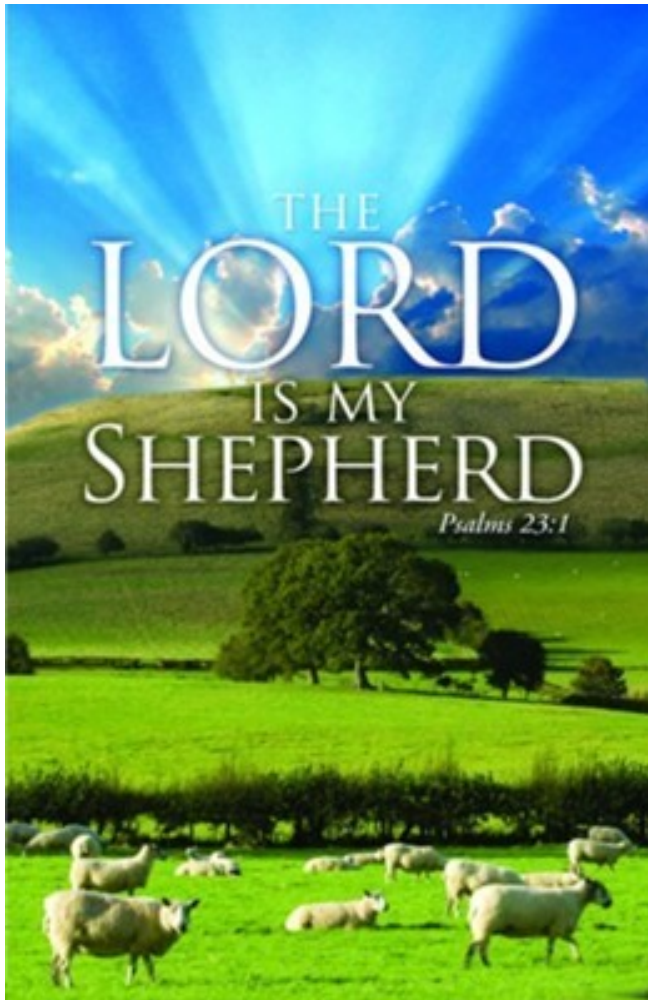




Sunday 28th November 2021

VICTORIA Baptist Church News





**This morning's message is brought to us by Chris Short,
preaching from Psalm 23 and John 10:11-18
4pm this afternoon - Passion for Life with Chris Short "What is the gospel?"**

Found – Psalm 23 / John 10:11-18

This morning is the Thanksgiving and Dedication service for Paige Elise Meakins. It's a time for us all to give thanks to God for her safe arrival and pledge our support to Ollie and Hannah as they dedicate themselves to the challenging, rewarding and important work of parenting.

As we do so, we'll remind ourselves of the love God has for us as we look at one of the greatest treasures we've received from the ancient world. Before Homer wrote the *Iliad*, before Socrates and Plato were born, over two centuries before Rome was founded, the words of the 23rd Psalm were being read, recited and heard in Jerusalem.



For three subsequent millennia these words have been taught to children, set to music, whispered to (and by) the dying. Though often taken for granted, they are a treasure for every new generation of believers. We'll look at their simple message this morning and see together a beautiful, though hidden, signpost to the identity and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS and ANGELS

December 12th is our Christmas All Age service and we would love you to come dressed as either a shepherd or an angel.

Feel free to bring along a sheep too.

(Due to there being children on the stage during this gathering, this service will NOT be streamed or available on YouTube)



STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Kevin is taking Sunday & Monday off this week - rumour has it it's part of his birthday celebrations - with days off for other staff pretty much as normal - Chris on Tuesday, Sandra, Erik & Simon on Thursday, and Colin on Monday. Julie will be in the office on Thursday and Tim on Wednesday.

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

(eg *chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk*)

Mask Wearing

In the light of fluctuating COVID figures locally, the CLT would encourage you to revert to wearing masks on Sundays and at other meetings when moving around the building. It is down to the discretion of individuals as to whether they remove them when seated and for singing. Please continue to sanitize your hands on entry to the building.



| | | |
|---------|---------|---|
| Sun 28 | 9.40am | Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office |
| | 10.00am | Live at VBC and online - Chris Short |
| | 4.00pm | Passion for Life with Chris Short |
| Mon 29 | 6.00pm | Girls Brigade |
| Tues 30 | 6.45pm | Alpha - "How can I resist evil?" |
| | 7.15pm | Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only) |
| Wed 1 | 8.30am | Community Fridge (until 10.30am) |
| | 10.00am | Vicky Bees |
| | 5.15pm | Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)/ 6.15pm (ages 8-18) |
| Thu 2 | 7.30am | Prayer Meeting (for men only) |
| | 10.15am | Men's Fellowship with Tom Duncanson |
| | 2.30pm | Women's F'ship with Tom and Ruth Duncanson |
| | 7.00pm | Advent Bible Journalling |
| Fri 3 | 10.00am | Alpha Prayer Meeting |
| | 10.00am | Vicky Bees |
| | 5.00pm | Kids Club |
| | 7.00pm | Xpect! |
| Sat 4 | 10am | Messy Church |
| Sun 5 | 9.40am | Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office |
| | 10.00am | Live at VBC and online - Chris Short |
| | 4.00pm | Interview with Dr. George John |

The Week Ahead



And further ahead ...

| | | |
|------------|---------|--|
| Wed 8 Dec | 2.30pm | Funeral of Norman Roberts at E/B Crem |
| Fri 10 Dec | 10.30am | Thanksgiving Service for Chris Papps – see details on page 9 |
| December | | For details of Christmas events, see page 7 |

Reminder!

Hopefully, you will read this before Saturday (27th) evening - especially if you have a ticket for the Wreath-Making event! Please remember that it starts at 7pm and that you will need to bring some secateurs.





“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Romans 3:23-24

This week in our afternoon service, we will be focusing on the key question: **What is the gospel?**

This session aims to help us to be clear on the main points of the gospel and to help us explain it well to others. We will be thinking about the key things we need to communicate in the gospel message.

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. Maybe you could discuss the questions with others.

<https://www.apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd4-vid-download>

- Do you feel equipped to clearly explain the good news about Jesus?
- Do you have a gospel outline in your head to help you? What are the main points?
- Find a friend and practise explaining the gospel to each other in one minute. It will help to have 4 main points clear in your mind. Give each other feedback on what was strong and what might need sharpening.

Finally, spend some time in prayer:

- Thank God that He is Creator and Redeemer.
- Ask Him to help you to live a life of repentance, continually turning away from sinful ways.
- Ask God to lead people around you to Himself and to give you opportunities to explain the greatest life-changing gift in the world - the gospel of Jesus Christ.

CLT Elections

At the church meeting on Wednesday, all of those standing for the Core Leadership were elected - Paula Burr and Richard Kirk were re-elected for a second three-year term, whilst Lucy Craggs, Frances Hall and Steve Jupp are making their debuts in the leadership team! Chris Short, our senior minister, heads up the team.



Paula Burr



Lucy Craggs



Frances Hall



Steve Jupp



Richard Kirk

BIBLE JOURNALLING

We are holding an Advent Bible Journaling session here at VBC next Thursday (2nd) at 7pm. You do not have to be artistic and anyone over the age of 11 is welcome. All that is required is a love for God's word and a desire to reflect on it and share thoughts and ideas with others. Bring your Bible, any art supplies you might have and a drink. Please let Emma Moore or Sandra Taylor know if you wish to attend.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

Please start e-mailing your Christmas messages to be published in the news sheets on 12th & 19th Dec. Please send a photo too - or let me know if you're happy to use the one we used last year .

CHRISTMAS IS COMING ... !

Messy Christmas

Saturday 4th December, 10.00am

Creative family time with craft, story and loads of fun

the Freeway

Sunday 5th December, 10.00am

Christmas is free and for all

Christmas Flow Café

Saturday 11th December, 10.00am

Community Café with lots of cakes and activities for all

All-Age Christmas

Sunday 12th December, 10.00am

Much more than sweet Mary, Joseph and the wee donkey

the Highway

Sunday 14th December, 10.00am

Christmas points to 'on high'

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 14th December, 6.30pm

Carols and candles - a perfect evening out
- with BSL interpretation -

Christingle

Christmas Eve

Friday 24th December, 4.00pm

Spoken word, songs, oranges and candles

Christmas Day

Saturday 25th December, 10.00am

a Christmas Day thought

the Narrow Way

Sunday 26th December, 10.00am

We were never promised an easy road



Driving home for Christmas
with a thousand memories ...
However you decide to celebrate this season,
have a blessed Christmas and a Jesus filled 2022

CHRISTMAS POST

The VBC Christmas postal service will be available again this year, from Monday (29th) till 12th Dec. The post box will be in the Welcome Centre and the cards will be collated and ready for distribution in plenty of time for Christmas. Please follow these two steps!

- 1) put all of your cards together with a rubber band - some will be available by the post box - and
- 2) please sort them by alphabetic order of surname.
- 3) Envelopes will be available to put cash/cheque in lieu of postage. Money collected will go to the Mission Fund.



PRAYER DIARY: 29TH NOVEMBER - 5TH DECEMBER

PSALM 5

Monday “¹ Listen to my words, LORD, consider my lament.² Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray.” Today, let us draw alongside in prayer those we know who have been bereaved, or are dealing with illness or disability, and those giving 24-hour care to loved ones. These words from Psalm 5 must be their heart’s cry for each day.

Tuesday “³ In the morning, LORD, You hear my voice, in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait expectantly.” Praise God whose ear is always open to our cry, and answers. May He help us to hear His voice. Besides our own requests, let us lay before God the 19 people attending the Alpha course, and all those helping. May all involved know that God will hear them too.

Wednesday “⁷ But I, by Your great love, can come into Your house; in reverence I bow down towards Your holy temple.” Praise our precious Heavenly Father that we are able to gather together again in worship each Sunday. Please also spend time praying His blessing on all the weekday activities that take place on the church premises each week, and His anointing on the leadership of the different groups.

Thursday “⁸ Lead me, LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies make Your way straight before me.” Praise God for all the families, children and young people connected with VBC. As we thank God for them, and those young people at university, please pray passionately that God will lead each of them, making their way straight before them, and giving them faith, strength and wisdom to hold fast to that righteous path in spite of the pressures.

Friday “¹¹ But let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may rejoice in You.” Praise The Lord for the VBC family He has given us, for the Life Groups to which we belong and each member in our groups; as well as for our earthly families. Let us thank God for all who have taken refuge in Him; pray for His protection over them all, and seek His face on behalf of all who have yet to enjoy that relationship with God through Jesus. May God help us all to love Him, rejoice in His name, and sing for joy in all circumstances; bringing our sacrifice of praise.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Saturday ¹²“Surely, LORD, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favour as with a shield.” Praise God for every experience of His blessings and protection. As it is Hanukah, and today the Jewish Sabbath, with anti-Semitism on the rise as it was before WW2, let us pray for the Lord to shield the Jewish people in the UK and around the world, and pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We can be thankful for the 30,000 Messianic believers in Israel, made righteous in Jesus as their Messiah, and those who are making the New Testament available online and in print. Praise God for the many congregations where Jews, Arabic peoples, and Gentiles, all worship God together in Israel in freedom. May God surround them with His favour as with a shield, anointing His truth as people hear or read the New Testament, bringing many more to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

Sunday Heb9:28 ^{“28}Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him, He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.” With the convergence of so many Biblical prophecies, we praise God for our salvation, and the prospect of Jesus’ second coming. As God’s word is taught in church today, we pray that all who hear are being prepared as the pure bride of Christ, knowing our sins are forgiven, and using what we hear to purify our lives as we wait expectantly for Jesus’ second coming.

Funeral Arrangements

A reminder that **Irene Goddard’s** funeral is taking place at the main chapel of Eastbourne Crematorium on Tuesday week (30th) 2pm - masks are to be worn.

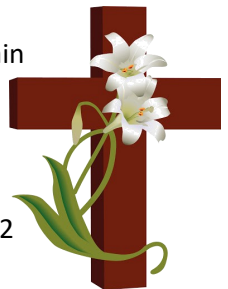
Following the service, afternoon tea will be served at:

Eastbourne Sovereign Sailing Club, Royal Parade, Eastbourne, BN22 7AA

If anyone is planning on coming, please let the office know asap so we can let Janette, Irene’s daughter, know for catering purposes.

Norman Roberts’ funeral is taking place on Wednesday 8th December, 2.30pm at Eastbourne Crematorium, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at VBC, 3.15pm. Light refreshments will then be available - so please sign the list in the Welcome Centre if you are planning on staying.

The funeral of **Chris Papps** will be taking place on Friday 10th December. The thanksgiving service will be here at VBC at 10.30am. If you would like to join Thelma and the family for refreshments after the service, please sign the list in the Welcome Centre for catering purposes.



CAP

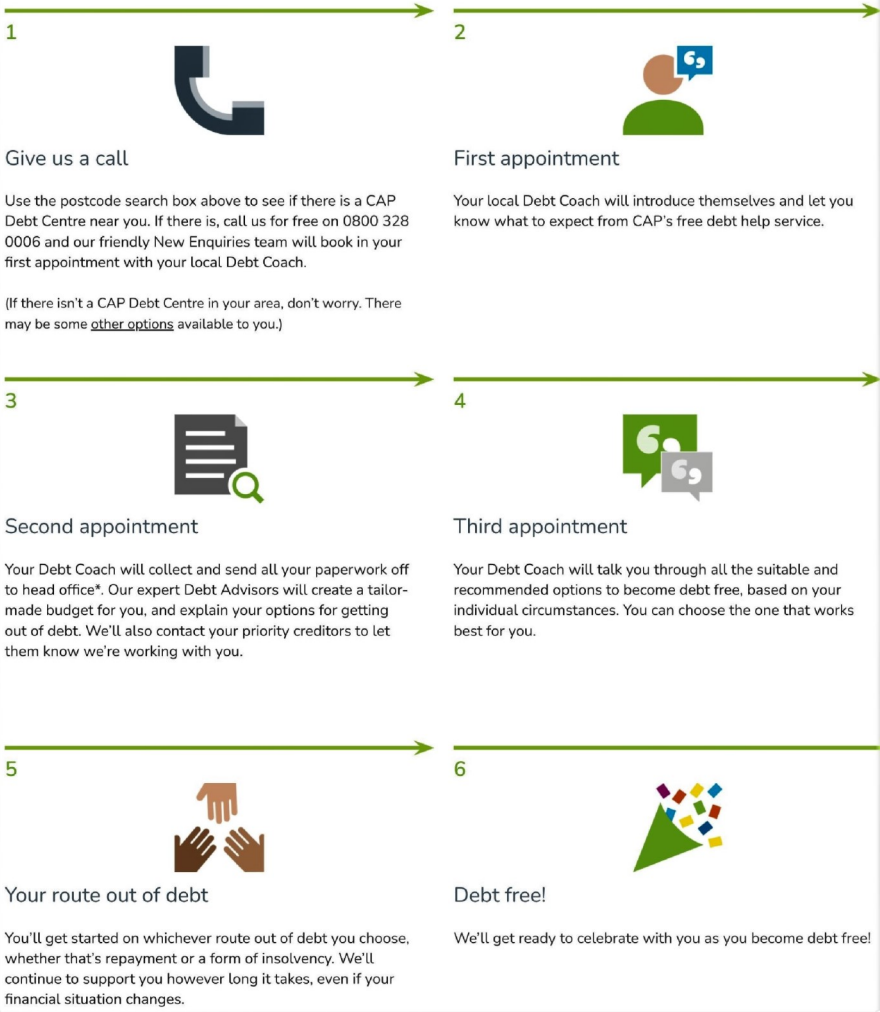
We have had the great news recently of three of Helen's CAP clients becoming debt-free. Some have asked what is the process behind it all and these notes give us an idea of what is involved.

Journey out of debt

Here's what to expect when you work with us to become debt free. We'll be here to help you every step of the way.

Phones are open Monday - Thursday: 9:30am-5pm, and Friday 9:30am-3:30pm.

Call 0800 328 0006



ETHIOPIA - A PARCHED LAND

A quiz question for you. Which is the second most populous country on the continent of Africa? It is Ethiopia. To quote a former prime minister agreeing to the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia before the outbreak of the Second World War, 'A far away country of which we know nothing!' Today we should know that Ethiopia is at the heart of the climate crisis which has been occupying our thoughts and prayers these past weeks. The failure of the rains has left the land a parched desert which has to support a burgeoning population of some 115 million people with a dangerous and growing armed conflict.



We are familiar with its early evangelisation following the conversion and baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch returning home from the feast in Jerusalem and sitting in his chariot reading the prophecy of Isaiah, foretelling the suffering and death of Jesus whom the Lord has made an offering for sin. Today, the Ethiopian Orthodox church has a key to the salvation of the land. Over the past century, 90% of the forests have been lost, those that remain are those that surround the churches.



Preserved as an act of faith for centuries, these forests are testimony to the power of faith to create sustainable landscapes, demarcated by a stark boundary wall between sacred and secular, church and field, work and rest.

For these Coptic Christians the symbol of the tree is at the heart of the Christian story from the tree of life in the Garden of Eden in Genesis to its redemptive role in Revelation by the river of life and bearing fruit and leaves for the healing of the nations. Today each church forest is seen by its guardians as a miniature Eden, vital for the survival of human life. Its religious significance only equalled by its ecological importance. The vast church forest network covers an area the size of England.

My source is Kieran Dodds, who tells the story of these sacred oases in his book 'The Church Forests of Ethiopia' available from the 15th November. I reflect on how blinkered are some secular scientists who are finding our origins in the sun! Didn't pagan religions do that! I am not qualified to debate with them but rather join the worshipping throng singing with heart and voice in the words of the great Russian hymn ... 'O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder, consider all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee, how great Thou Art, How great Thou art' (Translation by Stuart Hine)

Read again Isaiah 53:7,8, Genesis 2:9, Revelation 22:1,2

FLOWER MINISTRY

Many thanks to those of you who were so quick off the mark last week in booking dates for donating flowers in 2022. If you intend to donate but want a specific date, for whatever reason, please let Chris McMahon know asap to ensure you get the required date.



The flowers last week were donated by a friend of the church family.

Following the recent loss of Chris, Thelma expresses her appreciation of the beautiful flowers delivered to me on Monday, expressing the love & support of our church family. They were such a blessing to me."

"To the Church family at Victoria Baptist Church We were really touched with the beautiful flowers which were brought to us on Monday Thank you so much, With our love and real appreciation to all"