



Sunday 3rd April 2022

Victoria Baptist Church News



**“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,”
and believe in your heart that God raised Him
from the dead, you will be saved.”**

(Romans 10:9)



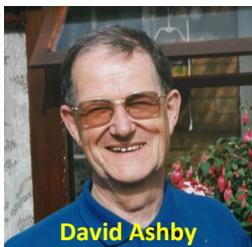
10am - Live at VBC and online with Chris Short

Choose Life – Romans 9:29-10:13

Verse – “If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

Last week, we began our first look at a new section in Romans in which Paul answers a question that arises about God’s faithfulness to Israel. In short, he says, God had never promised salvation to all the biological descendants of Israel (Jacob). Just as He had chosen Abraham, Isaac and Jacob out of larger groups of people, so He was also choosing a true Israel out of the larger number of biological Israelites.

The key idea in that section is, ‘the freedom of God in election’, or ‘the sovereignty of God in salvation.’ That raises all sorts of questions for us. Last week I said, “If you want to know the answers come back next week.” This week we’ll see that God’s sovereignty is not the whole story. The section we are looking at gives us the human reasons that most Israelites missed out on the forgiveness the Old Testament promised them, and we’ll think about how we can hold these two apparently contradictory ideas together.



Sunday Evenings

This evening, at 6.30pm, David Ashby will be interviewed by Chris, giving an outline of his walk with God over many decades!

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Please note that Kevin will be on holiday from Wednesday to Sunday inclusive. Otherwise it's the usual working days off for Chris (Tuesday); Sandra, Erik & Simon (Thursday); and Colin (Monday); and the usual working days on for Julie (Thursday); and Jez & Tim (Wednesday & Friday).

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

Life Group Coordinator

Jez Taylor

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VBC Bank Details

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Victoria Baptist Church Trust

Account Number: 00010297

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Staff contact details:

firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk

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



Please note that material for the news sheet in the week leading up to Easter will need to be submitted by **Wednesday lunchtime (13th)**. Next week's deadline will be Thursday lunchtime as usual.

The Week Ahead

Sun	03	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online with Chris Short
		6.30pm	Chris Short interviewing David Ashby
Mon	04	7.30pm	CLT meeting
Tue	05	7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed	06	8.30am	Community Fridge (until 10am)
Thu	07	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		10.15am	Men's Fellowship with John Lawson
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with John Lawson
		7.30pm	Prayer Meeting for Ukraine
Sat	09	10.00am	Flow Café
		10.30am	Creative Writing; Bookworms
Sun	10	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	All-Age Service with Jez Taylor



Apr 11-14	Youth Camp - Isle of Wight
Wed Apr 20	Men's Curry Night (see below)
Fri Apr 22	Friends, Food & Fellowship
Tues Apr 26	Alpha Course starts, 6.45pm
Fri June 3	Church Jubilee BBQ, 12.30pm

Men's CURRY NIGHT

Come for a curry with an educational and entertaining talk from one of our VBC members, George John (FRCS, Urologist).

Venue - Spice Garden, Church St, Old Town.

Date - Wed 20th April.

Time - 7.30pm.



Please sign up on the sheet in the Welcome Centre to reserve a place, or ring the office to get your name added to the list. Pay for your own meal of course!

PRAYERS FOR THE BEREAVED



Brian and Avril Coombe have been members at VBC for 18 years and it was therefore with great sadness that we learned that Brian had passed away on Wednesday this week. He was 85. Our prayers are very much with Avril and the family at this sad time but we rejoice that Brian is now at peace in the presence of Jesus. Details of funeral arrangements will follow once they have been finalised.

And earlier this week, we learned that **Gladys Attwater** had passed away having been ill for some time. Gladys may not be too well known amongst newer members of VBC but she had been very involved with the Girls' Brigade for many years. Her son, Adrian, kept things in the family by leading the Boys Brigade which he too has done for a number of years. The picture shown is how many of us remember Gladys and again, we will publish funeral details once they are known. In the meantime, we remember Adrian & Wendy, and the rest of Gladys' family in our prayers.



POWER CHAIR FOR SALE

One of our members no longer has need of the Power Chair shown in the picture. If interested (sale price £400) please contact the office for further details.

Flow Café

Proceeds from next Saturday's (9th) Flow Café will go towards Living Life and their Easter Egg campaign in Croatia. Please join us if you can for the usual offerings of card making, Bible journaling, crafts, football, crochet and others - and of course a bacon roll and/or a slice of cake! An opportunity for you to bring friends and family and have a chat.



EASTBOURNE CARNIVAL

The VBC Events Team play a significant part in ensuring that the Eastbourne Carnival can go ahead. This year it is being held on Saturday 4th June (the Jubilee weekend). We would love to have some help with this event, which is one of the biggest events we are involved with. It would be great if you were able to come along on that Saturday afternoon from about 12:50pm until 3pm to aid us in organising the walking entries and floats when they arrive at Bolsover Road. If you feel you could help, please contact David Elliston (details available through the office).



ST WILFRID'S HOSPICE



As you know Victoria has established a formal community link with St Wilfrid's Hospice. The Hospice is asking for help to recruit two new full-time nurses so that they can expand their care in the community into the early mornings and late evenings, when patients and their carers really need them. May we encourage you to support this appeal either by sending a gift to them, or by going to The Street Café at St Wilfrid's for refreshments, or enjoying Sunday lunch there with friends. How about your Life group having a social gathering in the café? It is open from 8.30am until 4.00pm every day. If you want to know more about The Hospice's nursing care in the community, talk with Ruth Nunn who is one of the team.

CREATIVE WRITING

The next meeting of the Creative Writing group will be on Saturday 9th April at 10.30 am in The Hive, during Flow Café.

The subject for this meeting is to write a poem or prose (about 600 words) on the theme 'The Road Less Travelled'. It is a line slightly misquoted from a famous and enigmatic poem by the American, Robert Frost, whose meaning scholars have puzzled over and can be found at: [The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost | Poetry Foundation](#). It has been used as a title for a renowned Christian book on spiritual growth.

If anyone wants to join us, you are welcome and, if you want more information, contact John Demetriou.



SNOOKERTHON



Last Saturday, between 12 noon and midnight, our caretaker, Kevin, spent the whole of the 12 hours playing snooker at the Glastonbury Snooker Club in the company of a number of people at different stages of the day - including Chris Short, Tony Waters, Mark Simmons, Felix, Isaac & Karl Smith, Nigel Hill, Jez & Sam Taylor, Geoff Pulling, Steve Francis and Colin McMahon. Pam & Bryony also supported him in his efforts to raise money for our friends in Lebedyn and he was delighted that he has been sponsored to the tune of **£570!** He would

appreciate it if those of you who sponsored him would let him have the money asap. A really good effort though from Kevin and, given his efforts, we were happy to let him have the day off on Sunday!

Men's Fellowship

Our next meeting is this coming THURSDAY (7th) at 10.15am and we



are pleased to welcome back as our speaker, **John Lawson**, a reformed gangster of some renown, who came to faith whilst serving a long custodial sentence in prison. His former lifestyle has been completely transformed by an encounter with Christ and he now takes the Gospel into prisons throughout the world under the banner of "Escape Ministries" ALL MEN WELCOME!

Let's get inviting.

ALPHA 2022

Alpha 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 starts Tuesday 26th April, 6.45pm, here at VBC.

To book, or for more information, please email: tim@victoriabaptist.org.uk



PRAYER DIARY: 28TH MARCH - 3RD APRIL

"Faith comes through hearing, and hearing through the word of God." Rom 10:17

Monday *Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* Lord, we praise Your holy name, may all the glory be Yours and may Your name be honoured in Eastbourne and beyond. Lord, as we consider all that is happening in the world, we give You all the thanks that You are in control. May Your perfect will be done. May Your blessing be especially over Ukraine and Russia, bringing peace to those in conflict.

Tuesday *Give us this day our daily bread.* We thank You, Jehovah Jireh, for Your daily provision and pray that You will make us more outward reaching to those around us living in poverty. We pray especially for the work of CAP and the Community Fridge here at VBC. We ask for relief for those slipping into debt as the cost of living and the price of heating spiral upwards.

Wednesday *... and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.* Lord, have mercy on us. Let us hold no bitterness toward those who have wronged us or those we perceive as working against us. May we not first seek resolution but may we be humble in forgiveness, let us be like Christ, and forgive without conditions.

Thursday *...and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.* Yes, Lord, keep us from temptation, sins of the flesh, unhealthy desires, and wrong thinking. Hold our tongues when we are tempted to gossip or use unseemly language. Keep us calm in all our dealings with others. May we be a blessing to others as You are to Your church.

Friday *For Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever,* You have power over all, Your omnipotence transcends all human understanding, Your glory is greater than any mortal may imagine, Your ways are higher than we may ever comprehend. At the end of this working week, give us peace and rest as we prepare ourselves in mind and spirit for the week ahead.

Saturday *Amen and Amen!* God our Father, we remember those amongst us who are ill and pray for their recovery. May they be able to reach out and touch the hem of Your cloak and receive healing through Your Holy Spirit. We also pray for those recently bereaved that they may know Your ever-present help and comfort, and rejoice in the sure knowledge of their salvation.

Sunday Today is Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. May we keep this week as a time of reflection on the price You paid for our deliberate and continued sin. May we remember Your suffering, Your pain, the mocking voices and the cruelty of man. May we prepare this week for the joy of Easter Sunday, when we may shout aloud, "HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED".

FUEL FOR PRAYER



Not long now until we have that glorious opportunity to create a mountain-top experience for ourselves and the young people that have signed up (all 22 of them) God didn't create us to live on the mountain forever. The mountain experience has its place. It can be powerful, moving and overwhelming at times. The mountain is where we are touched by Jesus. (*Then Jesus came over and touched them. Matthew 17:7*) Pray with us for a touch of Jesus on all of us over our time at Westbrook. The scriptures will be opened, our prayer is that the Lord will open the minds and hearts of us all.

Here are some specific ways you can pray, followed by some strategic times. Maybe set an alarm on your phone to remind you to cry out to the Lord at these times? - Specific ways to pray:

- * Pray for everyone's safety. There is bound to be a need for a plaster and cold pack or two, but let's pray that that's it. May no illness or injury distract a single person from discovering and hearing God's voice!
- * Pray that hearts would be softened, sin would be revealed, hated, and turned from, and the overwhelming love of the Father would be poured out.
- * Pray that God's Word would fall mightily and all grow in wisdom and learn how to let truth influence feelings; that affections for Christ would be fanned into flame above and beyond any other rival. Pray for us, **Jez, Sandra, Mark, Angie, Emma and Erik** as we seek to serve faithfully whilst we forfeit sleep, subjecting ourselves to offensive odours, leading small group discussions, leading all manner of games and activities, praying for, and with, the youth, and doing it all with a smile in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- * Pray for friendships to be deepened; that our young people would be willing to open their lives towards one another, pray with each other, point each other to Jesus ... and have a lot of fun together!

Strategic times to pray:

- Monday - 19:15 teaching session 1
- Tuesday - 10:15 teaching session 2* / 19:30 teaching session 3*
- Tuesday - 21:00 Bonfire (conversations and safety)
- Wednesday - 16:00 teaching session 4* / 19:30 teaching session 5
- Thursday - 10:15 'grill' the leaders
- * teaching is done in two age groups.
- Night time - 22:00 onwards, for seasoned conversations and good rest

THANK YOU SO MUCH, YOUR VALUABLE PRAYER SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

Messy Easter

Saturday 16th April 2022

1pm to 3 pm

Easter-based craft and fun for all the family.

Come, make and explore together.

LIFE GROUPS

Please note that Life Group Notes are available to download from our website. Click on the **Church Life menu, then Life Groups and then resources**. If you do not have access to the website and need hard copies, please contact Jez and he will arrange this for you.



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

So the body is not one part but many. (1 Cor. 12:14)

For details about church membership, please contact our Membership Secretary, Richard Kirk.

Midweek Activities

Since lockdown restrictions eased, the church has become increasingly busy every week with a variety of activities, some church-related activities such as the Brigades, Kids and Youth work, Soaking in the Spirit and suchlike. However, many of you will be unaware of what non-church activities take place each week so I have asked some of our hirers to write a few lines for inclusion in the news sheet. I will be including these at random intervals over the coming weeks.

This week we highlight one of our long-standing hirers, u3a. There are two branches of this group using our premises, the Meads branch and the Eastbourne and Wealden branch. The latter is highlighted here.



u3a stands for the University of the Third Age. With 1,057 u3as and 430,000 members in the UK, this organisation offers people in their 'third age', retired or semi-retired, the opportunity to join a variety of study or social groups. There is

no upper age limit.

Eastbourne & Wealden u3a is a local branch and our members meet in the VBC large hall on the first Tuesday afternoon of each month, where an invited speaker gives a talk on their specialist subject. There is a break when members can enjoy a tea or coffee, socialise with other members and investigate the notice boards, which give information about forthcoming events, both social and for study groups.

There are currently twenty-five groups for interests ranging from dining, board games, theatre, languages, literature and music to name a few.

Two of these groups use the small hall – **Globetrotters** meet on the 4th Monday afternoon of the month. Members give a talk about a country they have visited, sharing the photographs which they took.

Photography meets on the 3rd Monday afternoon of the month, to discuss, show and improve their pictures taken with a variety of cameras.

We welcome new members and if you are interested in finding out further details or have queries, please contact

- our Membership Secretary, Sharon Phillips (contact details available through the church office),
- Email: eastbournewealdenU3A@outlook.com, or
- via our web site <https://u3asites.org.uk/eastbourne-wealden>

FLOWER MINISTRY



The flowers on display last week were donated by Margaret Reilly

"... she asked me to pass on her thanks. She was so surprised and delighted to receive them!"



"Thank you so much for the lovely flowers delivered this morning. Such a lovely thought for our special anniversary."



A big thank you to those of you who have responded to the appeal for donations of flowers. The only date remaining over the next couple of months is May 8th. Please contact Chris McMahon for further information.