



VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 3rd/10th August 2025

A SWARM OF VICKY BEES

Be
still
and know
that I am
God

Psalm 46



A SWARM OF VICKY BEES

Fearless

***“Be still and know that I am God...”
(Psalm 46:10)***



Psalm 46 teaches that it is possible to live calmly in a world of calamity and confidently amid days of uncertainty and trouble.

If such a thing is really possible, wouldn't you like to know how? Many of us would like a faith like that but must also confess that there's a gap between what we desire and what we attain. Psalm 46 addresses the discrepancy and tells us how to go about acquiring an unshakable and fearless faith.

These are the things we'll be considering together as we look at the third of our summer “Be...” instructions and learn what it means to “**Be** still and know that I am God.”



Please join us for our fortnightly prayer meeting at 6.30pm.



Next Week (10TH August)

The Morning Service at 10am will be an All-Age Service led by Simon Grimes and the Holiday Club team.

The evening service will take place at 6pm.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next two weeks

Chris	off Tues, and week comm 10 th (annual leave)		
Colin	off both Mon, & Thu 14 th	Phil	in Tue am, Wed, & Thu pm
Kevin	annual leave	Simon	off Thursdays
Tim	in Wed & Fri	Julie	in Thursdays
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs	Lucy	in Wed am, Thu, Fri am
Sandra	off Mon, & both 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

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helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk
www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

Sun 3 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short - inc Communion
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
 Mon 4 7.30pm CLT Meeting
 Tue 5
 Wed 6 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 8.15am Breakfast Club
 11.30am Thanksgiving Service for Ruth Simmonds
 Thu 7 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.00am Holiday Club
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
 Fri 8 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Holiday Club
 Sat 9 10.00am Holiday Club
 Sun 10 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am All-Age Holiday Club Service with Simon Grimes
 6.00pm Evening Service
 Mon 11
 Tue 12
 Wed 13 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 8.15am Breakfast Club
 Thu 14 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
 Fri 15 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 12.30pm Friends, Food & Fellowship
 Sat 16
 Sun 17 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Jez Taylor
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting

Two Weeks Ahead

Reminder - there will be no Victoria Life produced next week



Well, here we are again at Le Pas Opton, the Spring Harvest Holidays Park in France.

As previously, we are part of the Pastoral and Prayer Ministry Team, supporting the speakers and worship leaders, and being available to the guests. This week there are over 1000 people of all ages on site, enjoying

both the sun and the holiday atmosphere under the umbrella of God's blessings. I'm writing this on the bar terrace opposite the swimming pool where many families are having fun together. Meanwhile, elsewhere, there is jewellery making for the children, football, paddle-boarding and canoeing on the river. Some are playing table tennis, opposite me are two young guys, one Dutch and one English, playing Monopoly. They met here 3 years ago and have maintained friendship annually since. It's that kind of place where not only is it an opportunity to come close to God but also to make lifelong friendships.

There are a significant number of Dutch folks here - this is their season! Fortunately the majority are fluent in English ... so embarrassing, but appreciated. The worship leaders this week are also from the Netherlands. We do have translators on duty at the morning Bible study and evening celebration, both in French and Dutch to assist in understanding.

This week Ruth & I invited Erik Cornelisse to join us on the ministry team, again to assist prayer in Dutch. Another Dutch couple are joining us when Erik returns home. We are approaching mid season and numbers are expected to increase for next week. Already, many people are testifying to God's blessing, answers to prayer and some life changing moments. There have been challenges of varying sorts, some more serious than others - yet nothing is preventing the power of God in this place, not only as a holiday park but also as a means of encouraging the church here in France, and especially in the Vendee.

Ruth and I give thanks to God for this ministry opportunity, and especially this year as we are leading the pastoral ministry team for the whole season. (Not that we are here all of the time but we are overseeing).

SO! Your prayers are both valuable and appreciated.

- Please do pray for the management as they seek to offer a very high standard of holiday experience for the guests.
- Pray for the full-time staff, many of whom are not believers, that they might recognise the deeper meaning of this place.
- Pray for Ruth & me with our responsibility as well as other members of the pastoral team, that we might recognise God's hand at work, have the right words to say, and the insight and discernment as we pray with those who are responding to God.

PRAYER DIARY : 4TH - 10TH AUGUST

‘Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.’ Matthew 7 v.7-8

Monday We **ask**, Lord, for Your continued guidance and wisdom in being salt and light in our community. Show us how to love and pray for the lost, our friends and family; how to bring words of hope and introduce them to You, Jesus. “For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.” Luke 19:10

Tuesday Help us, Lord, to choose to **seek** first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. When we begin to worry and are concerned about tomorrow please help us to seek You, be encouraged by Your word and look to obey it. “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

Wednesday Lord, we **knock** for the door to be opened for those facing persecution and imprisonment for their faith in You; for a softening of hearts in nations where it is illegal to worship You. We ask for Your protection over house churches which meet in secret. “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:44

Thursday We **ask**, Lord, for the protection of young children over the summer holidays. We pray for Your provision, Lord, for the needs of families within our community in the holidays. We pray that many families will feel welcome to come and have breakfast at Community Fridge, and that children will enjoy the summer holiday club here this week. “I have come in order that you might have life, life in all its fullness.” John 10:10.

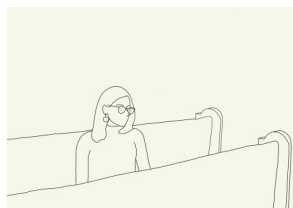
Friday We are **seeking** You Lord within the turmoil of the world news and the lives being devastated by war. We bring to You our prayers for the nations You have put on our hearts, for families who have lost everything in conflict. Please restore communities, reunite families and repair countries torn apart. Please, Lord, bring peacemakers to negotiate an end to conflict. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Matt 5:9.

Saturday Lord, we know friends and family who need a breakthrough; we **knock** for a door to be opened, a way out of health problems, addiction or difficult relationships. We pray, Lord, that You will open the door to freedom for our friends. “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Gal 5:1

Sunday As we gather to worship You today, we pray for unity within Your family here through a move of Your Spirit - that we may be united in worship and prayer, that You may be glorified, Lord. “This is the confidence we have approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” 1 John 5:14.

AUTISTIC BELIEVERS' CLUB - EASTBOURNE

- * Are you a person with autism and/or a related neurodiverse condition such as ADHD, OCD, dyspraxia, Tourette's syndrome, etc?
- * Do you struggle with social situations because of your autism or condition, eg, needing to mask, or cope with sensory issues and overwhelming stimuli?
- * Is communication or making friends sometimes challenging for you?
- * Are you a bible believing, Christ-follower, committed to growing in your faith? Or if not, are you a sincere truth seeker?
- * Would you like to make friends and spend time with people with whom you can relax, and be yourself?



If one or more of these apply, then A.B.C could be for you!

The Autistic Believer's Club (A.B.C) is a brand new, once-a-month, 18+, Christian social group for people with autism and related conditions.

Meeting on Thursday evenings (6.30 to 8.30 pm) at Victoria Baptist Church, Eastbourne, it's inter-church, and so we welcome all believers and those looking for truth.

You're very welcome to join us for our first 'pilot' get-together (including light refreshments), which will be on Thursday, 7th August, followed by meetings on the first Thursday of the month. Feel free to get in touch beforehand, or simply turn up on the day. In the meantime, if you've any questions, please email Luke or Marina at contactabcfaith@gmail.com.

We look forward to meeting you!



EILEEN BARTON

We were saddened to hear that Eileen has passed away, but, having been ill for some time, we rejoice that she is now with her Lord. We will let you know of the funeral details as soon as they are announced.

Seeing CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

with the help of Tim Keller

Part 20/21: How to have healthy relationships with people

'If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.' (Prov. 25:21-22)

1. God has made us to relate with other people; sadly we fall out, causing division, which has bad consequences. Learning to maintain and repair relationships by our attitude and practice therefore is an important part of wise living.

2. One of the causes of such breakdown is what Proverbs calls our 'hatred' or

'slander' of others. This might not be as obvious as we think. *'The one who conceals **hatred** has lying lips, and whoever utters **slander** is a fool.'* (10:18) This hatred is often concealed by a veneer of friendliness but underneath we hold a grudge or delight to see the other person undergo misfortune. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, revealed how our inner attitude is as important as our actions in God's sight. *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."* (Matt. 5:21-22) Pride and ill-will are at the root of our problem and need dealing with to have healthy relationships. If we try to make friends with people without addressing them we deceive ourselves and it harms us and them in the long run.

3. How do we deal with this inward fault? Proverbs gives us 4 actions we can take to have healthy relationships:

Resist the attitude of superiority, pride and deriding others. *'Whoever belittles his neighbour lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.'* (11:12) We must exercise self-control as it goes on to say in the second part of the verse by *'holding our tongue'* and not seek retribution. The wise teacher reiterates the point in Proverbs 24:28-29, *'Be not a witness against your neighbour without cause, and do not deceive with your lips. Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done."*

We are to cover the offence with love. *'Whoever covers an offence seeks love,*

PROVERBS 25:21-22 NKJV

21 If your enemy is hungry,
give him bread to eat;

And if he is thirsty, give him
water to drink;

22 For so you will heap
coals of fire on his head,
And the Lord will reward
you.



but he who repeats a matter separates close friends' (17:9). We do this by not listening to the temptation to keep 'repeating the wrong' against us, get revenge and put the other person down. Instead, we intentionally forgive that person as God forgave us and showed us the unconditional and selfless 'agape' love in Christ. This is not easy to do and hurts but, when we become Christians, God's love is put into our hearts to help us. 'We love because He first loved us.' (1Jn.4:19).

Overcome evil with good. This is the revolutionary practice. *'If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.'* (25:21-22) Feeling ill will to others is a difficult attitude to overcome and needs intentional acts of goodness to help us. Something Paul also exhorted believers to practice, *'Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.... To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."' (Rom. 12:17-20)*



Sometimes we **might need to confront the person** causing us problems. *'Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy'* (Prov. 27:5-6) but if we do it before doing the previous actions we are in danger of acting with wrong motives and only burying our resentment! We need to correct our wrong inner attitude first.

4. The above steps are difficult to do in our own strength. Psychology can expose problems in broken relationships but cannot provide the solution. For that we need SPIRITUAL help which Proverbs hints at and the New Testament gives clarity to.

'Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the Lord see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him.' (Prov. 24:17-18) The Bible's message is that God will judge wrong doing but that doesn't mean we use it as a weapon against those offending us, feeding our pride and hate. As Christians we are made of a 'different Spirit' as Jesus reminded James and John when they wanted to call down fire on those who were hostile to Jesus (Lk.9:55). That Spirit is one of love and service as shown by Jesus Christ who chose not to repay the evil done to Him but suffered to redeem us to God. As His followers we are to show the same servant spirit in our relationships with the people we meet, including those who are against us. God give us grace to do so.

Listen to the full sermon at: <https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/repairing-relationships/>

HOLIDAY CLUB

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of fixing pottery. It's a technique that uses lacquer mixed with gold, silver, or platinum to mend the broken pieces, emphasising the breaks and cracks rather than hiding them.

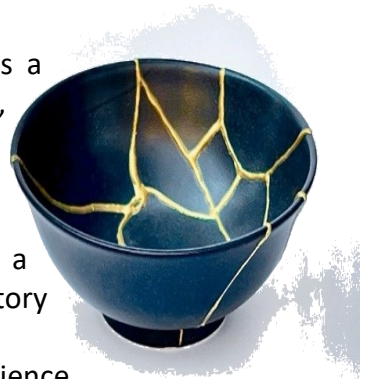
This creates a unique and beautiful piece with a visible golden seam, highlighting the object's history and imperfections.

Kintsugi can be seen as a metaphor for resilience, showing how imperfections and brokenness can be transformed into something beautiful and even stronger.

This year's holiday club is called **Restoration Station**. We get to meet the 'Great Restorer' learning about how we can run to the 'Rock' when the world shakes, be restored by the original 'Potter' when we are broken, and how the 'Broken Man' saved us all!

In the morning service Simon, the children and the holiday club team will share with you all we have done, so be prepared for:

The **Rock**, The **Potter**, The **Broken Man**, to start restoring your life!



CLT Elections

Just a reminder that we have vacancies on the Core Leadership Team and will be holding elections at the next Church Meeting on 24th September.

Nomination forms and prospective CLT members' information packs are available from the office. Please be aware that nominations **must** be received by **Wednesday 27th August** at the latest. Unfortunately, any nominations received after this date will not be valid.



That's my King!

Following Lucy's message to us last Sunday, she was asked if we could circulate details of the video she played at the end of her preach

- That's my King! Just click [here](#).

PRAYER DIARY : 11TH - 17TH AUGUST

Monday We pray for those children who do not feel safe in their homes. There are many who are suffering neglect, abuse and hunger, and the holiday means a lack of safe spaces. We ask God to help those who are trapped by substance abuse and who are subjected to inappropriate influences. We pray for the organisations supporting children and ask that we may have eyes open to see needs.

Tuesday Lift to God those children who have been here at Victoria for the holiday club. We give thanks for Simon and the team running the activities and ask that their words, God's light in the world, will be blessed and the seeds sown will multiply. We pray that families will know that this is a place of refuge and peace.

Wednesday We pray for young carers for whom the school holidays are hard work and they have little respite or relaxation with friends. We pray that support they receive is not eroded away and that they are enabled to enjoy their childhood years. We pray for health and social services, who are stretched so thinly, and ask for the compassion of Christ to well up in our nation.

Thursday Lord, we pray for those who are worried financially during the school break. We pray for CAP clients, Community Fridge users and those who access the Foodbanks, that the supplies don't run out and that cries for help can be met. We ask God to sustain the volunteers working to help others. We pray for parents concerned about the cost of school equipment and uniform and ask for provision and peace in their worry.

Friday At the change of the academic year, pray for the children and young people. We pray for those who are facing a change of class or moving onto a new place, that they will be at peace about decisions made that will affect their future. There are many who are anxious about change and we ask God's blessing on them. We particularly pray for our church youngsters who are planning new times in further education or into a world of work.

Saturday We pray for those who struggle at school, for those with particular needs, for those with physical disabilities and for those who find academic work a challenge. We thank God that He has made us all uniquely and ask that the education system will reflect, respect and serve individuals with justice and mercy. We pray too for those who are about to receive exam results and ask that they will see God's plan in their lives.

Sunday We pray for teachers and school leaders, particularly those who are part of our church family. We ask God to refresh and renew them for the new term and to inspire and encourage them in their work. We pray, too, for Emily Jenkins as she comes to join us as Head of Family Ministries. We pray for her family, facing change too, and ask for God's peace in their lives.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Sally Millington



*Thank you so much for the lovely
flowers left for us on Monday, a
beautiful surprise! C&S F*



*Thank you so much for the beautiful
bouquet of flowers, they really
cheered me up. FH*

