



Sunday 3rd March 2024

Victoria Baptist Church News



**Live in CHURCH and
online**



VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH
to see Jesus Christ honoured in Eastbourne and beyond

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**Live at Ten with
Chris Short**



1 Corinthians 12:1-31 – Hearts on Fire – Spiritual Gifts

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” (1Cor. 12:7)

This week we’re continuing our series *Hearts on Fire* by turning to the subject of spiritual gifts. It’s a subject that can raise anxiety levels among Christians.

Theological books have been written arguing that the gifts died out with the apostles. Though most ministers haven’t found the theological arguments very compelling, they can sympathize with the pastoral concern surrounding spiritual gifts.

Many years ago I asked a friend, who was a minister, what he thought about them and he said: “If it was my church I wouldn’t have them but it’s not my church. I’m just a servant who’s passing through.” I’ve always found that helpful. Though it is true that spiritual gifts can be divisive and disruptive in a church, it does appear that God gives gifts to equip and enable every Christian to contribute significantly, in a variety of ways, to the church’s mission of making disciples.

This morning we’ll look at 1 Corinthians 12 and, God willing, uncover some beneficial truths about spiritual gifts.



This Evening

There will be a church Prayer Meeting this evening at 6.30pm.

Next Sunday (10TH)

“3 mums and a baby”... an All Age Service at 10am with Erik and Simon.

Staff/Office Matters Staff movements for this coming week

Chris	at SEBA conference Tues, Wed, Thurs		
Sandra	off Thursday	Kevin	off Sat
Colin	off Monday	Tim	in Wed am & Fri am
Erik	off Wed, Thurs, Fri	Jez	in Wed am & Fri am
Simon	off Mon, Tues	Helen	in Mon am & Wed am
Julie	in Thursday	Nadine	annual leave
		Phil	in Mon & Wed

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

Incoming CAP

Debt Centre Manager

Phil Papps

CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

Treasurer

Mark Evason

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*)

Sun 3	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
	10.00am	Communion Service with Chris Short
	6.30pm	Church Prayer Meeting
	7.00pm	Xcav8
Mon 4	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
Tues 5		Soaking in the Spirit (next meeting 12 th March)
Wed 6	8.30am	Community Fridge and Cafe
	10.00am	Vicky Bees
	6.30pm	Boys Brigade
Thu 7	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (men only)
	10.15am	Men's Fellowship with Paul Tabraham
	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Vanessa Redhouse
	7.30pm	Ukraine Prayer Meeting
Fri 8	10.00am	Vicky Bees
	10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
	5.00pm	Kids Club
	7.00pm	Xpect
Sat 9	10.00am	Flow Café in aid of St. Wilfrid's Hospice
Sun 10	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
	10.00am	All Age Service with Erik Cornelisse and Simon Grimes
	7.00pm	Xcav8

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*



Brian Wightwick	Sun 3 rd	Polegate Free Church, 6.30pm
Francis Bates	Sun 3 rd	Punnetts Town, 2.30pm
Francis Bates	Sun 10 th	Downs BC, Woodingdean, 10.30am

Prospective Members Meeting - Sun Mar 24th 5pm in the Hive.

Advance Notice -

There will be NO service here at VBC on Sunday May 19th. We want to encourage everyone to join us and other Eastbourne churches at the Bandstand that morning for this year's Thy Kingdom Come event.



Easter @ VBC

Please note the dates for Easter/March events here at VBC



Messy Easter (Sat 23RD)

Messy Easter, 1pm - Crafts for all the family

Maundy Thursday (28TH)

For those available, there will also be a **Maundy Thursday** communion service, led by Rev.Tom Duncanson, at 2.30pm in the sanctuary. This service - a time of contemplation and reflection - will be open to all and we would be delighted to see as many of you as possible attending. Tom Duncanson will be leading the service.



Good Friday (29TH)

10am - a Funeral Service for Jesus, led by Erik Cornelisse



Easter Sunday (31ST)

- 6.15am - Sunrise Service
- Churches Together (details to follow)
- 10am - Baptismal Service and Celebration with Chris Short

It's not too late to donate an Easter Egg or two for Mick Trott (Living Life) to transport them to Croatia shortly. Please place them in the box in the Welcome Centre.





Ladies' Italian NIGHT OUT

A reminder that the next Ladies' Night Out is coming up very soon - Wednesday 13th March. We will be meeting once again at Pomodoro e Mozzarella (23-24 Cornfield

Terrace) at 7pm - with the usual format of everyone paying for themselves!

I would suggest you sign up quickly to be certain of your place - sign-up sheets are in the usual place in the Welcome Centre. Frances Hall is the person to speak to if you want any further information.

Flow Café takes place on Saturday 9th March when we will be raising funds for St. Wilfrid's Hospice.

Bring friends and family and enjoy coffee, cake, crafts and chat while supporting a worthy cause. Pop in any time between 10am and 12 noon.



St Wilfrid's Hospice

Creative Writing



Our next meeting is next Saturday (9th) at 10.30am in the Hive during Flow Cafe. Our topic is 'The Family Tree' for you to write something with that title - factual, fictional or poetic.

There is a lot of interest in genealogies at present with plenty of aids online to help people. I was alerted to this recently when two elderly relatives, independent of each other, making use of their extra time in retirement, sent me family trees carefully handwritten (they were both previously school teachers) of my father and mother's side of the family. They have been a great help in tracing my heritage and seeing the bigger family I belong to.

All welcome. For more information, contact John Demetriou



BATTERSEA BAYO!

Just to say hello and trusting that all is well. I completed my NAMs (**Newly Accredited Minister qualification**) in January 2024 and have received my certificate from the Baptist Union.

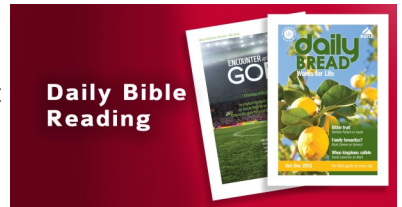
I would just like to say a big thank you to you, Chris, and everyone at Victoria Baptist Church for all their prayers

and support.

Many thanks. Every blessing. *Bayo*

BIBLE READING NOTES

The notes for next quarter are in the pigeonholes at the back of the church for those of you who have ordered them.



News Sheet



Please note that there will be a news sheet produced as normal next week, i.e. dated Sun 10th March , but not the week after (17th). The following week will be an abbreviated version (24th) before we return to normal for the Easter weekend.

Consequently, if you want to submit anything over the next 2 or 3 weeks, it is suggested that you make every effort to submit it by next Thursday (7th) lunchtime.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused - anything urgent that arises and needs communicating to everyone will be e-mailed in the usual way.

IMPORTANCE OF HOSPITALITY Sam. 17:27-29 & 1Ki. 2:7



I would like to talk about the importance of hospitality as a Christian virtue, using Barzillai, in this story, as a good example of this practice. To set the scene, King David is getting on in years and his son Absalom has rebelled against him, usurping the throne. David is fleeing for his life with a few loyal supporters, tired and vulnerable. He has arrived in Mahanaim in Gilead, just across the Jordan in the SE corner of the country. At this time, people of influence were choosing which side to follow - either the dashing, young, friendly Absalom, who promised them so much and, with growing support, had taken control of Jerusalem - or the weak David on the run BUT still, importantly, God's choice as king and with the High Priest's support as well as his faithful troops. Barzillai, a local man, chooses to side with David and in so doing shows his faith in God but what can this 'very old man' do to help? He uses his wealth to provide David and his retinue with board and lodging in a friendly place to help them find rest, regroup, and be ready to face the enemy afresh. And we know, from the later account, they were able to quell the rebellion, restore David to the throne and, significantly, Barzillai's family is well treated by David and Solomon in future events, 1Ki.2:7.

Let us now look at what the New Testament has to say about HOSPITALITY by taking the three references to it there and learning something from each using Biblical examples to illustrate the points. Before that, it's worth considering what the original Greek word, '*Philoxenia*' implies. It literally means, '*to show friendship to the stranger*', comprising not just food but a friendly atmosphere also.

A. Heb.13:2 'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Here we learn two important aspects - it particularly applies to strangers; and it is something we have a duty to do. It could be strangers in church, our neighbourhood, our block of flats or care home etc. We need to look out for such 'strangers' and make them welcome. In the Old Testament, one of the best examples of this is in Gen. 18 with Abraham welcoming the three visitors (two angels & God!) who foretold the birth of their son in their old age.

B. 1Peter 4:9 'Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

This highlights an important aspect of hospitality concerning our 'motivation'. God does not want us to do things mechanically. There is no merit in that. He longs for us to be changed inside and have a 'willing spirit' of service as shown by His Son, Jesus. This does not come naturally to us, but as Christians we have learnt that we were once strangers and enemies to God and He took us into His family. We should



do the same. ***‘Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of His household.’ Eph 2:19*** Remember the Widow of Zarephath provided hospitality to Elijah during the time of drought. She and her son were on the point of starvation but we are told

after she was asked by Elijah to provide him with food, *‘she went away and did as Elijah had told her’*, 1Ki.17:7-24. God is no man’s debtor and He provided for her as He will for us if we obey Him.

C. Rom.12:13 ‘Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practise hospitality.’

What strikes us here are the two verbs, ‘to share’ and ‘to practise’. Christianity is about sharing what we have, whether plenty or little, and about repeating the act of hospitality throughout our lives. ‘Practice makes master’; improving all the time and learning from mistakes. This was the habit of the early church, ***‘breaking bread and eating together in their homes’***, Acts 2:46 and exemplified in the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus in Bethany. It is likely Jesus and His disciples often stopped there when near Jerusalem and enjoyed the company, friendship and food this family gave Him, especially just before His passion. Lk. 10:38, Jn. 11 & 12:1-3

We live in a fallen world of selfishness and greed where there are many lonely people, as well as those going through difficult times. One of the practical ways we can show our Christian witness is by using our home, or where we stay, or go to church, to welcome others, including strangers, providing a listening ear and friendship, encouraging words, especially from Scripture, and some refreshment. Then, when we stand before the Lord at the Judgement we will hear Jesus say, ***‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance of the kingdomfor I was a stranger and you invited me in.’*** Math. 25:31-46.

John Demetriou

EASTBOURNE STREET PASTORS - HELP!

We give out emergency items to rough sleepers and others who are vulnerable and we are always in need of additional supplies of the following:

New or Used (clean)

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------|
| * Sleeping Bags | * Gloves | * Hats |
| * Scarves | * Blankets | * Socks |



If you can help with any of these please give them to a Street Pastor or Prayer Pastor or contact Graeme at eastbourne@streetpastors.org.uk - but **please do not bring them to the office!** If you want to know more about becoming a Street or Prayer Pastor please contact us on eastbourne@streetpastors.org.uk

PRAYER DIARY 4TH - 10TH MARCH

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that who ever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” John 3:16-17

Monday Father, we lift up to You our world full of conflict and hostility. We pray for Your Son, the Prince of Peace, to come again and reign over us. Bring harmony into our relationships with our families, our church, our community and between nations. Father we humbly ask for You to intervene and bring peace to the Ukraine. Send all the soldiers back to their loved ones and encourage the process of reconciliation.

Tuesday Gracious Father, during these forty days of Lent help us to focus on the love You have for Your people and on the cross by which Your Son sacrificed His life releasing us from our sin and opening up the prospect of eternal life in Your heavenly world.

Wednesday “Heal me Lord, and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved, for You are the One I praise”. Jeremiah 17:14. Dear Lord, we lift up to You all our brothers and sisters suffering from ill health, those in hospital and those at home. Let them and their carers know the deep love You have for them. Surround them with Your healing presence and bless them with the Holy Spirit. Father, bring grace and peace into their lives.

Thursday Almighty Father, we bring before You the millions of Christians from around the world who live in fear of persecution due to their unshakable faith in Your Son. Father, shield them from harm and, through the Holy Spirit, fill them with the courage and determination, never to waver in proclaiming Jesus as their Saviour. May Open Doors continue to prosper and be a great resource to those Christian communities exposing the religious intolerance suffered by so many.

Friday We lift up to You Lord, all those struggling to feed and protect their families in this cost of living crisis. We especially pray for continued support for The Food Bank, Community Fridge and CAP. We bring before You Lord, Phillip Papps as he takes over from Helen Diplock. May he be blessed by the Holy Spirit to bring people into Your kingdom by helping them raise themselves out of poverty and debt. May You encourage us to do our part, being mindful to share whatever resources we have with one another as we are all members of the One family.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Saturday Father Almighty, we thank You for freely sending us the gift of the Holy Spirit. We thank You for the changes we see in people full of the Spirit. We pray for an outpouring of the fruit of the Spirit into our communities, especially love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Help us, Father, to live more by the Spirit and be guided by You in all things.

Sunday We pray today for the mothers who have been in our lives and for all the special people who have offered motherly care to us, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, friends and carers. We thank them for all their love and sacrifices. Bless them Father and keep them safe, either here on earth or in heaven with You.

HOLY SPIRIT Day



Sat 6th Apr, 9.30am to 4.30pm here at VBC. In line with Chris's ongoing Teaching Series regarding the work and person of the Holy Spirit, we are setting aside a day to explore the work of the Holy Spirit together as a church. More details to follow nearer the time.

A promotional image for a church event. It shows four women in red dresses singing into microphones in a church setting. The text 'WEST END HAS FAITH' is overlaid in a large, white, stylized font with a cross symbol. Below the title, it says 'An evening of music and faith with singers from London's West End'. At the bottom, it provides the date 'Saturday 9th March, 7.30pm', ticket information 'Tickets £10 online or on the door', the website 'www.allsaintseastbourne.church', and the location 'All Saints' Church, 21 Grange Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4HE'.

WEST END HAS FAITH

An evening of music and faith with singers from London's West End

Saturday 9th March, 7.30pm
Tickets £10 online or on the door
www.allsaintseastbourne.church

All Saints' Church
21 Grange Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4HE

Flower Ministry

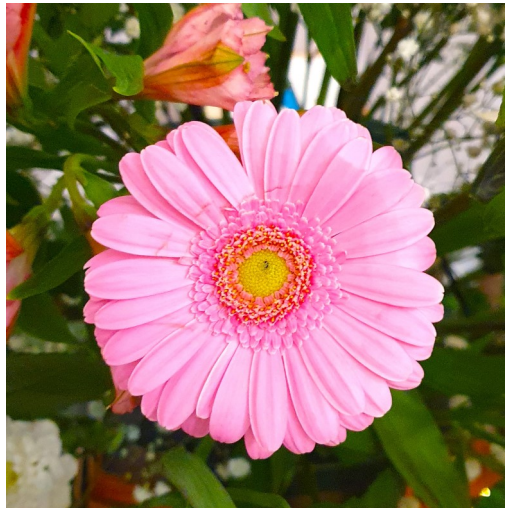
Last week's flowers were donated by
Julie Hanks



I've just had a surprise visit from a friend from the church with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. It's really cheered me up no end. I'm so grateful for you including me in your prayers. Love to you all HB



Thank you so much for the card and beautiful flowers I received for my birthday. It was a lovely surprise. I am blessed to belong to such a caring church family. AB



Please note - two dates in both April & May to be filled if any of you would like to donate the flowers one week. Please contact Chris McMahon for details.