



Sunday 6th October 2024

Victoria Baptist Church News



“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.”

MATTHEW 25:1-4

**Live in CHURCH**



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

HOME JESUS ABOUT SUNDAYS FAMILIES CHURCH LIFE CONTACT US

**Live and online  
WITH  
Daniel Fairhead**



## **MATTHEW 25:1-13 THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS**

Jesus told this story to His disciples as part of His response to their questions about His second coming. Five of the young women, who were probably bridesmaids at the wedding, were ready to meet the bridegroom and were welcomed into the wedding banquet, but tragically the other five were unprepared. I pray that we will learn more about how we can be ready to meet the bridegroom, Jesus, when He returns!



This morning's service will include Communion and our fortnightly Church Prayer Meeting will take place at 6.30pm

## **Next Week (13<sup>TH</sup> Oct)**

Chris Short will be preaching at the 10am Harvest Service.

**HARVEST CELEBRATION** Please note that contributions are wanted for the Harvest display. Cans, jars, and dried foods are particularly desirable with all items again being donated to Foodbank. Bev Ebdy, who is coordinating the display, has asked that all items are delivered to the Church by **12 noon next Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup>**.



# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the coming week are as follows

Chris off Mon & Tues

Colin off Mon & Tues

Kevin off Sat

Tim in Wed & Fri mornings

Nadine in Thurs morning

Sandra & Jez annual leave, back on Wed

Phil in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm

Simon off Tues

Julie annual leave

Lucy in Wed am, Thurs, Fri am

## 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

- Please note that there will only be a skeleton staff available to take calls on Tuesday (8<sup>th</sup>) so please be patient if you are unable to get through.
- And on the subject of phone calls, please bear in mind that the Staff Team have a prayer meeting every Mon, Wed & Fri at 9am, for about 20 mins. Again, bear with us if you don't get through at this time.
- A very warm welcome to Lucy Craggs as she joins the Staff Team in her position as Ministry Assistant with Primary Responsibility for Women.
- Tim Nunn meanwhile will be taking on a new role of Ministry Assistant with Responsibility for Discipleship.

## 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

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

- Sun 6 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office  
 10.00am Live and Online with Dan Fairhead  
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting  
 7.00pm Xcav8!
- Mon 7 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tues 8 7.15pm Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
- Wed 9 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
 8.30am Community Fridge  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 6.30pm Boys Brigade
- Thu 10 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)  
 Men's Fellowship - next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> Oct  
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Lucy Butt (Bramber Bakehouse)  
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 11 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 5.00pm Kids Club  
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 12 10.00am Flow Cafe  
 10.30am Creative Writing  
 10.30am Book Club
- Sun 13 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office  
 10.00am Live and Online with Chris Short  
 7.00pm Xcav8!

**The Week Ahead**

**Preaching Engagements** *Please remember in prayer*

Francis Bates Oct 6 Providence Baptist Church, Knaphill 11am

Oct 9 Gordon Road, Hailsham - Women's meeting, 2.30pm



**Food Hygiene** John Demetriou has kindly offered to deliver some Food Hygiene Training for us on Saturday week (19<sup>th</sup>) from 9.30am - 1pm. If you are involved in any ministry where you are handling food, you should make every effort to attend. Please sign up in the Welcome Centre.



**Ladies Meal** - Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Nov. 7pm, Pomodoro e Mozzarella

(see sign-up sheet in Welcome Centre)



**BIBLE**  
BY THE BEACH

**In all things**  
*God at work*

SAVE THE DATE

02 - 05 MAY 2025  
EASTBOURNE

[www.biblebythebeach.org](http://www.biblebythebeach.org)

## Early Bird Rate

Book by the end of November for the best ticket prices.

To find out more of what it's all about, watch the following video clip -

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QzJnStyHzM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QzJnStyHzM)



### Accommodation Needed

A single female church member is looking for accommodation (ideally with fellow Christians), not too far from the church, and ideally not far from bus routes!

For details & discussion, please kindly contact Stef - email address is [stefhknc-uk at yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stefhknc-uk@yahoo.co.uk)




**Andy's Army**

MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

10 OCT

**COFFEE MORNING**



After the summer break, **Flow Café** makes a welcome reappearance next Saturday (12<sup>th</sup>) with all the usual attractions and activities - a chance to catch up with friends after the break over the summer.

This month's proceeds will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

At the same time, Book Club also starts up again, as usual in the Snug on the lower floor, 10.30am .

Andy's Army will be running a Coffee Morning next Thursday (10<sup>th</sup>) between 10am&1pm. Andy's Army was set up in memory of Andrew Holter who recently lost his battle with Mental Health. Andy was known by so many people and offered so much support to anyone he felt needed it. We want to raise awareness and seek to encourage sufferers to be able to talk openly about their own Mental Health, and break the stigma surrounding it, especially in Churches.



# LIGHT PARTY



Victoria's

alternative

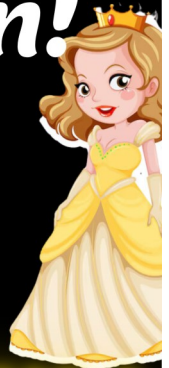
to Halloween!

Crafts  
Snacks

Games  
Fun



VICTORIA  
Baptist Church



RECEPTION TO YEAR 6

THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER

5PM TO 6:30PM

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH, ELDON ROAD, EASTBOURNE

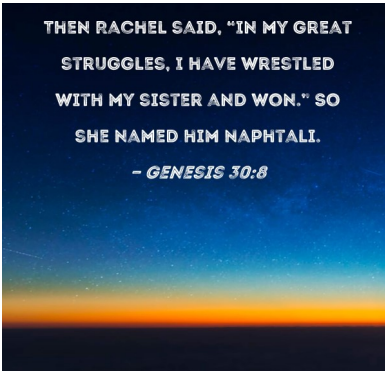
**COME DRESSED AS A HERO!**

*Sign up here*



## SECURITY, SELF-WORTH AND SIGNIFICANCE

Those of you who heard Chris preach on 'The Wrestler – Genesis 29:31-30:15a – A Tale of Two Sisters' on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, would no doubt have been impacted by what God was saying, through Chris, in a variety of ways. One of the things for me was Chris's challenge about where we get our 'Meaning, Significance and Purpose'. For me, this immediately connected with my Christian counselling training. The teaching there used similar words to describe our 'Core Needs' as human beings - 'Security, Self-Worth and Significance'. Having discussed the excerpt below with Chris, he suggested that we publish it in this Newsletter to prompt further thought and discussion.



THEN RACHEL SAID, "IN MY GREAT  
STRUGGLES, I HAVE WRESTLED  
WITH MY SISTER AND WON." SO  
SHE NAMED HIM NAPHTALI.  
- GENESIS 30:8



By security I mean the positive feelings that flood the soul when we know that we are loved and loved unconditionally. Everyone longs to be loved - with a love that will never be taken away. The more conscious we are that we are the objects of that kind of love, the easier it is to face up to life and rise above all its problems. Years ago Frank Sinatra sang a song with these words:

**"You are nobody until somebody loves you." How true.**

The more aware I am that God loves me - and loves me unconditionally - the easier it is for me to do my daily tasks and relate well to others. People have often come into my counselling room and said, "My problem is that I don't love the Lord enough." My usual response to that statement is: "No, that is not your problem. Your problem is you don't know how much the Lord loves you." Then I tell this story:

Early in my Christian life I felt that because God was allowing all sorts of problems to crowd into my life, He couldn't really love me. One day I knelt before Him in prayer and said, rather petulantly I am afraid, "God, you don't love me." I stayed on my knees for some time, and there came into my mind a picture I had seen of Christ upon the cross with His arms outstretched and over the cross the caption "I love you this much". Instantly the scales seemed to fall from my eyes; and realising how much I was loved, my love for Him flamed in response. For the first time in my life, I understood the meaning of the apostle John's words, "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). ...

*(contd over the page)*

Our love for Christ is not something we manufacture in our hearts; it is the consequence of His love for us. His unconditional love touches the capacity to love in our hearts, and we find ourselves giving love for love. The kind of love for which our souls crave is divine love - love that goes on loving us no matter what. And that kind of love must flood our souls if we are to function the way we were designed and experience deep inner security.



Another thing the soul needs in order to feel "at home" is a sense of self-worth. By self-worth I mean a sense of being valued.

At first it may appear that the distinction between being loved and being valued is non-existent.

Think of it like this: When we are loved by someone, we feel cherished; when we are valued by someone, we feel worthwhile. Seeing how worthwhile we are in someone else's eyes contributes greatly to our own sense of worth.

One of the statements I learned when I was studying adolescent psychology was this: I am not what I think I am; I am not what you think I am; I am what I think you think I am. A child comes to sense how much he or she is valued not by what the parents (or those responsible for nurture) think, but by what the child thinks the parents think of the child. Often I have talked to young people whose parents loved them, but sadly somehow the message that they valued them did not get through.

Hence they valued themselves not as their parents saw them but as they perceived their parents saw them. The self is a series of reflected appraisals. We value ourselves as we believe we are valued.



Another thing the soul needs to feel at home is significance. By this I mean a sense of meaning and purpose. Every single person on the face of this earth has a purpose in being here. We are not just meteorites on our way across the universe to burn out on the edge of some gravitational field. We are men and women made in the image of God with the signature of God in our souls. No one has a purposeless existence on this earth, let alone a child of God. But we can only realise that purpose as we relate to God and hear Him say:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer. 29:11)

"The search for meaning," said Victor Frankl, the Viennese psychiatrist, who survived the horrors of a World War II concentration camp, "is one of the greatest pursuits of the human heart." Frankl built a whole system of psychotherapy on the concept that once we begin to see even a glimmer of meaning in our life, then something powerful happens to us.



He tells, in one of his books, how he helped a young unmarried mother who had been abandoned by her lover and who wanted to give up her child for adoption.

Frankl counselled her: think of the input you can make into this child's life, how you can prepare him for the destiny that has been built into him. Consider how you, and you alone, are the only one who can steer him to his fullest potential. When the young mother saw what Victor Frankl was saying and grasped the idea, she found meaning in life and became a new woman.

Come back with me once more to the story of Adam and Eve in their sinless state in the Garden of Eden.

Picture them, if you will, standing on a firm and sturdy three-legged stool. Now give names to each one of those legs: security, self-worth and significance. Adam and Eve, because of their close and intimate relationship with God, knew what it meant to be unconditionally loved, highly valued, and for their lives to have total meaning. They would have felt secure, worthwhile and significant.

When they sinned and their relationship with God was severed, however, it was as if they stepped off the firm stool on which they were standing and instead found themselves on shifting sand where security became insecurity, self-worth became inferiority, and significance became insignificance. Thus took place the world's first identity crisis.

Since the Fall, everyone born into this world arrives with a deep sense of insecurity, inferiority and insignificance. No human love can give us what our souls long for; and bereft of a relationship with God, the best that earthly relationships (such as parents, friends and peers) can do is to make us feel only moderately secure, worthwhile and significant. We will never resolve the identity crisis in our souls until we know how to relate to the true God who alone can give us what our souls require - unconditional love and eternal meaning.

We all long to get back to what was lost in the Garden of Eden. And our longings are the most powerful part of our personalities. Our longing fuels our search for meaning, for wholeness, for a sense of being truly alive. It is the most important thing about us, our heart of hearts, the passion of our life. And the voice that calls to us from this place is the voice of God.

This thirst in our souls, if not satisfied in God, lies behind most of the problems of the personality. Take almost any psychological problem and, when you cut your way through all the labels psychologists give to the various conditions, you come to a person who does not feel deeply loved, or who has little, or no, sense of worth, or feels there is no meaning or purpose to his or her life.

Problems arise when we try to meet the deep needs of our souls outside of God.

*Tim Nunn*

## PRAYER DIARY 7<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> OCT

How long Oh Lord?

**Monday** Lord, we pray for those who are dreading the onset of a long winter. For those here in the UK for whom cold and damp are a real threat and for those who are fearful of the bills incurred with heating. We pray for the people of Ukraine who face another winter of fear and terror and for those who cannot yet return to their homes.

**Tuesday** Heavenly Father, we pray for those who are sick and wondering how long their suffering must go on. We pray for those who are receiving end of life care and for their families. We pray for patience and compassion for the nurses, doctors and carers and give thanks for their knowledge and skill. We pray for those who are unwell but can't access health facilities because of poverty, war, political ill-will or distance. May they feel Your healing hand, Father.

**Wednesday** We are horrified as we read the unfolding news in the Middle East. We pray for staying of the hands of violence, for relief to come quickly to the people and places in need. We pray for armies, governments and politicians to seek to find peaceful resolutions for the conflicts and lift to You children and families who are longing to live in peace.

**Thursday** Scam, dupe, trick, clone, abuse, trafficking, greed. Lord, these are not Your plans for Your people. Lord, we ask for You to intervene and for those who love You to spread Your desire: trust, hope, joy, compassion, humility, generosity, justice, peace. As we reflect and pray though these words give us Your heart of love, Jesus. We long for Your kingdom to come.

**Friday** In our broken world, we pray for broken relationships in families, neighbourhoods, and between countries. We pray too for the broken relationship between ourselves and You, our Father God. We know You are the longing, anxious Father of the prodigal. We ask for forgiveness when we have failed to remember the Way, the Truth and the Life; we pray for a prompting to tell others more of this truth and Christ's restoring peace.

**Saturday** How long, Lord, must be the prayer of persecuted Christians in many places around the world. How long until they can read Your word? How long until they may meet with other Christians friends? How long to freedom? Father God, we ask for Your comfort and presence to be felt in these situations and for the hope of the times to come to sustain our hidden brothers and sisters.

**Sunday** We come together today with expectation of renewed blessing as we worship. We hope for next week's harvest, we prayerfully anticipate the coming baptisms and the forthcoming advent season. We ask that God's love will go out from this place into our community and give thanks for the staff ...

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

... volunteers and visitors at Victoria. We lift them to our God and pray that His Word will continue to be upheld in whatever we do.

*“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31*

## CREATIVE WRITING



The next Creative Writing Meeting is next Saturday (12<sup>th</sup>) at 10.30am downstairs in the Hive, during Flow Cafe.

You might have been captivated by Scout Finch's narration in Harper Lee's novel 'To Kill a Mocking Bird', maybe more so by the black and white film starring Gregory Peck, or by the disturbing, more modern tale of 'Room' by Emma Donoghue, but what they both have in common is the fresh perspective of seeing a story unfold from a child's point of view. Our theme this month is to write something from a child's perspective. You might want to draw from personal experience or be imaginary. Also, it can be done in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person.

**All welcome, please contact John Demetriou for more information.**

## LOVE FROM AFAR



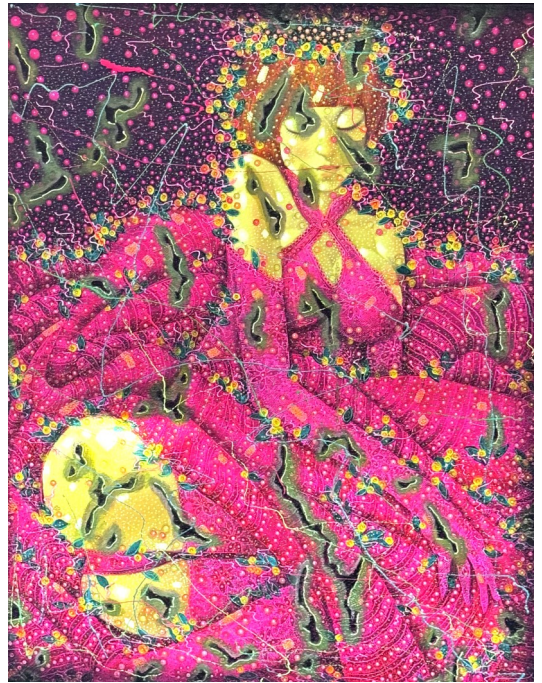
This week has seen VBC transformed. In the sanctuary most of the chairs were removed and, on Monday, display boards were installed to enable our artists to show their works, artists from China as well as a number of local artists. Hopefully, most of you have had the opportunity to visit the exhibition and been able to enjoy some of the stunning pieces of work on display.

For those of you who were unable to make it, we have included a selection of photos on the next few pages. The event was officially opened on Tuesday by The Worshipful the Mayor of Eastbourne, Councillor Candy Vaughan. Chris Short said a few words and Alistair Wickens acted as the MC for the event - both of them making use of a translator for the benefit of a significant number of people from our Chinese community in Eastbourne.

On the following pages, as well as the Chinese works, we have pictures from Eric Pavey. Ian Parratt. Ivor Meakins, Linda Morgan, Viv Walkington and Gavin Rendall - and other local artists.







CASTROVILLE PIER  
Katie Parry  
Illustration









## Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by  
Shirley Whittle



*How delighted I was to receive such a lovely bunch of flowers on Monday, coinciding with our wedding anniversary. Thank you all so much for the kind thought. M&CH*

*What a lovely surprise to have a beautiful bunch of flowers delivered. They certainly did give a lift to my day. A great big thanks to all involved in this ministry, particularly those who come out to deliver them on what was a foul day! Blessings. JS*



**Vacant Dates** Only two dates left to fill this year if you would like to donate the flowers - Nov 24 and Dec 1. Please contact Chris McMahon for further details.