

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 7th December 2025



Then Hannah prayed and said:

“My heart rejoices in the Lord”

1 Samuel 2:1



1Samuel 2:1-10 – Hannah's Song

*"My heart rejoices in the LORD;
in the LORD my horn is lifted high."
(1Sam. 2:1)*

This morning begins our series of the Bible's Christmas Songs. Christmas is a time for singing and celebrating what God has done for us – a time of joy, hope and peace. These are the main themes of Hannah's song.



More than a thousand years before Jesus was born, a woman experiencing suffering, injustice and provocation, found joy in an encounter with God, hope in the promise of justice and peace in the coming victory of God's King. This is what Christmas is all about. I hope you will be able to join us.

Next Week (14TH Dec)

Next week's live@10 will be our Christmas All-Age service, based on Luke 2:13 - the Angels' Song. Emily and Simon will be leading, with the young people and children very much involved.

There will be NO evening service at 6pm.



Advent

See page 7 for details of our services and events over the Christmas period.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	off Mon	Emily	off Tues
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	off Tues
Tim	in Wed am & Fri am	Julie	in Thurs
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs	Lucy	in Weds am, Thurs, Fri am
Sandra	off Thurs	Jez	in Fri am
Phil	in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm		

Senior Minister

Chris Short

PA to Senior Minister

Sandra Taylor

Church Administrator

Colin McMahon

Caretaker

Kevin Virgo

Head of Family Ministries

Emily Jenkins

Children's Ministries

Simon Grimes

CAP Debt Centre Manager

Phil Papps

CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

Treasurer

Mark Evason

Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

Ministry Assistants

Lucy Craggs (Women)

Tim Nunn (Discipleship)

Jez Taylor (Life Groups)

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

01323 737974

Eldon Road, Eastbourne BN21 1UE

helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

- Sun 7 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am live@10 - with Chris Short
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8
- Mon 8 12.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Pam Twaddell
 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 9
- Wed 10 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
- Thu 11 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 Men's Fellowship - next meeting 15th Jan
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship's Christmas Celebration
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 12 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 12.30pm Friends, Food & Fellowship
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 13 10.00am Flow Cafe
 10.30am Creative Writing/Bookworms
- Sun 14 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am live@10 - All-Age service with Emily & Simon
 7.00pm Xcav8

Funeral Details

- Mon 8 Dec **Pam Twaddell** Thanksgiving Service 12.30pm at VBC
 Wed 17 Dec **Yvonne Collins** Thanksgiving Service 12 noon at VBC
 Fri 19 Dec **Lester Miller** Committal 10.30am, EB Crem (family only)

Please note that Lester's Thanksgiving Service will be at 12 noon, and NOT at 2.30pm. At Lester's request - please wear bright colours!

Please indicate on the sign-up sheets in the Welcome Centre if you would like to join the families for refreshments after the service.

PRAYER DIARY : 8TH - 14TH December

Jesus said "... if you hold on to my teaching, you really are my disciples, then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

Monday Father, help us to speak and act truthfully in all situations. May we be honest with ourselves and with others, building trust in our relationships. We thank You for Your Son who said "I am the way, the truth, and the life". We pray for those who struggle with honesty, asking for Your guidance and support on their journey to truthfulness. Thank You for the clarity and peace that comes from living a life focused on Jesus. Lord, help us to uphold these values every day.

Tuesday Dear Lord, we lift up to You the CAP ministry as they prepare to reach out with Christmas hampers to those in need in our community. Pray for sufficient donations of gifts and money, for volunteers to come forward to pack and deliver the food, and for the clients to be blessed with God's love through us.

Wednesday Loving Father, thank You for being ever present in our lives. Help us to always look to Your eternal loving example in our relationships with our families, neighbours and friends. Also help us this Christmas, Father, to heal any broken ties, feelings of resentment and hurt that separate us from loving others in the same way that You do.

Thursday "Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called children of God." Matthew 5:9. Heavenly Father, we lift up to You the war raging in the Ukraine and all the other conflicts around the world. We pray for Your intervention to bring these conflicts to an end. We pray for justice to reign and for mercy and forgiveness to be given so that soldiers can return home and families can rebuild their lives in peace. Father, give wisdom and discernment to those working behind the scenes to bring a cessation to the violence and soften the heart of the Russian leader and persuade him to accept a cease fire and to start negotiations.

Friday Father God, we lift up to You all those mourning the loss of loved ones. Bless them by surrounding them with Your loving arms, that they may be filled with the Holy Spirit. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you ". Jn 14:27

Saturday Dear Lord, we lift up to You the Flow Café's Christmas event. May it be well supported, fellowship shared and the works of Your Son be made known to many. We especially bring to You in prayer all those who have given of their time and talents to make it such an important outreach for our local community.

Sunday "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God" Luke 2:13. Loving Father, as we gather this morning for the Advent All Age family service, fill us, we pray, with the Holy Spirit so we too can give "Glory to God in the highest heaven" May all those involved in preparing the worship know Your presence and be guided by You. Through the work of the Holy Spirit give our ministry team certainty and clarity on the message you have put upon their hearts. We pray that no one leaves the service without having had an encounter with You, Lord.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

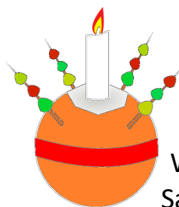
For those of you who have joined us this year and have not experienced a Christmas at VBC, the programme of our events can be found on the next page.

I would also point out that if you want to send Christmas greetings to readers of Victoria Life, we do offer you a way of saving money whilst keeping up with the spirit of the season. For the past few years we have encouraged our church family to send greetings via Victoria Life - just a couple of lines is

adequate - but with a picture of you alongside the greeting. The message can be from individuals, or couples, or from a family. Please do include a picture as we have a lot of newcomers who may not know who you are! If you submitted a greeting last year, feel free to tell me to use last year's picture if that's easier for you.

The messages will be published in the editions immediately prior to Christmas - probably in the 14th and 21st editions.

Please e-mail them in as soon as possible - the more the merrier and the sooner



Christmas is fast approaching, and we will need a team of people to help assemble the Christingles for the Christingle Service on 24th December.

We will be doing this on Tuesday 23rd December at 10am. Please let Sandra know if you are able to come along and help.

Keeping to the festive theme, we also require mince pies to offer after the Carol Service, and cakes (which are more child-friendly than mince pies!) to offer after the Christingle Service. Please bring mince pies to the office (bought ones are preferable as they last longer) and let Sandra know if you are able to make cupcakes or tray bakes for the Christingle Service.





EVENTS

01. **Wreath Making**
Come and create a beautiful
Christmas wreath

Saturday
06.12.25
7:00pm

02. **Flow Cafe Christmas**
Monthly coffee morning with
craft, games, bacon baps

Saturday
13.12.25
10am - 12noon

03. **Carols by Candlelight**
Traditional carol service

Sunday
21.12.25
6:30pm

04. **Christingle Service**
Family Christingle service

Wednesday
24.12.25
4:00pm

05. **Christmas Day Service**
Family Christmas Day service

Thursday
25.12.25
10am

SUNDAYS

01. **HANNAH'S SONG**
1 SAMUEL 2:1-10

07.12.25

02. **ANGELS SONG**
LUKE 2:13

14.12.25

03. **MARY'S SONG**
LUKE 1:46-55

21.12.25

04. **ZECHARIAH'S SONG**
LUKE 1:67-79

28.12.25

VBC

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH
Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE
www.victoriabaptist.org.uk



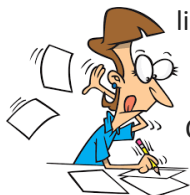
Flow Café

We would love to see you at Flow Café on Saturday 13th December. This month there will be festive crafts, a nativity trail and the usual bacon and sausage baps, coffee and cake. We will be giving all proceeds to St. Wilfrid's Hospice which, as you are probably aware, is struggling financially at the moment and is such a blessing to so many people.



Creative Writing Group

The theme for our next meeting is "I'm dreaming of" to borrow a line from the crooner Bing Crosby, although it doesn't have to be linked to 'White Christmas'.



We meet at 10.30am next Saturday (13th) in the Hive during Flow Café. We are pleased to welcome Pauline Barbieri, who has agreed to be our guest speaker and share some of her poems with us. All are welcome. For more information, contact John Demetriou.

Book Club

Book Club also meets at 10.30am on the 13th in the Snug to discuss the latest book they are reading, 'Klara and the Sun' by Kazuo Ishiguro. New attendees are welcome. For more information, contact Ingelore Demetriou.



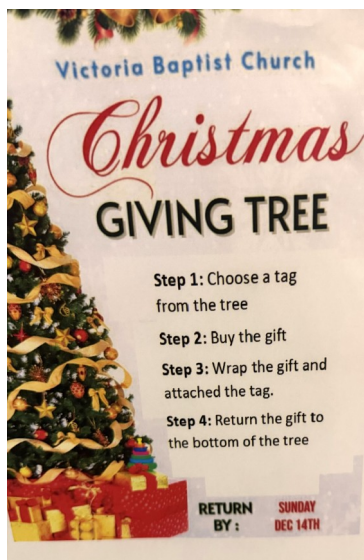
The Giving Tree

Some people have asked for clarification on this initiative which we are supporting Eastbourne Social Services with this year. The scheme is aimed at youngsters (16-25) who are leaving the council care system for whatever reason.

Instructions on how the system works are attached to the box beside the tree in the Welcome Centre but to sum up:

- The tree still has a number of tags
- Take one and buy the gift as indicated
- Wrap the gift, attach the tag, as you would any other Christmas present, and place it in the box beside the tree
- Closing date is next Sunday (14th)

A huge thank you to those who have already contributed.



Donations



Do look out for our latest gadget/device (see the pictures above), prominently situated by the wall-mounted TV in the Welcome Centre.

We now have a card reader for all of you to use to save you the hassle of remembering to bring cash if you want to make a donation. The device is very easy to use - the only thing to remember is that if you are eligible for Gift Aid, the first time you use it may take up to a minute or so. This is because you will be asked for your first name, surname,

house number and postcode, and e-mail address. Once these details have been entered, they are retained by the system and future transactions should take a maximum of 20 seconds or so.

Do feel free to have a play with the device - it could become quite a habit for you - or that's what we hope!



Gift Day

The total amount donated for our recent Gift Day was **£67,346** so a huge thank you to all of you who made a contribution.

We will be able to claim back from the government, through the Gift Aid scheme, a further **£13,869** making a grand total eventually of just over **£81,000!**

Praise God for His tremendous provision to us!

On the subject of Gift Aid, as you can see from these figures, Gift Aiding makes a big difference - so could I ask all of you who do give regularly, and are indeed eligible to claim Gift Aid, that you do give some prayerful consideration to signing up? We have a form that simply needs your signature! We will then be able to claim from HMRC 25% of whatever you give - and we can backdate the claim too, for 4 years - at no extra cost to yourselves!

DELIGHT IN THE LORD

*Another in the series of thoughts inspired by quotations from the Book of Psalms.
These were put together in a booklet - "Delight in the Lord" - some 30 years ago by
Margaret Barham.*

"When I consider Your Heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the Son of man that You care for him?" Psalm 8:3,4

As I was thinking about these words I felt that God was saying to me,

"Yes, My child, look around you,
Look at the sun, moon and stars.

I made them all.

I send the snow and the wind.

I control all these things.

Look around and see My Greatness.

I am the Great and Powerful God,

And I made man - I made you,

And I care for you.

You are My chosen possession and I love you.

I long for your love in return.

The sun, moon and stars cannot love Me.

The earth and the animals cannot love Me.

I am Love, I desire your love.

Let your love flow to Me.

Let your heart be filled with love for Me,

And I will shower you with the blessings of My love.

Oh, come to Me, love Me, delight in Me,

Satisfy My heart with your love."

DELIGHT IN THE LORD



Margaret Barham

christians
against
poverty

CAP

Want to improve your money
management skills?

Don't miss money coaching

At Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE

Sign up for our FREE MONEY COACHING COURSE!

Session 1: Tuesday 27th January 2026 from 7pm - 9pm

Session 2: Tuesday 3rd February 2026 from 7pm - 9pm

Session 3: Tuesday 10th February 2026 from 7pm - 9pm

Scan the QR Code or go to:

tinyurl.com/Money-Course-Eastbourne



SIGN UP
TODAY!

Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
Pat Chell, in memory of Jim



A surprise birthday bouquet with encouraging text, thankyou so much, such a blessing. TP xx



Thank you for the lovely flowers in memory of Lester. Pam xx