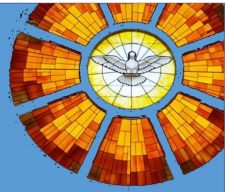




Hearts on Fire



Welcome

#WeAreVictoria

Sunday 7th January 2024

Victoria Baptist Church News

I ask that out of the riches
of His glory He may
strengthen you with power
through His Spirit in your
inner being,

Ephesians 3:16

Live in CHURCH and online



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

HOME

JESUS

ABOUT

SUNDAYS

FAMILIES

CHURCH LIFE

CONTACT US

Live at Ten with
CHRIS SHORT

the latest
ons

CURRENT SERIES



ABOUT US



Hearts on Fire - Great Expectations

“I pray that out of His glorious riches God may strengthen you by His Spirit in your inner being ...” (Eph. 3:16)

Happy New Year everyone. This week we're beginning a new series called Hearts on Fire. It's a series about the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life. There are two dangers churches regularly fall into when it comes to the New Testament's teaching regarding the Holy Spirit - either they teach it in such a way that it becomes a source of conflict and controversy, or they neglect it entirely. My early Christian experience was the latter, for some of you it may have been the former.



The goal of this series is to show how vital it is to have a biblical understanding of the person and work of the Holy Spirit and how important it is that we seek His work and ministry in our lives.

As the third person of the Trinity, we should not be surprised that His role in salvation is just as important as that of God the Father and God the Son. His unique role is to apply what the Father planned and the Son achieved to our hearts. Without the Spirit's work, the work of the Father and the Son would remain remote from us. It is only through His work that these things become real to our hearts and in our lives.

This morning we'll see Paul praying for this work for the believers in Ephesus. We'll consider why they needed it, and why we need it too. And we'll see how vital the Spirit's work is in producing secure, joyful, loving Christian lives.



Please note there will be a time of communion included in this morning's service.

TONIGHT

Our first Prayer Meeting of 2024, please make every effort to join us at 6.30pm.

Staff/Office Matters

Almost back to normal now after the holiday period. Staff movements for this coming week are as follows:

Chris off Tues
Colin off Mon & Tues
Erik off Thursday
Simon off Tues
Julie in Thursday

Sandra off Thurs
Kevin off Saturday
Tim in Wed am & Fri am
Jez in Wed am & Fri am
Helen in Mon, Wed
Nadine in Thurs

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

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)

Next Week

Erik will be leading the all-age service at 10am where he will be encouraging us to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ here on earth.

Sun	7	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live & online with Chris Short
		6.30pm	Church Prayer Meeting
Mon	8	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
		7.30pm	CLT Meeting
Tues	9		Soaking in the Spirit (next meeting 16 th)
Wed	10	8.30am	Community Fridge and Café
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		6.30pm	Boys Brigade
Thu	11	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
			Men's Fellowship (next meeting 18 th)
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Lucy Craggs
		7.30pm	Ukraine Prayer Meeting
Fri	12	10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect
Sat	13	10.00am	Flow Café
		10.30am	Creative Writing and Bookclub
Sun	14	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	All-Age service with Erik Cornelisse
		7.00pm	Xcav8

The Week Ahead

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*



Brian Wightwick	7 Jan	St Barnabas, Langney	9.45am
	14 Jan	Bernhard Baron Care Home, Polegate, 5pm	
David Laskey	14 Jan	St Barnabas, Langney	9.45am
Francis Bates	14 Jan	Punnetts Town, 2.30pm	

Please note - Erik's India report has been postponed a week - from Sun 14th Jan to Sun 21st. It will run from 3pm until 4.30pm or thereabouts and will incorporate the Prayer Meeting planned for that evening.



Ladies' Prayer Breakfast - Sat 27th Jan @ VBC
Men's non-Curry night - Wed 31st Jan
Ladies' Dinner - Wed 13th Mar @ Pomodoro's

PRAYER DIARY 8TH - 14TH JANUARY

Monday May the Almighty's grace and blessings be upon you. As you start the new week, may the blessings and mercy of God always be with you. May He help you to differentiate between right and wrong. His blessings and grace are always with you. Praise be to our God and King.

Tuesday Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." *Acts 2:38*. Lord, we repent of our sins, we turn a full 180° away from our sin and face You, our Almighty Saviour. Lord, cast our sin as far as the east is from the west, make us righteous in Your sight we pray.

Wednesday Midway through the week, let us "... rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*. Lord, we do rejoice, we do give thanks. May Your joy be reflected outward from us and may the mighty power of the Holy Spirit be with us this day.

Thursday "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed." *Mark 1:35* Lord, this morning a group of pray-ers have done this very thing at VBC. It may not be a solitary place, but You meet with us there each Thursday. We thank You for the opportunity of corporate prayer, we thank You for the many answered prayers we have seen over the years we have met.

Friday "He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking Him for what He had done." *Luke 17:16*. We too Lord fall at Your feet and give You praise for what You have done in our lives. You have blessed us, You have cleansed us, You have made us whole again. May we not be like the other nine, but always come to You with a thankful heart.

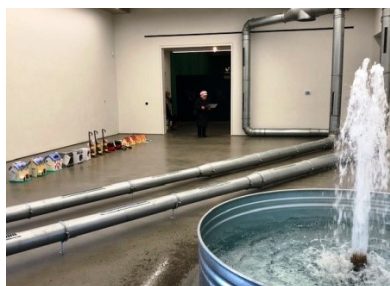
Saturday Thank you, Lord, for forgiving me of my sin. I know I have hurt You, and that I have had to come to You many times, needing Your grace and mercy. You are always there for me when I need love and support. Father, shape my heart, and make it easy for me to forgive those who have sinned against me. Because You gave me grace freely, I know I should extend the same to others.

Sunday Father God, thank You for this new day. Thank You for Your mercies that are new every morning. Teach me Your ways, transform my mind and heart. Give me Your eyes and love for those I will interact with today. Help me make the most of each opportunity that You give me today. May everything I say, think and do bring You glory. In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

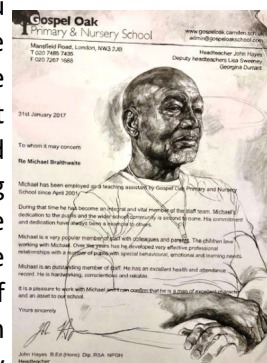
The Turner Prize at Eastbourne

In 2023 Eastbourne Towner Art Gallery was fortunate to be chosen to host the Turner prize. For those unfamiliar with this competition it is one of the world's leading prizes for contemporary art and every other year a venue outside the Tate Britain, Millbank, London, is chosen for it. This year, its four short-listed



nominees set up their displays in separate galleries at the Towner from September 2023 till April 2024 with the winner declared on the 5th December. So, with free admission and being on my doorstep, I took the opportunity to see what contemporary art had to offer.

There were works that you scratched your head to understand its meaning like Ghislaine Leung's ventilation ducting, fountain and library toys or those which gave you an impression of deeper meaning but still left you baffled, e.g. Jesse Darling's metal barriers, rails and shelves forming barricades, climbing up walls or buckling under the strain of bureaucracy and prejudice. Then there were the works with more direct connection to the viewer like Barbara Walker's large scale expressive charcoal portraits of those caught up in the Windrush scandal and her reproduction of their written evidence to remain. Lastly, there was Rory Pilgrim's multidisciplinary work using film, music, song, poetry, dance, etc to show how different people survived the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown using different types of 'RAFTS' to help them.



It was this presentation that resonated most with me as a Christian and reminded me that

'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way ... ' Ps 46:1-2

It prompted me to be creative in return and write the following poem about **the spiritual raft** God provides for us in Christ.



Rafts

*We all need a raft to cling on to
in time of trouble and despair.
Something solid, reassuring and supportive
when our world is tossed and thrown into the air.
Some find their raft in nature, others inside themselves
but I look to the Creator
who made the stars above
yet knows my every move.
He is my refuge on the stormy sea,
He is the wind in the sails driving me
He is my compass guiding my destiny.
For this raft is made of Christ's wooden cross,
stained red with his blood at inordinate cost,
and now he's departed, it sails the seven seas
to rescue those drowning in life's miseries.*

John Demetriou

Creative Writing/BOOKCLUB



The next meeting of the **Creative Writing** group will be next Saturday 13th at 10.30 am in the Hive during Flow Cafe. The theme and homework will be to write something in poetry or prose on '**Memories**', using the title '**That reminds me of....**' For more information please contact Helen Trimmings or John Demetriou.

Bookclub will also be meeting at 10.30am in the Snug.

FUNERAL DETAILS



We were sad to hear that Norman Stening-Rees passed away last weekend. Norman had been a member here for more than 10 years and been very involved with one of our life groups. Norman's funeral is scheduled for early February. Precise details will follow as soon as they are available.

Please remember that a Thanksgiving Service for **Bernard Hancock** will be held in the main chapel at Eastbourne Crematorium next Thursday (11th) at 3pm. Chris will be leading, and all are invited to the service.

Audrey Brown's committal meanwhile took place in Watford just before Christmas but there will be an opportunity to give thanks for her life in a service here at VBC on Friday 26th January at 1pm. Please sign the sheet in the Welcome Centre if you would like to join the family afterwards for refreshments.

FLOWER MINISTRY

No flowers this week as the Flower Team took a well-deserved break over Christmas and the New Year.. If you would like to consider donating the flowers this year, perhaps to mark a special occasion or anniversary, please contact Chris McMahon for details of what dates are still available.

Similarly, if you would like to find out more about this part of church life, Chris would be delighted to hear from you.

Flow Café

Next Saturday (13th) sees the first of the very popular Flow Café events for 2024. Lots of activities and food available as always with all money raised being donated to the work of NetworX.



CHRISTMAS CARDS



Do please check your pigeon holes and clear out the left-overs from Christmas. For the benefit of newcomers, the pigeon-holes are situated at the back of the church, on the right hand side as you leave at the end of a service.