

Connecting @ Christmas



Sunday 8th December 2024

Victoria Baptist Church News



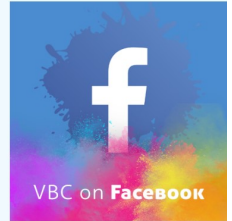
Live in CHURCH



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
Jez Taylor**



SEARCHING

This week sees the second in our Christmas series *Connecting@ Christmas*, focusing on searching! It is our All Age Nativity service where we will be **searching for Jesus**. Join us as we re-enact the nativity story in an engaging way to reveal the fact that we are all searching for something. The Bible says that God has placed eternity in our hearts; humans spend a lifetime trying to discover what it is their heart desires. The Christmas story reveals that what it is we all need is Jesus. God has designed us to search for Him, to have faith in Him. However, He too searches for us and calls us into a relationship with Him. Luke 15 describes three parables where there is great rejoicing when something or someone lost is found! Why not make today the day when you find God, let Him find you and give you life?!



Next Week (15TH Dec)

Chris Short will be speaking at the 10am service on the third of his advent *Connecting@Christmas* series, focusing on Sending.

Our fortnightly Church Prayer Meeting will be at the usual time of 6.30pm.

And the Week after (22ND Dec)



Advance notice that we would very much appreciate it if you could supply some mince pies for our **Carols by Candlelight** service at 6.30pm - and also for our **Christingle** service on Christmas Eve at 4pm.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the coming week are as follows

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

01323 737974

Eldon Road, Eastbourne BN21 1UE

helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

- Sun 8 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am All-Age service @ 10 with Simon Grimes & Jez Taylor
 7.00pm Xcav8!
- Mon 9 6.00pm Girls' Brigade
- Tues 10 Soaking in the Spirit - next meeting 14th Jan
- Wed 11 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.30am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 6.30pm Boys' Brigade
- Thu 12 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.15am Men's Fellowship - next meeting 16th Jan
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship Christmas Celebration
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 13 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 12.30pm Friends, Food & Fellowship
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect/Xcav8! Christmas Party
- Sat 14
- Sun 15 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short
 7.00pm Xcav8!

THE WEEK AHEAD

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*

- Tom Duncanson Dec 8 Bromham Baptist Church, Bedford 10.30am
- Tom Duncanson Dec 15 Shoreham Baptist Church 10.30am



A big thank you, not only for your financial assistance in helping us to provide Christmas hampers for our clients, but also for the **chocolates and toiletries** you have supplied. We are delighted to say that we now have sufficient items to put in the hampers so if you have any you had intended to bring along, keep them for yourselves and enjoy a Christmas treat!



Thurs 12th Dec, 7pm

to see the trailer

[CLICK HERE!](#)

A Cinematic Concert Experience

Eastbourne Cineworld

Is showing a Christian Carol Concert

“A Drummer Boy”

by the duo ‘for King and Country’

“ a sonic journey that blends the sights and sounds of the season with the musical mastery, heart-warming storytelling, and dazzling production the duo is renowned for.”



COOKERY COURSES FOR MEN EASTBOURNE

LEARN TO COOK - EAT DELICIOUS FOOD - HAVE FUN - SOCIALISE



**THE NEXT 5-WEEK COURSE STARTS ON
THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2025, 11.00 - 14.00**

COURSES RUN AT VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH, EASTBOURNE

PLACES ARE LIMITED AND PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

BOOK ONLINE HERE: WWW.COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK/MAN-WITH-A-PAN-NEW/

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

OFFICE@COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK OR 07766526217

THIS COURSE IS FUNDED BY THE EASTBOURNE FOOD PARTNERSHIP

(IT IS FREE BUT THERE IS A SMALL BOOKING FEE)



Parche Seek Part Time Administrator

PARCHE (The Church in Care Homes) is a Christian charity operating in the Eastbourne area. We need an office manager to deal with all administrative tasks. This is a small part-time paid position covering 18 hours per calendar month, working from home. Details of pay and job description supplied on application.

Ideally we would like to appoint the successful person in January 2025 or soon after. Please contact the PARCHE office by email: info@parche.org.uk or phone **01323 438529**

Join the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team

Being a chaplain is hugely rewarding. Using our skills in crisis intervention we offer supportive listening, to start a dialogue and to encourage more hopeful solutions than suicide. We patrol Beachy Head on foot and by 4X4, responding to emergency calls, and locating people at risk or in crisis.

Full training is provided. You will receive personal, one-to-one, mentor-based training. You will never be at Beachy Head alone and will always work alongside a more senior team member. We also always provide support and after-care counselling.



We are currently recruiting for:

Salaried Chaplain's role (30-35 hours p/w)



Please see the full Job Description on our website in the downloadable application pack for more details.

www.bhct.org.uk

Or contact

gail.whittington@bhct.org.uk

Closing date for applications is 10th Jan 2025.

We are recruiting for a salaried position

**Join our Team
#MakeADifference**

CHRISTMAS - No Accident!

A brief reflection on the Birth of Jesus

I sometimes wonder – did all heaven **hold its breath** when Jesus left His glorious throne and came down, down, down? Down into the **darkness** of this poor world. A world created for the glory of God but ruined by the work of His enemy. Down to an impoverished world of darkened minds, and dirt and degradation, desperately needing a Saviour.



The entrance of Jesus as a babe into a Jewish family in Bethlehem was **no accident**. God the Father had previously planned every detail. He chose ancestry, the mother Mary, the father-figure Joseph, the circumstances, the time, the place, and the manner of the birth through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He chose the shepherds, the shelter, the star and the far-travelled wise men.

He chose the celebrating choir of angels singing with great joy. The moment of Jesus' arrival here was visibly attested by heaven's representatives. What an astounding angelic welcome and announcement – "A Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

As Saviour, Jesus came to **save** the lost, to **salvage** those on the rubbish heap of humanity. He came to rescue, redeem and restore the image of God on the face of the people whom, He purposed, would one day dwell with Him in peace and purity in His paradise.

Did the angels know what horrors would befall Him as Saviour of mankind? Did they know the darling of heaven would be despised and hated by the people He came to rescue?

Did the shepherds and the wise men bowing down low before the King of the Jews, know He would be **crucified**, suffering punishment for **their sins and ours**, as they worshipped?

We guess they questioned the reason for His coming here, but **we** know the secret – it was no accident - **The Father sent His Son** to be the Saviour of the world. Let us for a moment hold our breath as we contemplate **with awe** the wonderful birth of our Lord; and then lift Him up, up, up with our praises this Christmas.

Avril Coombe

PRAYER DIARY 9TH - 15TH Dec

Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ. Philippians 2:5

Monday Lord we pray for you to direct those who will be involved in choosing the next Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for a person who will have the attitude described in Philippians 2v5 , who will focus on preaching repentance, forgiveness and salvation to a captive world audience. May your will be done Lord.

Tuesday Lord, governing our country is a privileged position to represent you. We pray that our government will choose to prioritise Christianity at national public events and be guided by You in all areas of decision making . We pray that your Holy Spirit will be drawing MPs to faith in Jesus.

Wednesday Lord we pray that decisions in schools to reduce use of mobile phones will help the mental stresses of young people and we pray for authorities and parents to be able to protect young people better on the internet. We pray for our children to recapture a more carefree childhood.

Thursday Father God please bless and nurture students at bible colleges around the world. We pray that you will raise up a new generation of gifted Christian leaders empowered by your Holy Spirit.

Friday Lord we pray that you will guide King Charles as he prepares his Christmas address to the nation. We pray that it will be a powerful witness to the Christian gospel and that it will guide many lost people to turn to You this Christmas.

Saturday Lord we pray that Christians will be guided to bring comfort to victims of recent flooding in the areas where they live and save families from falling into despair.

Sunday Lord we pray that the genuine Christmas story will be the focus of nativity plays in schools around the country. Guide RE teachers to be bold in teaching our children the truth about You in a possibly hostile school environment. And we pray that young children will soak up the wonder and joy of the nativity.

DAILY BIBLE READING NOTES 2025



If you have ordered Bible reading notes, you will find them in your pigeon hole. Just a reminder that they are £26 for the year, so if you have not paid for them yet, please do so, either by bank transfer to Victoria Baptist Church, or we can accept card payments.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

How to live a wise and Godly life in a sinful world

“Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? For a man’s ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths.” Prov. 5:20-21

‘And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Revelation 21:2, 5

This is Tim Keller’s last introductory sermon to understanding the Book of Proverbs. Chapter 5 deals with adultery but has some important general lessons on how to apply wisdom in a fallen world. The word ‘forbidden’ used to describe the adulterous woman in Chapter 5:3&20 can be translated ‘strange’, and is key to understanding this passage. It reminds us God has set physical and spiritual rules for good living, e.g. be honest, be faithful to your spouse, practise generosity, honour your parents, etc., but when we depart from these rules we are deviating, **acting strangely** from what God intended and it will harm us. We expect, therefore, things to go well when we follow God’s rules, and badly if not, as it says in Prov 5:21-23 - *“The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.”*

But, in practice, that doesn’t always happen because we live in a broken world where people do good and are not always rewarded for it or suffer unnecessarily. Jesus Himself lived a perfect life yet He suffered because He was confronted by the fallenness of the world. So where can we find an answer to help us?

We find it in the gospel because Jesus, the Judge alluded to in Proverbs 5:21, came to bear the punishment we deserve. As a result *“We can approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Heb. 4:16.* Not only that, Jesus covers us with his righteousness. We are the bride coming out of heaven that is *‘beautifully adorned’* with Christ’s righteousness in Revelation 21:2.

How does this truth give us wisdom to live by?



a. It helps us to follow God's rules but not be enslaved by them or fear them. We can appreciate a book like Proverbs better because we realise its sayings are not absolutes, for we live in a fallen world. Like the Sermon on the Mount, we do not see their teaching just as a moral code but something we aim for and need God's help to fulfil.

b. Realising what God has done for us in Christ and what he will do in heaven (Rev.21:1-5) by covering our sin and giving us 'new clothes', we are '*enthralled/intoxicated by Him*' (Prov.5:19). This fills us with great love, joy and peace to help us put things in perspective, cope with disappointments and live a balanced life.

As Mathew Arnold put it, '*He saw life steady and saw it whole*' or better still, we can say with Paul, '*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*' Phil. 4:12

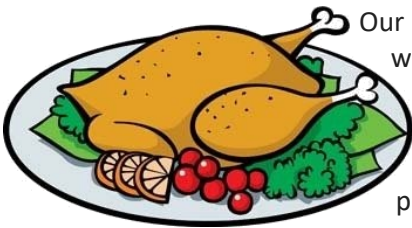
To hear and benefit from the full sermon by Tim Keller go to:

[Strangeness and the Order of God – Gospel in Life](#)

John Demetriou



FRIENDS FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



Our last meeting of 2024 is next Friday (13th) when we will be enjoying our Christmas lunch. If you have not already signed up, please do so, either on the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Centre, or by contacting the office. The deadline to reserve a place is this Sunday (8th).

Those of you who have signed up, do please let us know if for some reason you cannot attend after all. Many thanks for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing a good turn out!

Flower Ministry

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

Looking ahead to the New Year, we have vacancies for flower donations for both January & February - only 2 dates have been taken thus far so please give some thought as to whether there are any special occasions you would like to commemorate. See Chris McMahon for more details.

