



Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**VICTORIA** Baptist Church News



**“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.” Jeremiah 29:11**



**10am - live at VBC and online - All-Age Service with Jez Taylor**  
**Please note the new time for our afternoon/evening service.**  
**6.30pm Passion for Life with Chris Short "God's Word in Evangelism"**

**HAPPY new year everyone!**

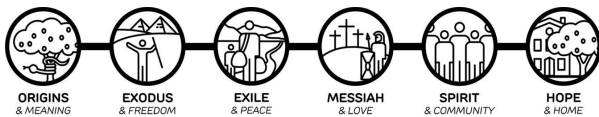
**MATTHEW 25:40**

New Year is always a time for reflection and looking forward, and in today's all-age service we will do a bit of both!

Can you remember any of your resolutions from January 2021? How about the challenge Sandra and I set you in the January all age service last year? Well done if you remembered that we set you a challenge to have an inspirational word of the year, to motivate you to be a better follower of Jesus. What was your word? I'll tell you mine in the service.



Looking forward to 2022, how can we as a church honour Jesus in Eastbourne and beyond? Today I will be exploring how we may step up to the plate and commit to serving Jesus more intentionally and we will be introducing the AOK ministry.



**Young People Teaching Programme**

Our young people (secondary school upwards) kicked off the New Year with a series based around 'the Bible Series' - produced by the Bible society.

Over six sessions, The Bible Series introduces the overall story of the Bible. Each week we'll touch on key themes and relate them to our daily living through creative teachings and videos. In our first session we re-instated the truth that we are all God's Masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10 NLT). What a truth to commence 2022 with!

Please pray for our leaders, volunteers and our young people as we make our way through this overview.

## STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

It's good to get back into the usual routine after all the excitement of Christmas! At the start of this new year, we welcome Jez Taylor onto the staff team, with effect from Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. As most of you are aware, he will be heading up the Life Group ministry, working one day a week.

Days off are as usual - Chris on Tuesday, Erik, Sandra & Simon on Thursday, and Colin on Monday. Julie works on Thursdays, Tim & Jez will both be around for a part of Wednesdays & Fridays.

### 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

### Treasurer

Louise Hughes

### Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

### Pastoral Team Leader

Tim Nunn

### Life Group Coordinator

Jez Taylor

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### VBC Bank Details

*Account Name:*

Victoria Baptist Church Trust

*Account Number:* 00010297

*Sort Code:* 40-52-40

Staff contact details:

[firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

(eg [chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk))

## FLOW CAFÉ

If you read this before Saturday (8<sup>th</sup>), we regret that we have had to cancel Flow Café for January. We very much hope to start up again in February.



Sun	9	9.40am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	All-Age Service with Jez Taylor
		6.30pm	Passion for Life - God's Word in Evangelism
Mon	10	1.00pm	Gloria Wood funeral - Eastbourne Crematorium <b>NO</b> Girls Brigade at present - reviewing at end of January
		7.30pm	CLT meeting
Tue	11	7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed	12	8.30am	Community Fridge (until 10.30am)
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)/ 6.15pm (ages 8-18)
Thu	13	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Chris Short
Fri	14	10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect!
Sat	15		
Sun	16	9.40am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online - Chris Short
		6.30pm	Passion for Life - Chris Short

## The Week Ahead



Fri Jan 21 - Friends, Food & Fellowship lunch at 12.30pm. Please sign up in the Welcome Centre if you wish to attend.

**Gloria Wood's FUNERAL** takes place on Monday (10<sup>th</sup>), 1pm at Eastbourne Crematorium. There are no restrictions on numbers who can attend but if you are planning on going the family have requested that you wear a face covering, consider taking a lateral flow test before going, and let the office know if you are planning to go so they have a rough idea of numbers to expect.



The service will be video streamed and can be accessed by following this link -

<http://www.wesleymedia.co.uk>

You will need the following PIN Number to login - **492-8166**

It is with sadness that we have to report the passing of **Norman Heptinstall** on Thursday. Our thoughts and prayers are with Norman's daughter, Liz Jupp, and her family, at this sad time. Funeral details will follow shortly.

And **Anne Drew** passed away this morning (Friday) in the hospice after a short illness. Please remember Anne's husband, John, in your prayers.

*“The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.”*

*John 1:41-42 (NIV)*

This week in our evening service, we will be focusing on “God’s word in evangelism.” This session aims to help us see that our role as disciples is to bring people to Jesus and that it’s through Scripture that people can meet Jesus today. There will be a video presentation and time for discussion and prayer. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

If you are unable to make it this week, then here is a link to the video and a few questions for you to consider once you have watched it:

<https://www.apassionforlife.org.uk/video-dl/Gods-Word-in-evangelism-IBD7.mp4>

- What has the effect of hearing Jesus’ words through the Scriptures had on you? Do you believe that nonbelievers can be impacted by God’s word?
- Do you ever assume what someone’s response will be to Jesus and then discount them because you think they won’t be interested? How does Andrew’s example in John 1:41-42 challenge or encourage you?
- Think of some practical ways you could help people listen to Jesus’ voice for themselves.
- Write down the names of 2 or 3 people you want to invite to meet Jesus in God’s Word. What would be the best way to do this?

Finally, spend some time in prayer:

Thank God for His Word and that we can grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus as we listen to His voice.

Pray for the 2 or 3 people you would like to introduce to Jesus through God’s Word. Ask God to give them a curiosity to know more about Him and for Him to help you as you invite them to explore Jesus in Scripture.

## **Daily Reading Notes**

We have been in contact with the Christian Resource Centre this week and they still have not received the Bible reading notes for this quarter. They are sourcing them from a different company who has them in stock and they should be in very soon. Apologies for the delay, but you will be informed as soon as they are available.



## PRAYER DIARY: 10<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight."*

**Proverbs 3:5,6**

**MONDAY** Father, we lift up to You the Acts of Kindness community service starting at VBC in February. We pray Lord, that You put it upon many people's hearts to use their talents to help Networx and CAP reach out to those in need.

**TUESDAY** Psalm 44:6 "I do not trust my bow, my sword does not bring me victory." Lord we pray for your intervention in the many disputes and tensions in our world. As the leaders of Russia and the USA start talks on Ukraine, Europe with Iran, and Japan with China over Taiwan, we pray they put their trust in You and not in themselves. May the power of the Holy Spirit bring stability and peace to the negotiations.

**WEDNESDAY** Psalm 85:6 "Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You." Father we are aware of the number of churches that have closed over the last 10 years and pray for You to revive our country by sending the Holy Spirit to fill every home with the joy and hope and certainty that comes from acknowledging Your Son as their Saviour. Teach us Lord how to be a faithful witness for You this year.

**THURSDAY** Dear Lord, we lift up to You those affected by the soaring energy costs and having to decide whether to eat or to stay warm. We pray for the Foodbank and its ability to receive enough food donations to meet increasing demand. We pray that the school breakfast and dinner services reach all young people in need, and pray for the Government to reduce the energy bills for those that are struggling.

**FRIDAY** Father God, we lift to You those who have not yet taken up the offer of vaccination against Covid-19; give understanding and patience to those administering advice to this group. Give thanks for the scientists, vaccinators and volunteers who have rolled out such a successful programme in the UK. Pray that adequate vaccines reach people in every corner of the earth.

**SATURDAY** Pray for our Queen as she prepares to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee this year. Lord we give thanks for her Christian faith and her dedication of service to You and to her people over the past 70 years. We pray that other members of the Royal Family may follow her witness and example as they take on further responsibilities.

**SUNDAY** Psalm 56:4 "In God whose word I praise, in God I trust, I will not be afraid." Father we thank You for giving us the Sabbath, a time to come together and sing our praises to Your glory. We are grateful to You for the words of the scriptures that explain Your Kingdom and convince us to trust in You and not be afraid of what the future holds.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

## ACTS OF KINDNESS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

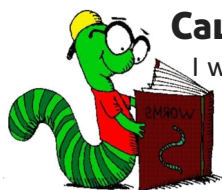
*Acts of Kindness* is an initiative at Victoria Baptist Church to serve our community in practical ways, demonstrating God's love in action. You may have seen the Newsletter entry before Christmas suggesting you consider making joining AOK a New Year's Resolution: whether you did or not, we need your help so **this Sunday (9<sup>th</sup>), 15 minutes after the end of the 10am service there will be a short AOK presentation and the opportunity to ask questions in The Small Hall.**

Initially AOK will run as a 'Pilot' serving two local initiatives endorsed by VBC - Network and CAP. By volunteering, you would be making yourself available to complete individual tasks, for example: delivering groceries, moving furniture or decorating a room.

All that is required of volunteers initially is to be willing to make yourself available for tasks, complete an AOK Volunteer Form and monitor a WhatsApp Group to choose tasks you are willing to complete. The AOK Volunteer Form and more information can be found on the VBC website.

We anticipate that the majority of 'tasks' will involve working as a pair of volunteers. If you are a teenager reading this, please feel free to volunteer, but you will need an adult to volunteer alongside you. If you were once a teenager, please consider involving your family / teenagers by volunteering as a pair – mother / daughter / father / son / grandmother / father combination.

Hopefully see you this Sunday after the morning service in the Small Hall!



### CALLING ALL BOOKWORMS

I would like to gauge if there is interest in starting a BOOKCLUB at church. This could be once a month for one hour during Flowcafe in one of the downstairs rooms, open to all, to discuss books we have read. If you are interested in such a new venture, please get in contact with me, best by landline or email. If you don't have access to the church directory, please contact the office. Depending on COVID restrictions, we could have an initial session on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> to establish interest and draw up a list of books. I hope to hear from you soon.

*Ingelore Demetriou*

### INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP OF VBC?

We are holding a meeting for those interested in membership on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 5pm downstairs in the Hive. If interested, please contact Richard Kirk, Membership Coordinator.



## FLOWER MINISTRY

With the flower ministry team taking a well-earned break and no flowers on display these past couple of weeks, we thought we would take a look back at 2021 and highlight some of the best displays, as chosen by our panel of experts!



If you would like to get involved in the Flower Ministry, please contact Chris McMahon for more details. There is a particular need for people to deliver flowers on a Monday morning - a car is essential!