

# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 14th December 2025

VICTORIA  
Baptist Church Eastbourne



# NOW

THAT'S WHAT I CALL

# A NATIVITY



# 2025





## Now that's What I Call A Nativity (Angels' Song)

Come and celebrate the joy of Christmas with a heart-warming retelling of the Nativity story - brought to life by our wonderful children and youth!



Costumes, carols, and starlight



Shepherds, angels, and a very special baby



Sing along with your favourite Christmas songs



Everyone is welcome — families, friends, and little ones!

*"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord."* — **Luke 2:11**

**Please note that the 10am service will NOT be live-streamed but a recording will be available to watch early next week.**

**Please also note - there will be NO evening service at 6pm.**

## Next Week (21<sup>ST</sup> Dec)

Next week's live@10 will be led by Lucy Craggs. Continuing the theme of Christmas songs, Lucy will be focusing on Mary's Song.

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight service.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

## Staff movements for next week

Chris	off Mon & 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](mailto:helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

[www.victoriabaptist.org.uk](http://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk)

- Sun 14 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
 10.00am All-Age live@10 - with Emily Jenkins & Simon Grimes  
 7.00pm Xcav8
- Mon 15 6.00pm Girls Brigade Awards Evening - next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Tue 16
- Wed 17 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
 8.15am Community Fridge  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 12 noon Thanksgiving Service for Yvonne Collins
- Thu 18 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)  
 Men's Fellowship - next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> Jan  
 Women's Fellowship's - next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> Jan  
 7.00pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting (note the earlier time)
- Fri 19 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting  
 12 noon Thanksgiving Service for Lester Miller  
 Kids Club - next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> Jan  
 Xpect - next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Sat 20
- Sun 21 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
 10.00am live@10 with Lucy Craggs  
 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight



At 6.30pm next week we have our **Carols by Candlelight** service. Refreshments will be served after this event and it would be much appreciated if you could bring in some mince pies prior to the event. With **Christingle** refreshments to follow on Christmas Eve, it is anticipated that we will need quite a few mince pies over these two events!

Could we also ask you to bring in some other cakes which are more child-friendly than mince pies, specifically for the Christingle service?

On the subject of Christingle, Sandra would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who have offered to help assemble the Christingles. She now has a full team!





# 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](http://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk)



## PRAYER DIARY : 15<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER



This week's prayers focus on Advent; a time of waiting and promise, and a time to reflect on hope, peace, joy and love.

**HOPE** *"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."* Isaiah 40:31 We thank You, Lord, for the hope we have in You. An eternal hope that is not based on earthly desires, but on Your Word and Your promises. We ask You to fill us with Your hope and strength when we feel lost or weak. Help us to focus on You in times of need and to remember Your promise never to leave us. Pray for those who are living without this hope - for friends, neighbours and prodigals; for those who are placing their hope in temporary solutions. Pray that they will discover the only true hope that is in Jesus Christ.

**PEACE** *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* John 14:27 This world is very troubled, with international conflicts, national division and family breakdown. Thank God that, even in the most difficult of circumstances, we have the peace of Christ. Pray for peace in war-torn areas such as Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen and Sudan. Ask God to intervene and protect His Church in these areas. Remember our church family in Lebedyn and the persecuted church in Nigeria and other parts of the world. Bring political leaders before God and ask Him to give them wisdom.

**JOY** *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"* Philippians 4:4 The New Testament reminds us that Paul always found joy in any circumstance. Pray that God will help you to do the same. This joy comes from a deep assurance of our salvation and is not dependent on our circumstance. Take some time to praise God and thank Him for all that He has done for you, and especially for sending His Son Jesus. Pray for those who are struggling to find joy at this time. Those who are grieving, seriously ill, or struggling with debt or with relationship issues.

**LOVE** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* John 3:16

Praise God for the depth of His love for us in sending Jesus. Ask that His love will shine in our hearts and that our actions will always be loving and be an expression of His love. Pray that the true message of Christmas and God's great love for humanity will be like a light shining in the darkness. Ask God to bless the ministry of VBC this Christmas so that many will come to know the true hope, peace, joy and love of God this Christmas.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

# Christmas Challenge

One of our members has suggested that we all take up the challenge this year of inviting at least one friend, neighbour or work colleague to come with them to this year's *Carols by Candlelight*. Even if only 25% of the congregation did this, we'd probably be packed out and facing a "standing room only" scenario! To give you an idea of figures the attendance at last year's *C by C* saw an increase of 21% attending compared to 2023. If we had a similar increase this year we would certainly need an overflow facility so let's plan in advance for such a situation and start inviting others along.



When you go out of your way to invite a friend, neighbour, or work colleague, invariably they're happy to come along — and in some cases, it's just the nudge they need!

## The Levitical Goat's Lament

I once was prized, a sacred beast,  
For sin and guilt, I'd host a feast.  
They'd lay their hands, confess their wrongs,  
Then send me off with priestly songs.

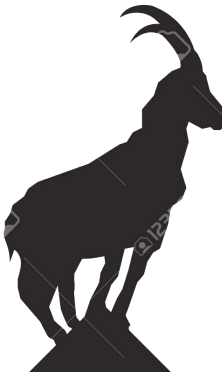
But now I'm told I'm obsolete,  
No altar calls, no hooves to beat.  
Paul says grace has changed the game  
And I'm just livestock with a name.

I watched him preach with scrolls and flair,  
While scribes collapsed in ink despair.  
He juggled notes and quoted Christ  
And left my Law quite sacrificed.

I miss the days of solemn bleat,  
Of temple courts and holy heat.  
Now Gentiles dine on pork and wine  
And I just chew my olive vine.

So here I stand, a goat unclaimed,  
My Levitical fame defamed.  
But still I hope, in some odd way,  
They'll need scape goat anyway.

*Richard Kirk*



## Wreath-making

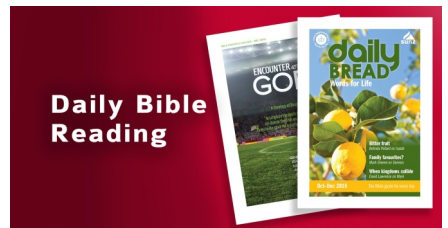
We had a great time last Saturday evening with what is fast becoming an annual event - our wreath-making activity in the build-up to Christmas. Nearly 60 people came along and enjoyed not only the making of wreaths but also a time of great fellowship. Don't miss out next year!



## Bible Reading notes

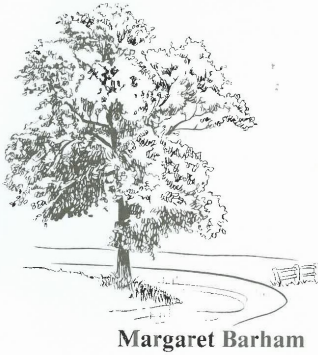
We would ask those of you who have ordered Bible Reading notes from Sandra to collect them from your pigeon holes at the back of the church as soon as possible.

The pigeon-holes are gradually beginning to fill with Christmas cards and we would also ask everyone to make an effort to keep these clear if you can.



## DELIGHT IN THE LORD

*Another in the series of thoughts inspired  
by quotations from the Book of Psalms.*



*"The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know Your name will trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek You" Psalm 9:9,10*

Someone told me that she had been going through a difficult time – her daughter went into hospital for an operation, her father was in hospital many miles away, there was something wrong with the car and there were various other problems to face.

Sometimes we go through times in our life when it seems that everything is against us. There can be various reasons for this happening. It may be that we are being oppressed by Satan, or that God is seeking to discipline us because He sees various things in our life that are displeasing to Him, or we may have wandered away from the Lord and He is seeking to stop us in our tracks in order that we turn back to Him.

Whatever happens to us, and for whatever reason, God is watching over us and He sees how we react. Often we resent adverse circumstances and we become angry - with what is happening, with ourselves, and maybe, even with God. But all the time God is reaching out to us, longing for us to seek Him afresh, to trust Him, to seek refuge in Him, to know His presence with us no matter what problems we are facing.

Those who know the name of Jesus - who know that He is their Saviour and Lord - will find that they can trust Him no matter what happens. Whatever our circumstances, may our response be, "I will trust and not be afraid."



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Christmas greetings to all our faithful friends at VBC with much gratitude for your love, support and continued prayer for Mark's health. Mark and Jo Venter



Sam & Miriam would like to wish all our friends at VBC a very Happy Christmas.



Warmest Christmas Greetings to all our church family. Richard & Margaret



Wishing my church family a Happy Christmas  
and every blessing in the new year.  
Love from Deirdre Dean



Wendy and David Dick send love and best wishes to all our lovely friends at Victoria. Many thanks to all who contribute in so many ways to the fellowship.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



*With much love to you all this  
Christmas. May you be richly blessed  
in 2026. Colin & Chris xx*

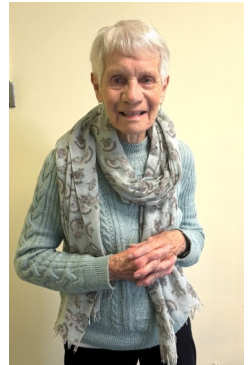


*We wish all our friends at Victoria Baptist Church  
a very happy and peaceful Christmas. May the  
Lord bless you throughout 2026.*

*Doreen and Lawrence*



*To all friends from Victoria  
I'd like to wish a blessed  
Christmas and New year,  
With love in Jesus,  
Nancy Houston*



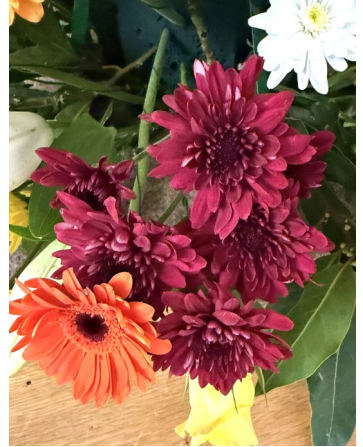
*"Joy to the world".  
Greetings to all the family  
at VBC, from Thelma*



*Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory,  
the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and  
truth.' 1 John 14 With much love Chris, Claire, Callum and Toby xxxx*

## FLOWER MINISTRY

The flowers last week were donated by  
**Friends of VBC**



*Can you please thank the Church for the beautiful flowers delivered to us recently, together with lovely Bible text from Psalms which brought us so much pleasure and for which we are very grateful. DT*

