



Sunday 17th April 2022

VICTORIA Baptist Church News



**“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who
was crucified. He has risen! He is not here”**

Mark 16:6



Good Friday - 10am a reflective service with Francis Bates
Easter Sunday - live at VBC and online with Chris Short

GOOD FRIDAY - THIS PRESENT TIME

On Good Friday, Francis Bates will be leading a reflective service, focusing on the crises that Jesus faced and asking the question about the choices we have to make, living in “this present time”.



EASTER SUNDAY

WHY DO YOU LOOK FOR THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. It changes the meaning of life. It changes the meaning of death. It changes the meaning of love.

If Jesus is alive, the meaning of life cannot be limited to the accumulation of power, prestige and possessions.

If Jesus is alive, death is not the final thing that will happen to us.



And, if Jesus is alive, the eternal language we use when we talk about love, (“I will love you, forever”) finally makes sense.

But is Jesus really alive? Most people in our generation don’t think so. They consider it to be a primitive and unscientific belief – a mark of gullibility and intellectual immaturity.

And yet all over the world, this Easter Sunday, people from all kinds of educational and cultural backgrounds, will gather to celebrate the resurrection, claiming personal knowledge of the risen Jesus.

The words of the angels help us to understand why. We’ll consider them, as we also celebrate the fact that Jesus is alive forevermore.

SUNRISE

With the weather forecast looking good for the Easter weekend, please note that we will be having a Sunrise Service at Beachy Head on Easter Sunday. We will be congregating at the RAF Memorial (opposite the Beachy Head pub) at 5.50am.



STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Colin's turn this week for a couple of days off - Tuesday & Wednesday, whilst the rest of the team will be adopting their usual working pattern.

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

01323 737974

Eldon Road, Eastbourne

BN21 1UE

helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

VBC Bank Details

Account Name:

Victoria Baptist Church Trust

Account Number: 00010297

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Staff contact details:

firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk

(eg *chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk*)



Reminder - all material for the news sheet needs to be submitted by Thursday lunchtime. There is no guarantee it will be included if submitted after the deadline!

The Week Ahead

Sun	17	5.50am 9.30am 10.00am	Sunrise Service at Beachy Head Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office Live at VBC and online with Chris Short
Mon	18		Bank Holiday
Tue	19	7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed	20	8.30am 10.00am 5.15pm 7.30pm	Community Fridge (until 10am) Vicky Bees Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)/ 6.15pm (ages 8-18) Men's Curry Night (at the Spice Garden)
Thu	21	7.30am 10.15am 2.30pm 7.00pm	Prayer Meeting (for men only) Men's Fellowship with David Bourne Women's Fellowship with Jez Taylor Bible Journalling
Fri	22	10.00am 10.00am 12.30pm 5.00pm 7.00pm	Vicky Bees Outreach Prayer Meeting (see page 5) Friends, Food & Fellowship Kids Club Xpect!
Sat	23		
Sun	24	9.30am 10.00am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office Live at VBC and online with Chris Short



Wed Apr 27
Wed May 4
Fri May 6
Sat May 7
Fri June 3

Church Meeting for Members, 7.30pm
Thanksgiving Service for Brian Coombe
Thanksgiving Service for Gladys Attwater
Flow Cafe
Church Jubilee BBQ, 12.30pm

Funeral Dates



The Thanksgiving Service for the life of **Brian Coombe** will take place here at VBC on **Wednesday 4th May at 2.30pm**. This will be preceded by the committal at Langney Cemetery earlier in the day. If you want to join with Avril and the family after the service for some refreshments, sign-up sheets are now in the Welcome Centre.

And two days later, on **Friday 6th**, we are having the Thanksgiving Service for **Gladys Attwater** at 12.45pm, preceded by the committal at Eastbourne Crematorium. Further details will follow after Easter.

Outreach Prayer Meeting -

Friday mornings at 10am... followed by tea and coffee!

The first Outreach Prayer Meeting will take place next Friday (22nd) at 10am in the Small Hall at VBC. These meetings will continue each Friday morning at 10am until the end of July. Each will begin with forty-five minutes of prayer for appropriate outreach activities such as Alpha and AOK, but also other ways in which the church is looking to introduce people to Jesus. This will be followed by tea and coffee and the opportunity to chat until around 11.15am. Please join us!



Please contact Tim Nunn for more information if required.

Let's get inviting.

Alpha 2022

Alpha explores the foundations of Christianity. It's relaxed, low key, and gives guests the chance to ask questions and explore the Christian faith. Dinner is also included.

Do you know anyone that you'd like to invite? Why not attend the first few sessions with them?

Alpha starts Tuesday 26th April, 6.45pm, here at VBC.

To book, or for more information, please email: tim@victoriabaptist.org.uk



PRAYER DIARY: 18TH - 24TH APRIL

Then Jesus said , "Because you have seen me you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29

Monday Lord, thank You for the joy that the Easter message brings. Fill us, we pray, with Your Holy Spirit to embolden us to take the Good News to everyone we meet this coming week. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19.

Tuesday Today, pray for the children and young people returning to school and college, especially those preparing to take exams, whose education has been disrupted by the pandemic. Father God, we also lift up to You our young people and their youth leaders who have returned from their week at their Mountain Valley camp. We pray that they have developed a deep, personal relationship with our Lord Jesus and are filled with The Holy Spirit.

Wednesday "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another." 1 John 1:7 Father, we lift up to You the Men's Prayer Group as they, and friends, meet for a curry night. Bless this event, Lord, and may the light of their fellowship strengthen their faith and convince others to know You more.

Thursday "Give me understanding, and I will keep Your Law and obey it with all my heart". Psalm 119 v 34. Lord, we lift up to You those involved in running the Alpha Course this month and bringing new people together to hear Your Word. We pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire its leaders to explain Your message powerfully and for the hearts and minds of the recipients to be open and accepting of the Good News of our salvation through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.

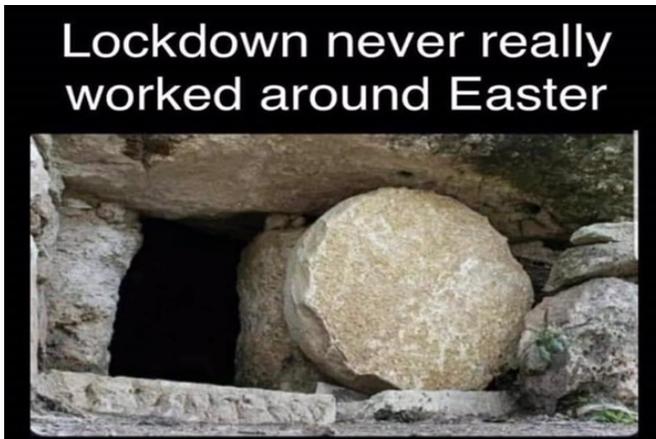
Friday Father, the tragedy unfolding in the Ukraine is deeply etched on our hearts. We pray for Your grace to surround those suffering displacement, the homeless, those injured or wounded and those grieving the loss of loved ones. As the second phase of the war is about to begin, we pray for Pastor Bohdan and his congregation in Lebedyn. Father, we pray for their safety and the continued work they do in their community, may the war pass them by. We pray, Lord, for You to gift the leaders of the world's greatest nations the power of wisdom to enable them to work together to bring this war to an end.

Saturday Loving Father, we lift up to You our Queen as she prepares to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. Thank You for her life of service and dedication to You, our country and the Commonwealth. We pray especially for her health to remain stable so she is able to attend, in person, the events planned to celebrate her remarkable 70 years on the throne.

Sunday “Alleluia, Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed. Alleluia”.

Risen Lord, as we gather in Your presence to worship You, we pray that we may see You and hear You. Father, may we feel You and touch You and may we know Your presence is with us. Father, we lift up to You the sound team, the worship band and our ministry leaders as they bring Your message to us. May the Holy Spirit move amongst us today, enriching us, strengthening us and preparing us for the tasks that You have put upon our hearts to bring glory to Your Name.

A THOUGHT FOR THE SEASON!



EASTER GARDENS



Delighted to receive these Easter Garden pictures from the Fairhead children, Hannah & Peter





CHURCH MEETING

Wed 27nd April, 7.30pm

Agenda

1. Introduction, Welcome & Prayer
2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising
3. Membership Report
4. Finance Report
5. Property Matters
6. Youth Report - Erik Cornelisse
7. Passion for Life Mission events - update
8. AOB - items for consideration to be emailed, or phoned through, to the church office by Monday 25th April.
9. DONM - 29th June 2022

MEMBERS UPDATE

In preparation for distributing an up-to-date edition of the Members' Directory, could we please ask you to let the office know of any changes to your address, telephone numbers or e-mail address. We are aiming to get this latest edition out to you by the end of the month.



FRIENDS, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Just a reminder that as we haven't been able to meet since January, we need you to BOOK IN to secure your place for the next FFF lunch on Friday 22nd. There is a sign-up sheet by the Welcome Desk, otherwise please contact the church office, or Lester and Pam by phone.

BECAUSE OF CALVARY

THOUGH SATAN SEEKS DESTRUCTION,
HELL'S FORCES WILL NE'ER PREVAIL,
ALL POWER OF DARKNESS BROKEN,
BECAUSE OF **CALVARY'S NAIL.**

ALL WORKS OF EVIL CONQUERED.
WE HAVE NO CAUSE TO FEAR,
HELL CAN NOT OVERTHROW US,
BECAUSE OF **CALVARY'S SPEAR.**

WAYS OF WICKED VANQUISHED,
THOUGH CONSPIRE TO TEAR US DOWN.
POWER AND AUTHORITY GIVEN US,
BECAUSE OF **CALVARY'S CROWN.**

HELL AND ALL ITS FORCES
STRIVE TO CAUSE US LOSS,
VICTORY THOUGH IS SIGNED AND SEALED,
BECAUSE OF **CALVARY'S CROSS.**

CHRIST WENT DOWN TO HADES
TO TAKE AWAY THE KEYS
SATAN FOREVER FINISHED,
BECAUSE OF **CALVARY.**

WE DANCE WITH JOY AND WORSHIP,
REJOICE AND PRAISE AND SING
BECAUSE OF CALVARY'S VICTORY
BY **CHRIST THE RISEN KING.**

©K.VIRGO 25/02/12





The Road Less Travelled

The subject of last week's Creative Writing session - held each month during Flow Café - was "The Road Less Travelled" with the aim being to write a poem or prose on this topic. It is a line slightly misquoted from a famous and enigmatic poem by the American, Robert Frost.

It has been used as a title for a renowned Christian book on spiritual growth. Two items are included here, written by two of our members.

The road less travelled holds terror and pain.
I would never want to travel that way again.

The road less travelled offers pleasures and gold.
What it offers is empty, the pleasures grow cold.

The road less travelled is broad, and so very wide,
people hurtle along it, rarely looking aside.

On the road less travelled people rush for their goals,
rarely realising they need to look after their souls.

The road I now travel is narrower, that is true,
and the people who find it are certainly few.

This road holds **LIFE, LOVE** and **JOY**. Fear?? There's no need
Abba's storehouse has everything to help me **winningly** proceed.

On this road I'm protected with the Heavenly Father's care,
So I do not worry because **He is always there**.

On this road, love **abounds** because Jesus died for me.
Holy Spirit left to guide, teach, and fill abundantly.

I see the two roads parting, each going in it's direction.
My road leads to Jesus, and my **glorious resurrection**.

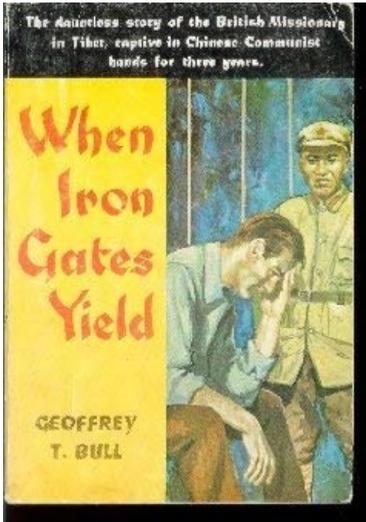


Daphne Brett - Easter 2022



The Road Less Travelled

I have been meditating on Matthew 7:13-14 and concluded that, as believers, there is a sense in which we are by definition a people on a 'road less travelled'. Having chosen the small gate and the narrow way we find ourselves amongst the 'few there be that find it'.



I moved on in my meditation to remember those who have given a particular accent to the idea of a road less travelled. Geoffrey Bull was a hero of the faith in the middle of the last century, a Brethren missionary to Tibet who was arrested by Chinese Communists, imprisoned in China, tortured and held in solitary confinement for three years. Surviving to tell the tale he wrote a brilliant book, 'When Iron Gates Yield', which was well received by the secular press as well as within Christian circles. I still have a copy from that time and have decided to dust it down and reread it for my own inspiration. He was also a celebrated preacher. As a youngster, I remember he was held in awe because drawing from his time in China, his preaching carried extra weight.

Then, in more recent times, I thought of Terry Waite, who had a similar experience but without the torture! He was taken in 1987 by Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Beirut, Lebanon, and held for four years. He never questioned his faith. He used to say to his captors, "You have the power to break my body and bend my mind but my soul is not yours to possess".

Finally, I reflected on my own experience. You may have read of my life well travelled but the last 14 years have been quite different, certainly less travelled in a physical sense. My wife, Rose, was struck down with a large brain tumour which has necessitated 12 major operations over the years. Now the tumour has returned and this time is inoperable. Physically and mentally she is declining and is blind. For me, this has meant suffering, loneliness and pain as I watch her suffer, and yet enrichment as I know I am in the centre of God's will for me as I care for her and embrace His comfort, strength and enabling.

I have some great, loyal friends who are not believers. One of them said, "We don't know how you do it but I suppose it must have something to do with your faith". I assured her she was right!

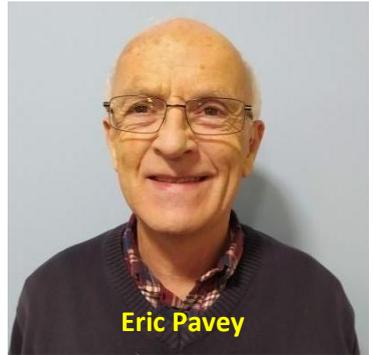
I am not an angel, nor am I perfect, but I am sustained by His power. I have 'grace to help in time of need' and His grace is sufficient. I can say with Habakkuk, 'the Sovereign Lord is my strength'. *(continued overleaf)*

... I would rather not see my wife, life partner and friend, suffer in order for me to learn some of these things, but I am convinced God knows best and one day I will understand. So my meditations shift seamlessly from the general to the specific and then the very personal.

As many have suffered through covid and now the through the war in Ukraine, my prayer is that out of all the sickness, suffering and evil intents of men will emerge stories of people turning to God and finding forgiveness and comfort just as we have done. Then we will have company on our journey and the road less travelled will become the road more travelled.

Time to stop meditating for now. Thank you for joining me.

Eric Pavey



For details about church membership, please contact our Membership Secretary, Richard Kirk.

LIFE GROUPS

Please note that Life Group Notes are available to download from our website. Click on the **Church Life menu, then Life Groups and then resources**. If you do not have access to the website and need hard copies, please contact Jez and he will arrange this for you.



BIBLE BY THE BEACH

This event will be taking place on the first May Bank Holiday weekend. We will be having a guest speaker - Peter Wright - on the morning of Sunday May 1st here at VBC and in the evening you are encouraged to attend the service at the Congress Theatre. There will be no service here at VBC that evening.



"Called to Glory"
Speaker: **Graham Beynon**

**FREE
TO ALL**

Come and join us for the
Sunday Evening Celebration

Congress Theatre, Eastbourne

Sunday 1st May

7:15pm (doors open at 6:50pm)

Followed at 9:15pm by a concert by the
world famous

All Souls Orchestra

TICKETS £8 - AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR
(FREE TO DELEGATES)



biblebythebeach.org

M2V REPORT FROM ERIK ON THE IOW!

Hovercraft and bible lessons
police dog, sandy beach
amazing singing
even a guest preach



Mountain top
and valley deep
learning curves
some very steep



Paintball, bushcraft,
keep it real
all of us together
enjoying a great meal



swimming, football,
bible truth shared
opening up
like we never dared.

Laughter, joy, some tears
missing mum
and yet ...
the best is yet to come.



THIS WAS OUR CAMP
Praise the Lord for it all
We thank you for your prayers
pray we all follow the call.



And 2 of the leaders, Angie and Sandra,
even had time for a swim!

CHARITY CONCERT ...

in aid of St. Wilfrid's Hospice, hosted and compered by
our very own Tom Duncanson!

A portrait of Lesley Garrett, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a red blazer, a black top, a necklace, and earrings. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

LESLEY GARRETT

ALSO FEATURING
FARYL SMITH
BGT FINALIST

RUBY SKILBECK
BBC Young Chorister
of the Year 2021

CONCENTUS
TRAPDOOR
THEATRE SCHOOL

28th APRIL 7.30pm

WWW.ROYALHIPPODROME.COM

01323 802020 TICKETS £25

ALL PROFITS TO ST WILFRID'S HOSPICE

CHRIST OR BARABBAS?

Many thanks to Ruth Campbell for submitting these two poems written by her grandfather. Very appropriate for the season.



Christ or Barabbas

Although Barabbas robber be
And Christ Son of the Deity
Since we must choose - the choice is free
We choose Barabbas

God sent his Son the world to save
And to this end his life he gave
And mankind victory o'er the grave
We want Barabbas

And what shall be done with Christ? We cry
Crown him with thorns and crucify
"Lord of our life" Him we deny
Give us Barabbas

Though Christ for our Salvation bled
And rose triumphant from the dead
To be the ever Living Bread
We will have none of him - instead
on us and on our children's head
We take Barabbas.

So Christ is crucified each day
By those who wout the Word obey
But serve a god with feet of clay
Barabbas

F. Campbell

CHRIST NOT BARABBAS!



Christ not Barabbas

Between Barabbas - robber he
And Christ Son of the Deity
Since we must choose - the choice is free
Christ for me.

For as he suffered on the tree
That we from sin might be set free
He gave his life for you and me
You and me.

Since thou hast lived and died for me
What offering shall my tribute be
I ask no gifts of thine - but Thee
Christ wants me

And when my day of life is o'er
He'll pilot me through death's dark sea
To meet upon that further shore
Christ with me.

J. S. Campbell

MIRACLES OF JESUS

VICTORY OVER DISEASE

LUKE 5 : 21 – 34

One crowd sighed with relief as they saw Jesus leave, but another crowd was waiting to welcome Him when He returned home to Capernaum. In that crowd were two people who were desperate to see Him, Jairus, a man with a dying daughter, and a woman suffering from an incurable disease.



Jairus was the first to see Jesus, but it was the woman who was helped first. What a contrast between two needy people, revealing the wideness of Christ's love. Jairus was seen by the community as very important. He was a ruler, head of the synagogue. He was president of the board of elders, responsible for the good management of the synagogue, responsible for the conduct of the services, for the allocation of services, that they were carried out in good order. Jairus, one of the most respected people in the community! What a contrast to the lady who was a "nobody!" What a welcome from the Master! Jairus was about to lose a daughter who had given him twelve years of happiness (Mark 5:42) and the woman, desperate to lose an illness that had brought twelve years of sorrow. Because of the haemorrhage, she was treated as an outcast of society. Jairus, no doubt was wealthy, but money could not save his daughter. The woman was bankrupt, having spent all her money on doctors. (No NHS where she lived!) Both Jairus and the woman found the answer to their needs at the feet of Jesus. (Mark 5:22)



At the feet of Jesus

The woman had a flow of blood that was apparently incurable, an illness gradually sapping her strength day after day. When one considers all her disappointments with the doctors, she also had another burden. According to the Law, she was ceremonially unclean which greatly restricted both her religious and her social life. (Lev 15:19)

“When a woman has a regular flow of blood, the impurity of her monthly period will last seven days and anyone who touches her will be unclean.”

But she let nothing stand in her way as she pushed through the crowd to get to Jesus. She could have used any number of excuses to stay away from Jesus. She ...

... might have said, "I'm not important enough to ask Jesus for help. Look! He's talking to Jairus! I won't bother Him now."

What kind of faith did she have? It was weak, timid and maybe full of doubt – she kept saying to herself, "Just touch Jesus' coat and that will do it!" She was not disappointed. Jesus honoured her faith, weak as it was, and healed her body.

Maybe there is a lesson for us. Not everybody has the same degree of faith, but Jesus responds, no matter how feeble our faith.

The woman planned to slip away and get lost in the crowd, but Jesus turned and stopped her. He wanted to be more than a healer. He wanted to be her Saviour. He called her "daughter" and sent her on her way, spiritually and physically healed.

Meanwhile, one of Jairus' friends arrived to say his daughter had died. (Mark 5:35 – 43) It could not have been easy for Jairus, publicly to ask for help from Jesus. The religious leaders were opposed to Jesus. The things that Jesus had done aroused the anger of the scribes and Pharisees, but Jairus was desperate. He would rather lose his friends and save his beautiful daughter. At this point, Jairus had to believe. What did Jesus say to Jairus? "Be not afraid but go on believing." As we would say today: "Don't quit! Keep on believing!"

Did Jairus think "if only it had not been for that woman?!" When Jesus and Jairus arrived at Jairus' house, they saw and heard professional Jewish mourners who were always called when there is a death.

What did Jesus say? "The child is not dead but asleep."



What words of hope to Jairus and his wife.

Unbelief laughs at God's Word, but faith experiences the power of God.

Jesus added, "I say unto thee, little girl, get up!"

The girl not only came back to life but she was healed of her sickness. Jesus instructed the parents to give her some food.

What a Saviour! Master of disease, but also death. He still is working today.

These miracles illustrate how Jesus met and helped all kinds of people. Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

FLOWER MINISTRY



The flowers on display last week were donated by
Colin & Chris McMahon



I received some beautiful flowers today. Not sure why I was chosen to receive them but thank you so much x



A very happy Easter to all
our readers!

May you all experience the joy of
Christ's resurrection as we celebrate
His victory over death!

