

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 18th January 2026



THE ESSENTIAL CHURCH

"YOU ARE PETER, AND
ON THIS ROCK I WILL
BUILD MY CHURCH,
AND THE GATES OF
HADES WILL NOT
OVERCOME IT"

MATTHEW 16:18



The Essential Church

The Rock and the Revolution - Matthew 16:13-20

"I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18)

This Sunday morning we are beginning a series about the most dynamic, enduring, generous, creative and caring movement in the world. Is that what you think of when you think of the Church? Do you think of leprosy and medical missions, justice work, hospitals and hospices, orphanages, safe houses, care for the elderly and the homeless, foodbanks, legal support, befriending groups, etc.?



These things, and more, only exist in the world because of the Church. When Jesus founded the Church and empowered her with His Holy Spirit, He began a revolution that would spread to every part of the world, encompassing people from every culture, language, class and people group - a revolution of love that would unite enemies, lift up the lowest and humble the proudest.

Is that what you think of when you think of the Church? I hope you'll be able to join us as we begin our series on the Essential Church.

This Evening

Our twice-monthly Prayer Meeting takes place today at 6.30pm. Plenty to pray about in these challenging times. Please join us if you can.

Next Week (25TH)

Next week we have a return visit from Ian Coffey who will be preaching at our live@10 service. And at 4pm there will be a Time to Remember (see the foot of page 4).

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

Chris off Tues
Colin off Mon
Kevin off Sat
Tim in Wed am & Fri am
Nadine in Mon & Thurs
Sandra off Thurs

Phil in Tues am, Wed
Emily off Mon & Tues
Simon off Tues
Julie in Thurs
Lucy in Weds am, Thurs, Fri am
Jez in Wed am & Fri am

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

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- Sun 18 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am live@10 with Chris Short
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Sunday evening Youth
- Mon 19 6.00pm Girls Brigade
 7.00pm Core Leadership Team Meeting
- Tue 20
- Wed 21 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 7.15pm Men's Curry Night @ Ashoka, Cornfield Road
- Thu 22 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting
 Men's Fellowship - next meeting Feb 5th
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Anna Reid (NetworX)
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 23 10.00am Vicky Bees
 10.00am Outreach Prayer
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Friday evening Youth
- Sat 24
- Sun 25 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am live@10 with Ian Coffey
 4.00pm A Time to Remember (see below)
 7.00pm Sunday evening Youth



A Time to Remember

Please join us on Sunday 25th January @ 4pm as we take time out to remember friends and family who have passed away. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Women's Italian Night

Date - Wednesday 4th February 7pm

Venue - Pomodoro e Mozzarella, Cornfield Terrace



A sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Centre.

PRAYER DIARY : 19TH - 25TH JANUARY

Our prayers this week are based on Isaiah 43:19. As we are at the start of a new year, we can begin to envision the Lord doing a new thing in our lives. And this is exactly what the Lord says in this passage:

“See I AM doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I AM making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Monday - See

We thank You, Lord, that You are the God who sees us just as we are (Gen. 16:13), and You see us as who You have created us to be - “holy and blameless in Your sight” - and You have adopted us by the death of Jesus into Your family (Eph. 1:3). Thank You that at the start of 2026 You are watching over us and Your plans for us are for good and not evil to give us a future and a hope (Jer. 29:11).

Tuesday – I AM

We acknowledge, Lord, that You are the self-existing One, with no beginning and no end, the One who will be who He will be. Sometimes we find it hard to think of Your vastness, but thank You that You explain Yourself simply as I AM.

Wednesday – Doing a new thing

Thank You, Lord, that in Christ we are new and are constantly becoming new as we fellowship with You and with fellow believers. We are aware of Your steadfast love which never ceases and Your mercies which are new everyday (Lam. 3:23). We ask You to do in us that new thing You want to accomplish in 2026. We say, like the prophet Isaiah, “here I am Lord – send me!” (Isaiah 6:8).

Thursday – Now it springs up

Lord, You said You would give us living water that will become in us a spring of water welling up to eternal life. Lord, we ask You like the woman at the well - give us this water so we won't be thirsty for anything that is not of You.

Friday – Do you not perceive it?

Lord, we ask You to give light to our eyes and heart so that we can perceive Your doings in 2026. This is for us to know the hope of Your calling, and the great inheritance we look forward to as Your people. We hold onto this hope as we begin this new year.

Saturday – I AM making a way in the wilderness

Lord, many of us have passed through the “wilderness” in the last year and some of us are currently having such experiences at the start of this new year, but we thank You that You are making a way in the wilderness. Hallelujah!

Sunday – And streams in the wasteland

Thank You, Lord, for the times of refreshing that will come upon us in 2026 as we seek You and turn to You. We see many changes ahead of us locally and internationally. We thank You for Your promise to restore all things in Jesus our Messiah. We trust You and wait for Your intervention in our lives.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

Elections

Our next church meeting will take place on 25th February, when we will be holding CLT elections. There will be 2 vacancies. Nomination forms are available from the church office, along with information regarding Trustee roles and responsibilities. We would recommend that anyone thinking about standing for election should read this information. Nominations must be received by 28th January.



Flow Café

Many thanks to all who came along to Flow Cafe last week. We raised £270 for Linking Lives. Our next Flow Cafe will be on 7th February, when all proceeds will be passed on to Hope Lebedyn.

Clear Out

Following a recent clear-out here in the church, we have the filing cabinet shown here available for anyone to take away. No price set for it but do feel free to add something to one of our collection boxes if you feel so inclined.

Alternatively, don't forget we have a new machine/card-reader in the Welcome Centre. Very simple to operate but help is at hand if you need it the first time you use it. Just ask one of the staff team, one of the more intellectual-looking would probably be my suggestion though that might well narrow down your choice!



Alpha

All being well, we will be starting another Alpha Course, on Wednesday evenings starting on 4th March ... but it relies on all of us to pray, get involved and invite people!



Alpha is a series of interactive sessions running over nine weeks that allows people to freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. It's for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and ask questions about Jesus in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. Each session includes eating together, a short talk, and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts. At any point, if you think Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge. Our Alpha Course will start at 6.45pm on Wednesday 4th March.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Lucy Craggs:

lucy@victoriabaptist.org.uk

Here are two links that explain more about the Alpha Course:

National Alpha website: <https://alpha.org.uk/>

VBC website: <https://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk/church-life/alpha-victoria/>



Turn The Battle has garnered support from HTB and the HTB network, Evangelical Alliance, Assemblies of God, New Testament Church of God, Pioneer, Fusion, Catalyst, 24/7 Prayer, Prayer Storm,

World Prayer Centre, Premier Radio, UCB, God TV and many other local churches, movements and prayer communities.

To get involved, save the dates **21 – 23 January 2026**, and visit turnthebattle.uk to access downloadable resources and to find out more.

Why Now?

We sense a decisive moment — a spiritual battle at the gate — calling the Church to respond with urgency, unity, and humility.

This is not a conference or event, but a national movement of prayer, open to all. We believe we are being called to three things:

1. **A Fresh Commitment to Prayer** Seeking God with hunger and humility.
2. **A Fresh Commitment to Consecration** Returning to holiness and wholehearted obedience.
3. **A Fresh Commitment to Bold Living**, Courageous Witness and living out the gospel with power and clarity.

FLOWER MINISTRY

The flowers for Christmas services were donated by
Gavin & Pearl Rendall



I would like to thank you so much for the lovely gift of flowers that were delivered today. They were absolutely beautiful and are much appreciated. And a special thank you to the very kind and caring lady who delivered them. EH

A sincere thank you for the lovely flowers and text I received on Monday. They were such a blessing. SW

Many thanks to those of you who have filled the February dates. March dates are still available.

Mar 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

If you need more information, please contact Chris McMahon.