

# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 18th May 2025



**DO NOT JUDGE,**

**OR YOU TOO**

**WILL BE JUDGED**



## **MATTHEW 7:1-6 - PLANKS, PIGS & PEARLS**

***“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.” (v1)***

The above verse is probably the most quoted and misapplied saying of Jesus. Everyone knows that Jesus said, “Do not judge” but not many people know what it means or have considered its context. For many years Christians would have it quoted to them, as a rebuke whenever they wanted to question the decisions and behaviour of others. Sometimes Christians also quoted it to absolve themselves of the responsibility of saying things that were socially disagreeable.



In the immediate context (see verse 6), and the wider Sermon, it is obvious that Jesus cannot mean we should not exercise any kind of judgment. Indeed, life, love and obedience to God is impossible without the exercise of good judgment. This week we'll look together at what planks, pearls and pigs can teach us about being the people of God.

## **NEXT WEEK (25<sup>TH</sup>)**

Next week, Chris Short will be preaching at the 10am service, continuing his series on the Sermon on the Mount.



## **Advance Notice**

There will be NO morning service at VBC on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June. The churches of Eastbourne will be meeting at the Wish Tower slopes - NOT the bandstand as previously advertised - for the annual “Thy Kingdom Come” event.

Please note also that our monthly communion service - invariably held on the first Sunday of the month - will have to be moved and will therefore be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

## STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week:

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

### 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 18 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short  
 6.30pm **Prayer Meeting - see details below**  
 7.00pm Xcav8
- Mon 19 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 20 10.00am World Religions with Jez Taylor  
 Soaking in the Spirit - next meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> May  
 7.30pm World Religions with Jez Taylor
- Wed 21 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
 8.15am Community Fridge  
 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 6.30pm Boys Brigade - Annual Display & Prizegiving  
 6.45pm Alpha
- Thu 22 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)  
 Men's Fellowship - next meeting 5<sup>th</sup> June  
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Martyn Relf  
 evening Omega 18-35 (for timing/venue contact Tim Nunn)  
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting  
 7.30pm CLT meeting
- Fri 23 10.00am Vicky Bees  
 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting  
 5.00pm Kids Club  
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 24
- Sun 25 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short

## Please note



Sunday's 6.30pm Prayer Meeting has been moved! Instead of meeting at VBC, you are encouraged to join us at Suncoast Church (3 Courtlands Road) where they are hosting a time of prayer for the forthcoming "*Thy Kingdom Come*" event (as advertised at the foot of page 2). Please join us this evening (Sun 18<sup>th</sup>) if you can.

Suncoast are also holding a follow-up prayer meeting next Sunday (25<sup>th</sup>).



## VBC Open GOLF

We have a provisional date booked for our very own Open Golf Tournament - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July with the first tee-off time at 3pm, at Willingdon Golf Club. If you have any queries, please see either Colin or Jez.

## CONGRATULATIONS ...

... to Phil & Rebecca Elliston on the birth of Elsie Joy Elliston who arrived in a hurry a couple of weeks ago, after only 33 weeks in fact, and weighing in at 4lb 4oz

Congratulations are also due to the grandparents - David & Heather Elliston, and Alice Purkiss.



## Eddie Purse

Here are the streaming details for Eddie's funeral, being held at Wealden Crematorium on Thurs May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1pm. It will be available live and on demand for about a month afterwards

<https://watch.obitus.com/login/rmzaey>

Username: zese3701

Password: 010403



*Eastbourne & Wealden Branch of*

**GOOD NEWS**  
*for Everyone!*

formerly known as GldeonsUK

cordially invite you to

**'Coffee with Friends'**

Glimpses of Good News ministry from the local to the international scene; including a DVD presentation, testimony, reports and inspirational Bible ministry from our special guest speaker **Stuart Walker**.

*All Saints Centre, All Saints Church  
Grange Road, Eastbourne. BN21 4HE*

**Saturday May 24th 2025**  
Coffee from 10.00 - 10.45am for 11am start





## **Ephesians 4:16      FUEL FOR PRAYER**

From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

**This week offer up prayers for our church team, praying for their ministries, practical work and families.**

**Our Team members are - Chris, Sandra, Colin, Jez, Simon, Kevin, Julie, Phil, Nadine, Tim and Lucy.**

### **Protection and Safety**

"Lord, we pray for Your protection over the church team and their families. Shield them from harm and grant them a sense of peace and security as they serve."

### **Blessings and Fruitfulness**

"Father, we ask for Your blessings upon the church team, that they may experience God's goodness in their own lives and witness the fruits of their labour."

### **Unity and Peace**

"Holy Spirit, help the team to always operate in unity and peace, even when differences of opinion arise. May the love of Jesus abide in their hearts."



### **Discernment and Wisdom**

"Father, give the team the discernment and wisdom to make wise decisions and the courage to stand for what is right."

### **Vision and Creativity**

"Lord, grant the team a renewed vision and creative energy to lead our church and community forward."

### **Provision and Resources**

"Lord, we pray for Your provision and abundant resources for our church team. May You open doors of opportunity and provide the means they need to fulfil their calling."

VICTORIA  
Eastbourne

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH

LOU

PRESENTS

# FELLINGHAM

— IN CONCERT —

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

**TICKET DETAILS:**

REGULAR: £5.00

**07.06.2025**

ELDON ROAD - EASTBOURNE



Visit our website for more details [victoriabaptist.org.uk](http://victoriabaptist.org.uk)  
For tickets email [helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk) or call 01323 737974

**Tickets are now on sale in the office - and going well!**

# God's Providence, Revival and our Role



The themes of God's providence, revival and our response ran through the talks and seminars of this year's Bible By The Beach Conference (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May), 'In All Things God at Work'.

I would like to share some of the teaching to encourage us to have

renewed confidence in our almighty God and learn what our role should be.

## God's Providence in Nature and Human affairs

The providence of God can be seen in the natural world by the way He maintains it, providing what is necessary for the preservation of life and its well being and the discernible, reliable laws of nature. 'He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and unrighteous.' (Matt.5:45)

It is also seen in God's desire to see justice done, 'Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just' (Gen.18:24-26), working against evil now, e.g. through 'the authorities ....instituted by God' (Rom. 13:1), and setting 'a day on which He (God) will judge the world in righteousness' (Acts 17:31) at the end times.

We also see God's providence directed particularly at His chosen people who have believed and trusted in Him and on whom He has set His special love. Of them we read, 'He chose them before the foundation of the world' (Eph.1:4), He adopted them into God's family as sons (Eph.1:5) and has promised, 'all things work together for good, for those called according to His purpose.' (Rom.8:28)

## The Mystery and Paradox of God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility

The Bible teaches people are responsible and accountable for their actions. Man chose to rebel against God at the beginning, listening to the devil's lies and disobeying God. As a result, 'sin came into the world through **one man** (Adam), and death through sin, and so death spread to **all men** because all sinned.' (Rom.5:12) 'People loved darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil.' (Jn.3:19)

Yet God, in His providence, has made a way of escape if people trust in Christ and His work on the cross to find a way back to Him, repair the damage, overcome the devil and restore man to paradise (Col.2:13-15, 2 Peter 3:13). God calls on all people to repent and believe the Gospel (Acts 17:30 and Jn. 3:16).

The problem, though, is we can't believe without His help to open our spiritual eyes as He instructed Nicodemus, 'unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God' (Jn.3:3) or 'open our hearts to pay attention to what is said' as He did for Lydia at Philippi (Acts 16:14). ...



... This brings us to the paradox of salvation where, in God's economy, two seemingly opposite ideas are true and it is a mystery how they work. Our finite minds can't fully comprehend it as Paul declared in Rom. 11:33-35, 'How **unsearchable** are His judgements and how **inscrutable** His ways.' Our job as disciples is to believe both and, as Augustine taught, 'pray as if everything depends on God. Work as if everything depends on you.'

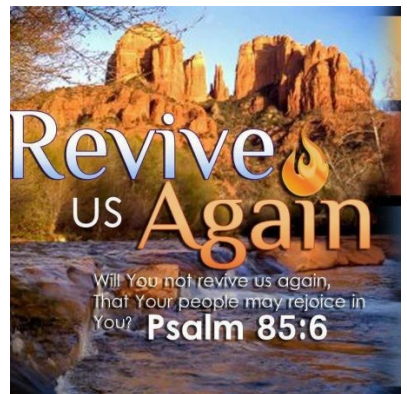
### The Nuances

The main Bible readings at the conference brought out a third element to these two doctrines of God's providence/sovereignty and man's accountability by pointing out how in practice God's ways are unpredictable, not clear cut but more nuanced than we might think or like them to be, especially for believers at the time they occurred. For example, David's victory over Goliath was humanly unexpected - a superior, well armed, hardened warrior against a teenager armed only with 'a sling and a stone!' Or, in the later story, when Absalom rebelled against King David, Absalom has the retreating king at his mercy but chooses to reject the superior and accredited advice of Ahithophel, listening to Hushai's advice instead, which allowed David to escape, regroup and regain control. The point being made in both cases was that victory was in the balance to the last minute and it is clear that without God's intervention, using 'weak means' to overcome a stronger adversary, it would not have occurred. This reminds us of God's ultimate victory over sin and the devil through the weakness/'foolishness' of the cross and the spread of the gospel through its preaching (1Cor.1:20-25).

### Revival and our Part

During the conference we also considered how God's sovereignty/providence and man's role relate to revival, when God moves in a powerful, extraordinary way to restore and extend His kingdom. We considered what the believer's role is to help facilitate such a movement, taking lessons from previous revivals. The following was suggested:

- a. Humble yourself before God. Ask Him to 'restore and revive us again (Ps. 85:4-6) that we might recapture the joy of the Lord as our first love (1Peter1:8, Rev.2:4-5).
- b. Pray for God to accompany the preached word with the power of the Holy Spirit and full conviction (1Thess.1:5) and for God's work to 'speed ahead and be honoured.' (2Thess.3:1)
- c. Confess known sin and receive forgiveness through Christ. ....



d. Remove any obstacles that you know hinder your Christian faith and follow the ways of holiness as Job did when he 'made a covenant with his eyes' not to look at a woman lustfully (31:3).

e. Quick obedience to the Holy Spirit's promptings in your life, in line with his Word (Phil.2:13)

f. Readiness to confess Christ where appropriate and 'prepared to give the reason for the hope that you have.' (1Peter1:13)

We can't force a revival but by following the above we are better prepared when it comes, more likely for God to use us in one and it will 'keep us from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ'. (2 Peter1:8)

John Demetriou



## Tidy Up

Many thanks to those of you who have stepped forward to help with the tidy-up of the church grounds on Sat 31<sup>st</sup> (10am) In preparation for our Centenary Celebrations. We could still do with a couple more people so please speak to David Trimmings, or Colin or Sandra, if you feel you would be able to help.

## Boys Brigade

A huge thank you to all who supported us (Boys Brigade) last Saturday at Flow Café. You buying a cake, a bacon roll or just donating some cash helps us assist hard up families through subsidising the cost of camp or other outings. We thoroughly appreciate your support in kind and through prayers.

This coming Wednesday - 21<sup>st</sup> May, at 6.30pm, we will hold our **Annual Display and Prizegiving**. Very much in the theme of **BB Got Talent**, our

young people have chosen, arranged and rehearsed their very own display elements. Come and join us this Wednesday evening 6.30 - 8.30pm



Thankyou to those of you who supported Flow Café on Saturday. We raised £280 for the Boys' Brigade. Next month is our Centenary Open Day, so the next Flow Café will be on 12<sup>th</sup> July when we will be raising money for the **Girls' Brigade**.

## Girls Brigade



At last Sunday morning's service, we celebrated with the girls a significant milestone in the GB career of their leader, Jenny Collins.

Jenny has been running the 1<sup>st</sup> Eastbourne Company here at VBC on Monday evenings (term-time only) for 20 years and to mark this occasion she was presented with a silver badge and certificate by Margaret Taylor (no relation to Jez!), the District Commissioner, and some flowers presented by one of the girls on behalf of the church.



## Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by  
**Lester & Pam Miller**  
in memory of recently deceased family members



*A huge thank you to the flower team for the beautiful bouquet that we received this week. Thank you so much H&D E*



*Hello Church Family.  
A sincere big thank you for the beautiful flowers that were left outside our door last Monday. What a surprise and a wonderful welcome to the church. B&J O*

