



Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021

**VICTORIA** Baptist Church News



**SET FREE**

ROMANS 6:15-23

**“You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”**

***Romans 6:18***



**This week's message is brought to us by Chris Short,  
continuing his series in Romans.  
4pm this afternoon - Passion for Life with Chris Short**

## **You're Gonna Have to Serve Somebody – Romans 6:15-23**

**“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God,  
the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.”**

**(Romans 6:22)**

There's an old Bob Dylan song that starts like this:

*“You may be an ambassador to England or France  
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance  
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world  
You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls.*

*But you're gonna have to serve somebody,  
Yes, indeed you're gonna have to serve somebody.  
It may be the devil, or it may be the Lord,  
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.”*

That idea comes straight from the passage we're looking at this weekend. Paul's remarkable insight in Romans 6:15-23 is that whatever we choose to pursue in our lives always end up controlling our lives.

Ultimately there are only two masters to choose between – God or not-God. If God is our master, sin is not. If God is not our master, whatever else is, leads to slavery, disappointment and ultimately death.

As we look at this passage together we'll see that the gospel is concerned with more than mere forgiveness (as wonderful as that is) but produces a whole new life in the joyful, obedient service of a new and wonderful master.



## STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Another “normal” week ahead with days off as follows - Chris on Tuesday, Sandra, Erik & Simon on Thursday and Colin on Monday. Julie will be in the office on Thursday and Tim on Wednesday.

**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

**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*)

## Mask Wearing

In the light of fluctuating COVID figures locally, the CLT would encourage you to revert to wearing masks on Sundays and at other meetings when moving around the building. It is down to the discretion of individuals as to whether they remove them when seated and for singing. Please continue to sanitize your hands on entry to the building.



Sun 21	9.40am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
	10.00am	Live at VBC and online - Chris Short (Romans 6)
	4.00pm	Passion for Life with Chris Short
Mon 22	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
Tues 23	6.45pm	Alpha - "How does God guide us?"
	7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed 24	8.30am	Community Fridge (until 10.30am)
	10.00am	Vicky Bees
	5.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)/ 6.15pm (ages 8-18)
	7.30pm	Church meeting
Thu 25	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Erik Cornelisse
Fri 26	10.00am	Alpha Prayer Meeting
	10.00am	Vicky Bees
	12.30pm	Friends, Food & Fellowship
	5.00pm	Kids Club
	7.00pm	Xpect!
Sat 27	7.00pm	Wreath making **
Sun 28	9.40am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
	10.00am	Live at VBC and online - Chris Short {Romans 7}
		Dedication of Paige Meakins
	4.00pm	Passion for Life with Chris Short

**The Week Ahead**



### **AND FURTHER AHEAD ...**

Tues 30 Nov, 2pm	Funeral of Irene Goddard at E/B Crem
Thurs 2 Dec, 7pm	Advent Bible Journalling
Weds 8 Dec , 2.30pm	Funeral of Norman Roberts at E/B Crem
December	For details of Christmas events, see pages 12 & 13

\*\* wreath-making - this event is now sold out



*“So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”*

*Genesis 1:27 (NIV)*

This week in our afternoon service, we will be focusing on the key question: **How should we see the unbelievers around us?**

This session aims to help us to view unbelievers the way God sees them - made in His image, under His wrath but not beyond His grace.

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. Those who have been able to attend so far have expressed how useful these sessions are.

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. Maybe you could discuss the questions with others.

<https://www.apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd2-vid-download>

- Do we really see people as made in God’s image, precious to Him? How can we grow in remembering this truth and relating to people accordingly?
- Do we really see people as coming under God’s wrath? How does this impact our desire to share the gospel?
- How does the truth that no one is beyond the reach of God’s grace affect how we relate to others?
- How could you show people practically that you see them how God sees them?

Finally, spend some time in prayer:

Praise God that we are made in His image and saved by His grace through Jesus. Ask forgiveness for our tendency not to see people the way He does. Ask God to draw people to you and help you to lovingly connect and journey with them towards life in Jesus.

## FareShare Sussex

Old Town Community Fridge has recently joined the FareShare Sussex family. Based in Eastbourne, they are tackling food waste and reducing food poverty. Jo and Anna from FareShare Sussex delivered their first load of surplus food on October 11th. They were welcomed by Sandra Taylor, co-founder of the project, who works at Victoria Baptist Church, where the fridge is located. A couple of days later we had a chat with Helen Diplock, co-



-founder of the project alongside Sandra, about their new Community Fridge. Helen explained to us that the initiative was officially launched on October 13th. However, they actually started providing food earlier than that in response to a community drive to tackle food waste and fight food poverty. Old Town has hidden pockets of deprivation and is also home to many people who care for the environment and want to reduce their carbon footprint by stopping food from going to waste. Putting these two together was a natural way to solve two separate social problems.

With the help of the Old Town Borough Councillors, who part-funded the fridge, and the help of volunteers from The Old Town Eastbourne Salvation Army, this Community Fridge already is very well used. Every Wednesday morning, between 30 to 40 people go there to collect their food. A third of them are in food poverty,



another third are on a low income and the other third are people wishing to reduce food waste.

Helen told us that at the beginning they were able to rely on the support of their local network to collect surplus food. Other community fridges, including projects that FareShare Sussex provides food for in Eastbourne, shared and passed on what little they had leftover. However, this wasn't enough and did not meet the immediate demand. Helen

explains: *"If you have a certain amount of food, people come and see what you have. They become confident in visiting you. If they know there's not much food, they are not incentivized to come."*

Helen and Sandra are grateful for the help and support of local businesses such as Everything Spice, supplied by Poppysed Bakery, on Albert Parade. Now, being in receipt of regular food from FareShare Sussex, they are guaranteed stability and sustainability. ...

... Helen says "Having that guaranteed delivery of food from FareShare has made a huge difference - knowing that we will have a good supply of food each week has given us and our customers confidence". It was inspiring to hear the passion and drive from Helen's words. She sees the Old Town Community Fridge as a place to have a chat whilst sharing recipes and laughter, ultimately reducing social isolation. Helen talked about a beneficiary who visited with her daughter – while she was shopping the child was occupied playing games with others in a safe space.

Helen and Sandra are working to provide a safe and warm space that welcomes everyone. They are already planning a new coffee area where people without much money can enjoy a sociable drink with one another.

## MORNING CONFLICTS

Our hearts go out to our brothers and sisters at Chester Road Baptist Church who, it would seem, have serious problems during their morning services!

**CHESTER ROAD**  
Baptist Church  
Newsletter; November 2021

**Sunday morning (10.30am): Deliver us from evil (Matthew 5:38-42)**  
*Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

**Sunday evening (6.30pm): It is well with my soul (Hebrews 10:19-25)**  
*This life is unpredictable and sometimes cruel. With God, despite our circumstances, we can experience peace.*

**This week**

**Remembrance Sunday:** We will remember those killed and injured in conflicts during our morning service.

**Worship Group:** The next meeting is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. Any queries please contact Jenni Beesley.

**Disciples' Group** will meet on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November in the Lounge at 7.45pm. Any queries please contact Mike Miller.

**Early Bird Prayer** is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November...

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all who supported Flow Café last Saturday. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to give the Street Pastors £190.

We look forward to seeing you at Flow café on December 11th, when we will be supporting George Ebdy's mission trip.



## Funeral Arrangements

A reminder that **Irene Goddard's** funeral is taking place at the main chapel of Eastbourne Crematorium on Tuesday week (30<sup>th</sup>) 2pm - masks are to be worn.

Following the service, afternoon tea will be served at:

Eastbourne Sovereign Sailing Club, Royal Parade, Eastbourne, BN22 7AA

If anyone is planning on coming, please let the office know asap so we can let Janette, Irene's daughter, know for catering purposes.

And **Norman Roberts'** funeral is taking place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30pm at Eastbourne Crematorium, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at VBC, 3.15pm. Light refreshments will then be available - so please sign the list in the Welcome Centre if you are planning on staying.

## R.I.P.

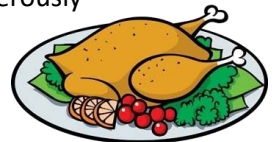
We were very sad to hear that Chris Papps passed away earlier this morning (Friday) after a long illness. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Thelma and her family at this time. Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.



This year, we are providing Christmas Hampers to our clients, with all that they need to enjoy a traditional Christmas Dinner. We would welcome financial donations for these. Please make payments to VBC in the usual way - online preferably but cheques and cash also acceptable - with a reference of **CAP Gift or CAP Hamper** to ensure it is allocated to this particular aspect of the

CAP ministry. Thank you to those who have already generously donated.

We will be making the hampers up on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, for delivering on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. If you are able to help with either the making up of the hampers, or the deliveries, please let Helen Diplock or Lesley Corke know.





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In October we were approached by the Well-being and Lifestyle co-ordinator at The Hawthorns, Independent Living Centre in Carew Road, asking if the church would be able to provide a Sunday service for them. There are one hundred residents at The Hawthorns. So this is a great opportunity for community outreach.



It is proposed that we offer a service on a Sunday, once a month, between 4.30pm and 6.00pm. The service to last no more than 45 minutes.

The CLT have asked me to take this forward. We need to build a team of people who would be willing to take a turn at running a service so that nobody is committed to being available every time. Each service would need three people, plus a keyboard player. So, I am asking for volunteers please. If you feel this is something you could help with please be in touch with me. Perhaps some of the Life groups could take a turn at providing the service? If your Life group could help please let me know. If we get a good number of volunteers I envisage no-one would need to commit to more than twice a year.

Depending on volunteers and availability we may be able to do a 'one-off' before Christmas for them and then start properly in 2022.

For further details, please contact me directly or ask the church office for my contact details.

Thank you.

Carol Dadswell



## PRAYER DIARY

This regular feature of the news sheet (on page 13 this week) is produced faithfully by a small group of people on a rota basis and their efforts over so many years is very much appreciated by many.

We are now in need however of a couple of volunteers to join the existing team. This would involve writing the prayer diary for the news sheet around 7 or 8 times a year. If you feel this is a ministry you could support, then please contact Sandra who is arranging the rota for 2022.

# AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY

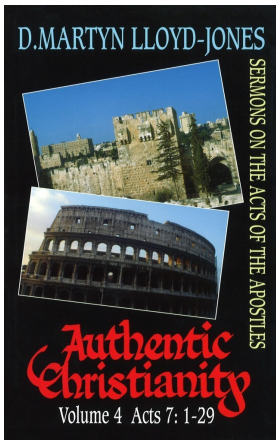
*written by Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones, and reviewed by John Demetriou*

As we go through the book of Romans on Sunday mornings, the Passion for Life evangelism course in the afternoons and run an alpha course at Victoria it is helpful to have something substantial to read to compliment them. This book does that by taking some of the great fundamental doctrines Paul covers and applying them to our witness in the present world with its challenges.



The book comprises twenty evangelistic sermons given by Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones from 1966-7, expounding Stephen's sermon and defence of Christianity against the accusations of blasphemy brought by the Jewish Leaders in the book of Acts Chapter 7. It is of particular interest because it is one of the longest and most complete expositions and defence of the Christian position we have in the New Testament. On first glance it appears to have little relevance to Christianity because of its preoccupation with detailed Jewish history but Llyod-Jones shows there is more to it than that. Stephen was a remarkable man 'full of God's grace and power' and not only did he do 'great wonders and miraculous signs' but was gifted with

great 'wisdom'. What he does here is to set out a carefully thought-out and reasoned argument to show his accusers how mistaken they were and their need to re-evaluate their history to see God's bigger plan of salvation and what their response should be. In doing this Lloyd-Jones points out how, similar to Paul at the beginning of the book of Romans, Stephen starts with Abraham before the Jewish nation existed and therefore his message has relevance to the non Jew and us as well.



The style of the book is someone addressing you directly and personally, as all of Lloyd-Jones books are, because they are verbatim records of his sermons. This gives them a distinctive and emotional intimacy as if you were sitting in

his church at Westminster Chapel in London listening and being stirred by his powerful reasoning, persuasion and entreaty to the mixed congregation of believers and non believers in the congregation as he confronts the common arguments against Christianity using lessons from history, experience and especially the Bible in drawing out lessons from Stephen's address.

Why should you read this book in your busy lives? It will inspire and help you to appreciate your privileged position in the Christian faith, help renew your thinking and life along Biblical lines as well as 'prepare you to give an answer for the ... 10

... hope that you have' and how to 'defend and confirm the gospel' when required which is a ministry we are all called to as believers.

The situation in the world today is not so different from sixty years ago, if anything it is worse, and the Christian response and message is still the same and just as relevant and needful, if not more so. I encourage you to take the time and effort to read this book to keep your faith robust, authentic and help provide you with the right mind set to be an effective witness for our times. It would also make a great Christmas present.



## **Church meeting Agenda 24.11.21**

### AGM



1. Introduction, Welcome & Prayer
2. Appointment of auditors
3. Safeguarding statement

### Church Meeting

1. Membership Report
2. Finance Report
- 3.. Property matters
4. CLT elections
5. Alpha update
6. Afternoon service time
7. Christmas services
8. DONM – 7:30pm, 23rd February 2022

**Please note that items you wish to raise, or questions to be asked concerning items not on the above agenda, need to be notified in writing, or via email, to the church office by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.**

# CHRISTMAS IS COMING ... !

Chris Rea will be driving home for Christmas again this year and many will dread the tailbacks and traffic announcer telling us about all the traffic jams.

Sometimes, we can get so caught up in the worries of Christmas, that we forget what it's all about. We get so consumed with the presents, the food, the lights and the family visits, that Jesus becomes secondary to a season dedicated to His birth!

What do we need in order to have the best Christmas ever? As Alice once said to the Cheshire Cat, "Which road shall I take?" His answer said it all: "It all depends where you want to go!" So where do you want to go this Christmas? Travel with us on different roads to that one ultimate destination - **the manger!**

## Messy Christmas

Saturday 4th December, 10.00am

Creative family time with craft, story and loads of fun

## the Freeway

Sunday 5th December, 10.00am

Christmas is free and for all

## Christmas Flow Café

Saturday 11th December, 10.00am

Community Café with lots of cakes and activities for all

## All-Age Christmas

Sunday 12th December, 10.00am

Much more than sweet Mary, Joseph and the wee donkey

## the Highway

Sunday 19th December, 10.00am

Christmas points to 'on high'

## Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 19th December, 6.30pm

Carols and candles - a perfect evening out

## Christingle

Christmas Eve

Friday 24th December, 4.00pm

Spoken word, songs, oranges and candles

## Christmas Day

Saturday 25th December, 10.00am

a Christmas Day thought

## the Narrow Way

Sunday 26th December, 10.00am

We were never promised an easy road



Driving home for Christmas  
with a thousand memories ...  
However you decide to celebrate this season,  
have a blessed Christmas and a Jesus filled 2022

Do check out the advent and Christmas pages on our website

<https://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk/families/advent2021/>


<https://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk/sundays/christmas-2021/>

## CHRISTMAS POST

Please note that the VBC Christmas postal service will be available again this year, from 29<sup>th</sup> Nov till 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. The post box will be situated in the Welcome Centre and then the cards will be collated and ready for distribution in plenty of time for Christmas. Further instructions will follow in due course. Donations in lieu of postage will be given to the Mission Fund.



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

 And as we did last year, some of you may prefer to send a message to the church family as a whole via the news sheet so please give that some thought over the next couple of weeks. We would hope to have your contributions in time for publishing in the news sheets of Dec 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. An up-to-date photo accompanying the message would again be very welcome so people can actually see who's sending the message!!

## CHRISTINGLE



Christmas bells begin to jingle

and our thoughts turn to Christingle.

One hundred and fifty to be precise,  
so a team to assemble would be very nice.

If you have time to be part of the team,  
we'd be so glad to see you, our faces would beam!

An email to Sandra's the way to proceed  
She'll supply all the details that you will need.

## PRAYER DIARY: 22<sup>ND</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

**Monday** Thank you dear Lord Jesus for Your provision and sustaining grace in times of uncertainty and stress. Help us to place our hearts fully in Your care to believe that You will heal, protect and give us peace in our situation and that we can nestle in Your loving arms. Help us remember that the battle is Yours and not ours, that You have already won the victory so we can rest in You, knowing that You want good things for us.

**Tuesday** Dear Father God, we thank You for Your creation, the sky so beautiful with colours, clouds, sunshine and rain each day. Help us to honour Your creation by caring for it and by doing one thing to protect it today. Through Your Holy Spirit show us what we can do, however small, to care for our world.

**Wednesday** Dear God our Rock, help us to meditate on Your names, trusting in Your immense love for us: Jehovah-Nissi - God is my banner. Jehovah-Rophe - God who heals. Jehovah-Jirah - God who provides. Thank you Lord Jesus for who You are.

**Thursday** Dear Lord our Shepherd, let Your Holy Spirit open our hearts today to uncover our own biases against others so that we can turn back to You and change our ways. Help us to love beyond measure, to look to You when we feel anger, frustration or annoyance. Turn our hearts to love as You love us and help us be thankful for Your unchanging love for us. Let Your grace change us from within.

**Friday** Abba Father, thank You for our families and friends that are like our family. We pray for those we know that are unwell, going through difficult times or who feel lost. Dear Lord Jesus, hold them tightly and let them know how much they are loved by You. Show us how to be there for our loved ones, surround us with Your peace and gentleness to shine when we are with family and friends.

**Saturday** Dear Lord Jesus, we continue to pray for a resolution to the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those that have lost loved ones, for those in countries where there is limited vaccines or sanitation. We pray for those in government especially in richer countries to have wisdom and compassion towards countries that need more medical assistance and resources.

**Sunday** This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

**Thank  
You!**

*John and Heather Backholer would like to thank all those who have prayed for them, including during Heather's recent operation. Heather is back home now, but they would value prayer for her ongoing treatment.*

## CHURCH BOOKSTALL

Please visit the bookstall in the Welcome Centre, where we have Christmas cards, Christmas books and Advent candles for sale -all at very reasonable prices. Thank you for shopping local!



## BIBLE JOURNALLING

We are holding an Advent Bible Journalling session here at VBC on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7pm. You do not have to be artistic and anyone over the age of 11 is welcome. All that is required is a love for God's word and a desire to reflect on it and share thoughts and ideas with others. Bring your Bible, any art supplies you might have and a drink. Please let Emma Moore or Sandra Taylor know if you wish to attend.

## LOCAL AUTHOR'S NOVEL ABOUT THE JOURNEY TO FAITH OF ST PETER

*the following article appeared in this week's edition of Churches Together Eastbourne*

Jez Taylor attends Victoria Baptist Church in Eastbourne. He is a retired teacher and has just published his first novel. It is based on the life of St Peter and his journey to faith. Rooted in the gospel accounts, it is an imagining of those events plus some creative backstory. Jez says 'It is very mainstream and should not offend anyone.'



On This Rock (Peter the Rock Book 1) - click [here](#) to see it on the Amazon website



## LOST PROPERTY

This top has been sitting in the office for a number of weeks - is it yours?

## FLOWER MINISTRY

With the year rapidly drawing to a close, we have to start thinking about the provision of flowers for 2022. Let me say first of all a huge thank you to those of you who have made such a valuable contribution to this ministry during what has been for many another difficult year. The messages included here on this page every week indicate how much the flowers are appreciated and how they give people a real lift, often when they most need it. So as we look ahead to the new year, can you give some thought as to whether you would like to make a donation and, if so, whether you have a particular date in mind? Please contact Chris McMahon, either directly or via the office, with your choice of date though please be aware that dates are allocated on a first-come, first served basis. Flexibility in dates is particularly welcome!



The flowers for last week's Remembrance Sunday were donated by the Wednesday afternoon Life Group.

*Thank you for the lovely flowers delivered yesterday. We got home from attending the funeral of a friend and there they were on the doorstep, a lovely end to a difficult day.*

