



Sunday 24th April 2022

Victoria Baptist Church News



“For God has bound everyone over to disobedience that He might have mercy on them all.” (Romans 11:32)



10am - live at VBC and online with Chris Short

Root and Branch – Romans 11:11-36

“For God has bound everyone over to disobedience that he might have mercy on them all.” (Romans 11:32)

This morning we’re taking our final look at Romans 9-11. The section is one long argument answering the question: “What about Israel?” Having assured believers in Jesus that their eternal security is guaranteed by the faithfulness of God, the immediate question that follows is, “But has God been faithful to Israel? And if He hasn’t, what makes you think He will be faithful to you?”



So Paul sets out a full answer to the question of Israel in these three chapters. He begins by showing that there have always been two Israels. Firstly, the nation, made up of the biological descendants of Jacob, who have continually rebelled against God and, secondly, ‘a remnant’ – a true Israel within Israel – who had genuine faith in God.

The present situation, in which only a small number of Jewish people have faith in Jesus, isn’t a contradiction of the way God has worked in the past but is exactly what the history of Israel would lead you to expect.

However, that’s not the end of the story concerning the nation of Israel. In this final section we’ll see that God has incorporated their disobedience into His plan to bring riches to the world, and how ultimately, the blessing that has come to the Gentiles will result in a final blessing being bestowed upon Israel.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Chris has now recovered from his time off with covid and will be back to his normal working pattern, i.e. Tuesday off, next week. Sandra is also taking Tuesday off but otherwise staff will be working as per their usual days.

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!

Sun	24	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online with Chris Short
		5.00pm	VBC responsible for the service at the Hawthorns
Mon	25	6-8.30pm	Girls Brigade
		7.30pm	CLT Prayer Meeting - All Welcome
Tue	26	6.45pm	Alpha
		7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (for ladies only)
Wed	27	8.30am	Community Fridge (until 10am)
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.15pm	Boys Brigade (ages 4-8)/ 6.15pm (ages 8-18)
		7.30pm	Church Meeting for Members
Thu	28	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		10.15am	Men's Fellowship - next meeting AGM May 5 th
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Carl/Chrissie Slezacek
		7.30pm	Prayer Meeting for Ukraine
Fri	29	10.00am	Vicky Bees
		10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect!

The Week Ahead

Sat 30

May

Sun	1	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live at VBC and online with Peter Wright from Bible by the Beach
		7.15pm	BBTB evening celebration at the Congress Theatre



Wed May 4

Fri May 6

Sat May 7

Fri June 3

Thanksgiving Service for Brian Coombe

Thanksgiving Service for Gladys Attwater

Flow Café in aid of NetworX

Church Jubilee BBQ, 12.30pm

Funeral Dates



The Thanksgiving Service for the life of **Brian Coombe** will take place here at VBC on **Wednesday week (4th) 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.

The family are very keen to create a memory board with photos of Gladys and would very much appreciate it if anyone with such photos could contribute to the display. Photos can be passed to the family directly or brought into the office and we can pass them on.

Again, sign-up sheets are in the Welcome Centre if you would like to join the family for refreshments after the Thanksgiving Service.

Outreach Prayer Meeting

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

Every week 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.



Thank you...

...to those who supported Flow Café earlier this month. We raised £230 for Living Life. Our next Flow Café is on 7th May, when all proceeds will be donated to NetworX.

PRAYER DIARY: 25TH APRIL - 1ST MAY

“See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed.” Rev 5:5b

Monday Praise God for the Resurrection of our precious Saviour. Give thanks for the message of the cross, for forgiveness, hope and triumph over sin. Offer your thanks for the joy of being able to meet and witness in safety, free from persecution or danger. Pray that those around the world who may have heard the message for the first time this Easter, will reflect; and pray that their hearts will be open to the gospel of hope.

Tuesday Pray for those who are beginning the Alpha course this evening and for the team behind the course. Pray that the Good News of Jesus will be received into hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray, too for those elderly people that heard of God's love at the Hawthorns on Sunday.

Wednesday As we meet together at the church members' meeting tonight, pray for the staff team and CLT and for the plans they have to see Jesus honoured in Eastbourne and beyond. Ask God to prompt you to commit wholeheartedly in helping where you can. Pray too for those in our fellowship who serve in a variety of ways.

Thursday Ask God to protect your heart from indifference as we hear of terrible events in Ukraine and join with those gathering for prayer this evening. Pray for the refugees, the injured, the soldiers and the decision makers. Pray for those we are connected with in Lebedyn and for God's work they are doing in such difficult times. Pray too that legal processes for refugees will be speeded up and that world leaders will stand up for justice.

Friday Pray, as Christians meet together at Bible by the Beach, that God will be given the Glory, that their focus is on praising the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for safe journeys for all, for speakers to be inspirational, and for the message of Hope to go out to our nation.

Saturday There are many in our own town who are facing real struggles. We pray for those who are frightened, making impossible financial decisions about eating or heating, and for those suffering with mental health. Ask that they learn of the love of Christ who lifts burdens and the love of others who work to alleviate poverty. Give thanks for the brilliant work of Foodbank, Community Fridge, CAP and other organisations here in Eastbourne.

Sunday Pray for people close to you: friends, family, those in your life groups, neighbours and colleagues. Just spend a quiet time lifting their names to the Lord Jesus and voicing their needs before God. Follow Christ's example and set time apart to pray for loved ones that they may know Him as their Saviour.

“Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels. In a loud voice they were saying: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!’” Rev 5:11-12



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

Social Events

We have been unable to arrange events due to Covid, but would like to restart with some outdoor events.

Our Barn Dance was cancelled, and we have refunds for those that booked two years ago. If you do not want a refund we will put it towards future events.

Our programme of events for the next three months:

14th May 2.00 Bluebell Walk. Bates Green Farm Arlington

Adults £6.00, Children (3-16yrs) £3.00.

Family (2 adults and up to 4 children) £16.00

Dogs welcome on leads

Please feel free to invite friends outside of church.

Meet up inside.

4th June 10.00 for coffee at Holywell Cafe, and then walk along seafront from 11.00. Come to both or either.

30th July 12.30 Hampden Park for picnic



SUNRISE SERVICE



About 60 people from a number of Old Town churches gathered on Beachy Head just before 6am last Sunday for the Easter Sunday Sunrise service. A good number of people from VBC were amongst those there in what were almost perfect conditions for this first such gathering since the first lockdown. Sadly, Chris Short was unable to lead the service as planned but a combination of Martyn Relf, Martin Jones and Jerry Page led the celebrations as the sun appeared over the horizon. What an uplifting way to celebrate the glorious resurrection of Jesus!



CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Alpha commences again next week and we are in need of home-baked cakes to serve as desserts after the meal. These were very much appreciated at the last Alpha. If you love to bake, please let Sandra know so she can prepare a rota. Allergy forms will need to be completed, which Sandra will let you have.



Midweek Activities

Another in our series highlighting the activities of groups from the community who use our premises on a regular basis.



We are PARCHE, the Church in Care Homes, and we have been established as a Charity for 25 years this year. Our Charity coordinates volunteers from local Churches in the Eastbourne area in teams of 3-4 people who visit a Care Home once a month, for about an hour, holding a Service for their residents, both spreading the Good News and providing Fellowship for those in their later years. Some also visit twice a month to provide some Bible Study to interested residents. We, at PARCHE, train, insure and equip our teams to go out into the Community in this important ministry.

We have had a long and fruitful association with Victoria Baptist Church over the years and, in particular, they support us with their venue and helping us with our printing. We hold 2 of our main annual events within the Hall at VBC – these are our July Strawberry Tea and our Carol Service. These events are for the residents of the Care Homes we visit; many homes will bring along some of their residents, with carers, and we will treat them to a Service or Entertainment along with Tea, Cake - from the VBC refreshment team - and Company with some of our volunteers and Trustees.

This year is a special year, since we are reaching the milestone of 25 years, and so our July Strawberry Tea will also be our 25 Years Celebration and we hope that it will also be a chance to truly celebrate following the challenging times we have lived through recently.

We would love to have more volunteers onboard as more Care Homes are starting to request teams. Chris Wrench has agreed to be our contact at VBC, please speak to her. Alternatively, contact the PARCHE office on 01323 438527 or parcheenquiries@hotmail.co.uk

CAP News: APRIL 2022

With the increasing costs of living and energy bills, it's perhaps no surprise that our CAP debt centre has been consistently busy these past few months. We've seen clients with a range of different backgrounds and situations - all have a common thread - that debt has its grip on them.

As a result of working with CAP, two clients became debt-free in March. One of them was a family whose lives had been shrunk, restricted and strangled by the pressure of mounting debt. The relief that they have found is a blessing to see, and a reminder that we are doing God's work.

As I write this on Thursday morning, I reflect on the stages my various clients are at. Some are steadily paying off their debts through Debt Management Plans; I have a few that are very close to becoming debt-free through insolvency; and quite a few that are still in the process of finding and providing information on their debts in order to proceed. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Across Eastbourne, there will be people who need our help. Please keep them in your prayers, that they might find out about our CAP service, that they may have the courage to make that initial phonecall (0800 328 0006), and that the Spirit might be moving in their lives, preparing them for a changed relationship with their finances and with God.

Helen Diplock

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.



GLORIOUS POSITIVES

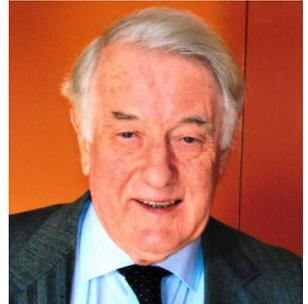
Another of Malcolm Robertson's messages

from his booklet - "It's for you!"



Some time ago I was walking along the cliffs in Dorset, when I came across this inscription on a plaque on the wall of Durlleston Castle: "The seas but unite the nations they divide." A seemingly contradictory statement - yes, but on reflection, how true. It just depends on which way you look at it. Think positive and you have union - think negative and you have division.

Are you an optimist or do you always look on the black side of things? Are you hoping for the best or frightened of the future? A fatalist, perhaps? - who, in the words of that popular song, fears that "Whatever will be, will be - the future's not ours to see". Well, yes, that's true, but even if we don't know what the future holds, we do know who holds the future. God's certainties far outweigh life's uncertainties. God's word is true and authoritative. He promises a Heaven that can be gained - an Eternal Life that can be enjoyed - and He guarantees that Jesus Christ is coming back again - and you can be ready to meet Him.



All that God requires is a simple faith in His Risen Son - the Lord Jesus Christ - and eternal benefits become yours. So let's quit our pessimism, let's settle for the glorious positives of the Christian gospel and face the future with confidence - and with Christ!



OLD BUT HAPPY news!

I'm sure you all know by now that Simon & Rachael announced their engagement last week. For those of you not on Facebook, here are their latest pictures!



FLOWER MINISTRY



The flowers on display last week were donated by
Gavin & Pearl Rendall



"May I thank VBC for the bunch of flowers delivered to our house last week. We are most grateful. I wondered if the lady delivering the flowers had made a mistake because I am not sure if we deserve them! Thanks again."



"Many thanks for the card and flowers on the occasion of my "special" birthday! Very much appreciated!"