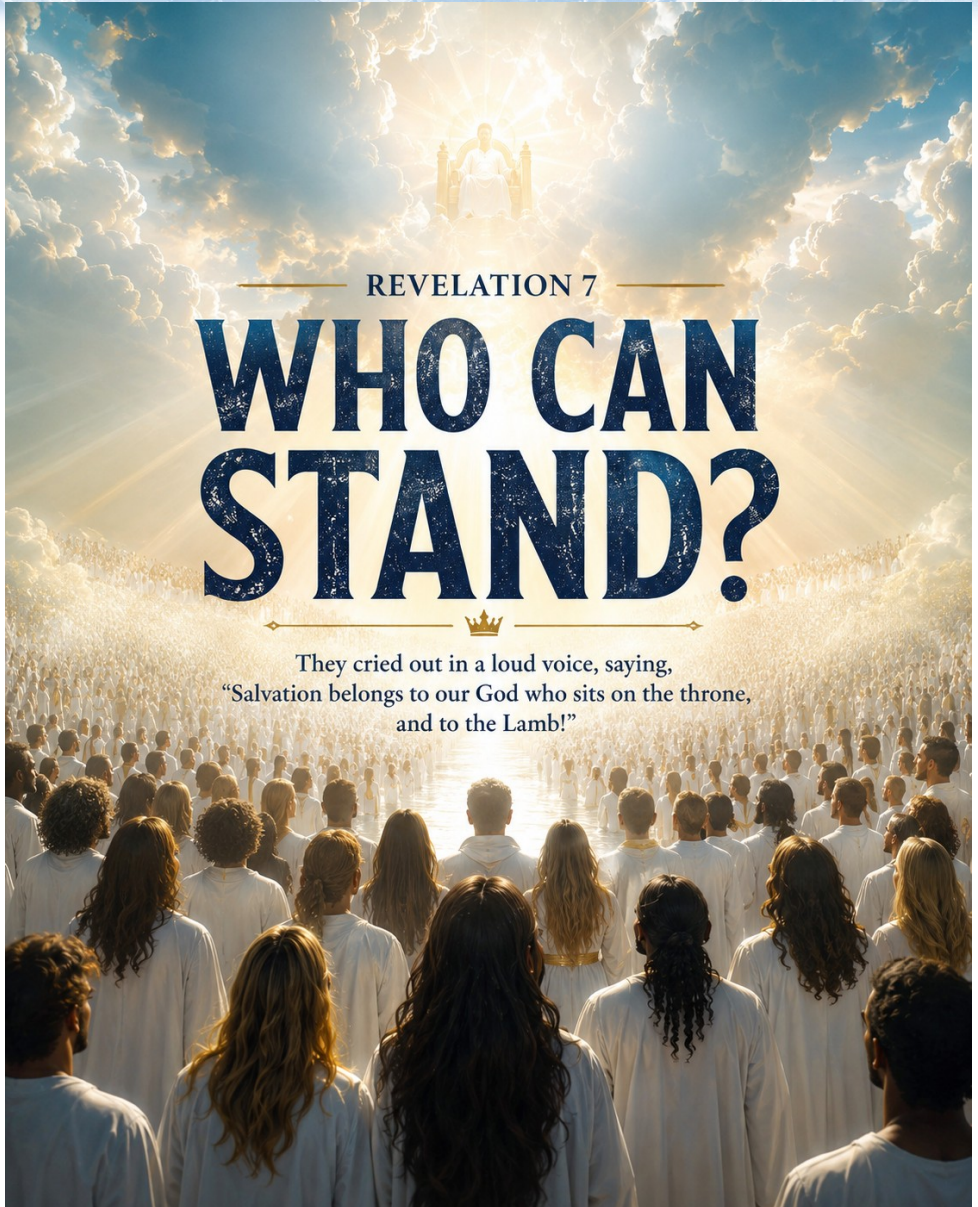


VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 26th July 2026



REVELATION 7

WHO CAN STAND?

They cried out in a loud voice, saying,
“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb!”



The Revelation of Jesus CHRIST Who Can Stand?

Revelation 7:1-17

*"..they have washed their robes and made them white
in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 7:14)*



Revelation 7 answers the question posed at the end of Revelation 6. The question on the lips of all peoples, after the sixth seal is opened, is - who can stand before the wrath of Him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb? (see 6:17).

Those who lived as though God could be safely ignored, and as though the claims of Jesus could be easily dismissed, discovered too late the devastating consequences of their pride. That first mistake was immediately followed by another. Recognising that they had no hope led them to think that no-one else had any either. Chapter 7 tells us they couldn't have been more wrong.

I hope you can join us as we consider together God's amazing grace to those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.



Next Week (2nd Aug)

Chris Short will be bringing God's Word to us as he continues in his series in the Book of Revelation. There will also be a time of Communion.

and

In the evening, at 6.30pm, we have our twice-monthly Prayer Meeting.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week -

Emily & Lucy annual leave all week

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

Finance Manager

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

Eldon Road, Eastbourne BN21 1UE

helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk

www.victoriabaptist.org.uk

GUITAR needed

We have had a request for a redundant acoustic guitar. If you can help, please contact the office.



Sun 26 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short

Mon 27

Tue 28

Wed 29 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge

Thu 30 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting

Fri 31 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting

Sat 1

Sun 2 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short - including Communion
 6.30pm



Wednesday October 14th

We are hosting a Care for the Family event - ***An Evening with Rob Parsons***

Tickets for this event are currently £6, and they will remain at this price until September 15th, at which point they will increase in price to £11.

From the boy described as 'making no use of what little ability he has,' to an international best-selling author, speaker and founder of Care for the Family, Rob Parsons has a lifetime's experience of overcoming obstacles. In his new event, *An Evening with Rob Parsons*, you're invited to pull up a chair and settle in for a poignant night of storytelling and timeless wisdom that will stay with you long after you head home.

You'll hear about:

- Escaping from imposter syndrome
- Finding hope beyond shattered dreams
- Letting go of the labels others put on you
- Enduring the hard times you just can't fix
- Why tomorrow doesn't have to be like yesterday

Put this date in your diary now!

ALL WELCOME!
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

8:15AM - 9:45AM

OLD TOWN COMMUNITY FRIDGE

BREAKFAST CLUB

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN AUGUST

FREE BREAKFAST FOR ALL!

CEREAL, PASTRIES, TOAST, FRUIT, JAM AND CRAFTS FOR KIDS!

MEET NEIGHBOURS
Build friendships

KIDS ACTIVITIES
Crafts & games

HEALTHY START
Good food for all ages

STRONGER TOGETHER
Everyone welcome

VICTORIA

Good food. Great people. Stronger community.

COME HUNGRY. LEAVE HAPPY. EVERYONE BELONGS HERE!

GOOD FOOD. GREAT PEOPLE. STRONGER COMMUNITY.

Community Fridge Breakfast Club

Every year, during the Easter and Summer holidays, Community Fridge runs a weekly, free breakfast club alongside the Fridge. During the summer, the breakfasts will be every Wednesday in August from 8.15am-9.45am. You don't have to be a member of the Fridge Community to come along, we want everyone to feel free to come and enjoy a continental style breakfast, conversation and children's craft activities. Please invite anyone you know who you feel would benefit from joining us, and come along yourself. It would be great to have church members at the breakfast, engaging with those we are serving in our community. We look forward to seeing you. - Community Fridge Team

Prayer Points



This week we focus on the staff team.

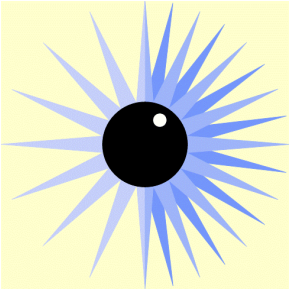
Please pray individually for each team member:

Chris, Colin, Kevin, Tim, Lucy, Sandra, Phil, Nadine, Julie, Simon, Emily and Jez.

Focus on the roles they perform in the service of the church. Ask God to provide wisdom, discernment, energy and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Pray for the health of the team: physically, spiritually, emotionally and mentally. May they be ever fit to serve God in this place!
- Pray for the team as a whole; for strong friendships and excellent working relationships to continue and develop further. God's purposes can only be fully achieved when there is unity among believers.
- Pray for the positive witness that the staff team give to all who visit the church during the week; for example the postmen and women, those who hire the facilities, and casual visitors. May the love of Christ be revealed through them every day.

Volunteers Needed Eastbourne Airbourne 2026



Can you spare a little time to help a local charity?

Eastbourne Blind Society, a small local charity supporting people with visual impairment, has been chosen as one of the Eastbourne Airbourne charities of the year for 2026.

The free airshow takes place from Thursday 13th August to Sunday 16th August 2026, and the charity will receive a share of the money collected over the four days. To make the most of this wonderful opportunity, volunteers are needed to carry collection buckets and invite donations from those enjoying the show. Any time you can offer - whether for a short slot or longer - would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help collecting, please contact Mark Simmons for more information and to volunteer.

Thank you for supporting **Eastbourne Blind Society** in this way.

SPILLAGES?

Please take care when carrying drinks around the building, especially in the sanctuary and Welcome Centre, and the carpeted areas downstairs too. Do notify one of the office staff if you have an accident so that we can mop up the spillage as soon as possible.



The same applies to any damage caused to any part of the church, invariably accidental, but it would still be helpful to be told about it rather than simply stumble across it after the event!

6 AUGUST
10am - 12:30pm
THURSDAY

7 AUGUST
10am - 12:30pm
FRIDAY

8 AUGUST
10am - 12:30pm
SATURDAY

VICTORIA KINGDOM BUILDERS
Holiday Club
Reception to Yr 6

Scan here to sign up

£15 Per Child for the whole holiday club

Concluding with a Sunday Morning celebration service

Info: simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk
or 01323 737974



Community Fridge Allotment

You will be excited to learn that the community fridge allotment is starting to yield some produce. So far, we have harvested over 54kg of vegetables, including kale, swede, tomatoes, onions, squash, beetroot and lettuce.

This has made a big difference to the amount of fresh, healthy food we can offer to our clients each week. With the hosepipe ban coming into force this weekend, we need volunteers to come and help water the allotment with watering cans. Ideally, the veg needs watering at least once a day, especially in this hot weather, preferably early morning or evening. Please get in touch if you feel you could help in this way and we can sort out a rota. You will need to bring a watering can, as we only have two!!

If you enjoy gardening and have some time to spare, we also need help with weeding, keeping the grass cut around the beds, and will need help with putting the allotment to bed later on in the year. Any support with this would be gratefully received.



The Wilfride Challenge



The support that our local hospice gives to patients and their families is invaluable, and they are in real need of additional funds. In order to do my bit to help, I have signed up for the 'Wilfride' this coming September. This entails cycling from Eastbourne to Paris - 290 miles in 4 days!

I am covering all the costs of the trip myself, so any money raised will be going directly to the hospice. If you feel able to contribute, however small an amount, please go to the link below where you will be able to donate. Alternatively, speak to me directly. Many thanks in anticipation of your support for this challenge. **Frances Hall**

<https://events.stwhospice.org/fundraisers/franceshall3955>



**BEACHY
HEAD
CHAPLAINCY
TEAM**

Reaching out,
saving lives.

WE ARE RECRUITING



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A
SALARIED CHAPLAIN TO JOIN OUR TEAM**

10 - 20 hours per week (to suit the candidate)

Closing date: 1st August 2026

Find out more about the role, and how to
apply by scanning the QR Code, or visiting
www.bhct.org.uk/join-our-team



On Your Knees

On Your Knees - Prayer Meeting for the younger generation - Friday 7th August - 7pm to 9pm - Church Sanctuary - Entry via the fire exit door near the Church Office entrance.

On our journey of increasing the amount of prayer in the church, this is another opportunity to join with us to pray for the younger generation.



It's called, **On Your Knees** to acknowledge this word that God gave to John Jones on 10th July at Praying For The Lost:

"I was upstairs in the Sanctuary and had been praying for the various topics Lucy and Emily had requested. When I finished I was just waiting for a moment when the Lord said, "Get down on your knees."

I was a bit shocked and said, "Is this you Lord?" The Lord said again, "Get down on your knees. I want you to know the significance of kneeling before your God and King. It is not that it may feel nice or look nice, it is recognising you are humbling yourself before your God, King and Master."

Praying for the younger generation is something we are already doing, but perhaps we should be doing more. One of the things that has focused us on this is a dream God gave to someone in the church which will be shared on the evening, along with the latter part of the above word.

Please join with us in prayer - it's the only way our children are going to come to know Jesus. As the title suggests, we will be on our knees, so if necessary, bring your own kneeler!

Money Coaching from Christians Against Poverty:



Ever wanted to be better at managing your finances? Money coaching is a free service designed to empower you with the knowledge, skills, tools and confidence to better manage your finances. Anyone can benefit – from seasoned budgeting experts to those struggling to get to grips with their spending. Join our new course:

Sat 19th and Sat 26th September 10am - 1pm, here at VBC.

To join, or for more information, contact Janet Wintle, via the church office on 01323 737974, or via the CAP website: capuk.org/get-help/money-coaching

FINDING THE WAY HOME

Christopher Nolan's new film, *The Odyssey*, was released on the 17th July to widespread acclaim for its scope, storytelling and cinematic and acting prowess. His version is more dark, brooding and psychological, with more social commentary than Homer's original, composed about 700BC, dealing with the themes of homecoming, guilt and redemption which resonate with Biblical teaching.

Odysseus (played by Matt Damon), the main character of the story, is King of Ithica and one of Agamemnon's chief officers in the Greek campaign to retrieve his brother's wife, Helen, against the citadel of Troy. Odysseus is strong, intelligent, cunning and has a strategic mind which helps him devise the ingenious idea of a wooden horse, housing elite troops, to infiltrate the city by stealth, destroy it and bring the ten-year siege to an end. He then sets sail with his men for home where his wife Penelope and young son, Telemachus, await him.

Unfortunately, a journey that should only take a few weeks ends up taking ten years because he foolishly angers the god Poseidon which leads to various dangers from the witch Circe, sorceress Calypso, man-eating giants (Cyclops and the Laestrogonians), confronting the dead in Hades, beguiling sirens, as well as huge storms, whirlpool and monsters in the sea to hinder his homecoming. In the process all his men and ships are destroyed, only he survives, aided by the goddess Athena. He returns to find Penelope besieged by suitors for her hand in marriage, and the wealth and position that go with it, because of his long absence and presumed death. Under the disguise of a beggar he unites with his son and slaughters the arrogant suitors.

Through all this Odysseus is weighed down by the guilt and regret he feels for letting down his men and the wanton, violent sacking of Troy, representing civilization. It's as if the words Nolan put in *Oppenheimer's* mouth, in his previous film, were true of Odysseus, *'Now I am become Death, the destroyer of Worlds.'* This is given further credence, early in the film, by the depiction of the Trojan horse stuck in the surf at an angle, reminiscent of the remains of the Statue of Liberty on the beach at the end of the film, *Planet of the Apes* (1968) or the broken statue of Ozymandias in the Egyptian sands in Shelley's famous poem by the same name. ...



Cinematically, the film is on an epic scale, shot with Imax cameras capturing greater detail and immersing the audience in the many action scenes. This is accompanied by ritualistic percussion instruments intensifying to a crescendo in the fighting scenes and the use of darkness, greys and absence of colour, especially for the sea, to give a sombre, menacing mood.

All through his journeying, Odysseus is driven by the Greek concept of 'Nostos', from which we get our word 'nostalgia', referring to the homecoming of an epic hero, typically by sea. In the original text, he says, *'Surely nothing is sweeter than a man's own country, even though he lives in a wealthy house in a foreign land.'*

Journeying through life and facing many difficulties and trials plays a prominent role in the Christian life and the Bible, eloquently captured by John Bunyan in his hymn, *'He who would valiant be.'* In it, the protagonist is *'gainst all disasters', 'no foes shall stay his might; though he with giants fight, he will make good his right to be a pilgrim.'*

In the film, Nolan makes one more departure from the original by having Odysseus and Penelope sail off into the setting sun in the hope 'a new dawn will break over the darkened world, where our mistakes will once again be forgotten' but history has shown in the intervening two and a half thousand years that mankind has not been able to meet those expectations. The Christian hope is not in this world getting better but in the kingdom God will usher in which is our true 'homecoming.' *'For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland....they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city.'* (Heb. 11:14-15).

John Demetriou

LADIES' PRAYER BREAKFAST: MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

An advance notice to tell you about an extended morning of fellowship, discussion, and delicious food as we explore what it means to be a woman of faith and how it shapes the way we view our bodies.

When: Saturday November 14th 9:00am – 12:00pm

What's Included: Our usual tasty breakfast, dedicated time for prayer and short Bible based talks.

The Theme: We will discuss what being made in the image of God truly means, Jesus becoming flesh, and the wonder of our bodies being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Speakers: Hosted by Lucy Craggs alongside a visiting guest speaker.

There will of course also be the scheduled Prayer Breakfast on September 19th.

FLOWER MINISTRY



Thank you so much for the flowers I received in memory of Ruth. She always liked carnations so the flowers were very appropriate and much appreciated. JS

I just wanted to say thank you to VBC for the beautiful flowers I received yesterday, they were a nice surprise to arrive home to. HP



*28 June
donated by
Val Fairhead*

*5 July
donated by
Nancy Houston*



Thank you for the beautiful flowers I received and the apt Bible verse. Thank you also for upholding me in prayer whilst I underwent recent surgery. God Bless, LH

Just wanted to say a big thank you for the wonderful flowers that I received on Monday they really did cheer me up and I know that our God is never far away and how special we are to be part of His flock. I am feeling a little better. With God's love JW

*12 July
donated by
Joyce Kirkman*

*19 July
donated by
Luanda Hoxha*

