

# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 27th July 2025

## A SWARM OF VICKY BEES



## BE READY

“Your heart should be holy and set apart for the Lord God.

Always **BE** ready  
to tell everyone who asks you why  
you believe as you do.”

1 Peter 3:15



## **A Swarm of Vicky Bees**

**'Be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that is in you.'**

**1 Peter 3 v.15**

We are continuing this Sunday to look at the commands in the Bible telling us things we should be. We will be thinking about the hope that is in us and how we can be prepared to share that hope with those around us. Peter gives his readers, in this first letter, encouragement as God's scattered, chosen people. With hearts honouring Christ the Lord as holy, Peter urges them to always be ready to put into words the reason for the hope that they have, despite suffering persecution.



**Lucy Craggs**

The church in Lebedyn, Ukraine, faces troubles on a daily basis and yet we regularly hear of stories which give them hope in Christ. Some of these stories - of new birth into a living hope - will be shared this Sunday.

## **Next Week (3rd August)**

The Morning Service at 10am will be led by Alistair Wickens with Chris Short bringing God's Word to us. The service will include a time of communion.

Our fortnightly prayer meeting will take place at 6.30pm.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

## Staff movements for next week

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

### 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

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[www.victoriabaptist.org.uk](http://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk)

- Sun 27    9.30am    Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
              10.00am    Live@10 with Lucy Craggs  
              4.00pm    Prospective Members Meeting  
              7.00pm    Xcav8
- Mon 28    3.00pm    Thanksgiving Service for Rose Pavey
- Tue 29
- Wed 30    7.00am    Prayer Meeting  
              8.15am    Community Fridge
- Thu 31    7.30am    Prayer Meeting (men only)
- 7.30pm    Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 1       10.00am    Outreach Prayer Meeting
- Sat 2
- Sun 3       9.30am    Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
              10.00am    Live@10 with Chris Short - inc Communion  
              6.30pm    Prayer Meeting

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES -

6th Aug - Thanksgiving Service for Ruth Simmonds, 11.30am

7th-9th Aug - Summer Holiday Club (see page 5)

## PREACHING ENGAGEMENTS *Please remember in prayer*

Erik Cornelisse    Jul 27    Newhaven Baptist Church 10.30am



## CONGRATULATIONS ...

... to Pete Martin for clinching the VBC Open Golf title last Friday. The tournament has now had 4 different winners and we are already planning ahead to next year's. Special mention should also go to Roger Paine who came a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup>. Fewer participants than hoped for but, as they say, quality not quantity! We're hoping to double the numbers next year!



VICTORIA  
Baptist Church Eastbourne

# THE RESTORATION STATION

HOLIDAY CLUB

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August  
to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August**

Concluding with a Sunday Morning celebration service

**10am to  
12:30pm**

**Reception to  
Year 6**

**Sign Up Here**



**£10  
per child**

Info: [simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk)  
or 01323 737974





# COOKERY COURSES FOR MEN EASTBOURNE

LEARN TO COOK - EAT DELICIOUS FOOD - HAVE FUN - SOCIALISE



**THE NEXT 5-WEEK COURSE STARTS ON  
TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2025, 11AM - 2PM**

COURSES RUN AT **VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH, EASTBOURNE**

PLACES ARE LIMITED AND PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

BOOK ONLINE HERE: [WWW.COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK/MAN-WITH-A-PAN-NEW/](http://WWW.COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK/MAN-WITH-A-PAN-NEW/)

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

[OFFICE@COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK](mailto:OFFICE@COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK) OR 07766 526217

(IT IS FREE BUT THERE IS A SMALL BOOKING FEE)

## Man with a Pan ...

... is a five-week hands-on cookery course for men. It's run by an expert tutor from Community Chef CIC and each workshop is 3 hours including lunch. Community Chef is based in Lewes and has been running cookery workshops for different groups in the local area for 25 years. People who have attended previous courses have come away with many benefits from their experience including:

- Improved cooking skills and confidence
- Increased social interaction and reduced isolation
- Better nutritional habits and improved physical health
- Enhanced mental wellbeing through cooking and community support

The course is for men of any age who may be facing life changes such as bereavement, living alone, or experiencing social isolation. It is suitable for beginners with little to no cooking experience or those looking to refresh their skills in the kitchen. See online for info - [Man with a Pan/Eastbourne/Community Chef](#)



## PRAYER DIARY : 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY - 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST

*Matthew 6:9-13 - And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. This, then, is how you should pray:*

**Monday** “Our Father in heaven ...”

We thank You that we can call You ‘Abba, Father’ and that You have chosen us to be Your children. We thank You that You are such a loving and caring Father, that You always want what is best for us and that we can be assured we have an eternity with You in heaven to look forward to.

**Tuesday** “... hallowed be Your name”

Your name is sacred, holy and worthy of reverence. Guard our tongues when we are tempted to take Your name in vain. Remind us that by praying “Holy is Your name” we are committing to uphold Your holiness in our lives.

**Wednesday** “Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven”

Father, we pray for Your kingdom to be established here on earth, that we may live in a world characterised by faith, hope and love, and for Your justice and peace to prevail.

**Thursday** “Give us this day our daily bread.”

We pray not just for our physical needs but also for our spiritual needs, that we may have the strength and courage to spread Your message through our words and actions. We depend on You, Lord, trusting that You know what we need even before we ask.

**Friday** “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us ...”

Father, we ask You to forgive us when we sin and turn our backs on You, and we pray that, by replacing resentment with forgiveness of those who have offended us, we would reflect Your love and mercy in our lives.

**Saturday** “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.”

Lord, lead us away from situations and people where we might be tempted to sin. We ask for Your protection and strength to overcome challenges, knowing that our free will brings with it human weaknesses. Set Your guiding hand over us and grant us the discernment necessary to steer clear of temptation and sin.

**Sunday** “For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and forever.”

We offer You our praise and thanks for who You are, for what You are, and for all that You bless us with day by day. You are indeed an amazing God, accept our love and our gratitude both now and forever.



# **VOLUNTEERS** *NEEDED*

*Do you like to hear the  
worship at Victoria?*

*Do you like to hear the  
preacher at Victoria?*

**This is all thanks to  
our sound techs.**

# **WE NEED YOU!**

**We are short on sound technicians.  
If you feel you could learn to use our  
sound system and want to be part of  
our great tech team please let us know.**

[simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk)  
[sandra@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:sandra@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

# SEEING CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

with the help of Tim Keller

## Part 19/21: True Friendship

*'A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.'* Prov. 17:17

1. There is **uniqueness** about friendship making it different from the obligation of family love and the passion of romantic love. Here is a love that is based on affinity, common interest, loyalty and commitment captured by David speaking of his friendship with Jonathan when hearing of his death, *'I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to*



*me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women'* (2 Sam.1:26). Having good friends is a gift from God, benefits our lives and aids 'wise living'; that is why there are many references to it in Proverbs.

2. True friends **are few** because of its intimacy. *'A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother'* (Prov. 18:24). Out of Jesus' many disciples He chose 12 He called 'friends' (John 15:15) and of those, three were more intimate friends than the others (Peter, James and John). Paul also specifically mentions closer friends, male and female, invaluable to him such as Timothy, Luke, Titus, Silas, Priscilla and Aquila, Epenetus and Persis (eg Col. 4:14, Rom.16:5 & 12). Friendship is more discovered than of our making yet still needs time and effort to make it robust.

3. What can we do to cultivate good friendships? There are four necessary characteristics to work at, described in the book of Proverbs:

a. **CONSTANCY:** they are available to help at ALL times, especially in times of hardship, *'A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.'* (17:17).

b. **SENSITIVITY:** they are so in tune with a friend's character they are considerate of their needs. The opposite of the uncaring type of person described as *'Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda'* (25:20).

c. **CANDOUR:** True friends will highlight faults if they see them and not be ...

... silent. *'Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy'* (27:5-6).

d. **COUNSEL:** they provide good advice. *'Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel'* (27:4).

The Hebrew words used here denote **the pleasantness and balance of mutual exchanges** between friends who 'naturally' are free to challenge and reassure each other, to the point of sharing intimate secrets.

The above four traits are very demanding, that is why true friendship involves having few not many friends.

4. As we consider this high bar for friendship we might wonder how we can achieve it. Again, this is where we look to Christ for help. In John 15 He reminds His disciples of His love and sacrifices for them, the challenges they will face as His followers, and His sending the Holy Spirit to help them, calling them 'friends' in the process. Jesus, through His suffering for us,; shows what friendship is like.

*'Faithful are the wounds of a friend'* (Prov. 27:6).

Thus He fulfils perfectly the requirements of friendship mentioned above. To know and follow Jesus therefore helps us to be good friends.

5. One final point; in Christianity it is possible **to make friends with unlikely people** because of our common faith in Jesus. The 12 apostles, including Paul, were different characters but became great friends to encourage each other, having been with Jesus and His influence on their lives. For example Simon, the ultra nationalist Zealot, came to respect Matthew, the tax collector who worked for Rome, and Peter the simple, practical, impetuous fisherman would refer to the more learned, studious, thoughtful Paul as *'our dear brother Paul'* (2 Peter 3:15).

Let us therefore, under God's sovereign grace, seek out godly friends and cultivate that friendship so we will discover the benefits so beautifully described in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. *'Two are better than one, because they have a good reward*

*for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!'*

You can hear and benefit from the full sermon at: [Friendship – Gospel in Life](#)

John Demetriou



## Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by  
Simon & Carolyn Farrar  
celebrating their Silver Wedding Anniversary



**A couple of dates are now available later in August for anyone wishing to donate the flowers. Contact Chris McMahon for details.**



*Please thank the ladies for the flowers they gave us on behalf of Victoria for the recent bereavement. Greatly appreciated D&I T*