

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 28th September 2025

VICTORIA
Baptist Church Eastbourne
Live @ 10



Open *Doors*

“Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5.10



VISITING SPEAKER FROM OPEN DOORS

DR MILES THOMAS

Ten years ago my wife and I became involved with 'Open Doors' when we started a prayer group in our church. When I retired from General Practice in Salisbury in 2018, I then became a Volunteer Speaker in Wiltshire and last Spring we moved to Eastbourne to be nearer family.



We had worked in overseas mission in Africa in the 1990's and were impressed with the present day relevance of the ministry of 'Open Doors', not only supporting those who are suffering for their faith in the darkest corners of the world but encouraging their witness and the growth of the church against all odds.

Alongside accounts of great suffering there are also inspiring stories of God's faithfulness and the strength and courage of believers.

I look forward to sharing some of these with you – with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa, where there is so much violence against Christians, and also North Korea, which remains the most dangerous country in the world to follow Jesus.

NEXT WEEK (5TH OCT)

Next week's live@10 service will be led by Chris Short and will include Communion.

There will be a Baptismal class at 5pm in Chris' office in advance of the Baptism service the following week.

The fortnightly prayer meeting will be at 6.30pm.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

Chris	in on Mon & Fri		
Colin	off Mon	Emily	off Tues
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	annual leave
Tim	in Wed & Fri	Julie	in Thursday
Nadine	in Mon & Thurs	Lucy	in Weds am, Thurs, Fri am
Sandra	off Thurs	Jez	in Wed am & Fri am
Phil	in Tues am, Wed, Thurs pm		

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

Treasurer

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

- Sun 28 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Miles Thomas from Open Doors
 5.00pm Baptismal Class
 7.00pm Xcav8
- Mon 29 6.00pm Girls Brigade
- Tue 30
- Wed 1 7.00am Prayer Meeting
 8.15am Community Fridge
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 7.00pm Ladies Italian Night - Pomodoro @ 7pm
- Thu 2 7.30am Prayer Meeting (men only)
 10.15am Men's Fellowship with David Malan (SASRA)
 2.30pm Women's Fellowship with Mary de Wirtz
 7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 3 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
 10.00am Vicky Bees
 5.00pm Kids Club
 7.00pm Xpect
- Sat 4
- Sun 5 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
 10.00am Live @ 10 with Chris Short - including communion
 5.00pm Baptismal Class
 6.30pm Prayer Meeting
 7.00pm Xcav8



Sunday 12th Oct - Harvest/Baptismal Service at 10am

Wednesday 15th Oct - Men's non-Curry night @ 7.15pm

Please sign up for on the sheet in the Welcome Centre.

Members' DIRECTORY

Please note that a new Members' Directory is now scheduled for production. Therefore, if you have made any changes to your contact details, please let the office know by the end of this month.



Join Us in Making a Difference for Our Young People!

We're looking for more passionate individuals to support our young peoples' groups, especially on Monday and Friday evenings during term time. Right now, we have a dedicated team at Girls Brigade on Mondays and six volunteers on Fridays, but we need additional hands to keep the energy and support going!

Here's how you can get involved:

Regular Volunteers

Join our rota and commit to helping on a regular basis.

Drinks & Snacks Helpers

If you're available to help serve juice, hot chocolate, and snacks, we'd love to have you!

Share Your Story

Do you have a 5-minute testimony, story, or talent you can share with the young people? Or perhaps you know someone who does?

Support Volunteers

If you're not able to commit regularly, join our "bank" of volunteers we can call upon as needed.

Your help, no matter how big or small, makes a real difference. If you're interested or know someone who might be, please get in touch!

emily@victoriabaptist.org.uk

PRAYER DIARY : 29TH SEPTEMBER - 5TH OCTOBER

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age “. Matthew 28:19

Monday Father, we lift up to You the leaders of the world’s nations and peoples. Encourage them to fulfil their duties and obligations with honesty, integrity and humility. Guide them to keep the needs of the poor, weak and marginalised central in all their policies and political actions. Open their hearts, Lord, to finding ways of working together, to begin tackling the many global challenges we face so that all nations can live in peace and prosperity.

Tuesday Loving Father, we lift up to You those living with a disability and struggling to cope with daily life. May they know Your presence and be reassured by Your constant love for them. We especially pray for those isolated by a profound hearing loss. Pray for a good response to the upcoming British Sign Language course, and for its outreach into our schools and local communities, that those with a hearing loss do not feel excluded or isolated in society.

Wednesday Pray that today’s Ladies Night is well attended and for there to be enriching fellowship with friends, old and new. May this be a time to encourage one another to commit to serving our Lord in our church and community.

Thursday Dear Lord, we lift up to You those members of our church who have fled from persecution to seek sanctuary among us. Help us, Lord, to be aware of the fears, anxiety, pain and sorrow they have escaped from. Fill our hearts with understanding and compassion and encourage us to help them in any way we can. We thank You for the work of NetworX, guided by Anna Reid, which seeks to settle and integrate refugees into our community.

Friday “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”. Matthew 11:28 Father God, we bring before You the work of the Hospice movement whose doctors and nurses give specialist care to those with life limiting illnesses. Pray that sufficient funding is raised, through donations and fund raising activities, to support and grow the service at the hospice, and in the community, so that patients and families may continue to have the support they need.

Saturday Father, we lift up to You our communities which have become so fractured and polarised that we no longer listen to each other. Lord, heal the rifts that separate us. Help us to build bridges and not barriers. Turn our hearts away from hatred and suspicion to be loving, accepting and able to live in peace with one another. May our actions reflect and honour Your Son who loved us so much that He gave His life so we could be saved.

Sunday “This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it “ Psalm118:24. Father, as we gather this morning to worship You, we acknowledge that only You are worthy of all glory, honour and praise. Father, anoint our minister, Chris Short, with Your word so that our faith can be deepened and our knowledge of Your kingdom expanded. May there be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, filling hearts and opening minds to Your glory. We lift up to You all those who have worked so hard to make this day one we can rejoice and be glad in.

Hope Lebedyn

Following last week’s announcement in Victoria Life about sending a truck of aid to Lebedyn in October, there has been a change of plan and we will no longer be taking donations as planned on Sunday 5th October. It is hoped to arrange something for later in the year so we hope to be coming to you again in a few weeks with requests for various goods.



Bible By The Beach 2026

Bookings are now OPEN for this event - 1st to 4th May. We will be diving into the theme of *Commending Christ in a Changing World*. The event is all about what it means to be involved in God's mission in the everyday spheres we find ourselves in. We're delighted to welcome

Vaughan Roberts to the stage who will be helping us think through what the Bible has to say about the world that we live in. We will also be welcoming Rebecca McLaughlin to the stage to share her experience and wisdom on what it means to be sharing Jesus with others.

For a full list of who will be taking part, do check it out [here](#)!

Children and Youth remain a priority for us, so we will be expanding and developing these ministries further going forward into 2026. We believe that God has given us a part to play in not just discipling children and young people, but also to equip others - parents and families in particular - to do this well.

Whatever stage of life you're in, our event in May 2026 is for you. Our best **Early Bird prices are available only until the end of November**, so do go to our website and book now to secure your place. You don't want to miss out!

BOOKCLUB

The next Flow Café will be held on Sat Oct 12th and, as most of you are aware, *Creative Writing* and *Bookclub* groups usually run alongside FC. This is an advanced notice however that there will be no Bookclub on 12th but Creative Writing will be running as usual.





COOKING FOR CARERS EASTBOURNE

KITCHEN FUNDAMENTALS

A SERIES OF COOKERY WORKSHOPS FOCUSING ON FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS. THESE WORKSHOPS ARE FOR UNPAID ADULT CARERS BASED IN EASTBOURNE & SURROUNDING AREA. THE WORKSHOPS ARE HANDS ON, GOOD FUN AND INCLUDES A GROUP LUNCH.

KNIFE SKILLS

04.11.25

SAUCES

11.11.25

CHICKEN

18.11.25

FISH

25.11.25

BATCH COOKING

02.12.25

ACTIVITIES TAKE PLACE

11.00 - 14.00,

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH, EASTBOURNE

TO BOOK A PLACE VISIT

WWW.COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK/COOKING-FOR-CARERS-NEW/

OR EMAIL:

OFFICE@COMMUNITYCHEF.ORG.UK

OR CALL

07766526217



Core Leadership Team

At the church members' business meeting on Wednesday evening, one of the agenda items was the election of those nominated to join the CLT.

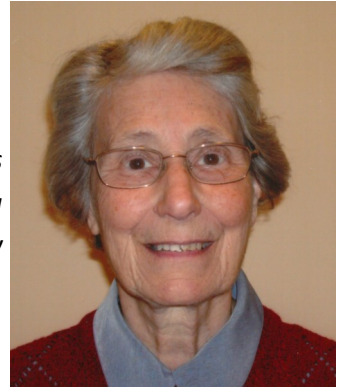
To remind you of the situation, we had three vacancies for the CLT and two people had been nominated - Deirdre Dean and Jo Brunson. You will be pleased to know that both Deirdre and Jo were elected which of course means we now have just the one vacancy remaining. This vacancy can be filled at any of the forthcoming business meetings. The next one is scheduled for Wednesday 26th November and then the first meeting in 2026 will be in February. We would ask you to give some prayerful thought as to who you would like to nominate - or even consider taking on the position yourself! Each nomination needs a proposer and a seconder. Nomination forms are available in the office and, for the next meeting, they would need to be submitted by **Wednesday 29th October**.

Those of you present at the meeting will remember that Chris asked each of the current members of the CLT to stand up, mainly for the benefit of new members who may not have had any contact with them and had no idea who they were! It makes sense therefore to include their photos here so those not present at the meeting can also familiarise themselves with them. Do approach them if you have any concerns - or even just to introduce yourselves.



DELIGHT IN THE LORD

Another in the series of thoughts inspired by quotations from the Book of Psalms. These were put together in a booklet - "Delight in the Lord" - some 30 years ago by Margaret Barham, pictured here.



DELIGHT IN THE LORD



Margaret Barham

"The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer" Psalm 6:9

When we are unwell and our body is tired and aching, it often affects our spirit and we can feel that God is far away and that He is angry with us or disciplining us in some way. However we feel, we can still tell God about it. We can tell Him about our sickness and ask for His healing. We can tell Him about the anguish of our soul, and that He seems far away and not answering us. We can ask for His help - not because we merit it or deserve it, but because of His unfailing love towards us, which we see most clearly in the sufferings of Jesus and His death on the Cross for us.

No matter how worn out we feel, or how many tears we have shed, whether tears of sadness,

or tears of self-pity or frustration, God still loves us, and we can be sure that He has heard our weeping, and that in His own time He will deliver us.

When we feel that everything is against us and that no-one is on our side, we can still call out to God for help, knowing that He has heard and accepted our prayer and will come to our aid.

Job Vacancy ...

... for a salaried frontline chaplains' role with the **Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team**.

The role involves working flexible shift patterns from 09:00 to 24:00 with shifts being 5 or 10 hours in length. Our service operates 365 days per year.

The contracted hours can be anywhere from 15 to 30 per week to suit the applicant and we invite the applicant to state their preferred working weekly hours on application.

The role has a starting rate of £13.40 per hour.

Closing date for applications is **6th October 2025**.

Full details and application packs can be found on our website

<https://www.bhct.org.uk/join-our-team> or contact gail.whittington@bhct.org.uk

Please remember us in prayer for the right candidate to be called to the role and I thank you for your support and in standing with us on the frontline at Beachy Head.

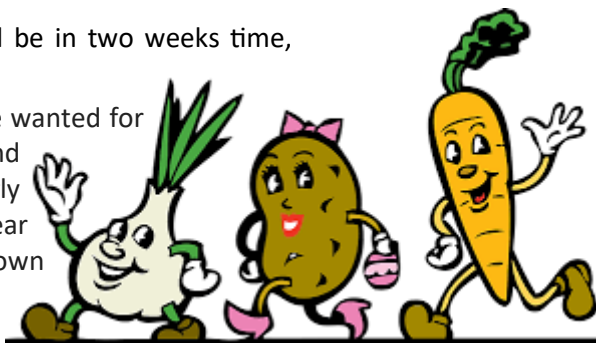
Harvest Celebration

Our Harvest Service this year will be in two weeks time, Sunday 12th October.

Please note that contributions are wanted for the Harvest display. Cans, jars, and dried foods are particularly desirable with all items this year being donated mainly to our own Community Fridge.

Bev Ebdy, who is coordinating the display, has asked that all items are delivered to the Church by **12 noon on Saturday, 11th**. This is the morning of our next Flow Café so a good opportunity to enjoy the Flow Café fellowship and to bring your produce for the display.

If you are not able to come to Flow Café, you can drop your contributions into the office in the week leading up to the Harvest weekend.



Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by

Shirley Whittle

In loving memory of Les



Would you please pass on heartfelt thanks from my mother, Gwen Lowe, for the lovely flowers she received this morning on her 96th birthday. It was a very thoughtful and well-received gesture.



Only one date left this year for donating flowers - **Nov 23rd**.

If you would like to fill this date, please contact Chris McMahon for details.