

VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 29th March 2026

PALM SUNDAY

Rejoice in the lord

“When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Luke 19:28-44



Luke 19:28-44

TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY

Palm Sunday is one of those days that often slips by unnoticed, especially in the non-conformist traditions such as the Baptists. As a child I was never exposed to any Palm Sunday traditions and perhaps that was my loss.

Palm Sunday, or the Triumphal Entry as it is often called, is a key moment in the gospel story. Here, Jesus proclaims Himself the Messiah fulfilling the prophecies of Zechariah. It is a day of contrasts. The praise of the crowds and the plotting of the Pharisees. Obedience of the disciples and the cynicism of the religious leaders. Tears of joy and tears of sadness. Today we will explore some of these contrasts and reveal the rich teaching of the Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem.



BAPTISMAL CLASSES

Chris will be holding another baptismal class today at 3pm in his office. Sunday 26th April has been earmarked for our next Baptismal service.

NEXT WEEK (5TH APR - EASTER SUNDAY)

Chris Short will be bringing the message to us at our morning service but please note, there will not be a prayer meeting in the evening.

STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for next week

Chris off Tues

Colin off Mon & Tues

Kevin off Sat

Tim annual leave

Nadine in Mon & Thurs

Sandra off Thurs

Phil Tues am, Wed, Thu pm

Emily off Mon & Thurs

Simon in Mon & Wed

Julie in Thurs

Lucy in Weds am, Thurs

Jez in Wed am

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)

**Please note the office will be closed
over the Bank Holiday weekend
on Good Friday and Easter Monday.**

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 29 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
10.00am Live@10 with Jez Taylor
3.00pm Baptismal Class in Chris' office
4.00pm Prospective Members' Meeting
No youth meeting at church - youth bowling 4pm-6.30pm

Mon 30

Tue 31

Wed 1 7.00am Prayer Meeting
8.15am Community Fridge & Breakfast Club
Alpha - next meeting Apr 15th

Thu 2 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting
2.30pm Maundy Thursday Service (inc Communion)
7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting

Fri 3 10.00am Good Friday Service (inc Communion)
11.15am Old Town Walk of Witness

Sat 4

Sun 5 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
10.00am Easter Day Celebration with Chris Short
11.30am Easter Egg Hunt for the children

NO evening Prayer Meeting

The Week Ahead

You can find the Life Group notes for today's message through this link:

<https://victoriabaptist.org.uk/midweekgroups/life-groups/resources/most-recent-bible-studies.php>

Life groups @ VBC
Friendship, Faith and Fun at the heart of our community



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note that the next Church Members' Meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd April, at 7.30pm.

Easter Dates

Thurs 2 Apr - 2.30pm **Maundy Thursday** Communion with the Women's and Men's Fellowships. All welcome. Led by John Jones.



Fri 3 Apr - 10am **Good Friday** Service with Chris Short, including a time of Communion.

Walk of Witness

Old Town Churches will be holding their annual **Good Friday** walk between churches to pray and to be a witness in the community. Starting at 10.30am outside Old Town Community Church, Central Ave., it will arrive at VBC just after 11am. You are welcome to join the walk from here, or at any time along the route. It will finish at Emmanuel Church at around midday where hot cross buns and a hot drink will be available.

Sun 5 Apr - 10am live@10 **Easter Sunday** service, with Chris Short
Please note that there will be NO prayer meeting in the evening.



EASTER BREAKFAST CLUB

At Community Fridge, we are holding our usual Easter breakfasts on 1st and 8th April from 8.15am-9.45am.

Why not join us for coffee and a croissant and see what goes on at Community Fridge on a Wednesday morning? There will be plenty to eat, and activities for the children.



Creative Writing

A reminder that The Creative Writers will be gathering as usual during Flow Cafe on 11th April at 10:30am in The Hive.

With the amazing Easter Story still fresh in our minds, the writing suggestion / challenge for April is Tales of The Unexpected. We will be looking at the elements of surprise and suspense in writing and how this can focus the readers attention.

Look forward to seeing our usual contributors and anyone who would like to see what we get up to. Any queries please contact Helen Trimmings.

BOOKCLUB will also be happening at the same time in the Snug.

Sonya

Many of you have been understandably concerned about what progress Sonya Cronin has been making since her serious stroke last August. I can report that she is as well as can be expected given how badly she was affected. Within a few weeks of being moved from Brighton Hospital to the Rehab Centre in Haywards Heath, they managed to get her walking again, albeit with a walking stick, but this in itself was quite amazing given the severity of the stroke. The main problem remains in a lack of movement in her right arm - unfortunately she's right-handed! - but she remains cheerful in the circumstances, feeling the power of prayer support she has received from contacts in different parts of the world.



Efforts are being made to fix her up with some accommodation here in Eastbourne where many of her friends and her church family live. Consequently, we are appealing to you all to let us know if you are able to help in providing a ground-floor flat/granny annexe - she will pay the required rent of course - which would help her regain a degree of independence.

Please contact the office if you know of something that might be suitable. And most importantly, please continue to remember Sonya in your prayers. She is so grateful to the church family for the support she has received and her faith has without a doubt sustained her through a very difficult time.



We are running a **Youth Alpha** course for young people (11-18 year olds) who want to know more about the Christian faith.

Contact: emily@victoriabaptist.org.uk

for more details

Unpack the Christian *faith* together.

Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together. Alpha is for anyone who's curious. No judgement, no pressure. Each session unpacks a big question of life, faith, and purpose, and is designed to spark conversation. Come along, see what you think.



Victoria Baptist Church

8 Week Course

Starts Wednesday 22nd April 3-5pm.

Try Alpha.



PRAYER DIARY : 30TH MARCH - 5TH APRIL

Monday “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. But you have made it a den of robbers” Mark 11:17

Lord Jesus, You drove out those turning Your house of prayer into a market place. Give us, we pray, the courage to overturn the tables of greed, corruption and exploitation that we encounter in our lives. Cleanse us, Lord, from anything that prevents us worshipping You.

Tuesday Father, while Jesus prayed on the Mount of Olives, the disciples slept. We pray that You would fill us with the Holy Spirit so our hearts and minds are always open and alert to Your Word. Enrich us with wisdom so we can understand Your teachings, and guide us in ways that will always honour You.

Wednesday “And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus” Luke 22:4

Lord Jesus, we have at times betrayed Your love through our actions, just as Judas did, and we feel the burden of our sin. We pray for Your forgiveness, to cleanse and heal the wounds that separate us from You. Thank You for redeeming us through Your sacrifice on the cross.

Maundy Thursday “After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.” John 13:5

Father, fill us with Your grace to serve others with the same love and humility Your son Jesus showed to His disciples. May this act of washing be a reminder that we are called to serve and comfort people from all backgrounds, shining the light of Jesus into the dark areas of their lives.

Good Friday “At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split, and the tombs broke open.” Matthew 27:51

Lord God, on this momentous, earth-shattering day, we remember with gratitude your Son’s sacrifice. We thank You for Your Son, Jesus, enduring the pain of the cross and taking all our sin upon Himself, thus offering us the only path to salvation and an eternal relationship with You .

Saturday Father, we lift up to You our world where so many nations are at war with each other. Great nations are now using power and violence as a form of diplomacy. Send us Lord, we pray, Your Son, the Prince of Peace. Give wisdom and guidance to those who sit on the Security Council, at the United Nations, to negotiate peaceful ways in which nations can live beside each other.

We give thanks for Your promise that one day there will be no more death or grieving, crying or pain. Until that day, we pray for Your continued grace and goodness to pour out into our world, changing lives and bringing light where there has always been darkness.

Easter Sunday "The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said.'" Matthew 28:5,6

Father, as the church family comes together to celebrate the good news that Jesus has risen from the grave, and death has been conquered, fill us, we pray, with hope and new life which is found in following Him.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us today to strengthen us, embolden us and deepen our faith. May today be a new beginning in our walk with You .

Christ has risen - He has risen indeed.



SAVE THE DATE

Breathe

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

BUILD YOUR HOUSE
UPON THE ROCK

SAT 7TH NOV 2026

'super early bird' price of just £20 - if booked by the end of March 2026

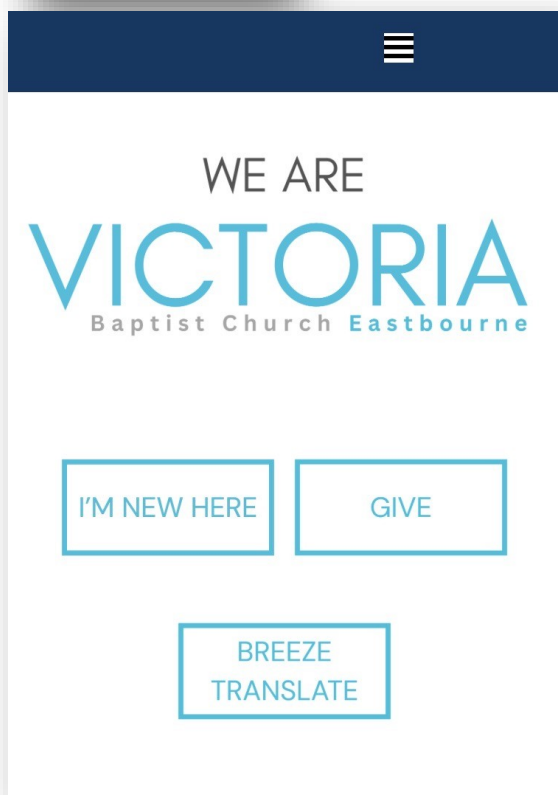
Book at <https://suncoastchurch.churchsuite.com/events/phdb78ft>

Conference Venue - Suncoast Church/Contact Lucy Craggs for more details

What's this on the chairs?



Scan the QR code with your phone camera



Clicking on:

I'm New Here will take you to a page that tells you all about Victoria and how to contact us.

Give will take you to the **Victoria Dona *** page. This will give you the chance to give to the church.

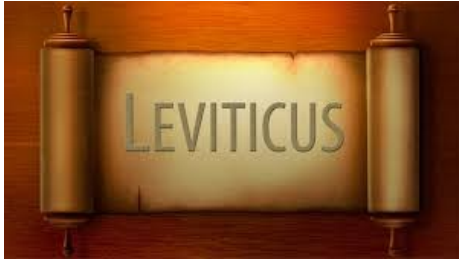
Breeze Translate will take you to the Breeze Translate website where you will be able to follow the sermon in a written language of your choice.

* Please note - **Dona Donations** is a company "that helps charitable organisations supercharge, streamline and future-proof their fundraising, with **contactless, card and online giving donation technologies.**"

So in this case, Dona is the correct spelling, not DONOR, as has been suggested! We have a Dona machine in the Welcome Centre and Dona QR codes on all the chairs for people to donate via Dona!

“Paul and the Levitical Pickle”

A scribe sat down with ink and scroll,
Intent to grasp the Gospel whole.
He'd read of grace and Spirit's flame
Then Paul arrived and changed the game.
“Now hold,” said Paul, “the Law was good,
But Christ fulfilled it as He should.
No need for goats or temple rites
Just faith and love not sleepless nights.”
“But wait,” the scribe said, scratching head,



“You quote Leviticus with such dread!
You say that sin still stains the soul
Yet circumcision's not the goal?”
Paul winked and said, “It is not magic:
The Law was holy, but also tragic.
It showed our need, it drew the line

But now we walk by love divine.”
“Still,” said the scribe, “you list what's vile
And some of it feels out of style.
Jesus never said a word
On half the sins that you inferred.”
Paul sighed, “He spoke of hearts and grace,
Of mercy's touch and love's embrace.
But truth and love must walk as one
Not every party ends in fun.”
The scribe then groaned, “I need a drink.
This Gospel's deeper than I think.”
Paul smiled, “It's not a legal stew
It's Christ in me, and Christ in you.”

FLOWER MINISTRY

Last week's flowers were donated by
Rosalie Redmayne



The next vacant dates for flower donations are in May (3rd, 24th, or 31st). Similarly June and July have very few takers. Please contact Chris McMahan if you want information on the process of giving flowers.