

Lord of the Rings, Star Wars,
Homeward Bound, Titanic
Wizard of Oz, Finding Nemo

EPIC JOURNEYS

THIS EASTER – JOIN ANOTHER ONE !!

Class	Ticket type	Adults
Inc.	OPEN RETURN	YES
	Start date	Booked
	23-Mar-24	230324318
From	Initials	Price
inc reverse	21-Mar-24	£ PAID
To	Booked	
see reverse	Victoria Baptist Church - Easter	

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Journey to King's
Printed 2024

Sunday 31st March 2024

Victoria Baptist Church News

HE IS RISEN

**Live in CHURCH and
online**



VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH
to see Jesus Christ honoured in Eastbourne and beyond

HOME JESUS ABOUT SUNDAYS FAMILIES CHURCH LIFE CONTACT US

**Live at Ten with
CHRIS SHORT**

the latest
ons

CURRENT SERIES



ABOUT US



Genesis 2:8-9; 15-17 / 1Peter 2:24-25 Three Trees

“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sins and live for righteousness: “by His wounds you were healed.” (1Peter 2:24-25)

“He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!” This morning we are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and His victory over sin and death. We’re also celebrating the evidence of His transforming power in the lives of two young men being baptized. Sam has been coming to Victoria all of his life. Nathan has only been coming for a few weeks and yet, as we’ll hear, both have experienced the life changing power of Jesus.



Both believe that He is alive. Both believe that His death upon the cross paid the price for their sins. Both are committing, with God’s help, to follow Him for the rest of their lives. They are joining the growing number of people, from all races, classes, cultures and nationalities, who confess that Jesus is *their* Lord and will soon return to be crowned Lord of all, forever.

Today we celebrate the Risen King as the Saving King and the Coming King. Happy Easter to you all!

Next Week

Jez Taylor begins a 3-week, Sunday morning series on Micah 6:8. ***What does the Lord require of you?*** The first in the series is titled “Just living? Or living justly?”

Sunrise



For those of you intending to go to the Butts Brow service this morning (Easter morning) - assuming you read this prior to the event of course - please note that we have been told to meet at the car park at 6.30am and not 6am as previously advertised.

Staff/Office Matters

Monday is a Bank Holiday, so the office will be closed. Staff movements for the week are as follows:

Chris	off Tues	Kevin	off Sat
Sandra	annual leave	Tim	in Wed & Fri
Colin	in Tues-Fri	Jez	in Wed & Fri
Erik	off Thurs	Simon	off Tues
Phil	in Wed	Nadine	in Thurs
Julie	in Thurs		

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

Phil Papps

CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

Treasurer

Mark Evason

Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

Pastoral Team Leader

Tim Nunn

Life Group Coordinator

Jez Taylor

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(eg *chris@victoriabaptist.org.uk*)

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Victoria Baptist Church Trust

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Sort Code: 40-52-40

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Sun 31	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
	10.00am	Live and Online with Chris Short
Mon 1		Bank Holiday
Tues 2		
Wed 3	8.30am	Community Fridge and Breakfast
Thu 4	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (men only)
	10.15am	Men's Fellowship AGM
	7.30pm	Ukraine Prayer Meeting
Fri 5	10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
Sat 6	9.30am	Holy Spirit Day
Sun 7	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' office
	10.00am	Live and Online Communion Service with Jez Taylor
	6.30pm	Church Prayer Meeting

Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*



Brian Wightwick Sun 31st St Barnabas, Langney, 9.45am

Advance Notice -

There will be NO service here at VBC on Sunday May 19th.
We want to encourage everyone to join us and other Eastbourne churches at the Bandstand that morning for this year's Thy Kingdom Come event.



Garage Space needed -

If anyone has an empty garage, please contact the office as Adrian Attwater (captain of our Boys' Brigade) is looking for one at the moment.

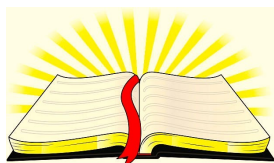
HOLY SPIRIT Day

Sat 6th Apr, 9.30am to 4.30pm here at VBC. In line with Chris' ongoing Teaching Series regarding the work and person of the Holy Spirit, we are setting aside a day to explore the work of the Holy Spirit together as a church. Lunch provided. Please note, there will be NO children or youth facilities.



Bible Academy begins again!

Bible Academy begins after Easter - two 6-week courses.



Level 1 Bible Basics - Alternate Thursdays at 6.30pm, starting 11th April in the Garden Room.

This course explores what the Bible is, what is the big picture behind it, how to read it and understand it. Ideal for new Christians or a good refresher course for the more mature in faith.

Level 2 Deep Dive - Alternate Sundays starting 14th April in the sanctuary, 6.30pm.

This course takes a more focussed approach and looks at the nature of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the problem of sin, and then looks at some simple doctrines including 'who are the church?'

Sign up sheets for both courses are available in the Welcome Centre. See Jez for further details.

Creative Writing

Our next meeting is on Sat 13th April, 10.30-noon in the usual venue, the Hive. The subject for the meeting, and your homework in advance of the meeting, is:

"Just Looking"

The aim is to focus on a specific place, photograph or piece of art and concentrate on using description to share what we "see", think, and feel with our readers/audience. Every picture tells a story.

All are welcome; for more information, please contact Helen Trimmings.





What a fantastic afternoon learning the Easter story through craft, games and treats!

- 120+ people (80% non-church goers)
- 81 Easter eggs won from the egg hunt.
- 6 paint bottles emptied to create the hand print cross.
- 85 Easter bonnets (and hats) made.
- Easter cookies decorated (and mostly eaten).
- Easter story comic colouring done!
- 3kg's of jelly beans eaten.

What a way to kick off the week up to Easter at Victoria!



A special thanks has to go to the Messy Easter Team: Margaret, Nola, Wendy, Linda, Christine, Gill, Ken & Sue. Without these amazing volunteers this event would not have been possible!

If you would like to volunteer for the next Messy Church, or any of the Children's Work here at Victoria, please get in contact with Simon

simon@victoriabaptist.org.uk

My daughter came to the church on Monday for the school visit. She loved being shown round and what you said. That night she told me "Mum we have to go to Messy Easter at the church on Saturday, Simon says it's for us!" - Mother of a Pashley Year 2 child.



We just wanted to say a big thank you for organising such a great messy Easter. We were able to invite 4 different families along, two of whom didn't know where the church was and it already seems promising for us to follow up perhaps with Saturday Flow café etc.. - VBC Members

Thank you for all your hard work, our grandchildren loved it
- VBC Member



We love your messy churches, they're so friendly and fun.



PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT¹



As we continue with our Sunday series about the Holy Spirit, it is worth considering His influence on our prayer life. This is one of the main differences when a person becomes a Christian; they start to really pray. Paul, before his conversion as a strict Pharisee, prayed often but it was ineffective as he was still far from God. After his conversion though, on the road to Damascus, what was his first action but to be found 'praying' (Acts 9:11) and I am sure it was unlike any prayer he had uttered previously. In the following account I would like to touch on what that new Spirit-filled prayer life is like, what to aim for, and its characteristics.

Firstly, its importance is supported by Jesus' own example of repeated prayer times and His teaching, summarised by his exhortation '*that men ought always to pray and not lose heart*' (Lk. 18:1) and by the writers of the epistles, that we should '*pray at all times in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication.*' Eph 6:18 as well as '*devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful*' (Col.4:2).

Secondly, we are reminded in scripture and from our own experience that true prayer is not easy and we are ignorant of the right way to pray. The disciples of Jesus and the disciples of John the Baptist realised this and asked them to teach them how to pray (Lk.11:1. They obliged, most notably in the Lord's prayer and, to the early Christians, through the writing of the epistles.

Thirdly, the New Testament speaks of the need for our prayers to be Spirit-led to be effective eg Eph 6:18, '*Pray at all times in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication*' or Jude v20, '*building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.*' That leads us to ask, 'How do I get my prayers to be 'in the Spirit?' Psalm 10:17 gives us a clue, '*O Lord You hear the desire of the afflicted, **You** encourage/prepare **their heart**, and You listen to their cry.*'

We are reminded here that it is God who '*prepares*' our hearts and prompts us to pray and, as we act on that leading, He responds. An example of this is Daniel when he realised from the prophecy of Jeremiah that after seventy years of exile God promised to bring back His people to their homeland, so he prayed accordingly (Daniel 9). As James reminds us, '*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective*' (Ja. 5:16).



.... That leads us to ask, how can we enjoy such a prayer life? Do we just wait for the Spirit's prompting before we pray? No, the Bible teaches it is our duty to pray (Lk18:1) and it is as we do so that we put ourselves in a position where God can lead us. I am reminded of what Peter Boehler, the Moravian missionary to England, told the Reverend John Wesley when the latter confessed he lacked a living faith and wanted to give up preaching. Boehler advised, *'Preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith.'* It is the same with Spirit-filled prayer; let us continue until we enter into its fullness.

What does Spirit-filled prayer look like, so it is not just mechanical? The Bible gives us the following characteristics:

1. A humbling realisation we are in **the presence of a Holy and Almighty God** (Ps 24:3-4, Heb. 12:28-29)
2. **A sense of privilege**, that we can enter God's presence through the blood of Christ (Rom. 5:1-2, Eph 2.18).
3. **A boldness and assurance**. Despite God's holiness, because of Christ's sacrifice and His intercession for us as High Priest, we have **confidence** to *'draw near to God's throne...to receive mercy and find grace to help us in our need'*. (Heb.4:14-16 & 10:19-22).
4. **A freedom and lively spirit** where you are not self conscious and words come naturally as between close friends or children crying to their 'Abba Father' (Rom. 8:15).
5. A **passion, energy and warmth** that touches the heart as well as the mind fulfilling John the Baptist's words, *'He (Jesus) will baptise you with the Holy spirit and fire'*. Further experienced by the early believers in Acts 4:31, *'After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.'*
6. **Thanksgiving and love**, even in difficult circumstances. For example, Paul and Silas 'praying and singing' in the Philippian prison and Paul's letter to the Philippi Christians from another jail when he exhorts them, *'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God.'* (Phil.4:6).
7. **Persistence**, realising how essential prayer is to the Christian cause. We read, Epaphras *'is always wrestling in prayer'* for the Colossian believers (Col.4:12) while Paul urges Roman Christians, *'to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.'*(Rom.15:30)

What a great resource Spirit-filled prayer is to help Christians and the church. Let us strive to enjoy more of it and so bring heaven a little closer to earth.

John Demetriou

PRAYER DIARY 1ST -7TH APRIL

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Eph 1:3

Monday *"And, you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit" Eph 1:13*

Thank God for those who were baptised yesterday and a few weeks ago. Pray they may grow stronger in their faith daily, rooted and grounded in Christ. Pray that they may know the victory of Christ in the struggles they encounter as 'greater is He who is in them than in the world.' Pray for the Omega Group for 18–35-year-olds.

Tuesday *"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^[a] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people" Eph 1:17-18*

Pray that we as a church may fully grasp the hope we have and all that Jesus achieved for us when He died, rose again, ascended into heaven, and press on to take hold of that for which Jesus took hold of us. Pray for Chris Short as he teaches, and for Erik and Simon as they prepare the children and young people. Pray for Jez as he leads the Bible Academy. Pray for the life Groups that they may be places where we grow together in our relationship with God and others.

Wednesday *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time because the days are evil" Eph 5:15,16*

Pray that we may honour God in our family life, at work and in all we do each day so that we can be salt and light in our community. Pray for organisations that seek to help those in need, such as Foodbank, Street Pastors, Matthew 25, The Sanctuary, Living Life and People Matter.

Thursday *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Eph 6:12*

When we look around us and see rulers of the world seeking to do their will, destroying many innocent people, it is good to know that God is sovereign. Pray that His Kingdom will come and His will be done on earth. Pray for peace between Ukraine and Russia; Pray for peace in Israel and Gaza. Pray for justice for those who are vulnerable, those who have had to flee war and persecution.

Friday *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should”* Eph 6:17-20
Pray for the outreach activities at VBC - CAP, the Community Fridge, and Alpha, so that those who come may experience God's love in those who help them. Pray, too, for those who come to church through NetworX contacts. Pray for the next Alpha Course, which is coming up in April.

Saturday *“I pray that out of His glorious riches, He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”* Eph 3:16-18

Pray for the VBC Holy Spirit Day today, giving us space to go deeper with God and pray for one another. Pray for wisdom and guidance for those leading and organising the event. Pray it will be a great day of joy and refreshing in God’s presence as we seek Him together.

Sunday *“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.”* Eph 5:18-20

May our worship of God be in Spirit and truth. Spend some time today worshipping God, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs; thank Him that we are free to worship, remembering those in countries where they can only worship secretly or risk being arrested if they meet together.

Sussex Gospel Partnership

The SGP’s annual women convention will be held at All Saints, Crowborough on Saturday 8th June. It will be a day of teaching, praise, seminars and testimony for all ages. Kimberley Davis is the keynote speaker, speaking from the book of Hebrews and explaining why it is a better story! For more information, **and to book**, please go to <https://southernwomensconvention.co.uk>. A group of us are going and have space in cars if you need a lift. Hope you can join us! Lucy Craggs



Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by
The Saffrons Life Group



Thank you Church family for the beautiful flowers. They really are appreciated at this time. With my love JC