



Sunday 3rd December 2023

**Victoria** Baptist Church News



**“ ... for the Lord your God is God in heaven above  
and on the earth below.”**

***Joshua 2:11***

**Live in church and online**



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

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## **The Hands That Rocked the Cradle – Rahab**

**Matt. 1:1-6 / Joshua 2**

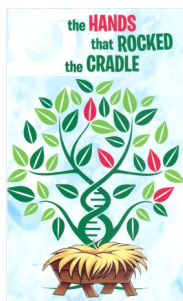
**“For the LORD your God is God in heaven above  
and on earth below.” (Josh. 2:11)**

This week we'll turn to the second of the women Matthew includes in the Genealogy of Jesus. Rahab was a prostitute in Jericho whose life changed the day God brought two of his servants into her life. Like Rahab, we never know how God will break into our lives and we never know where it will lead. Through her faith in God,



Rahab went from being a despised and exploited member of one people to be a heroic and honoured member of a new one.

What's also remarkable is the degree to which this foreigner becomes pivotal in the story of God's people. Through her son Boaz, Rahab is an ancestor of King David and Jesus. On the morning the spies arrived it would have been unimaginable that this encounter would change her life and set her on course to be the most famous woman of her generation and world.



## **Prayer Meeting**

Please make every effort to attend the fortnightly prayer meeting at 6.30pm.

## **Next Week - Dec 9<sup>TH</sup>**

All-Age - Simon Grimes will be leading a Sunday School Nativity service.

# Staff/Office Matters

Staff movements for the coming week

Chris off Tuesday  
Sandra off Thursday  
Erik off Thursday  
Simon off Tuesday  
Julie in Thursday  
Kevin off Saturday

Colin off Mon & Fri  
Tim in Wed am & Fri am  
Jez in Wed am & Fri am  
Helen in Mon, Wed  
Nadine in Mon, Thurs

Please note that the office will be closed on Wednesday afternoon (6th).

## 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

Helen Diplock

## CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

## Treasurer

Mark Evason

## Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

## Pastoral Team Leader

Tim Nunn

**01323 737974**

Eldon Road, Eastbourne

BN21 1UE

[helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

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

## VBC Bank Details

*Account Name:*

Victoria Baptist Church Trust

*Account Number:* 00010297

*Sort Code:* 40-52-40

Staff contact details:

*firstname@victoriabaptist.org.uk*

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

Sun	3	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live and on-line with Chris Short
		6.30pm	Church Prayer Meeting
		7.00pm	Xcav8
		7.30pm	CLT meeting
Mon	4	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
Tues	5	6.45pm	Alpha - "Does God heal today?"
		7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
Wed	6	8.30am	Community Fridge and Cafe
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		6.30pm	Boys Brigade
Thu	7	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
		10.00am	Alpha - "Does God heal today?"
		10.15am	Men's Fellowship - members with Communion
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Chris Short
Fri	8	7.30pm	Ukraine Prayer Meeting
		10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.00pm	Kids Club
Sat	9	7.00pm	Xpect
		10.00am	Flow Cafe
Sun	10	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	All-Age Service - Nativity with Simon Grimes
		7.00pm	Xcav8

## The Week Ahead



### Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*

Brian Wightwick	3 Dec	Polegate Free Church, 10.30am & 6.30pm
Brian Wightwick	10 Dec	St Barnabas, Langney, 9.45am

### Christmas Events

Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Flow Café, 10am
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Nativity for All Ages, 10am
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Carols by Candlelight, 6.30pm
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christingle Service, 4pm
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Reflection, 10am





# Christmas Post

If you were here last week, you will have seen the reappearance of the VBC Christmas postbox. Please remember the following points though if making use of this service -

- Only post cards to members of the church or to regular attenders
- No cards to be posted to people who have moved on to another church or to another part of the country - these will not be delivered I'm afraid
- When posting your cards, please bunch them (elastic bands will be available on top of the postbox) and arrange them alphabetically (by surname)



- Please make a donation in lieu of postage, using the envelopes on top of the post box if paying by cash or cheque. Alternatively, we may be able to use the card machine if you want to pay by card - or use the church's bank details (with a reference of Christmas Post) if you are paying by bank transfer.

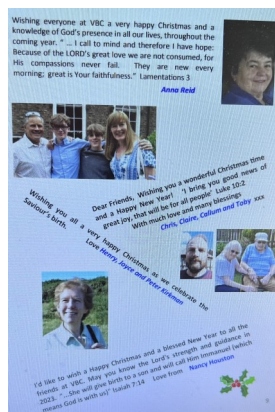
All proceeds will once again be shared between Community Fridge and CAP.

The postbox will remain in place until next Sunday (10<sup>th</sup>) so that is your last date for posting. Brian Wightwick and his team will then sort out all the cards on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - and if they do their usual great job of bunching them all up, the cards should be available for you to collect later that week.

**Alternatively**, if you prefer the more technical approach, we will again be using the news sheet to post your greetings.

So far, only one has been submitted but now that we are in December, we are anticipating an avalanche of greetings over the coming days! To send a brief greeting to the church family, e-mail me (Colin) using my office address and please attach a photo which I can use. I do have photos of most of you on the system so am happy to use that if you would rather, but you may prefer a couples or family photo

I will aim to publish these e-mail messages in the news sheets dated 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.



## PRAYER DIARY 4<sup>TH</sup> - 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

“He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be our peace.” Micah 5 verse 4-5a

**Monday** Lord, we pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us this Advent season. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on You in these busy days as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Your son.

**Tuesday** Father, we lift up to You our world in conflict, especially the Ukraine and The Middle East. We pray for peaceful negotiations to begin between Russia and the Ukraine, and conditions can be agreed to permanently end the fighting.

Lord, we pray for the continued safe release of the Jewish hostages, held by Hamas, and for an international intervention to be made possible, bringing the warring parties together around the negotiating table. We pray for You to fill the hearts of both sides with a desire to compromise, forgive and work towards a plan to coexist in peace as neighbours.

**Wednesday** Father God, we thank You for the work of the CAP ministry. We pray for sufficient provisions to be donated to provide Christmas hampers for the clients at VBC. May these gifts bring a festive message of Your hope and love to all those who receive them.

**Thursday** Dear Lord, in this winter flu period, we bring before You all those suffering ill health, who are in hospital or awaiting medical appointments. May they and their families find rest in trusting in the deep love and protection you provide for them. Father, we pray for their suffering to be eased and that they may be comforted by Your presence while You walk these difficult days with them.

**Friday** Loving Father, we lift up to you the divisions in Your church, globally, nationally and locally. Father, we pray for Your intervention to heal these broken relationships and to unite us as one body, one Gospel, to serve and honour You.

**Saturday** Father God, we give thanks for all those who offer their time and talents to support today's Flow Cafe. We pray for this time to be of great spiritual activity. May this fellowship strengthen the faith of those who do not know you and may seeds of faith be planted. We give thanks for the MacMillan Cancer Service - may the proceeds of this morning's event enable their staff to provide a fuller service.

FUEL FOR PRAYER

**Sunday** “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world”.  
John 1:9

Father, as we come together on this Second Sunday in Advent to give thanks for the birth of Your son, we pray for the Holy Spirit to work amongst us, opening our hearts and minds to the wonder of the nativity story. May His light continue to shine into the shadows of our lives so that we never walk in darkness but bask in the true light of life.

## AUDREY BROWN/MAURICE FISHER

We heard the news today (Thursday) that Audrey had gone to be with the Lord after spending some weeks in hospital. We rejoice that she is in a better place but naturally our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. We will of course let you know as soon as we have any further details of a thanksgiving service.



Some of you will know Maurice Fisher, father of Sue Evason and brother of Barbara Scrutton. Sadly, Maurice passed away on Wednesday evening. Maurice - and his wife Daphne - had long-standing connections with VBC. He was a member of the diaconate in the 1970s and, after many years away, had returned to VBC earlier this year.

Funeral arrangements will follow shortly though in both cases, the thanksgiving/celebration service is likely to be early in the New Year.



## CHRISTINGLE

We will need to assemble Christingles for the service on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec , so if you have an hour to spare on **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December** at 2pm to help with this, please let me know. Many thanks, Sandra



## CAP Christmas Hampers for Clients

*Dear Friends, A huge thank you to those of you who responded so promptly to last week's appeal with regards to the Christmas hampers for our CAP clients. We really do appreciate your love and generosity.*

*We make no excuse for repeating the appeal this week as we're sure some of you may have overlooked last week's article and would like to be involved in some way.*

Sign up in the usual place in the Welcome Centre to help with packing or delivering on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> or Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Why not pray together about this, get a few people from your life group to team up to help? We need people at church packing, and pairs to go out in cars to deliver the gifts in the early evening.

Donations of money would be gratefully received as we anticipate that each hamper will cost between £30 and £60. This can be handed into the office. Alternatively, we welcome BACS transfers - the bank details are on p3 of this newsheet, please mark any donation *CAP Christmas*.



We would also welcome donations of longer date food items, which can be brought to church and left in the collection area by the blue welcome centre wall. These need to be in by the 17<sup>th</sup> December. Chilled and frozen goods will be bought in a big order.

We will provide Christmas messages and cards to go in the boxes but if your life group would like to donate a handpicked gift for clients, and deliver to a specific family or person, please let us know and sign a personal card. Any questions please contact Lesley Corke.

Thank you for your support with this big project and making Christ's Christmas message come alive for our clients.

Very best wishes

Helen, Nadine and Lesley

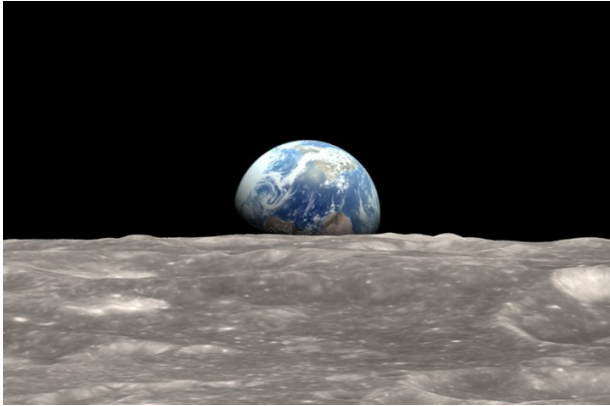
### Suggested items for donation



Christmas crackers, Christmas sweets, soft drinks, Christmas or sponge pudding, custard, Christmas chocolates, mince pies, Christmas cake, Christmas biscuits, biscuits for cheese, toiletries gift set, Christmas napkins, chutney, jam or sauces, tinned fruit or vegetables, tea, coffee.



## **EARTHRISE!**



In November this year astronaut Frank Borman died at the ripe old age of ninety five. He was well known for leading the Apollo 8 mission to circumnavigate the moon in 1968 and, along with his crew, James Lovell and William Anders, taking this iconic photo of the earth as they came round from the far side

of their lunar orbit. It was the first time a photo of the earth had been taken from space and coincided with their Christmas message on December 24<sup>th</sup> to the millions worldwide who were following their mission. What would they say?

Russian cosmonaut remarks were tightly controlled by their superiors but NASA gave their astronauts more freedom to choose. Borman, in consultation with his wife, had prepared a text for them to read. Unlike Khrushchev, leader of the Soviet Union, who had earlier declared to wavering party members, 'Why are you clinging to God? Here Gagarin flew into space and didn't see God,' Borman and his crew when they saw the 'blue earth' rising from the other side of the moon drew a different, more God centred conclusion. They were suddenly struck by how fragile and vulnerable this small orb appeared in the vastness, desolateness and darkness of space. It was a new perspective of the earth they had not appreciated before. As William Anders put it, 'We set out to explore the moon and instead discovered the earth' and under God's providence the privileged position those on earth were in. They then took turns to use the two minutes left before radio silence to read the creation account from Genesis Chapter one and sign off, 'Merry Christmas, and God bless all of you- all of you on the good earth.'

This Advent season may we also lift our eyes away from the difficulties we face and see God's bigger picture and plan of salvation for this 'good earth' he cares for and with Paul remember, 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting people's sins against them.' 2Cor. 5:19. That's something to lift our spirits and rejoice about!

John Demetriou

The graphic features the words "MESSY CHRISTMAS" in a large, bold, red, distressed font. The letters are set against a bright yellow, splatter-like background. Above the word "MESSY", there is a silhouette of a nativity scene with figures on a hill and animals. The entire graphic is framed by a light blue border with a subtle pattern of white dots.

# MESSY CHRISTMAS

Last Saturday we kicked off the festivities with Messy Christmas!

There were crafts galore and messiness to boot.

The place was so full, we all had a hoot.

The glue and the paint were flying about,

The room was so packed, we all had to shout!

Candles and tinsel, snow and pine cones,

All of these photographed, taken on phones.

It's not just baubles and making cool presents

There's a meaning behind all these Christmas events.

Celebrating the birth of our Saviour and Lord

The day He came down with angel accord.

He came to save us from all of our sins

He battled with death - and of course he WINS!

Everyone took away this great message of love

The birth of a babe who came down from above.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

**P.S.** A massive **THANK YOU** to all those who came and helped out!

Without them Messy Christmas could not come about!



**75 people, at least,  
ventured in!**

**80% new, their  
first time within.**

**The church can be seen  
as a warm, loving place**

**And Jesus' love is theirs  
to embrace!**



## Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by  
**Margaret Reilly**



*Thank you for the beautiful flowers. A lovely surprise on my doorstep!*



*I just wanted to thank the church so much for the beautiful flowers we received today. They are absolutely lovely and made a grey November day seem much brighter. Thank you again so much.*

