

# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 5th/12th April 2026



**Live**  
IN  
CHURCH

**LIVE**  
**STREAMING**

@vbcsussex

**The Essential Church**  
**Revelation 19:1-9**  
**The BRIDE OF CHRIST**

*“Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory!  
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and His bride has made herself ready.” (Revelation 9:7)*



Weddings are one of the most wonderful things in life. Hopefully, we remember our wedding days as days of great personal joy. Family and friends share in that joy. Fathers proudly walk daughters down the aisle. Mothers, and others, may shed a tear or two. Siblings and best friends have honoured roles. Gifts are given. Speeches and toasts are made. Even the most reluctant can usually be persuaded to dance!

It is not insignificant then that the Bible begins and ends with a wedding. Nor is it insignificant that both Jesus and John the Baptist refer to Him as the bridegroom. The goal of salvation, then, is not merely victory over evil but the restoration of intimacy, love and joy between God and human beings.

This Easter, as we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, we'll also look forward to the great day of joy coming to believers as a result. I hope you'll be able to join us and that you have a very Happy Easter.

**Next Week (12<sup>TH</sup> APR )**

Chris Short will be bringing the message to us at 10am, beginning a new series on the **Book of Revelation**.

There will also be an evening service at 6pm.

**VICTORIA LIFE**

Please note that this issue contains dates for the next two weeks and we won't be producing one next week. The next Victoria Life will be produced for Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

## Staff movements for next 2 weeks

Chris off both Tuesdays

Colin off Mon week 2

Kevin off both Saturdays

Tim in Wed am, Fri am

Nadine in Thurs, Mon, Thurs

Sandra annual leave week 1

Phil annual leave week 1

Emily annual leave week 1

Simon in Tues, Wed week 1,  
in Wed, Thurs, Fri week 2

Julie in both Thursdays

Lucy annual leave week 1

Jez annual leave week 1

### 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  
on 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 5 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
10.00am Easter Celebration with Chris Short
- Mon 6 **Office Closed**
- Tue 7
- Wed 8 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
8.15am Community Fridge & Breakfast Club  
Alpha - next meeting Apr 15<sup>th</sup>
- Thu 9 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting  
7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 10 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting
- Sat 11 10.00am Flow Cafe  
10.30am Creative Writing and Bookclub
- Sun 12 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short  
6.00pm Evening Service  
7.00pm Sunday Evening Youth
- Mon 13 6.00pm Girls Brigade  
7.30pm CLT meeting
- Tues 14
- Wed 15 7.00am Prayer Meeting  
8.15am Community Fridge & Breakfast Club  
10.00am Vicky Bees  
6.45pm Alpha - "Why & How do I Pray?"
- Thu 16 7.30am Men's Prayer Meeting  
10.15am Men's Fellowship with Steve Finch (all Souls)  
2.30pm Women's Fellowship with John Jones  
6.45pm Omega (contact Tim or Ruth Nunn for details)  
7.30pm Ukraine Prayer Meeting

**Two Weeks Ahead**

Fri 17 10.00am Outreach Prayer Meeting  
10.00am Vicky Bees  
12.30pm Friends, Food & Fellowship  
5.00pm Kids Club  
7.00pm Friday Night Youth

Sat 18

Sun 19 9.30am Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
10.00am Live@10 with Chris Short  
6.30pm Prayer Meeting  
7.00pm Sunday Evening Youth

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

There will be a baptism service on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

## Flow Café

April's Flow Café will be taking place next Saturday (11<sup>th</sup>) at the usual time of 10am with all the usual activities. All proceeds raised during the morning will be donated to St Wilfrid's Hospice - and if this is a cause you feel strongly about, see also page 7 for another opportunity to show your support..



## Creative Writing

A reminder that The Creative Writers will be gathering as usual during Flow Cafe on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> 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** is also taking place, at the same time in the Snug.

## PRAYER DIARY : 6<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

**Monday** As many of us relax after Easter Day, enjoying a bank holiday, spend time praying for those in our emergency services who still have to work. For Christians working in the NHS, the police, ambulance, and fire and rescue services. Pray for courage to face challenging situations and to live out the gospel of peace through their actions and words.

**Tuesday** Whatever our political persuasion, Paul teaches us to pray for those in power and authority over us. Today pray for our MP Josh Babarinde. May he have wisdom and be open to the Holy Spirit's touch. Pray for our local councillors who have responsibility for our town and its facilities. Pray for good governance and economic prosperity for Eastbourne. Pray for the national government as it works for all our benefit. Pray for wisdom, courage and discernment in navigating such difficult world situations.

**Wednesday** Today, as the Community Fridge team, serve breakfast to the regulars who attend each week, pray for positive conversations and the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of our guests. Pray too for all our other ministries, such as Alpha, Men's and Women's Fellowship, CAP, Life Groups. Pray that the name of Jesus is not only honoured but received in the hearts of all those who take part in these ministries. Thank God for the volunteers who lead the groups so faithfully.

**Thursday** The world seems to be on the brink! Pray for peace between nations. Pray especially for the leaders of Israel, USA and Iran. May they come to know the Lord's peace and make wise decisions based on Him and not on personal or political glory. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Lebedyn, Ukraine as they serve the Lord each day amidst the threat of invasion, bombs, missiles and drones. Pray for safety, wisdom and courage. Pray that the Lord will continue to protect them all and the facilities they use.

**Friday** Thank the Lord for our children and young people. VBC is blessed to have so many! Pray for Emily and Simon as they lead our Families work. Pray that they will be inspired each week to speak Your word, teach Your word and to love and nurture our children. Pray for Vicky Bees, Kids' Club, Youth Club, Sunday School and Youth Work. Thank God for all the volunteers who make the work possible.

**Saturday** Today, as children prepare to return to school after the holidays, pray for each of the Old Town schools; Cavendish, Ratton, Gildredge House, Ocklynge, Motcombe, Pashley Down, and South Downs Special School. Pray that there would be access for Christians to visit and interact with both staff and pupils to share the Gospel. Pray for Christian staff and pupils who shine the light of Christ in what can be a very closed environment.

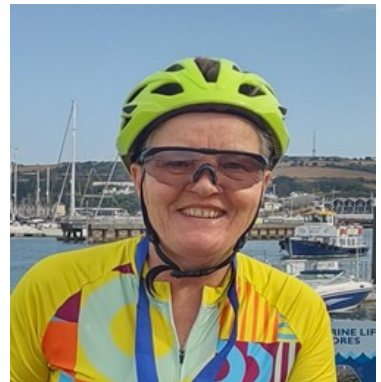
**Sunday** As Chris brings the Word today, pray for the Holy Spirit's power to rest on him, to inspire him and lead him. Pray too for our musicians and our need for more worship leaders. Pray for those who volunteer to do the technical side, for further volunteers to support this vital work. Thank God that we can meet freely to worship and have such wonderful facilities. Please pray for the staff team and the CLT who lead the church and work hard to honour the name of Jesus.



## **SUPPORT FOR ST. WILFRID'S HOSPICE**

The support that our local hospice gives to patients and their families is invaluable, and they are in real need of additional funds. In order to do my bit to help, I have signed up for the 'Wilfride' this coming September. This entails cycling from Eastbourne to Paris - 290 miles in 4 days!

I am covering all the costs of the trip myself, so any money raised will be going directly to the hospice. If you feel able to contribute, however small an amount, please go to the link below where you will be able to donate. Alternatively, speak to me directly. Many thanks in anticipation of your support for this challenge.



*Frances Hall*

<https://events.stwhospice.org/fundraisers/franceshall3955>



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](mailto: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 22<sup>nd</sup> April 3-5pm.**

***Try Alpha.***



## The Passing of Clouds

‘For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people’



I looked up and saw the brightness of the sun. It was only the first hour of the day but I could feel its warmth already on my bare body. ‘Crack’. The leather strap lashed my back as the soldier prepared to unleash another scorpion sting with his whip, but I rose, picked up the rough timber beam that had splintered my hand and stumbled forwards, following the two in front.

When we got there, it was a bare stony outcrop, slightly raised from the surrounding ground. It was a favourite place of execution, just outside the city and on a popular approach road so those inside could easily access it and those entering would not miss it either. Locally, it was called ‘Golgotha’, ‘place of the skull’, because of the dark hollows cut into the rocky hillside that resembled eye sockets.

The soldiers took the beam I was carrying, laid it on the ground and attached a longer, rough hewn pole to its centre to form a cross and laid me on it. The pain of the nails driven into my hands and feet was excruciating, made even worse when the cross was raised and dropped with a thud into its socket, rattling and disjuncting my bones.

I hung there for about an hour in a stupor with my eyes shut to dampen the searing pain. When I opened them I could still see the clear sky and feel the warmth of the sun as it climbed the heavens to reach its peak. I looked to the right and saw the other two in a similar state.

Below, on the arid ground in front of us, people had gathered; it was quite a crowd. What made the spectacle so popular? Then I remembered, the man, in the middle and slightly behind me, had caused a commotion the previous day and provoked the ire of the religious leaders. From our prison cells, we heard a large gathering of people shouting, “Crucify him, crucify him.” His name, Yeshua, a popular miracle worker and speaker who attracted a large following. Even I had stopped to listen to him once or twice, impressed by what I saw and heard, when I wasn’t preoccupied with planning our next bloody attack. We zealots, had to keep in the shadows, but it hadn’t prevented me getting caught and here I was, paying the price.

I noticed something unusual; they had put a sign above his head. It read ....



... 'King of the Jews' in Aramaic. There was some other lettering beneath but I could not read it. I could also see the religious leaders in their finery and headdresses, shaking their heads, pointing to him and the sign, and mocking.

"If you are the promised saviour of Israel, come down from the cross and show us a miracle. Perhaps then we will believe in you."

Some of the soldiers, when not gambling for his clothes, also joined in. Even my fellow zealot, crucified on the other side of him, added his voice to theirs.

"Save yourself and us!" with an emphasis on the latter.

At first, taking my cue from him (he had been my commander, previously) I joined in for some distraction and to vent my rage at being caught. How ironic, I mused, that this man should unite such different groups represented here when dying, when we were all sworn enemies while living.

As I looked again at those assembled, I saw another group, not hostile! They included a group of women dressed in black and a young man, looking very sad and weeping, at the foot of the man's cross. They must have been his friends. He then said a surprising thing to them in a clear, caring voice.

"Woman, take him as your son" and to the young man, "Take care of her in your home." Where did he get the energy and compassion to speak like that when undergoing such suffering?

I looked up, for darkness had unexpectedly come over the land. Thick clouds had appeared from nowhere and I saw hands pointing to the sky; people surprised by what was happening and muttering. It was only midday.

The clouds reflected my mood. It dawned on me that this was the end and I felt afraid to die. As a strict Jew, I believed in a Holy God who would, as Abraham said, 'judge the world in righteousness', and that included me. Suddenly, I was not so sure of myself and my creed. I had spent my life full of hate for this invading army. I had lied, cheated and killed with too much relish and known little love, joy and peace in my life. As the sun disappeared behind the clouds, the light of my cause was also fading and a dreadful prospect of judgement loomed large.

It was at this moment, a chink of light appeared in my thoughts. I suddenly remembered what Yeshua said after his cross was raised. Though still muddle-headed because of my pain, I was struck by the strangeness of his words. ...

... “Father forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

It was like scales falling from my inward eyes and I saw a way of escape. If this man was the promised Messiah we had long waited for and could, as he said, forgive sins, perhaps I had a chance. I felt a surge of courage and shouted to my colleague to stop his haranguing. We were guilty as charged but this man, from what I had heard and witnessed, had done nothing wrong, only good. With what little strength I had left, I turned to Yeshua and, like a little child, asked for his help.

“Remember me, when you establish your kingdom.”

He looked back at me as he looked at the woman and the young man and replied,

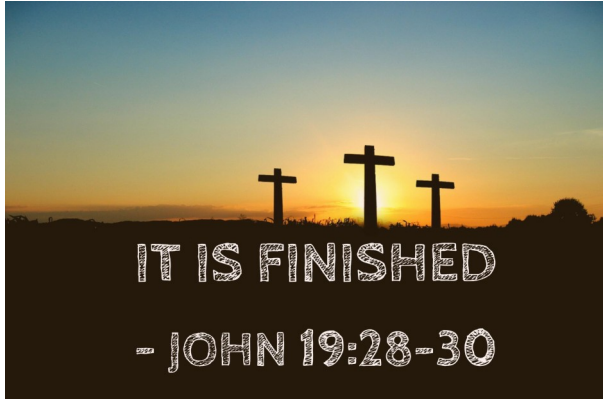
“You will most certainly be with me in God’s garden of bliss before the day is out.”

I didn’t quite understand what he meant, especially as death normally took a few days, but it gave me something to lay hold of and a flicker of joy rose in my heart.

Just then, he cried out with the loud voice of a commanding officer,

“It is finished!” He then dropped his head and gave out a loud sigh. Even the centurion in charge of the soldiers realised, like me, the injustice - and beat his breast ashamed.

In a little while though, he composed himself and, after another soldier brought him a message, mustered his men and proceeded to break the legs of my colleague and then came over to do the same to me. This would certainly speed up our demise and I remembered why they were doing it - tomorrow was a special Passover Sabbath and



leaving the dead bodies up on the crosses would desecrate it. I was ready for the ordeal though. A light of hope had entered my hard heart and, for the first time in my life, I felt alive. Meanwhile the clouds above had passed away, allowing the sun to shine down and bring some fresh light on this place of death.

*John Demetriou*

*Zealot was a member of a 1st-century Jewish political and religious movement dedicated to violently overthrowing Roman rule in Judea*

## PRAYER DIARY : 13<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

**Monday** Living Christ, as a new week begins, steady my steps in Your risen strength. Help me to carry Easter hope into every conversation, every task, every quiet moment. Let Your Spirit renew my mind, soften my heart, and guide my choices. Make me attentive to the needs of others and courageous in kindness. Amen.

**Tuesday** *Walking the road to Emmaus.*

Lord Jesus, walk beside me today as You walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Open my eyes to recognise You in the ordinary: in bread shared, in work done faithfully, in the faces of those I meet. Warm my heart again with the truth of Scripture and the nearness of Your presence. Stay with me through the evening hours and give me rest in Your peace. Amen.

**Wednesday** *Strength for the middle of the Week*

Holy Spirit, in the middle stretch of this week, strengthen what feels weak within me. Renew my patience, deepen my compassion, and sharpen my discernment. Guard my words, guide my thoughts, and anchor my soul in Your calm. Let the power that raised Jesus from the dead be at work in me today. Amen.

**Thursday** *Prayer for the world Christ redeemed*

God of all nations, two weeks after Easter we remember that the risen Christ is Lord of the whole world. Bring peace where there is conflict, justice where there is oppression, and comfort where there is grief. Use Your Church as a sign of hope, humility, courage, and generosity. Let resurrection light reach the darkest places of our world. Amen.

**Friday** *Remembering the Cross in the Light of Easter*

Merciful Saviour, on this Friday we remember Your cross, but we remember it now in the light of Your resurrection. Thank You that suffering is not the end, that forgiveness is stronger than sin, and that love has the final word. Teach me to live as a forgiven person who forgives others freely. Amen.

**Saturday** *Preparing for Worship.*

Lord of the Sabbath, as this week draws to its close, prepare my heart for worship tomorrow. Quiet the noise within me and gather my scattered thoughts. Let gratitude rise, let faith deepen, let hope rekindle. May I come before You with joy, ready to receive, and ready to give. Keep me close to the risen Christ, today and always. Amen.

## Sunday *The Third Sunday after Easter*

Risen Lord Jesus, three weeks on from the empty tomb, let the wonder of Your victory still stir our hearts. Where we have grown weary, breathe Your new life. Where doubts linger, speak peace. Where joy feels thin, restore the song of resurrection within us. Send us into this week as people who have seen the light of dawn and cannot go back to the shadows. Amen

## It's a Breeze!

Those of you who enjoy using our **Breeze Translate** software will be pleased to know that we have increased our subscription to enable us to translate any event taking place in the sanctuary, so not just our Sunday morning services.

We now have the capability of being able to translate into your chosen language and onto your chosen electronic device Sunday evening meetings, church members meetings, and indeed any other types of meetings, midweek as well as Sundays.

We have been using **Breeze Translate** now for over 12 months, enabling people in our congregation to follow services in their own language. Please encourage anyone you know whose first

language is not English to use this free software - free to the users that is!

As a reminder, simply scan the QR code on the back of the seats in the church and you will be able to choose a language for the sermon to be translated into.

As our preacher talks, you will get the translation on your phone or tablet in real time! It's as simple as that!





Eastbourne & Wealden Branch of

**GOOD NEWS**  
*for Everyone!*

formerly known as GideonsUK

cordially invite you to

**'Coffee with Friends'**

Glimpses of Good News ministry from the local to the international scene; including a DVD presentation, testimony, reports and inspirational Bible ministry from our special guest speaker **John Prideaux**.

*All Saints Centre, All Saints Church  
Grange Road, Eastbourne. BN21 4HE*

**Saturday May 23rd 2026**

**Coffee from 10.00 - 10.45am for 11am start**



SAVE THE DATE

*Breathe*

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

**BUILD YOUR HOUSE  
UPON THE ROCK**

**SAT 7<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2026**

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

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



**"IT IS FINISHED"**

**BEATEN, BRUISED AND BATTERED,  
CUT TO SHREDS, BLOOD SPATTERED.  
WOUNDS SO DEEP, RED AND RAW,  
BUT SOLDIERS STILL BEAT HIM MORE.**

**WHO WAS THE MAN WHO TOOK ALL THIS ?  
ONE BETRAYED WITH A FRIENDLY KISS.  
BETRAYED BY ONE, WITH WHOM HE'D WALKED,  
SHARED AND GUIDED, LIVED AND TALKED.**

**BEATEN BEYOND ALL RECOGNITION.  
SON OF GOD ON A MISSION.  
EVERY PAIN BESTOWED ON HIM  
WAS TAKEN THEN FOR HUMAN SIN.**

**CRUELLY NAILED TO A CROSS OF WOOD,  
HE DID NO WRONG, HE WAS RIGHT AND GOOD.  
BODY BROKEN AND STRENGTH DIMINISHED  
HIS VICTORY CRY "IT IS FINISHED"**

**THE SON OF GOD HAD CONQUERED DEATH  
AS HE BREATHED HIS FINAL BREATH,  
SATAN ONCE AND FOREVER VANQUISHED.  
HIS VICTORY CRY "IT IS FINISHED"**

**©K.VIRGO 18/03/11**

## FLOWER MINISTRY

Last week's flowers were donated by  
**Avril Coombe**



### **Thank you**

*Dave & Pauline O'Connell wish to extend their sincere thanks for the prayers, enquiries and visits we received due to Dave having knee surgery. Thanks also to the flower arrangers and the lovely lady who delivered a beautiful spray of flowers. So kind and much appreciated.*