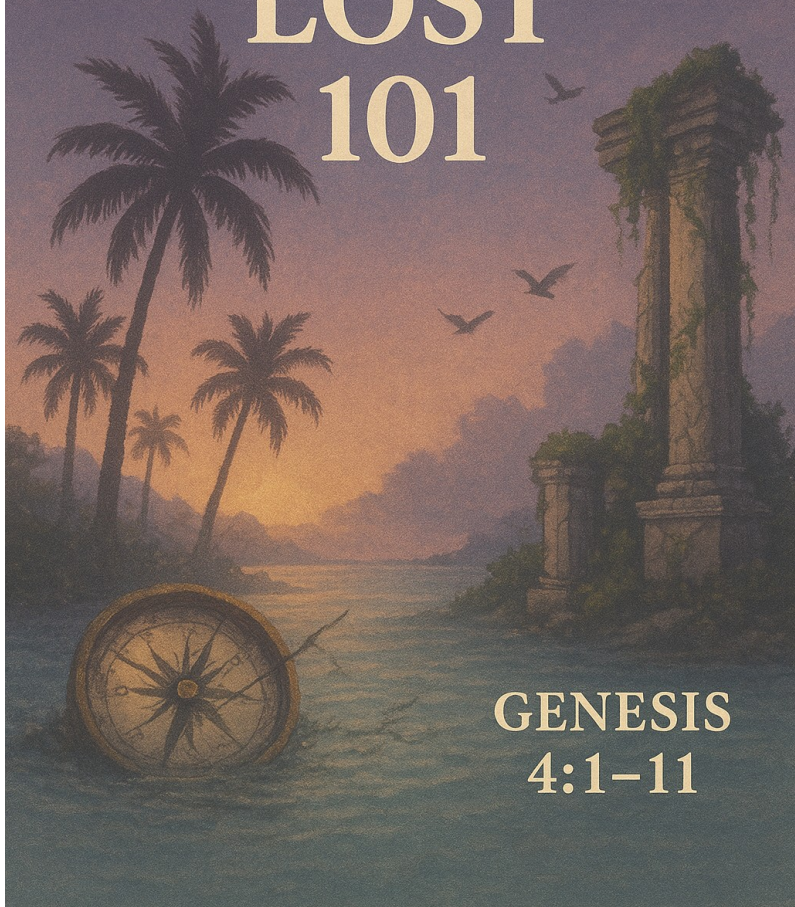


# VICTORIA *Life*

Sunday 5th October 2025

## PARADISE LOST 101



GENESIS  
4:1–11



## Just Giving

### Genesis 4:1-12 – Paradise Lost 101

*"The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour..." (Genesis 4:4-5)*



Have you ever noticed that the first story after Eden is a story about giving? And have you noticed that both brothers give? The contrast is not between one who gives and one who doesn't but between one whose gift is acceptable and the other whose gift is not. Like the parables of Jesus, this story overturns some basic human assumptions and invites us to do some serious thinking about God. The consequences of Cain's failure must also be intended to inject a sense of urgency into our considerations.

The first story out of Eden, *Paradise Lost 101*, is not just a foundational story about giving, it's also a foundational story about how human beings can get back home. I hope you'll be able to join us.

## Next Week (12<sup>TH</sup> Oct)



Next week's Live@10 service will be led by Chris Short and will feature 2 baptisms. We will also be enjoying our harvest celebrations.

Our monthly evening service will be at 6pm.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

## Staff movements for next week

Chris	off Tues		
Colin	off Mon	Emily	off Tues
Kevin	off Sat	Simon	paternity leave
Tim	in Wed & Fri	Julie	annual leave
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](mailto:helpdesk@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

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

- 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
- Mon 6    6.00pm    Girls Brigade
- Tue 7
- Wed 8    7.00am    Prayer Meeting  
           8.15am    Community Fridge  
           10.00am    Vicky Bees
- Thu 9    7.30am    Prayer Meeting (men only)  
           10.15am    Men's Fellowship - next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> Oct  
           2.30pm    Women's Fellowship with Sue Relf  
           7.30pm    Ukraine Prayer Meeting
- Fri 10    10.00am    Outreach Prayer Meeting  
           10.00am    Vicky Bees  
           5.00pm    Kids Club  
           7.00pm    Xpect
- Sat 11    10.00am    Flow Cafe  
           10.30am    Creative Writing
- Sun 12    9.30am    Prayer Meeting in Chris' office  
           10.00am    Harvest & Baptismal Service - live @ 10 with Chris Short  
           6.00pm    Evening Service  
           7.00pm    Xcav8



**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Men's non-Curry night @ 7.15pm

Venue - Pomodoro e Mozzarella

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

## **Friends, Food & Fellowship**

Please note that the next lunch will be on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct**, 12.30pm - the sign-up sheet is in the usual place in the Welcome Centre.

## CLARA ELIZABETH GRIMES

For those of you who haven't yet heard, we are delighted to announce the arrival of Clara, born on Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Oct at 1.23am, and weighing 5lb 1oz. Both Rachael and Clara are doing well - and Simon survived the ordeal too!



## OUR CAP DEBT CENTRE CELEBRATES 5 YEARS!

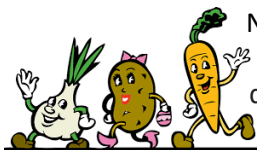
On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October we are celebrating 5 years of the CAP Debt Centre at Victoria Baptist Church! We would love a few people to bake some cakes/tray bakes so that we can celebrate together and enjoy them with coffee after the service. If that's something you would like to do, please let me know via [phil@victoriabaptist.org.uk](mailto:phil@victoriabaptist.org.uk)

christians  
against  
poverty

CAP

Also, this week we saw another client go debt free! We have been working with this client for over 3 years so it was fantastic to get the news that their debts have all been dealt with! Thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry and we look forward to celebrating on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October at our special service!

## HARVEST CELEBRATION



Next week (12<sup>th</sup>) we will be having our Harvest celebrations. 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, 11<sup>th</sup>**. 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 drop your goods off on Saturday**, you can drop your contributions into the office in the week leading up to the 5



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

**Monday** “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1) Thank You Lord that You are in full control of the world even as we see the shakings and disruptions all around us. We see poverty and pain, distress and destruction; but we also see Your intervention, Your heart for the nations and Your love for the peoples. We see Your provision and Your protection. Lord let our focus be on You and what You are doing rather than the devastation around us. Give us Your perspective so we can see Your goodness in the land of **our** living; for Your plan for us is to give us a future and a hope.

**Tuesday** “I love You Lord – You are my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my saviour .. He is my shield, the power that saves me and my place of safety” (Pslam18:1-2). Lord, if we had any doubts about Your love and Your protection – this psalm put all doubts to rest! The psalmist is falling over his words to tell us You are unmoveable, unchanging, steadfast, our protection and deliverer. Lord! We pause to catch our breath to say **Thank You!**

**Wednesday** “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form” (Col 1:19) Thank You Lord that You are near to us. You live in us by the Holy Spirit, but, more than that, You came and lived among us in the person of Jesus Christ. Lord, please remind us of Your constant presence with us to overcome whatever we face in the middle of this week. Thank You Lord that You remain the same regardless of what we experience. You remain true, good, merciful, gracious and kind. We trust You Lord and thank You for Your help.

**Thursday** Lord, we thank You for our vibrant church family. The church is Your idea and You invite us to join in with Your great plan of salvation and to serve our community. Lord, You know how much we need each other and how much we can accomplish when we serve together. Bless all our outreach ministries and all who serve. May our love for each other be loud and strong so that many in our community will know we are Christians, true followers of Jesus Christ.

**Friday** “My soul is weary with sorrow – strengthen me according to Your word” (Psalm 119: ) As we approach the end of the week, we can often feel weary from the activities of the week gone by, and from life itself. Thank You Lord that we find renewal, refreshment and refocus in You. Help us to stop in the midst of our busy, often weary, life to read Your Word, for it is there that we will find strength and comfort as we look forward to the end of the week.

**Saturday** We thank You Lord for Sabbath rest. You rested from Your work in the account of creation and You call us to rest from our work. As we prepare for the weekend and the gathering of worship on Sunday, we are grateful for Your institution of rest, stopping, lingering, waiting, and enjoying Your presence and those of our families at home and at church.

**Sunday** “Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth. You have set Your glory in the heavens” (Psalm 8:1) Lord we start the week in awe of Your glory and majesty – we still wonder at the complexity of creation and are baffled by the intricacies of nature. There is still so much about us, our cosmos, and about You Lord, that is still yet to be discovered. Keep us in that place of wonder; give us that continued longing in our heart to know You more. Thank You Lord that even as You dwell in a high and lofty place, You are also with those who are contrite in spirit.



## Bruce Bird

We received the following letter from Bruce this week.

*I just wanted to let you know that following my oncology appointment at the hospital this morning, I have been given the all clear. Recent scans and blood tests reveal no signs of cancer.*

*I'm now on a monitoring cycle of scans and blood tests every 3 months for a year, followed by every 6 months for a further 4 years. That'll take me nicely up to 78!! I want to celebrate with a bacon roll but Alison won't let me!! But most importantly I want to thank you and all those who prayed for me throughout my treatment, and let them know that their prayers have been answered. Praise the Lord. Bruce*

## Bible Reading Notes

A reminder to those of you who want to renew your subscriptions for your bible reading notes that Sandra would appreciate having your order in by 19<sup>th</sup> October. The cost is again £26 for each booklet that you order, this covering the whole of 2026.



## Flow Café

We look forward to seeing you at Flow Cafe next Saturday 11th October from 10am, when all proceeds will be given to the Foodbank. All the usual activities, plus sausage and bacon rolls, coffee and cake. Please come along and support this charity if possible.

## Dr. Ray Brown

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of our former minister, Ray Brown, earlier this week. Ray was much loved during his ministry here from 1987 to 1992. In recent years he has been living in the Cambridgeshire area. He was 97.

**The Bereavement Journey** ... is a 4-day residential course being held at Ashburnham Place on 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Nov - 7 sessions of films and discussion for anyone bereaved, anytime. See more at [thebereavementjourney.org](http://thebereavementjourney.org). The booking link is [ashburnham.org.uk/events](http://ashburnham.org.uk/events)

## Flower Ministry

The flowers last week were donated by **Thelma Papps** In loving memory of Chris, marking what would have been their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



*Thank you so much to the church for the beautiful flowers we found on our doorstep when we came back this afternoon and the very helpful bible verse from Psalm 46:1 J&IP*



*Can you please thank the Church for the beautiful flowers delivered to us yesterday together with lovely Bible text from Psalms which brought us so much pleasure and for which we are very grateful. L&DT*



Only one date left this year for donating flowers - **Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

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