



Sunday 24th September 2023

**VICTORIA** Baptist Church News



## **Gratitude and Grumbling**

**“But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.”**

***Matthew 19:30***

Live in church and online



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

HOME

JESUS

ABOUT

SUNDAYS

FAMILIES

CHURCH LIFE

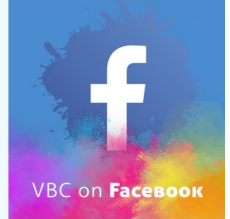
CONTACT US

Live at Ten with  
**CHRIS SHORT**

CURRENT SERIES



ABOUT US



VBC on Facebook

## **MATTHEW 19:27 - 20:19 The Essential Jesus**

### **Gratitude and Grumbling**

Jesus' stories don't make sense. They invite us to see the world in a way we are not used to seeing it. That makes Jesus' stories powerfully subversive. He turns the values of the world upside down.

In the story about the workers in the vineyard we know where our sympathies lie. Many of us sympathise with the workers who have worked all day but were only paid the same as those who worked for an hour.

What is that about? Jesus tells us it's about the Kingdom of God. If we don't understand this story we're missing important truths about the Kingdom and its King. The truth about Him is that He will do as He pleases in His own Kingdom and what pleases Him is to give grace to the undeserving.

It's only when we recognise that as good news *for us* that it turns our grumbling into gratitude.



## **TONIGHT AT 6.30PM - BEHOLD THE MAN**

### **Session 8 - Rabbi Jesus' Teaching Methods**

Understanding Jesus' Jewishness is crucial when seeking a deeper understanding of His teaching. Considered to be a rabbi by followers and opponents alike, Jesus used teaching methods similar to those of other rabbis but took them to a higher level. Methods such as 'light to heavy', hyperbole and 'Scripture connections' had a big impact upon His audience.



## **NEXT WEEK - OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 10am**

Chris Short will be bringing us the next in his series, *The Essential Jesus* and will also be leading us in a time of communion.

# STAFF/OFFICE MATTERS

Staff movements for the coming week.

Chris        off Monday  
Sandra      annual leave  
Erik        off Thursday  
Simon      off Monday  
Julie        in Thursday

Colin        off Monday  
Kevin       off Saturday  
Tim        in Wed & Fri am  
Jez        annual leave  
Helen      in Mon, Wed  
Nadine     in Mon, 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

Helen Diplock

## CAP Debt Coach

Nadine Crawford-Piper

## Treasurer

Mark Evason

## Finance Assistant

Julie Hanks

## Pastoral Team Leader

Tim Nunn

## Life Group Coordinator

Jez Taylor

## 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*)

## The Week Ahead

Sun	24	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live & Online with Chris Short
		6.30pm	Behold the Man
		7.00pm	Xcav8
Mon	25	6.00pm	Girls Brigade
Tues	26	1.00pm	Thanksgiving Service for Rachel Wightwick
		7.15pm	Soaking in the Spirit (ladies only)
Wed	27	8.30am	Community Fridge and Cafe
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		6.30pm	Boys Brigade
		7.30pm	Church Members' Meeting
Thu	28	7.30am	Prayer Meeting (for men only)
			Men's Fellowship (next meeting 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct)
		2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Rosemary Brown
		7.30pm	Ukraine Prayer Meeting
Fri	29	10.00am	Outreach Prayer Meeting
		10.00am	Vicky Bees
		5.00pm	Kids Club
		7.00pm	Xpect
Sat	30		
Sun	1	9.30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting in Chris' Office
		10.00am	Live & Online with Chris Short - inc Communion
		6.30pm	Prayer Meeting
		7.00pm	Xcav8



## Preaching Engagements *Please remember in prayer*

Brian Wightwick	17 Sep	Broadway United, Hamp Park	10am
Brian Wightwick	17 Sep	Bernhard Baron CH	5pm
Robin Lane	24 Sep	Golden Cross Chapel,	10.30am
Brian Wightwick	24 Sep	Trinity, Willingdon	

## Dates for Your Diaries

Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Harvest Service
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Men's Curry Night - details to follow later, just make a note of the date at this stage.
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ladies Italian Night - details to follow nearer the time



## Harvest Service



Please bring whatever you are able for our Harvest Festival Service which is in 2 weeks time, on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. Please bring them to the church by midday on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, during Flow Café perhaps! We gratefully receive not only dried foods and drinks, but also toiletries etc. and would also like some foliage or plants. All Harvest Festival donations will go to Foodbank.

Thank you. *Bev Ebdy*

## LOVE - in a box!

See adverts elsewhere in this news letter. If every Lifegorup made one box, we'll have over 20. If every group makes one each we will have over 50. If every family unit made one we will have well over 100 - Let's bless those in need, thank you.

**!! FEEL FREE TO BRING THEM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE !!**

## EVER THOUGHT ABOUT YOUTH WORK?

Like any other ministry, this doesn't 'just happen'. A team of dedicated, passionate volunteers ensure our young people are looked after, nurtured and equipped for this world. To deliver energetic, bible based sessions in a safe environment, we need to enlarge our team - **Can You Help?**

**Roles differ from 'just being among us' to sharing in the lessons we teach.**

We especially need people to assist on a Friday evening for an hour and a half of active fun and challenges. If you know this is something you could be involved with, speak to Erik.

(or contact him)

**P.S. the more volunteers, the fewer slots you have to be part of, unless you really love young peoples' work, than really come and speak to me !!**

**Thank You**



Please note that next week's news sheet will be another 2 weeks-in-1, covering the period from Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct through to Sun 15<sup>th</sup>. Do think ahead and let us have any material for next week's edition by Thursday (28<sup>th</sup> Sept) lunchtime.





**BOXES DEADLINE:  
3RD DECEMBER**

**Living Life:**  
delivering  
**LOVE**  
in a box  
for **30+ years**

**Imagine Christmas time without presents.**

For many children throughout the world this is a sad reality which LOVE IN A BOX wants to change. For over 30 years we, with Slatina Red Cross, have been able to offer boxes packed with presents to thousands of needy children, mostly in Croatia region.

Because of your donations, we can put smiles on faces and bring laughter to a lot of children and their families. We thank you for caring enough when there is so much to do around us here at home.

We will also be presenting boxes to Ukrainian children and their families who are being looked after by Slatina Red Cross. We need your help in **donation of boxes** - perhaps your church, school, club or work could help. Maybe you would be able to give some of your time and **help us wrap and pack** these boxes at our warehouse (Old TJ Hughes building in Eastbourne).

This year we are also looking for **financial donations** to assist us transport Love, in the form of shoeboxes. All our volunteers who travel on 8th December, fund themselves, if you would like to support them in that way, please do.

Pop into our shop for a coffee (the old TJ Hughes building) and find out more. For now, **Hvala** (thank you in Croatian) from the children and their families.

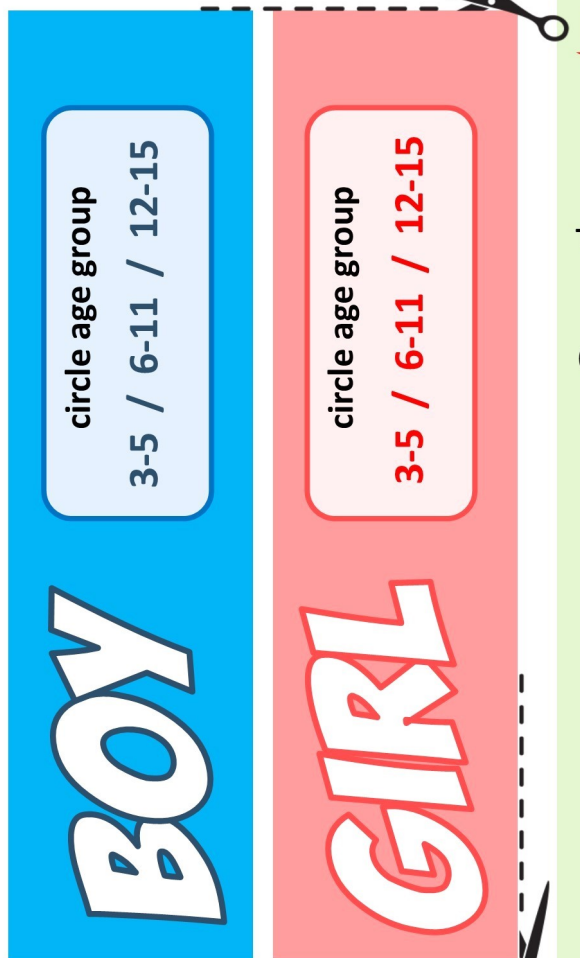
**Mick and Lyn Trott** (Living Life Eastbourne)



- 1** Wrap an adult size shoebox in Christmas paper, lid separately
- 2** Fill it with some of the suggested items below (not wrap individually)  
Fasten lid with elastic band
- 3** Attach correct label (boy/girl + age) include £ 2.00\* towards transport costs

**THANK YOU**

\*minimum suggested transport donation



## THINGS YOU COULD PUT IN YOUR SHOEBOX

### Boy / Girl 3-5 years old

TOY CARS / BALL	FLANNEL
SWEETS	TOOTHBRUSH
JIGSAW	TOOTH PASTE
(PICTURE) BOOK	PENCILS / RUBBERS
CRAYONS	PAPER PAD
SOFT TOY	HAIRBRUSH / COMB
SOAP	HAT / GLOVES

### Boy / Girl 6-11 years old

AS ABOVE BUT ALSO:

JEWELLERY  
PLAYING CARDS  
FELT TIP PENS  
PENCIL CASE / RULER  
YOYO  
SKIPPING ROPE

### Boy / Girl 12-15 years old

AS OTHERS BUT ALSO:

MARBLES  
TRAVEL GAMES  
JUGGLING BALLS  
PENS  
GEOMETRY SET  
DEODORANT  
PERFUME

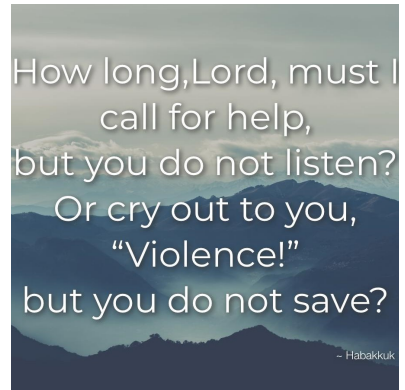


add a family Christmas card and greeting (do not write an address)

# LIVING BY FAITH

## Encouraging lessons when facing trials - from the Book of Habakkuk

After nineteen months of ongoing warfare since Russia invaded Ukraine, with little prospect of the war ending (it is even intensifying), there is the temptation to lose heart and ask the questions - Does God care? Why does He allow the wicked to triumph and not punish them? These are questions Godly people in the Bible like Job, David, Jeremiah and the man who wrote Psalm 73 asked, but there is one in particular who most closely fits the Ukrainian/Russian situation and that is the prophet Habakkuk whose message has most to encourage us and our brethren in Lebedyn.



Habakkuk lived at the time when the Babylonian Empire was in the ascendancy and had invaded Judah, destroying its cities, and was about to destroy Jerusalem and take its people captive (597-6BC). It was a proud, pagan and cruel power, yet God had declared He was using them to punish Israel for disobeying Him and turning to other gods.

In the light of this, Habakkuk, one of God's chosen prophets, was in distress and struggled to understand God's working. He laid out his dilemma and complaint to God in three main areas:

The success of the wicked while the righteous suffer Ch.1:2-4

How could a Holy God use a wicked nation as part of His purpose? Ch. 1:12-17

God's silence and inactivity while evil triumphs Ch. 1:13

To start, it's worth pondering Habakkuk's daring to complain to God, but the latter does not condemn him nor other believers who have honest questions. May this encourage us to take our difficulties to the Lord in prayer and, like Habakkuk, wait for His answer. God promises to do so and it will enrich our understanding and faith in Him.

How did God answer Habakkuk and give him something to hold onto? He tells us God gave him an 'oracle' or revelation (Ch. 1:1) and part of that was a prayer/song/psalm that was for congregational use and instruction in the temple worship (Ch.3:1 & 19). As all scripture is for our benefit (2 Tim. 3:16) its message has relevance for us also. So what lessons does this book have for us and our brethren in Lebedyn?



Firstly, it reminds us that it is not unusual to be fearful or distressed by difficult situations. Godly people such as David, Job, Jeremiah, Elijah, John the Baptist, even the mighty apostle Paul knew 'weakness and fear' (1Cor2:3). Habakkuk experienced this also (Ch.1:2) and at God's message he shook like a leaf (Ch 3:16) but like other godly people it did not stop God using him and them. God is gracious and 'a bruised reed he will not break' but repair and strengthen it for His service.

Secondly, God reminded Habakkuk in chapter two that He is a sovereign and holy God,

'But the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth be silent before Him' (v20), and He will judge the wicked nations **in His time**, not ours, with their downfall; the Babylonian Empire fell to the Persians in 539! Our job as believers is to be patient and faithful, trusting God, who as 'the Judge of all the earth will do right' Gen. 18:25. As the Lord reminded Habakkuk in answer to his complaint, 'For the revelation awaits an appointed time....Though it linger, wait for it: it will certainly come and will not delay.....**but the righteous will live by his faith.**' Ch. 2:3-4. Something Habakkuk was able to do, with God's help, in those memorable verses at the end, 'Though the fig tree does not bud etc....yet I will rejoice in the Lord', Ch.3:16-19.



Thirdly, Habakkuk looks back in chapter three at what God has miraculously and mercifully done in Israel's history to deliver them from the oppressive Egyptians to give Habakkuk and the Jews hope for their present predicament. 'Lord, I have heard of Your fame: I stand in awe of Your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day...in wrath remember mercy' Ch. 3:2.

Fourthly, as we see Habakkuk's message through New Testament eyes, we can look back at what God has done through the even mightier works of His son, Jesus Christ - His miracles, teaching, substitutionary death on the cross, resurrection, ascension and pouring out of his Holy Spirit - to show His love for us. In addition, we have the greater prophecy in the Book of Revelation given to the Apostle John reminding us that God will, at the final judgement, destroy and judge all ungodly, worldly powers represented by 'Babylon', see Revelation Ch. 18.

Let us therefore, like Habakkuk, when circumstances go against us and we are bewildered, come to that calm state of peaceful perseverance and rejoicing in an almighty God, our Saviour, and find strength to carry on,



## Agenda for Church Members Meeting

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm

1. Introduction, Welcome & Prayer
2. Agreement of minutes and matters arising
3. Youth Report – Erik Cornelisse
4. Membership Report - Richard Kirk
5. Finance Report - Mark Evason
6. VBC Assets – Update
7. Alpha – Chris Short
8. BU Update – Chris Short
9. AOB – **Items for consideration to be emailed to the church office by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September.**
10. D.O.N.M. – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

### Dear Church Family

As I leave for Capernwray this week, I wanted to say a big thanks to you all for helping me raise the funds I needed to be able to go to Bible School. In the last few weeks I've been absolutely amazed by this church's extraordinary generosity

and the kindness that I have received. It really means a lot to me!



I'd also like to thank all those who have been praying for my efforts in fundraising, particularly those on the prayer team, as well as Jez and Sandra who organised the quiz and the Flow Café on my behalf. God Bless you all, Callum

Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands—all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.”

Luke 6:38

## PRAYER DIARY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER

*“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

**Monday** Thank God for the service yesterday and pray that the word spoken will impact hearts and bring us closer to God. Thank God for all those who serve here as volunteers. Pray that the Holy Spirit will challenge us on how we are serving the Church to bring glory to Jesus.

**Tuesday** Pray for our Prime Minister, his government, and the opposition party leaders. Pray for wisdom in decision making. Pray for all the Christian MPs and civil servants, that their faith may be able to impact their work. Pray that new laws and decisions will reflect Godly righteousness.

**Wednesday** Pray today for the work of the Community Fridge and the many people VBC serves through this ministry. Thank God that people are willing to come into the building and talk openly about their lives. Pray that God will reveal Himself to them as we build positive relationships. Thank God for all the volunteers.

**Thursday** Continue to pray for Pastor Bohdan and his family and team in Lebedyn. Pray for strength to persevere in the faith and for protection from the trauma caused by war. Pray too for the Russian leadership, that God will step in and change their hearts.

**Friday** Please pray for all our youth and children’s work, for Vicky Bees, Kids Club, Youth Club, Xcav8, youth on Sunday, Sunday School and the Brigades. Thank God for Simon, Erik and all those who serve in the difficult role of working with children and young people. Ask the Holy Spirit to open young hearts to receive Jesus.

**Saturday** There have been several natural disasters in places like Morocco and Libya. Pray that relief services are able to support in the best way and that local Christians may demonstrate the love of Christ in such challenging times. Pray too for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ in nations where the name of Jesus is outlawed or condemned. Pray for perseverance, strength and wisdom to be the light of Christ in a dark place.

**Sunday** As Chris brings the word of God today, pray that he will be filled with God’s Holy Spirit and speak faithfully the word of God. Pray for the musicians and technical team, that their God-given talents will be used effectively to aid worship, and bring glory to God.

**FUEL FOR PRAYER**

# ALPHA

In case you have missed the last couple of editions of the news sheet, this is a reminder that we have two Alpha courses starting imminently so please contact either of the individuals below if you would like to find out more. We cannot stress too highly though how important it is for you all to get behind us by praying, getting involved and inviting people!



Alpha is a series of interactive sessions running over ten weeks that freely explores the basics of the Christian faith. It's for anyone who's curious. The talks are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No question is out of bounds and you are free to discuss as much or as little as you wish. Each session includes meeting together, a short talk, and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts. At any point, if you think Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure, no follow-up and no charge.



Lucy

## Two Alpha courses:

### 1) **For ladies only:**

Thursdays at 10am starting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. For further information, contact Lucy Craggs:

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

### 2) **For everyone:**

Tuesdays at 6.45pm starting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

For further information, contact Tim Nunn:

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



Tim

If you want to find out more, here are two links that explain the Alpha Course in more detail

**National Alpha website:** <https://alpha.org.uk/>

**VBC website:** <https://www.victoriabaptist.org.uk/church-life/alpha-victoria/>

# Deadline Extended!



## Operations Manager – part-time

Bible by the Beach is a charity which provides an annual, weekend Christian conference based in Eastbourne but focusing on the whole southeast region and beyond. We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced part-time Operations Manager to join our small team to help deliver this annual event.

The key responsibilities of this role are-

- Managing the whole event in conjunction with BBtB Trustees
- Act as clerk to the Trustees
- Develop relationships with local venues, churches and other organisations and draw up contracts for use of.
- Liaise with heads of departments (Youth, Children, Speakers, Musicians, Technical etc.) to ensure smooth running of the event.
- Oversee all aspects of Publicity and Marketing of the event.
- Give financial support to the Charity and the event.

Our ideal candidate will have:

- exceptional organisational and interpersonal skills
- excellent communication and IT skills
- ability to liaise with venues and help draw up contracts
- able to work under pressure and make good decisions
- experience of working in a team and leading others
- you will enjoy the variety of work that event management brings.
- experience of working with a wide range of people and have a good knowledge of Safeguarding.

There is a genuine occupational requirement for this role to be filled by a committed Christian who agrees with the Bible by the Beach Statement of Faith.

For this position you will be based at home and living within proximity of Eastbourne, the hours are flexible with an average over the year of 20hrs per week but will be heavily weighted towards the run-up to the event itself which takes place at the beginning of May each year.

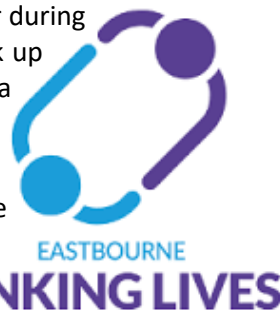
If you think you have what it takes to join our team and help Bible by The Beach continue to grow, then please contact Vanessa Redhouse at [vanessaredhouse@gmail.com](mailto:vanessaredhouse@gmail.com) for further information and an application pack. Applications must be returned by 5.00pm on MONDAY 25th September 2023.



## Linking Lives Eastbourne

Loneliness! Most of us experienced it in one way or another during the Covid lockdown years and many have been able to pick up their lives again – albeit with some impact perhaps on a sense of wellbeing or confidence. But can you imagine the pain of constant loneliness?

We are so blessed to be part of a vibrant Church family here at Victoria, so that even when/if we feel lonely, we know that there are so many sources of support and friendship to tap in to. Sadly, for far too many people, there are no such sources available to them.



In November 2022, I was reading the VBC Newsletter (Yes, I do read it! And I recommend it!) and I came across a very small article looking for a Coordinator to join the Linking Lives Eastbourne (LLE) team. At first I was just delighted to see that LLE had survived the lockdown. Back in 2016, when I was Chief Executive at Eastbourne Blind Society, I had been part of an early stakeholder group looking at ways to address loneliness in Eastbourne. Little did I know then how God would direct me back to it through this small article. It says in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you...plans to give you a hope and a future”. It became clear to me that God’s plan was for me to become involved with this lovely Christian charity, and, in January 2023, I joined the team as Scheme Coordinator.

The following is taken from a Newsletter written by our Project Leader, Dr Mary Northway, to St Johns Church in 2020. It seemed to me to encapsulate the impact that the church can make, so I felt I should include part of it here -

*The church responded to local need with God’s gracious abundance.*

*And we grew... Our prayer is that we will continue to grow and continue to live out a reflection of a God who delights in kindness. “I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight.” (Jeremiah 9:24)*

At this point it might be helpful to say a bit more about LLE.

Linking Lives Eastbourne is an independent Christian befriending scheme, affiliated to Linking Lives UK. We aim to connect volunteers from local churches with older people in our local community who are isolated or lonely. Our aim is to show kindness, love and inclusion to those who, for various reasons, experience a loss of connection with others. Loneliness doesn’t discriminate.

It arrives, unsolicited, through a wide range of reasons. We believe in the power of friendship in being able to reach and support people experiencing loneliness, whether short term or long term.

- *"I'm at a loose end all of the time. I usually worry about everything. And now the isolation on top of this is really crushing. And it's frightening."* (Link Friend,)
- *"She deserves a medal! I know I'm not easy to talk to, but she is so lovely. I needed someone positive around me at the moment, and her calls are just what I need. Thank you!"* (Link Friend)
- *"She is worth more than gold or diamonds"* (Link Friend)
- *"She makes me laugh!"*(Volunteer)



It is great that there are some volunteers from our VBC church family, but it would be wonderful to see more. I'm aware that there are many, many needs and requests for your time, but if you felt able to give an hour a week (or every second week) as a volunteer I can guarantee that you could change a life (it might even be your own!)

Deirdre Dean  
September 2023

If you would like to be a part of our befriending scheme,  
we would love to hear from you! You can call us on  
01323 406242.

For further information, go to:

<https://www.linkingliveseastbourne.com>

## **Christian Women's Retreat** - led by Emma McPhail

23<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2024, I am leading a Christian Women's retreat during a lovely 4 star holiday in Sliema, Malta.

Although the holiday/retreat was initially planned for ladies (especially single ladies who may want Christian company), EVERYONE is very welcome!

There will be optional activities for the men while us ladies meet - which will happen for 2 hours on 4 mornings of the 7 night stay.

As you may know, there is plenty of culture and history (especially military) to explore on Malta, as well as the more 'touristy' sights.

But the blessing is, it's only a little extra for singles occupying a double/twin room, so ideal for those travelling alone AND for those sharing. So EVERYONE can benefit!

The package price and all the details are available from the office.



## FLOWER MINISTRY

Last week's flowers were donated by Shirley Whittle, in memory of Les.

*Many thanks for the beautiful flowers; such a lovely gift of thanks. We are so fortunate to have our flower ministry of dedicated workers who deliver joy and love to so many of our congregation. Lester & Pam*



*Dear Church Family, thank you so much for the lovely bouquet of flowers delivered to my door last week. They are very beautiful - and the text was so appropriate too. They arrived on the day which would have been Derek's birthday. My Christian love to all at VBC. Margaret M*



*i just want to say thank you to the Church for the lovely flowers that I received yesterday. It was a big surprise. They look lovely in my room. God bless. AH*

**We still have 1 November date and 2 in December to fill if you would like to donate the flowers. See Chris McMahon for details.**