

Weekly Prayers, News and Thoughts

Welcome to our condensed Newsletter. We are publishing this in digital format to help keep us up to date with each other during the Corona Virus chaos.

As you know many of our events, services, facilities and meetings are still postponed in order to reduce our contact with each other. One good thing at least about the present crisis is that a constant diet of sport on TV has disappeared. The clear and strong advice is that we do not meet for worship or other meetings to ensure appropriate social distancing and protection for those who need it most.

Church is all about relationship: with God, with one another and with the wider community as we demonstrate that our relationship to God and seek to draw others into it, those relationships can still be nurtured, but in other ways. A kindness of heart and spirit can bring light into everyone's life, be it a kind word or a simple gesture, a telephone call, an email, an instant message... there are so many ways... seek to share your light with those in need - but do so safely.

Clearly, we should pray. Pray for those who mourn and have lost loved ones to Corona Virus, for those who have the illness, for those caring and supporting those who are ill, for those exploring the possibilities of vaccines and for the effectiveness of national strategies and personal practices in overcoming the pandemic.

For help and support. please feel free to contact:

- John Claydon johnclaydon@thenba.org.uk
- Paul Revill paulrevill@thenba.org.uk or
- Elaine Webster elainewebster@thenba.org.uk

Please pray for all those within our fellowship including Volunteers, those at Hamsterley and the thousands of people who work for our benefit and welfare in many often overlooked and taken-for-granted frontline jobs, putting themselves and their families in vulnerable and frequently life-threatening situations:

- ***Supermarket staff and other supply industries***
- ***Carers in Care Homes and Nursing Homes and Sheltered Housing and Hostels***
- ***Carers who look after members of their own families***
- ***Postal Workers and other delivery people who bring us our mail and parcels***

We are asked by NBA to pray for our Baptist Hospital Chaplains at this time of great challenge for our NHS, as they support staff and patients and also carry anxieties of their own:

- ***Rev Robert Muir - Wansbeck Hospital, Ashington***
- ***Rev Jim Wright - Lead chaplain at North Tees Hospital, Stockton***
- ***Rev Rodney Breckon - James Cook Hospital***
- ***Rev Graeme Harrison - Lead chaplain, Northumbria Healthcare Trust***
- ***Rev Liz Edwards - North Tyneside hospital***
- ***Rev Dave Etherington - North Durham University Hospital + BAGH***
- ***We also have a number of volunteer Chaplains including Paul Chapple (Morpeth BC) at St George's Park Hospital and Rev Bill Eugster at the RVI in Newcastle***

May God use them and their colleagues from other traditions, to be carriers of the light and peace of Christ to staff and patients, protecting and upholding them, strengthening them each day for the challenges they face.

Amen.

Online Church Services

NBA Sunday Morning Service (30 minutes) includes prayers, a short sermon and hymns
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPN9lvK7rf8>

Influence Church are streaming services each Sunday at 11.00am and 5.00pm
<http://www.influencechurch.co.uk>

Exodus 33 v 21 (NIV)

“There’s a place near me where you may stand.”

If you could hover above a hurricane you would see that the most violent part is near centre of the hurricane while the centre itself is very calm.

Similarly, God doesn’t take away all our troubles – at least not as quickly as we would like - but God does promise us peace in the midst of them.

Few people had more troubles than Moses.

His role was to feed, lead, and protect the people of his nation.
And no matter what Moses did for them, they still complained constantly.

So one day God said to Moses,

“There is a place near me where you may stand
I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand

And if you ask God today then God will bring you to a place of peace also.
Ask God to help you to trust in Him even more firmly when life gets challenging.

(adapted from UCB WORD FOR TODAY)

**May God’s love surround you,
God’s Spirit guide you,
God’s whisper cheer you,
God’s peace calm you,
God’s shield protect you,
God’s wisdom arm you,
wherever God may lead you.
Amen**