

## ***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. 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](mailto:johnclaydon@thenba.org.uk)
- Paul Revill [paulrevill@thenba.org.uk](mailto:paulrevill@thenba.org.uk) or
- Elaine Webster [elainewebster@thenba.org.uk](mailto:elainewebster@thenba.org.uk)

## Prayers

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 (Morpeeth 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.

*This week please pray especially for all those living and working in:*

- ***Sandringham Nursing Home***
- ***Church View Nursing Home***
- ***Blair Grove, Westfield Road,***
- ***Brancepeth Grove***
- ***Northumberland Ave***

Amen.

## Online Church Services

NBA Sunday Morning Service (30 minutes) includes prayers, a short sermon and hymns  
<http://www.thenba.org.uk/>

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

## Thoughts

Despite all the terrible events and the suffering and tragedies and heart breaks that are inflicting the whole world we will always have THE ONLY GOD, THE ONLY TRUE GOD, who will never abandon us and will always hold us and protect us in his loving embrace, demonstrated by the sacrifice, torture and agony far beyond our conceptions, of the wholly innocent man in our stead, the crucifixion of God's only Son JESUS CHRIST followed then by the amazing forgiveness of all our sins AND OUR RESTORATION BY THE RESURRECTION from the total death of the same JESUS CHRIST.

**“We are The Easter People  
And Alleluia is our Song”**

“We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection and we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery: the mystery of his Death and Resurrection - “We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!”.

We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the “fundamental duty of love to our neighbour, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy”.

We realize that joy is demanding; it demands unselfishness; it demands a readiness to say: “be it done unto me according to thy word.” and if you ask God today then God will bring you to a place of peace”. *(Pope John Paul II)*

***Ask God to help you to trust in Him even more firmly when life gets challenging.***

**Psalm 86:6-7**

***Hear my prayer, O LORD; listen to my cry for mercy.  
In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me.***

Sometimes there are no immediate answers.

We have prayed and cried and tried and gone sleepless and mourned and shouted. Still no answers seem to come. The days roll by in an agonizing parade of pain. Still there are no answers we can identify. What do we do? We go to the Psalms and we let them raise up our heart's cry!

We are honest with the God of the entire universe and yet we can still anticipate mercy from Him. We are convinced that in our troubles, He will not only hear us, but He will also care about what is happening in our lives.

Almighty God, the only true Healer of disease and Mender of broken hearts, please hear the cry today of those I love who are in such desperate situations. May your will be done in every one of their lives with tenderness, grace, and a sense of your presence and Lord, please be near me, and help me see your answer to my prayers.

Forever yours in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

(These thoughts and prayer on the verse are written by Phil Ware. phil@verseoftheday.com)

“For this is how God loved the world; that he gave his one and only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.” *(John 3:16-17)*

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.