

## ***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, social media... 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

We have several members of our Fellowship and Friends who are working on the front-line in Nursing, in care homes and with vulnerable people in sheltered accommodation. They “signed up” to help, they didn’t sign up to not see their own families, to work with shortages of equipment and protective clothing, to face physical and/or verbal abuse or to place themselves and families in danger... yet they still continue to work committedly and dedicatedly in their roles. ***Please pray for them who work so hard for us all and ask that they get the help and support that they deserve and need.***

*Please continue to pray, either by yourself, or collectively, using one of the many online and social media channels for:*

- ***Members & friends of our Fellowship.***
- ***People, families & neighbours within your own circle experiencing difficulties.***
- ***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 mail, food and medicines.***
- ***All those in positions of leadership, research, development, industrial organisations and new productions at this traumatic time.***
- ***Those who mourn and have lost loved ones to Covid-19***
- ***Those who have the illness and those caring and supporting those who are ill***
- ***Those exploring the possibilities of vaccines and for the effectiveness of national strategies and personal practices in overcoming the pandemic***

*This week We are asked by NBA to pray for our Baptist Hospital Chaplains and for our NHS as they support staff and patients who also carry anxieties of their own:*

- ***Rev Robert Muir***
- ***Rev Jim Wright***
- ***Rev Rodney Breckon***
- ***Rev Graeme Harrison***
- ***Rev Liz Edwards***
- ***Rev Dave Etherington***

*Please pray especially for all those living and working in:*

- ***Walmer Terrace***
- ***Tivoli Street***
- ***May Street***
- ***Clarence Street***

### Doctor Poornima Nair

We remember too Dr Poornima Nair who worked at the Station View Medical Centre in Bishop Auckland and has been described as an "outstanding" doctor and "valued member of the community". Dr Nair's family shared the heart-breaking news on social media that she died at the University Hospital of North Tees Hospital after a long battle with Corona Virus. Tributes have flooded social media from Politicians, former Colleagues and Community Groups for the much-loved Doctor. Please keep in your prayers her Family, her Friends and Colleagues.

### Afghan Atrocities

We received the shocking news last Tuesday that 2 Babies and 12 Mothers and Nurses were killed in a militant attack on a maternity ward in a hospital in the Afghan capital Kabul. An additional 15 people, including a number of children, were injured in the attack by several gunmen, officials said. This surely is a situation where we feel helpless and powerless. We pray that Our God, the only True God, will bring comfort and ease the pain for these mothers and children and their families in this appalling and sickening attack.

## Online Prayer

- Northern Baptist Association  
Service 17<sup>th</sup> May: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtR29nZbTFs>
- Influence Church <http://www.influencechurch.co.uk>  
Services streamed each Sunday at 11.00am and 5.00pm

## FareShare Food Scheme

John and Vanessa at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church continue their sterling efforts in collecting the vast amount of FareShare food kindly donated by local suppliers. They are currently taking the food to Woodhouse Close Food Bank to ensure the most efficient route of distribution. ***The food bank is open every weekday from 10.00am until 12.00pm.***

The food is being received and distributed to those who need it most and includes a wide variety of products across numerous categories from basics to occasional treats.

## Christian Aid Week (10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May)

The designated week may have now passed but the opportunity to give support is still strong and active.

***“Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.”***

As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. You have already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours... now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far:

- Your love protects. - from storms, from drought, and now from coronavirus.
- Your love protects - our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness
- Your love protects - with soap, clean water and medical supplies.

By supporting us this Christian Aid Week, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today. We made such a difference together last year. Will you stand with us again?

- Last year together we raised an incredible £8,000,000 to help poor communities.
- Last year 57,000 of you gave your time to take part in Christian Aid Week.

This year as all of our thoughts are on the Covid-19 situation, we wanted to share an update on [Christian Aid's](#) response.

We value our volunteers enormously and want to ensure you all keep safe when fundraising for Christian Aid Week. The health and safety of our community, including loyal supporters like you, is of the utmost importance to us, and we are monitoring the situation on a daily basis. Many of you may have been planning house-to-house collections and events, but under the current circumstances, sadly, house-to-house collections and delivery-only collections should not go ahead. In particular, along with many churches, events such as Big Brekkies or Lent lunches cannot go ahead.

**Instead, Christian Aid Week is moved online at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>** - we built a vibrant, Virtual Christian Aid Week to let you take part with our online community. We would still love you to join in to show love for our neighbours near and far, as a global family. We have a new set of resources so that you can host your own virtual fundraisers and celebrate Christian Aid Week with your Church, Friends and Family online: -

- Share our e-Envelope with your Church, Friends and Family.
- Download resources to host a virtual fundraiser for [Christian Aid](#).

[Christian Aid](#) and our partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis and we will build on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period of Covid-19.

If Coronavirus infection develops as in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps and in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat widespread disease.

We will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19. Please pray for us in this vital work and support us where you can by making an online donation.

We are praying for all those affected by this new virus, both in Britain and overseas, for all those working on the frontline and for wisdom for our leaders. We will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves. During this challenging time, we all need to take seriously the science and advice being offered, remaining calm but vigilant.

If you have any specific concerns or questions, please email us at [info@christian-aid.org](mailto:info@christian-aid.org) or call our helpline on 0207 - 620 4444.

- **Online cash donations:** You can safely and securely make a one-off donation using our online form. If you would like to link your individual gift to a church or Christian Aid Group, you can do so by filling in the church name or reference number on our donation form.
- **Telephone and postal donations:** Unfortunately, under the current circumstances regarding Covid-19, there is a delay to processing donations by post. Please give via the website where possible or call 0207 - 523 2269 to donate by telephone.
- **Direct Payment:** For details on how to pay money directly into our bank account please call 0207 - 523 2226.

For enquiries and more information, we may be contacted by:

- Email: [info@christian-aid.org](mailto:info@christian-aid.org)
- Phone: 0207 - 620 4444
- Post: Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL

(All Information sourced directly from Christian Aid websites)

## Church Garden

We owe a great big word of “THANK YOU” to one of the good friends of Bishop Auckland Baptist Church, who continues single handed in the upkeep and development of our church garden, and he is still creating contacts with passers-by! (at a safe distance of course). The blog is now on the front page of our website.

## Thoughts

**International Nurses Day** - commemorates the birthday of Florence Nightingale on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1820. Historians praised Florence Nightingale on the 200th anniversary of her birth and said her legacy has “never been more relevant” amid the Corona Virus pandemic.

Staff at the Florence Nightingale Museum in Westminster said her key nursing values – which focused on maintaining good hygiene, regularly washing of hands and carrying out evidence-based practices – have been widely echoed over the past months. She developed these habits during the Crimean War, where along with a small troupe of nurses, she tended soldiers’ wounds and worked to improve hospital conditions.

Her data-based work also helped shape modern nursing – founding the nursing school at St. Thomas’ Hospital, developing palliative care and midwifery, and shaping the redesign of hospitals across the UK and the health system itself.

Kristin Buhnemann, Assistant Director at the Florence Nightingale Museum, told the PA news agency: “In terms of modern nursing, her legacy has never been so relevant, as she was a pioneer for sanitation, hygiene and had a monumental impact on infection control today. “She focused mainly on improving hygiene for nurses, advising them to wash their hands regularly. Before this, nurses were not changing their uniforms or aprons, instead continuing to work with the same equipment, which she believed to be incredibly unhygienic. “We now see this essential equipment being used properly and thrown into the bin after each use, because she was the first to identify the impact of health workers’ hygiene on patients’ mortality rates.”

Health leaders continue to use the concept of evidence-based healthcare, a theory Nightingale pioneered and advocated for and which is currently being used by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to track and trace Covid-19 patients.

Her passion for data saw her become the first female member of the Royal Statistical Society, while her invention of the coxcombe, an early version of a pie chart used to show Queen Victoria and her Government the connection between cleanliness and the mortality rate of British soldiers, is being used today to combat the current pandemic.

Elsewhere, her compassion towards nurses has also had an impact on modern practices and historians have drawn parallels to the current PPE (personal protective equipment) crisis.

Ms. Buhnemann, said: "Her tireless campaigning had an effect on modern hospital facilities, she was in constant communication with the government over the poor condition of the facilities during the Crimean War. "She arrived to find wounded soldiers were not being cared for properly, as work was being carried out by overstretched medical staff, who were without necessary equipment, while medicine was in short supply.

"Florence was forced to pay for supplies out of her own pocket, buying aprons and buckets for water, so there are clear parallels with the urgent need for PPE while today's nurses still battle the pandemic. "It was also during this period she contracted brucellosis from unpasteurised dairy, a debilitating illness that affected her for the remainder of her life.

"So just like today's nurses, Florence Nightingale risked her life to help others, and I believe she would be incredibly proud of the current healthcare workers."

By Ted Hennessey, PA News Agency, 12/05/ 2020

**V.E. Day, Friday 8th May 2020** - whilst our main planned church V.E. 75th Garden Party had to be cancelled due to the dreaded virus, I did have the PEACE 2020 pack that SASRA had sent to me, so we decided to have a special, "*In Your Own Garden V.E. 75th Party*" and invite our immediate neighbours to come out from their houses to join in celebrating this momentous occasion whilst respecting the appropriate social distancing. So, I delivered an invite to my neighbours, thinking perhaps no one will come, or they will only come out for a short while.

Just prior to the Garden Party starting, we had a visit from a Piper, in full regalia, who stood outside our house playing. It turned out that our local British Legion had arranged that a Piper would play outside the home of every Legion member on V.E. Day. He instantly drew people out of their homes (after all it is not every day you find a Piper playing in your street!) and with the lockdown, anything at all unusual attracts attention.

So, we did have people attend the V.E. Day Party in their own gardens and one couple moved their chairs closer, but kept their social distance, as they could not see through a hedge. We played the old songs, from Vera Lynn and Glen Miller and others. Everyone joined in the singing and all observed the Silence. It was a very enjoyable time as we chatted to neighbours

we had not spoken to before. My worries about people only staying a short while proved to be groundless, as they all stayed out for over 4 hours, and it was only the start of rain, which ended the event.

I was thanked by neighbours for organizing this and they encouraged me to do it again sometime. Perhaps we have found a new way of spreading God's love, in this lockdown - hopefully, a closer relationship with them will now ensue, and we will have opportunities to share the Gospel.

Most of you will be able to think of relatives, who served in WW2, and perhaps, some did not come home. My own parents met in the Army in WW2, and married, when my Dad got back from Burma, where he was part of the Forgotten Army, pushing the Japanese out of the country. He was in an isolated temporary jungle camp, and it was a few days before the news reached them.

Having served in the military ourselves, Pam & I wanted the day to be marked locally, but I also feel that the long-term benefit will be opportunities to tell others of our precious Saviour.

*John Gaines*