

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.

Lockdown and social distancing are now undergoing changes and we are monitoring the situation. We are currently considering ways to meet up again physically and to re-open our building and become involved in the community again safely as soon as circumstances allow.

If you know of anyone who you feel would benefit from our online offerings please feel free to share our website at www.bishopbaptists.co.uk with others so they too can enjoy our weekly online service (also available on our YouTube Channel), newsletters, blog and other items of prayer and interest.

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

Prayers

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***
- ***Those who work for our benefit and welfare in 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, food, and medicines***
- ***All those in positions of leadership, research, development, industrial organisations, and new productions, at this traumatic time***

This week We are asked by NBA to pray for our Baptist Hospital Chaplains at this time of great challenge and for our NHS as they support staff and patients who 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***

Please pray especially for all those living and working in:

- ***Ediscum Garth***
- ***Langley Grove***
- ***Church View Nursing Home***
- ***Bamburgh Avenue***
- ***Warwick Road***

Pray for those who mourn and have lost loved ones to Covid-19, 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. We must not forget those people who have recently lost loved ones too, from other causes and who are going through the grief and stresses which are made even harder to bear by the present circumstances.

Northern Baptist Association – Devotional for Morpeth Baptist Church

“And he reasoned and debated in the synagogue every Sabbath, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks...solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.” (Acts: 18 v 4-5)

Many people have been mistakenly taught that accepting the claims of Christ involves a suspension of intellect. *“You ask me how I know he lives he lives within my heart.”*

Personal testimony is a vital witness tool and one used by the apostle Paul as evidenced in the above passage.

Many intellectuals however seek a more reasoned argument than the one presented in this much-loved children's verse.

Greek philosophy is recognised as the pinnacle of human intellect. Amongst Greek scholars, Paul used reasoned argument in debate. Whilst in Athens, he noticed a shrine to “the unknown god”. Greek minds realised that despite their thirst for knowledge, their acquisition of such still left an empty void.

We as Christians know only Christ can fill this.

Let us not be hesitant in providing a reasoned argument for our belief in the living God. The heavens declare His glory.

We give thanks for:

- God's faithfulness to us at this time.
- The many ways in which God has met with us through the past year.
- Our twice-weekly Zoom prayer meetings and the answered prayers we have seen.

We pray for:

- The success of our forthcoming Zoom member's meeting.
- The wellbeing of our church leaders and membership.
- That we will be able to re-engage with the local community as we come out of lockdown.

(Prayers and devotional supplied by Roger M Daniel: NBA Co-ordinator)

Online Prayer

- Bishop Auckland Baptist Church Service
<https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/babc-sunday-service/>
- Northern Baptist Association Service
<https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/nba-sunday-service/>
- Influence Church Service (Services streamed Sundays at 11.00am and 5.00pm)
<http://www.influencechurch.co.uk>

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.

We are now investigating the possibility of additional donations from other branches of the scheme to assist in keeping the food banks resourced so they can continue to help those need.

Luke 9 v13 "You give them something to eat."

Sometime it's when we feel that we that we have nothing left to give – no skills – no time - no talents – no energy -no resources – to offer - that God takes our "not enough" and makes them more than enough!

Jesus told his disciples to give the people something to eat when they had protested that there was nothing to give; Jesus multiplied their meagre supplies and then turned again to the disciples and gave them the bread as if to say, "You give them something to eat !"

(Luke 9 v13 -16).

Christ will do the miraculous, but then often chooses to involve us.

Jesus says to us, “Place who you are and what you have into My hands. Your broken life. Your story. Your frailty. Your pain and suffering. Put it in My hands. You will be surprised what I can do with it.

Dear Jesus, take my not enough, and make it more than enough. Take my pain, my frailty, and make it something good in your name. Amen.

(Our Daily Bread 10/03/2020)

Church Garden

Given how alive the garden looks it is clear the good friends of Bishop Auckland Baptist Church have donated a considerable amount of their time and effort and resources to bring about such a stunning change. More contacts continue to be made as ever more passers-by stop to look and chat. So once again a great big “THANK YOU” to every one of you!

The latest updates and pictures can be found on the [Garden Blog](#) on our website.

Thoughts

You are not alone - God never promised us this life would be easy, but He does promise this:

He is bigger than any storm we face in this world. And He’s always working for our good, even in the places where we can’t see, even in the circumstances that we don’t fully understand.

God is with us, right in the midst of all we walk through. Our storms might look different in this life, but they all have the opportunity to change us – forever. And God is the Only One who has the power to take what seems tragic and devastating to turn it around for good.

It may not happen as quickly as we’d like, it may feel like a struggle; we might find ourselves longing for another way, but blessing will come from it. For it’s the way God works. The “good” will shine through.

The most difficult times in life, can teach us the power of praying God's words back to him. These prayers hold the ability to soothe our souls, to refresh our spirits, and cause hope to rise above the pain we might be feeling.

And though our circumstances may not be immediately changed, though our hearts may still be hurting, we're reminded through His Truth to set our eyes on Him. And that's the best place for them to be – in all of life.

Be assured today, He knows your way, He sees your pain, He hasn't forgotten you, and He's still at work even through the most difficult of times.

<https://Debbie McDaniel.com>

Drive-In Church Events



SUNDAY'S
@ 3pm



NORTH BONDGATE CAR PARK, Bishop Auckland DL14 7PG
Starts: SUNDAY 26 July for 6 weeks
BOOKING ESSENTIAL for PARKING purposes - check event listing
SUNDAY: 26 July / 2 Aug / 9 Aug / 9 Aug / 16 Aug / 23 Aug / 30



Contact Adrian Hancock on 07557 736386

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you,

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10