

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:

- ***Lindsay Street***
- ***Durham Street***
- ***Rev Tony Taylor & Family***
- ***Hutchinson Street***
- ***Hazel Grove***

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 Lakeside Baptist Church, Sunderland

When you meet together, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation (disclosure of special knowledge), a tongue, or an interpretation.

Let everything be constructive and edifying and done for the good of all the church.

Those in church leadership are entrusted with a responsibility toward those in their care.

It is often this that leads us to assume a greater role than is beneficial to either us or our flock.

In an effort to prevent false teaching, we often stifle participation from our congregation.

Our building unintentionally becomes as it were a theatre, our leaders the cast and our flock, the audience.

The result all too often is burn out for our leaders and a stifling of gifts within our church.

This is far removed from the church model proposed by St. Paul, in which he envisaged more of a corporate body ministry in which each member contributes according to their particular gift.

Let us therefore, seek ways in which to encourage the growth of gifts within our membership and increased participation in our services, whilst ensuring everything is done for edification rather than self-glory.

We give thanks for:

- Our regular ministry conducted through Zoom.
- The success of our quiz night led by the Rev. Ian Wren.
- The growth in our membership during the past year.

We pray:

- For those people whose homes have been deluged by the inclement weather.
- That the coronavirus will be held in check and that a cure may be found very quickly.
- For a safe return to corporate worship in the not too-distant future.

(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.

Church Garden

The good friends of Bishop Auckland Baptist Church continue their good ministering to the garden and it really does show in the series of photographs in our [gardening blog](#) on the website.

With each week that passes we see a little more community engagement as confidence grows. We strive safely for togetherness and use the medium of the garden to help us in that goal.

Thoughts

In the midst of the Corona Virus Pandemic - Spare a thought for your "neighbour".

As we all know the world is passing through an immensely challenging phase because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It seems as though no country will be spared. It is possible that we have not yet seen the full measure of the pandemic.

It will take the effort of all of us to come out of this situation; not just your effort and mine, but that of the entire world. The journey is not going to be easy without the cooperation of all.

We will all need to work together for a long time. Every race, colour, creed and religion.

If one avoids putting their hand to the plough, all it would mean is that we will be in this situation for a long time - with even worse consequences.

We protect ourselves out of love for mankind. If I am infected, it means a lot more people may be infected and affected because of me. Remember, some of these people may be dear to us, and it would really break our hearts to make them pass through such trying situations.

You may find the following poem both inspirational and instructive:

*"Human beings are members of one another,
since in their creation they are of one essence.
When the conditions of the time brings a member (limb) to pain,
the other members (limbs) will suffer from discomfort.
You, who are indifferent to the misery of others,
it is not fitting that they should call you a human being."*

*"Adam's children are limbs of one body,
that in creation are made of one gem.
When life and time hurt a limb,
other limbs will not be at ease.
You, who are not sad for the suffering of others,
do not deserve to be called human."*

Saadi Shiraz - Popular Poet

May our leaders and ourselves, led by God's power, be moved into even greater and more determined and effective action against this global pandemic! There is a role we can all play in this, in your own way and by the means possible to you and driven by love. May we all be encouraged to continue to stretch out a helping hand!

From "The Book of Christian Inspiration" Phaniel Muvengwi

Psalm 27 v14: Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart

Have you reached your breaking point?

If so, then you have two options: 1. Break down **or** 2. Break through.

1. When troubles come, you can either turn against God because you have served Him and now you don't understand why He's allowing your hardships.

or...

2. You can turn to Him for strength.

Try to understand this: It's **not** about you - It's about those who God wants to reach through you!

In Corinthians 2 v1-4 it says: "He comforts us in our troubles so that we can comfort others."

Nothing catches God off-guard and nothing is too hard for him to handle!

The situation you are in right now can become a platform for Him to demonstrate His love and care for you.

"The faithful love of the Lord never ends!

His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness: his mercies begin afresh each morning.

I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance therefore I will hope in Him!"

"The Lord is good to those who depend on him." (Lamentations 3 v22-25).

AT YOUR BREAKING POINT - TURN TO GOD!

Abridged from UCB 24/7/2020

Drive-In Church Events



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

- BABC Sunday Service <https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/babc-sunday-service/>
- BABC Newsletter <https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/newsletter/>
- BABC Garden Blog <https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/church-garden-blog/>
- NBA Sunday Service <https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/nba-sunday-service/>
- BABC Main Website www.bishopbaptists.co.uk

Please feel free to explore the website and subscribe to [our YouTube channel](#) and those of our contributors to encourage them to continue to provide the valuable content from which we all benefit.