

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:

- ***Wesley Street***
- ***Newgate Street***
- ***Brough Grove***
- ***Windsor Court***
- ***Kenilworth Avenue***
- ***The Work of Home Mission***

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 Gateshead Central Baptist Church

A great number of believers suffer from poor self-esteem.

Comparing themselves to others, who have glowing testimonies, they argue that God could never use them for their inadequacies.

Consolation is found in the fact that they at least do not suffer from pride.

This is far from a realistic image however and can do great harm, whilst preventing us from reaching our full potential.

One of my favourite scenes from Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress' is that in which the travellers are in a room packed with wondrous clothing, dressing themselves in the finery, they admire one another.

Due to the fact that there are no mirrors, they are unable to see how wonderful they themselves appear.

We are clothed in Christ and bear his fragrance.

We may not recognise this in ourselves, but be assured that when we grasp this fact our communities cannot fail so see the saviour's grace in us.

We give thanks for:

- Our new building and the development of our website.
- The Digital Family Prayer Adventure Map and other resources.
- Our Leadership Team and their initiatives.

We pray:

- That we may reflect God's love to the people of Gateshead.
- For those people engaged in front line services to our community at this time.
- That we may soon be able to use our new building to its full potential.

(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

Lebanese Explosion

Lebanese Christians have asked for fellow Christians around the world to pray for the people of Lebanon after the massive explosion in a Beirut warehouse last week killed and injured thousands of people.

At least 150 are reported dead and at least 100 are unaccounted for, whilst thousands of people are injured, many in life-changing ways.

Also there is massive damage to roads, shops, factories, hospitals, in fact a major part of the infrastructure.

"We ask your nations to carry Lebanon in their hearts at this difficult time and we place great trust in you and in your prayers, and that the Lord will protect Lebanon from evil through your prayers,". "We are currently going through a national tragedy in Lebanon."

Raymond Nader, a Maronite Catholic living in Lebanon, echoed many calls, saying *"We just ask for prayers now from everyone around the world. We badly need prayers."*

The explosion in the port area of Lebanon's capital overturned cars, shattered windows, set fires, and badly damaged and demolished buildings across Beirut, a city of more than 350,000, with a metro area of more than 2 million people.

"It was a huge disaster over here and the whole city was almost ruined because of this explosion and they're reporting that it's a combination of elements that made this explosion," Antoine Tannous, a Lebanese journalist, told CNA Tuesday.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Lebanese officials have identified the source of the explosion as a port warehouse full of ammonium nitrate, which is highly explosive.

The material had been in the warehouse for six years. Lebanon's security service warned against speculations of terrorism before investigators could fully assess the situation.

According to Lebanon's state-run media, hundreds of injured people have flooded hospital emergency rooms in the city.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Hassan Diab has declared that Wednesday was to be a national day of mourning.

The country is almost evenly divided between Sunni Muslims, Shia Muslims, and Christians, most of whom are Maronite Catholics. Lebanon also has a small Jewish population, as well as Druze and other religious communities.

A Maronite priest from Lebanon has expressed concern that the country may face food shortages in the wake of Tuesday's explosion at Beirut's port.

The explosion *"happened at the biggest docks in Lebanon and where they have big reservoirs of wheat, the central reservoirs are there, and these have gone, have gone to ashes."*
"Another tragedy is in the making because there will be shortages of all food and supplies,"
Fr. Maxim Baz, who is serving in Rome, told CNA Aug. 4.

Fr. Baz said his country *"has been undergoing for the past decades one tragedy after another, really suffering in silence,"* citing a financial crisis, the coronavirus, and the civil war of 1975-90.

"It seems that this country is just trying to come out of the darkness and every time it does it receives another blow," he lamented.

"Christians are always close to those who suffer. That's the distinctive trait of a Christian and that is a distinctive trait of the Church," Fr. Baz noted. *"Wherever there is suffering, or wherever there is extreme vulnerability, there the Church is because God is there."*

"So a Christian cannot not be there, at least with their hearts, with their prayers and with their moral support."

(From various news sources on www. David)

Job 1 v21: The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the Lord's name be praised.

Job lost all his wealth and all his children overnight.

Despite this harrowing news, Job at first looked to God in hope and praised God for being the source of everything.

Job acknowledged God's sovereign hand even in times of calamity *(Job 1 v21)*

We may marvel at Job's strong faith, but then we may also remember that Job struggled with despair.

After he too lost his health *(Job 2 v7)*, Job cursed the day that he was born *(Job 3 v1)*.

Job was honest with his friends and with God about his pain.

Eventually, however, he came to accept that both good and hard / difficult times come from God's hands (*Job 13 v15 and Job 19 v25*).

In our suffering, we too may find ourselves wavering between despair and hope, doubt and faith.

God doesn't require us to be dauntless in adversity, but instead invites us go to Him with our questions.

Though our faith may fail at times, we can trust in God's faithfulness.

Dear Father, when doubts and fears overwhelm me, help me to remember that I'm precious in Your sight. You are always in control and You care for me. Amen.

(Based on Our Daily Bread, Sat 9th May 2020)

Psalm 67 KJV

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us;

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

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

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