

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:

- ***Berkley Grove***
- ***Balmoral Grove***
- ***Barnard Avenue***
- ***Lumley Grove***
- ***Carlisle Grove***
- ***The Work of Influence Church***

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 Prayers

Many of us know the story of David Wilkerson and his ministry amongst the New York gangs.

“The Cross and the Switchblade” tells of the successful crusade he held at which a number of gang leaders committed their lives to Christ.

Not so well known are the personal details surrounding his circumstances at that time.

Shortly before the event, he had been visiting the home of a minister friend.

This friend had been backing a car out of the garage, little realising that his infant son had been playing behind the wheels - the results, as you can imagine, were devastating.

David thought, “What terrible sin must my friend have committed for God to allow that?”

David's relationship with God changed as a result.

Instead of serving Christ out of love, he began working from a fear of consequences should he displease God.

One night, he returned exhausted from the crusade. Creeping into his infant's nursery, he picked up the sleeping babe.

A voice commanded him to drop the child. Instead, he held tighter.

Three times the command came and each time he clutched the infant tighter.

Finally, in desperation he yelled, “*This is my child and I will never drop my child.*”

The reply came, “*And you are my child. I will never, ever drop you.*”

Tears of repentance fell from David's eyes as he realised the significance of this message.

Let me ask, what is it that motivates your ministry?

We give thanks for:

- The students, pupils and teaching staff who are able to return safely to school.

We pray:

- The students who are receiving their final results from secondary school.
- The pupils returning to school after lockdown.
- Teaching and other staff members returning to school after 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.

Church Garden

As we progress and life moves ever-forward, we can now see more visible changes in the garden as work begins to further transform it into the sanctuary that we are aiming for.

The good friends of Bishop Auckland Baptist Church are working hard to achieve the vision as you can see in our [gardening blog](#) on the website.

Please pray for them and their endeavours as they work to bring an oasis of calm.

Thoughts

75th Anniversary of VJ Day

Whilst VE Day marked the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still involved in bitter fighting in the Far East.

Victory over Japan would come at a heavy price, and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the day Japan surrendered on the 15 August 1945, which in effect ended the Second World War.

On Saturday 15th August a two-minute silence took place at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire led by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

Prayer for Hiroshima

(Commemorating the dropping of the first atomic bomb on the 6th August 1945)

God, you are the Father of all the families of the earth and call the nations to live in peace and unity.

We remember with sorrow the devastating destruction and death unleashed on this day upon the city of Hiroshima, and later upon the city of Nagasaki.

We pray for the people of Japan, and all whose lives are disfigured by war.

We pray for ourselves, the often, unwise stewards of the powers of the universe.

Transfigure the lives and cities scarred by conflict by the revealing of your glory and move us by your uncreated energies to advance your sovereign purpose of peace.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our light, and our salvation.

Amen.

<https://www.praxisworship.org.uk/resources.html>

A Prayer for VJ Day

God our Father,

In the dying and rising of your Son Jesus Christ,

you have brought life and salvation out of cruelty and death.

We mark Victory in Japan in gratitude for the courage of the Allied forces who suffered for freedom in the Far East campaign, and in sorrow for all that hinders the coming of your kingdom of peace.

Give us wisdom to learn from the bitter memories of war, and hearts that long for the unity of all nations.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, in whom there is, no east or west, no north or south, but one fellowship of love across the whole earth.

Amen

Prayer for the Peace of The World

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace;

that the design of your great love lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows and give peace to your church,

peace among nations, peace in our dwellings and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

I came across this anonymous version of the Ten Commandments and I thought it was worth including as a reminder and refresher:

The Ten Commandments

- I. Have thou no other God but me,
- II. And to no image bow thy knee.
- III. Take not the name of God in vain:
- IV. The sabbath day do not profane.
- V. Honour thy father and mother too;
- VI. And see that thou no murder do.
- VII. Abstain from words and deeds unclean;
- VIII. Nor steal, though thou art poor and mean.
- IX. Bear not false witness, shun that blot;
- X. What is thy neighbour's covet not.

These laws, O Lord, write in my heart, that I, may in thy faithful service live and die.

(Anonymous 1731, from The Oxford Book of Children's Verse)

Romans 15

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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.