

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:

- ***Butterwick Hospice***
- ***Auckland Park Hospital***
- ***Sandringham Nursing Home***
- ***BA General Hospital***
- ***Church View Nursing Home***
- ***Baptist 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.

Devotional Prayers – Alnwick Baptist Church

John 13 v 35 NIV - By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, that you have love for one another.'

The whole world it seems, clamours for a sign.

Herod desired to see one, the Pharisees and teachers of the law wanted one, even Jesus's cousin, John, was eager for one.

His case is understandable. He came as a forerunner to Jesus, who according to Simon perception had come to rid Israel of the Roman yoke. Yet here he was, languishing in a damp, dark dungeon.

Today little has changed. We are still eager for signs to validate our ministry.

Jesus's reply to John is as applicable for us today as it was to John's situation. Understanding our need, Jesus promised that signs would follow us as believers.

Yet from his perspective the most important sign of God's activity in the believer's life is our love for others.

We give thanks for:

- The fellowship, love and support seen among the ABC family during this difficult time.
- The coordinated Alnwick town response during lockdown and pray that this care, community cohesion and organisations working together would continue in the town.

We pray:

- For us as we trial offering our most vulnerable members of the church family the opportunity to come together for a prayer-based service on a Sunday morning.
- That God's presence would be more evident than the risk assessments!
- For our three missional communities, that we would have wisdom to know when and how we can begin interacting in small groups face to face.
- For revival to come to Alnwick, that God would soften people's hearts and that we would see where God is at work being his hands and feet in Northumberland.

(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

Read Luke 8 v22-33

Why are you afraid?

Jesus is constantly asking this question.

He was asking it when he walked this earth and He is still asking it today!

As the waves lashed their small boat, the disciples, frantic with fear, wake up the sleeping Jesus demanding of Him, "Don't you care if we drown?"

And Jesus merely commanded the waves "Quieten down."

In our lives we are moving as over a sea as the winds increase and troubles of all sorts come our way in the storm.

At times it seems as if Jesus is sleeping, totally unaware of and unconcerned about our strife and predicaments.

Beset on every side with problems and distressing circumstances over which we are powerless, we cry out to Him, "Don't you care?"

Yes, Jesus does care. He always does.

Jesus is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He is as sensitive to our emotional needs as He is to our spiritual needs.

When circumstances are so dark that we cannot sense His presence, He whispers, "It is I. Be not afraid."

Jesus is always wonderfully there, aware of our needs, ready to still the storm and when we call upon Him, He acts!

"This is the victory that overcomes the world" – with all its fears and all its terrors – "even our faith."

Are you afraid of any problem, or illness or decision you have to make?

Call upon the Lord to still the storms in your heart and renew your complete trust in Him.

(from Words to Live By - by Cyrus n Nelson)

Proverbs 18:21

Proverbs 18:21 says this: "The tongue [or fingers] has the power of death or life; those who love to talk [or post] will reap the fruit."

Most of us won't steal, kill or maim someone in order to get our points across. But we can still do great harm to others with our words, and especially on Social Media.

It's a principle that applies to you whether you're an unbeliever or believer, man or woman, young or old.

Social media at its best has in it an opportunity for great goodness but just as humanity in the Garden of Eden fell into the trap of sin, we can easily fall into the same trap, and lose the goodness of Social Media.

However, in that same proverb, Proverbs 18 v 21, there's a hidden option for us to rescue our Social Media, to reap the benefits, and the proverb promises and shows a way out of the trap.

The promise is that if we speak life and not death, then through our words (including on social media) the goodness will be harvested.

By building others up through our words, we may plant seeds of life.

Galatians 6:8 says, *"because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free."* (i.e. please the Spirit).

The way we live to please the Spirit through our social media usage isn't about saying "God bless you" or throwing other Christianese into the things we post. Sharing that picture of Jesus on your timeline won't necessarily please the Spirit.

In order to harvest the everlasting fruits of the Spirit through our social media, we need to infuse the Fruit of the Spirit into the things we post and the way we comment: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

If your post or comments check any of those boxes, then you're sowing seeds of life, and encouraging the harvest of the everlasting fruits.

Imagine if your posts and comments on social media glowed with an extra light just beyond the backlight of the screen.

The life you infuse into others will be the life you reap in return.

(Jonathan Malm) <https://relevantmagazine.com/author/jonathanmalm/>

I Have A Dream

This weekend, as the world continue in chaos, Martin Luther's great "I have a Dream" speech is being widely commemorated.

Do we each have a dream to inspire and encourage others with?

I hope so... it is our mission!

2 Thessalonians 3 v16

Now may the Lord of peace himself

give you peace at all times

and in every way.

The Lord be with all of you.

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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