

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:

- ***Ladysmith Street***
- ***East Parade***
- ***Nelson Street***
- ***The Copses***
- ***Prince's Street***
- ***Station Approach***

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 – Durham City Baptist Church

We give thanks for:

- The small steps forward, which the church has made in worshipping together in the church building.
- The way members of the fellowship supported each other in the dark days, and continue to do so in the present.
- The wonderful truth, that God’s faithful love surrounds his people at all times and in all situations.

We pray for:

- Wisdom as we seek to open up the different aspects of church life, so that we ensure everyone has support, and are able to engage in some way in the life of the fellowship.
- The church as it continues to work through the “Re:Imagine” initiative.
- Those in the fellowship who continue to feel isolated and lonely due to their personal experience of lockdown.
- The surrounding community - that those bonds that were forged in a time of adversity might continue to be strengthened in the present.

(Prayer Topics Supplied by Ronnie Wynd, Minister, Durham City Baptist Church)

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| <h2>Online Prayer</h2> |
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- 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 garden is improving both visually and functionally with every week that passes.

The hardworking friend of the church have made inroads into setting up the raised beds which will not only transform the garden but also allow those less physically able to join us in gardening activities.

The latest photographs can be seen on our [gardening blog](#) on the website.

Thoughts

Don't Despair if Your Dream "Tanks"

There's a good chance that what you set your heart on in your first year at College/University will not be a reality after graduation.

Lots of students change direction.

You may run out of money and need to take a few weeks off.

You may get to the end of your final study year and realise that you have no desire to teach in primary school.

You could get a degree in a field that has little job openings or that simply doesn't pay the bills.

Don't despair - Life is always messier than we plan it to be!

Regardless of whether you achieve your dream career or pursue a series of dead ends, what matters is not so much *what* you do, but *how* you do it.

Your worth is not just rooted in your degree or career successes, even though gaining them, is worthwhile in their own right.

True success is when we look out for others or society in general in whatever place we find ourselves, whether it be a high or low, transitory, or long term.

A good world is held together by lots and lots of small actions in good directions.

If no one milked the cows, harvested the wheat, clocked in at the factory, or drove the lorries to the shops, you could not have enjoyed your bowl of cornflakes this morning!

What you do matters - the classes you're taking that may seem sometime to be pointless and hard to pass are all ways of being appreciative for what you have and of being a benefit to society.

Work hard as a college student knowing that whatever you learn *won't* be wasted!

As a student and someday employee or employer, whether you're making an Americano at Starbucks, frying chips at McDonalds or studying marine biology in Belize, try do it with a positive attitude and for the good of others too.

What You Do - Matters!

(Colossians. 3:17)

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through him”

Last week the NBA’s Sunday Service was on being a pilgrim people and I thought that it was excellent and well worth watching.

So, just in case you missed it, here are some of John Claydon’s introductory words from that showing: *“It is 400 years since the sailing of the Pilgrim Fathers in the Mayflower, this year, 2020, has also been designated a year of pilgrimage and this weekend marks the death of John Bunyan, the writer of Pilgrim’s Progress.”*

Taking part in NBA recorded service on www) are Amanda Heggarty, member of West View Baptist Church and a member of the NBA Council, Peter Morden the minister of Cornerstone Baptist Church who has written a number of books about John Bunyan, Paul Merton the chaplain to Newcastle Falcons, as well as Paul and myself.

In whatever way you worship this weekend may you know Christ's enriching love and power.

Here is an excerpt from Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress:

Pilgrim’s Progress – Pilgrim at the cross

Now I saw in my dream, that the highway up which CHRISTIAN was to go was fenced on either side with a wall; and that wall was called "Salvation". Up this way, therefore, did burdened CHRISTIAN run; but not without great difficulty, because of the load on his back.

He ran thus till he came at a place somewhat ascending; and upon that place stood a Cross, and a little below, in the bottom, a sepulchre. So I saw in my dream, that just as CHRISTIAN came up to the cross, his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back, and began to tumble; and so continued to do till it came to the mouth of the sepulchre, where it fell in, and I saw it no more.

Then was CHRISTIAN glad and lightsome, and said, with a merry heart, "He hath given me rest by his sorrow, and life by his death." Then he stood still awhile to look and wonder; for it was very surprising to him, that the sight of the cross should thus ease him of his burden. He looked therefore, and looked again, even till the springs that were in his head sent the waters down his cheeks.

Now, as he stood looking and weeping, behold three shining ones came to him, and saluted him with, "Peace be to thee!" so the first said to him, "Thy sins be forgiven thee"; the second stripped him of his rags, and clothed him with change of raiment; the third also set a mark in his forehead, and gave him a roll with a seal upon it, which he bade him look on as he ran, and that he should give it in at the Celestial Gate: so they went their way.

Then CHRISTIAN gave three leaps for joy, and went on singing ..."

Have a blessed weekend!

Yours in Christ John Claydon

(excerpts taken from NBA Sunday Service web page , 30Aug 2020)

Dealing with Uncertainty

Joshua 1 v6 and v9 (NIV)

⁶ *Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.*

⁹ *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Think of Joshua as he prepared to lead the Israelites into Canaan - a place overrun by their enemies.

Although God had promised them this land the journey to obtain this promise was long and hard, and filled with uncertainty.

Perhaps that's why God reminds Joshua, *"Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous"*

The same God who encouraged Joshua also wants to encourage you.

He understands how fear and anxiety can paralyse anyone forced out of their comfort zone and into circumstances beyond their control.

Thankfully, no matter how uncertain you feel, the outcome of every situation is known to God.

And God promises to never leave or forsake those who draw near to Him.

His children are never alone - You are *not* alone.

And your future is held in His hands.

(You Version Bible App)

Christians Against Poverty Courses



CAP Money Course

Course dates

This course is run over 3 sessions:

- 📅 Tuesday 15 September 2020, 10:00
- 📅 Tuesday 22 September 2020, 10:00
- 📅 Tuesday 29 September 2020, 10:00

Contact: John and Vanessa Purdy (01388 603142)

**budget.
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The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. **Worship Learning and Caring Service & Evangelism**

 Meaningful Ageing Course,
Bishop Auckland



8 weeks in Oct/Nov for 2 hours per week

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.

Helpful Links

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| 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.