

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 have now been reintroduced in the area. In line with this, we are suspending both Bible Study and Wednesday Community days until the advisories indicate it is safe to reintroduce these again.

Church Services will continue to be available electronically via YouTube and our website. Audio CD's of the services are available upon request.

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:

- ***Compton Grove***
- ***Clevedon Avenue***
- ***Westfield Road***
- ***Bell Street***
- ***Percy Street***
- ***Woodhouse Lane***
- ***Please also pray for Tony and his with Rosemary at this trying time***

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.

BABC Readiness.

Many of you have continued to donate time and money over the past difficult months to help BABC maintain our purpose as a Christian Church and a local community centre in Bishop Auckland despite our reduced numbers in these times of lockdowns and worries.

By your generosity quite a lot of local people in financial and family difficulties are being helped and sustained in the Lord's name.

It is a practical, and for some of you, a sacrificial way for the Love of the Lord to be shown to those we meet.

We pray that you will feel able to continue to support and bless the work of the church in this way.

May you too be blessed through your steadfast readiness to show commitment and faith.

Devotional Prayers

We ask you to please remember the following Church in your prayers this coming Sunday:

- *Owton Manor Baptist Church,*
- *Cacote Road, Hartlepool, Durham.TS25 3EF*

All attempts to contact this church by email and phone, have proved fruitless. Please pray for the safety of members during this present pandemic.

Kind regards

Roger M Daniel

(NBA Prayer Coordinator)

BABC Tuesday Bible Study Restart Postponed

Because of the latest restrictions on social distancing and shielding needs etc, we have reluctantly decided to delay the intended BABC Tuesday Bible Study Restart.

Hopefully we will be able to proceed in the not too-distant future and will let you know when the situation improves again.

With apologies, thank you.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

God wants to hear our prayers. But to keep them from becoming too self-focussed, God wants us to always remember to give thanks.

It is so easy for us, especially in desperate times like these, to turn prayer into a request line.

We are the ones who are left bereft when thanksgiving and praise are robbed from our prayers.

Without praise our hearts grow dim because all we think about are problems and prayer becomes a wish list.

Gracious God, we have so many reasons to praise you.

In the face of trial and hardship we have your promises to reawaken our hope.

In the moment of victory, we have you to thank for our abilities which often surprise us.

In the boredom of the routine, we have great joys in your surprises.

Thankyou God for being so great and yet so loving.

In Jesus' name

Amen.

(Phil Ware, phil@verseoftheday.com)

<h2>Online Prayer</h2>

- 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

Due to the restrictions currently being imposed, work on the garden can only be undertaken when conditions indicate it is safe to do so.

Group working on the garden is being reviewed on an ongoing basis to determine if it complies with the intended social distancing and potential lockdown guidance being introduced.

This will be reviewed on a weekly basis in line with Government guidance.

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

Thoughts

Wisdom

I was chatting with a friend about all the Lockdown rules, Social Distancing, Bubbles, Distance Learning and all the other mysteries we need to navigate.

During the conversation about it all, the phrase “Wisdom of Solomon” cropped up.

Afterwards, later-on, I was recalling the conversation with myself and I started wondering what “Wisdom” actually is.

I made the mistake of looking it up on Google and Wikipedia and I understood that I didn’t understand it!

However, I did come across the following more readable item and thought I’d share it with you. (Other items are available.)

Wisdom is a capacity of the mind that allows us to understand life from God’s perspective.

Throughout the book of Proverbs, Solomon encourages us to “get wisdom” (Proverbs 4:5). He says those who get wisdom love life (see 19:8); that it’s better to get wisdom than gold (see 16:16); and that those who get wisdom find life and receive favour from the Lord (see 8:32 – 35).

Yet in Ecclesiastes 7:23–24 Solomon also makes clear that getting wisdom is a challenging process: “I am determined to be wise’ — but this was beyond me. Whatever exists is far off and most profound — who can discover it?”

Fortunately, Scripture provides us instruction in this area. Here are four Biblical instructions for how to get wisdom:

1. Fear God

Solomon says the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (see Proverbs 9:10). But how should we fear God? Philipp Melanchthon, a collaborator of Martin Luther, discussed what it means to fear God by contrasting filial fear with servile fear. Filial fear is the type of respect and love a child has for a parent, a fear of offending the one they most adore and trust. In contrast, servile fear is the kind of fear that a prisoner has for his jailer or executioner.

2. Desire Wisdom

The second step to getting wisdom is to desire it with all our heart. As Solomon says, we must “look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure” (Proverbs 2:4).

3. Pray for Wisdom

As James tell us, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you” (James 1:5).

4. Study God’s Word

The fourth step in getting wisdom is studying and meditating on God’s Word (see Psalm 19:7). We shouldn’t rely merely on our own understanding, though, but lean on the wisdom and insight produced by Christians throughout the church’s history.

PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY: To get wisdom we must fear God, study his Word and prayerfully desire to understand life from God’s perspective.

(NIV LifeHacks Bible)

Uncovering our Baptist Story - A chance to learn about our Baptist Heritage

One of the Yorkshire BA’s retired ministers, the Rev Dr Keith Jones, has been in touch to promote a collection of Zoom Webinars entitled “Uncovering our Baptist Heritage”.

These events have been organised by The Baptist Historical Society, of which Keith, who attends Shipley Baptist Church, is the President.

The seminars will run from 7.30pm until 8.45pm on the following dates:	
Thursday 24 th September 2020	Thursday 8 th October 2020
Thursday 1 st October 2020	Thursday 15 th October 2020

Among the speakers will be Ruth Gouldbourne, Stephen Copson, Peter Morden, Karen Smith, Wale Hudson - Roberts, Gale Richards, Kang- San Kan, Craig Gardiner, and Doreen Morrison.

To register please send an e mail to: baptisthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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)

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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**



8 weeks in Oct/Nov for 2 hours per week

CAP Money Course (Budget. Save. Spend)

This course is to run over three sessions on :-

- **Tuesday 15th Sept 2020 at 10.00 am**
- **Tuesday 22nd Sept 2020 at 10.0 am**
- **Tuesday 29th Sept 2020 at 10.00am**

Meaningful Ageing Course

- Eight weeks in October/November 2020 for two hours each week

For more details on both course

- **Tel: 01388 603142**
- **Email: john.purdy@methodist.org.uk**
- **Website: www.bishopmethodist.org.uk**

A quick reminder from Debbie Gamble

In today's increasingly online world, scam emails continue to circulate claiming to be from banks, other organisations and individuals.

We all need to remain vigilant and check that messages received, are definitely from the purported sender.

A simple way to do this is to hold your cursor over the sender's name in an email and the senders email address should appear – if this doesn't match exactly the senders normal email address then it is likely that the message is a phishing or scam email.

Be alert folks!



Father, thank you that you reveal Your love to us.

***We ask You to send us out into the community in
the power of the Holy Spirit.***

Fan into flame the gifts that you have given us.

Reveal Your grace and truth to us each day.

For Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,

Forever and ever.

Amen.

https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/closing_prayer.html

Helpful Links

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.