

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:

- **Nelson Street**
- **Station Approach**
- **Grey Street**
- **Peel Street**
- **Railway Street**
- **Chester Street**
- **Please also pray for the Fellowship at Hamsterley Baptist 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.

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.

NBA Devotional Prayers from John Claydon

We express our thanks and appreciation to Roger Daniel who has stepped down as our Prayer Co-ordinator. We thank him for his service and support over the past 18 months and wish him well as he serves God in other ways. Please pray for God's guidance as we seek how best to explore this ministry of encouraging one another in prayer.

As we seek God in prayer this weekend let's pray for our land and our world as we move into a new season and time of challenge with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Let's give thanks and praise God for:

- *His faithfulness, love and power*
- *The fellowship of His people and support we offer to one another.*
- *The support and care of so many in society, providing help and comfort to the anxious, grieving and ill.*
- *The creative opportunities for friendship, worship and discipleship.*

Let's pray that

- *We will hear the promises of His Word and seek the guidance of His Spirit.*
- *For our government, MPs, researchers and specialists that they may act with good wisdom, understanding and compassion.*
- *For all who are finding life difficult because of the restriction we encounter.*
- *For all who are suffering and grieving.*
- *For clear medical breakthroughs to bring help and relief.*
- *For good international co-operation and especially support for poorer nation.*

'Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God. Psalm 43:3-4.

God Bless!

John Claydon

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.

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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

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

Bind us together Lord

These days of restrictive lock downs and minimising meeting together in groups, or crowds or halls, theatres, or places of worship and so on, though very unfriendly, and disagreeable to most of us and grossly restricting, will not last for ever.

All people like to get together and sing together in all sorts of places and locations and for different reasons.

At sporting events, fans sing enthusiastically about their desire to crush the opponent. People sing at New Year's Eve parties, Christmas, concerts, weddings, gatherings with family and friends, and even funerals.

When eating out we often have to endure well-meaning, but often musically challenged servers in restaurants, attempt to sing some form of "Happy Birthday" to an embarrassed individual.

While these events aren't equally significant, something similar is happening.

Our singing tends to bind us together, strengthens our bonds.

It's more effective than simply reciting or shouting words in unison.

Singing enables us to spend extended periods of time communicating the same thoughts, the same passions and feelings, and the same intentions.

That process can actually have a physical effect on our bodies. Scientists have found that singing corporately in groups or choirs produces a chemical change in our bodies that contributes to a sense of bonding.

When it comes to the church, this characteristic of singing has significant implications, all of which require great wisdom and discernment.

Scripture doesn't talk just about congregational singing.

God is also honoured when we sing alone, or when a musically gifted individual leads out in a solo, or when a choir sings, or when different segments of a church sing to one another, taking turns.

The Bible isn't specific about exactly who sings when.

But the predominant emphasis of Scripture is believers confessing their common beliefs together.

The book of Revelation doesn't give the impression that Jesus died for independent soloists, or for people who would sing on their own clouds or in different sections of the renewed earth by themselves.

He died to redeem a universal choir.

That means every voice in the church matters.

We're not called simply to listen to others sing — as we are prone to do increasingly in our iPod-Internet-downloading culture — or to sing by ourselves.

We are called to sing with others, especially in the context of our local church, and when we do we get back to meeting and singing together, then the question won't be "Do you have a voice?" but "do you have a song?"

www.desiringgod.org

Closed Doors, Open Hearts continues News from The Auckland Trust Newsletter

This week marks a milestone for the second phase of our food initiative: we've now distributed more than 1,000kg of fresh produce from the Walled Garden to local community organisations.

Our aim is to work together to provide an ongoing service to those most in need.

For the last weeks, fruits and vegetables have been delivered to Woodhouse Close Community Centre; Shildon Alive; Little Chefs, Big Chefs CIC; Heritage Cafe; Angel Trust and Bishop Auckland Baptist Church.

These organisations have used the produce in a variety of ways, from stocking food banks to making nutritious meals for the community.

During the summer holidays, we provided more than 400 meals for children taking part in summer schools in Bishop Auckland, Shildon and Witton-le-Wear.

It isn't only fruit and vegetables from the gardens that we've been sharing; we've also worked with the Angel Trust to surprise a few special members of the community with bouquets made up of flowers from the Walled Garden.

marketing@aucklandproject.org

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)



**budget.
save.
spend.**

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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

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!



There is only one God, there is only one King.

There is only one body, that is why we sing!

Bind us together Lord,

bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together Lord,

bind us together Lord, bind us together in love

B. Gillman

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.