

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 measures have now been increased 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:

- ***Prince's Street***
- ***Bob Hardisty Drive***
- ***Cockton Hill Road***
- ***BA Bus Station***
- ***Friendly Heritage***
- ***Friends & Helpers***
- ***Please also pray for Tony and 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.

Roger Daniel

Dear All,

We express our thanks and appreciation to Roger Daniel who has stepped down as the NBA 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.

John Claydon (On behalf of NBA)

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 – Whiley Lodge Baptist Church

Give thanks for:

- Four years of ministry under Paul Richards
- Church members looking out for one another and keeping connected during the pandemic

Please pray for:

- Paul and Lynn as they settle into retirement and seek God's will for the future
- Our church during the vacancy and as we try to discern God's leading in our search for a new minister
- Those who feel isolated at this time. We are unable to meet together as many of the congregation are elderly or vulnerable and we do not have our own building
- Our services taking place online, and those unable to access technology

Ephesians 1: 15-16

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

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.

P.U.S.H. (Author Unknown)

A man was sleeping at night in his modest room when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared.

The Lord told the man he had work for him to do and showed him a large rock in front of his house.

The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might.

So, this the man did, day after day.

For many years he toiled from sun-up to sun-down, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all of his might.

Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Since the man was showing discouragement, Satan decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind: "*You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved.*"

Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man.

Satan said, "*Why stress yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough.*"

That's what the weary man planned to do but decided first to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

"Lord," he said, "I have laboured long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half an inch. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, *"My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and you accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done.*

Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it - Your task was to push.

And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so?

Look at yourself - Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewy and brown; your hands are callused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard.

Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have.

True, you haven't moved the rock - But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. That you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just a simple obedience and faith in Him.

By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves mountains.

- When everything seems to go wrong... just **P.U.S.H!**
- When the job gets you down... just **P.U.S.H!**
- When people don't react the way that you think they should... just **P.U.S.H!**
- When your money is "gone" and the bills are due... just **P.U.S.H!**
- When people just don't understand you... just **P.U.S.H!**

(P)ray (U)ntil (S)omething (H)appens

Auckland | Project - Closed Doors, Open Hearts continues

Last week marked 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

Volunteers needed for Digitisation of Scripture translations

- *Do you have time on your hands?*
- *Would you like to understand computer digitisation?*
- *If so...*

Led by MissionAssist, the Bible Digitisation Project involves training volunteers in the keyboarding skills needed to transcribe Bible text in a language they don't know.

Volunteers need basic computer skills, but most important is accuracy and an ability to concentrate.

MissionAssist, Bible Society and Wycliffe Bible Translators are appealing for volunteers to digitise Scripture translations so they can be made freely available on major platforms like YouVersion.

The work involves copying translations which only exist in printed form because they were made before the digital age, or because older digital copies have been lost.

Many of these translations are in minority languages whose speakers don't have access to the wealth of resources in their language that English speakers do.

As well as serving the needs of Christian nationals and Bible students, digital translations – because they widen the range of literature available in these languages – help ensure the survival of these languages and cultures.

Digitising texts also means earlier translations can be revised and unfinished projects completed, and Braille versions can be produced for blind people.

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Volunteers need basic computer skills, but most important is accuracy and an ability to concentrate.

In the technique developed by MissionAssist, two volunteers work independently on the same text and their results are collated and checked against the original printed text and corrected as needed by another volunteer to ensure the highest possible level of accuracy.

To find out more about the Bible Digitisation project or about how you can help, contact Volunteer Enquiries: volunteers@missionassist.org.uk

(from: Baptist Times 16/09/2020)

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

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.

Christians Against Poverty Courses



8 weeks in Oct/Nov for 2 hours per week

Tel: Rev John Purdy on 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, we ask for a flourishing community
in our town, where neighbours learn to
love each other and come to know Jesus.***

***We pray that we can be good stewards of
Your love to each one of our neighbours.***

***We ask that You help us to learn from our
community and it may always be a place
where all are welcomed.***

Amen.

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.