

## ***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](http://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](mailto:johnclaydon@thenba.org.uk)
- Paul Revill [paulrevill@thenba.org.uk](mailto:paulrevill@thenba.org.uk) or
- Elaine Webster [elainewebster@thenba.org.uk](mailto: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:*

- ***Windsor Court***
- ***Newgate Street***
- ***Newgate Centre***
- ***Bishop's Palace***
- ***BA Market Square***
- ***BA Town Hall***
- ***Our Pastor and his wife at this difficult time for them and their family***

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.

**NBA Assembly**

Topic: Investing in godly leadership: "Hearing from God and looking to the Future."

Speaker: Andy Byers

Date: Saturday 7th November 9:45am to 1:15pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 820 9690 3315

Passcode 508761

**Devotional Prayers – Billingham Baptist Church**

Pastor: Shelagh Garry

Website: <https://www.billinghambaptist.org.uk>

*Give thanks for:*

- God's faithfulness to us especially through this season of a pandemic.
- That new contacts that were made in February through our Breakfast Club have stayed in touch while we have been unable to meet physically.
- That our fellowship has managed to stay in touch and support each other through the pandemic.

*Please pray for:*

- Guidance as we continue our process of finding God's shepherd to lead his flock at Billingham.
- Patience as we seek and hope to re-open our doors shortly.
- Guidance as we seek God's will for our fellowship going forwards and where He would have us serve the community.
- God bless you in this fellowship of prayer!

**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.*

**Autumn is here**

.... and there's a lot of unwelcome change in our world.

Each time we switch on the television, or look at a newspaper, then moral and societal changes brother us.

We're painfully aware that our young people are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children.

And personal changes too — children leaving home, the passing of dear friends, and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health.

Sometimes we feel overwhelmed.

But amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes—our eternal God.

Do you remember this verse from “Abide with Me”?

***“Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.”***

*Our God is always dependable. His truth, ways, and purposes do not change. His Son does not change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).*

God's children will enjoy His fellowship a million years from now.

The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change, and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come.

In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable, and life unending.

### **The Foresight of God**

We've all suffered setbacks along our life's way. But God promised:

*"I will restore to you the years that the locust swarm has eaten... You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the LORD your God" (Joel 2:25-26).*

God's divine forethought knew it all in advance, and He can be trusted with what has happened to us in years past.

Jesus, our Saviour knows the end from the beginning, and He will bless whatever is granted to Him. We can focus on His foreknowledge, providence, and sovereignty.

### **The Blessings of God**

The autumn of life is a great time to focus on God's blessings—family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His Word, and eternal life still to come.

During life's autumn, we have a richer perspective and can count more blessings than ever before.

Autumn is a good time to focus on your commitment to God.

Some of the saddest words in the Bible are found in Jeremiah 8:20:

*"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."*

If want to make a commitment to Jesus Christ, do it now, while there is still time.

If you are a follower of Christ, remember to remain close to Him during the shifting seasons of life.

During autumn, we all know that winter lies ahead, but if winter comes, can spring be far behind?

*(excerpted from Turning Points, Dr David Jeremiah's devotional magazine)*

**John 1:4-5:** *In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.*

Life! Not just living, but true, genuine life. Life that gives us light that darkness cannot steal away. That's why God sent Jesus! Thankfully that light still shines and all of Satan's horses and all of Satan's men cannot put their deepest darkest darkness together again! Hallelujah!

Prayer...

Everlasting Father, For every good and perfect gift, for the light I have even in my moments of deepest darkness, for the hope I have of living with you in glorious and unapproachable light, I thank you and praise you with eternal joy, now and forevermore. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

*phil@verseoftheday.com*

### **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.*

### **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*

## **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

 **Meaningful Ageing**  
Course,  
Bishop Auckland



8 weeks in Oct/Nov for 2 hours per week

**Tel: Rev John Purdy on 01388-603142**

**Email: [john.purdy@methodist.org.uk](mailto:john.purdy@methodist.org.uk) Website: [www.bishopmethodist.org.uk](http://www.bishopmethodist.org.uk)**



## Helpful Links

BABC Sunday Service	<a href="https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/babc-sunday-service/">https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/babc-sunday-service/</a>
BABC Newsletter	<a href="https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/newsletter/">https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/newsletter/</a>
BABC Garden Blog	<a href="https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/church-garden-blog/">https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/church-garden-blog/</a>
NBA Sunday Service	<a href="https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/nba-sunday-service/">https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/nba-sunday-service/</a>
BABC Main Website	<a href="http://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk">www.bishopbaptists.co.uk</a>

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.

**Almighty God, in whom is no darkness at all:**

**Grant us your light perpetually, and when we cannot see the way before us, may we continue to put our trust in you; that so, being guided and guarded by your love, we may be kept from falling, this day and all of our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

*(By William Knight, Printed in Prayers for all Occasions, Forward Movement)*