

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:

- **Dene Hall Drive**
- **Pollards Drive**
- **Etherley Lane**
- **Escomb Road**
- **Bolton Grove**
- **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 – North Shields Baptist Church

This week we invite you to pray for North Shields Baptist Church where Liz Edwards is the minister.

They give thanks:

- For God's faithfulness during this lockdown time. He has stayed with us and He's carrying us through.
- The wonderful members of the church who have been with us for many years, now gone to be with the Lord.
- That they have been able to maintain our Nite Bite Food Bank (run by Churches Together but held in our church) right through the pandemic.

They ask that we pray:

- For guidance as they seek God's will concerning the possibility of having a Minister-in-Training placed with them for the next few years.
- For more opportunities to support the children and their families during this time.
- For the inspiration to find ways of reaching out to our community with the message of Jesus this Christmas.

God bless you as you engage in the 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.

Down with Halloween!

*"I have come into the world as a light,
so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness" (John 12:46).*

Regardless of a believers' particular understanding of Halloween or the spiritual implications associated with its celebration, all Christians can take an active part in Halloween through prayer.

While many people in the world use this time of the year to celebrate, often naively and innocently, spiritual darkness and highlight evil, God's followers have the opportunity to spread a different message through their prayers, praises, and conduct.

We are living in a beautiful world that has become infected with Satan's darkness.

The good news is that the world was created in the light of love by our God who is Love, and the darkness of Satan can never put out that light!

That is why Satan creeps around in disguise, furtively, in evil deceptiveness, keeping away from the light because God's light overcomes the darkness.

Satan is exposed!

Our society is teased and enticed by Satan's easy duplicity of superficial, seemingly effortless, attractive temptations, dressed up as just "fun".

But that so-called fun comes at cost. The cost is eternal death in an everlasting darkness of agony and despair spent in Hell. If we follow Satan, then we will follow him and share this hell with him for ever.

God's light is everlasting, but it doesn't bring short term pleasures - it brings the never-ending light of eternal joy and blessings spent in God's presence in heaven.

Crucified and tortured, God's Son's crucified body and soul also went to hell, but Jesus was brought out from Hell, holding our hand, freeing us from the unending agony to exchange it for unending glory!

In the natural world, we do not dispel darkness from the room by cursing it; instead, we turn on the light.

Darkness and light cannot co-exist; when light is introduced, darkness vanishes. In the same way, as Christians bathe their lives, their homes, and their families in the light of God's presence and His word, they raise a standard against the evil implicit in "celebrating" Halloween.

There are some specific and practical ways to pray during the Halloween “season.”

***Lift up praise and worship to the only true God.**

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.” (1 Chronicles 16:25-26).

- Magnify the name of Jesus above all other names (Luke 10:17, Phil 2:9-11).
- Declare His Lordship in your community, region, and nation (2 Kings 19:19).
- Read psalms of praise to displace the voices of darkness (Psalm 33, 35, 65, 67).

***Declare your home, community, and nation to be a place of God’s Presence.**

*“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most-High dwells.
God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts” (Psalm 46:4-6).*

- Thank God for the wall of protection surrounding His people (Zechariah 2:5).
- Praise Him for the power of His Presence that disarms the enemy (Psalm 31:20).
- Declare His rule and reign over all who seek His face (Acts 17:27).
- Christian parents can teach their older children the truth without judging neighbours, etc., who may not share their convictions (Proverbs 22:6).

***Declare that the light of Truth will dispel any darkness and expose the lies.**

“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness” (John 12:46).

- Pray that self-proclaimed witches and Satanists would encounter Jesus (Acts 8:12-13).
- Pray that counterfeits would be exposed, bringing the fear of the Lord (Acts 19:14-17).
- Pray that every evil practice would collide with Truth and Life (Acts 8:4-8).

***Pray for the Word of God and message of the cross to be shared with power.**

"(They) began to argue with Stephen. But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke" (Acts 6:9-10).

- Pray for boldness to declare the truth of the gospel (Acts 4:31).
- Pray for opportunities to reach non-believers (Acts 17:16-17).
- Pray for oneness of spirit in the community of believers (Acts 18:9-10).

***Thank God for His delivering power in defeating all His enemies.**

- Thank the Lord for the angelic host who work on our behalf (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).
- Thank God for the battle that has already been won (John 16:33).
- Praise Him for the victory that is already ours (1 Corinthians 15:57).

"The Lord says to my lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'" (Psalm 110:1).

(12/10 20 Based on an item from: © 2020 Intercessors for America.)

2 Corinthians 4 v 6: For God made his light shine in our hearts.

At a lighthouse on the east coast of the USA there is a memorial to those who tended a lighthouse there since its first building in 1803.

The lighthouse had to be moved inland because of shoreline erosion and the names of all the original keepers were etched on the original foundation stones and arranged into an amphitheatre facing the new site.

A notice informs today's visitors that *"they can follow the historical keepers' footsteps and watch over the lighthouse"* as well.

Jesus, the ultimate light giver said *" I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of Life"* [John 8 v 12].

That's a radical thing to claim but Jesus said it to affirm His relationship with His Heavenly Father, the Creator of light and life who sent Him.

When we look to Jesus for salvation and follow His teachings, we're restored in relationships with God, and He gives us new powers and purpose.

His transforming life and love – *"the light of all mankind"* [1:14] – shines in us and through us, and out to a dark and often dangerous world.

As believers in Jesus, we become keepers of the light.

May others see his light shine from us and discover the life and hope He alone can give.

Jesus, I praise You for Your light and love. Help me to shine for You.

(from Our Daily Bread)

Did you lose an hour's sleep?

Did you remember to put your clocks back?

Are you still missing the hour?

At least there's still the joy of working out which of your gadgets have automatically corrected themselves, and which you have to try to remember how to change the clock on manually.

My car clock drives me mad!

Sometimes I just leave it until next March!

Microwaves and washing machines – I'm looking at you too.

Thankfully God's time is everlasting!

Psalm 121

1. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
2. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.
3. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
4. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
5. The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.
6. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
7. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
8. **The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.**

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 Website: www.bishopmethodist.org.uk

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.

The Light of God Surround you.
The Love of God enfold you.
The Power of God protect you.
The Presence of God watch over you.
Wherever you are, God is with you.