

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:

- ***Deerness Road***
- ***Compton Grove***
- ***Westfield Road***
- ***Bell Street***
- ***Percy Street***
- ***Clevedon Avenue***
- ***Our Pastor and his***
- ***Hamsterley 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.

Devotional Prayers – Hamsterley Baptist Church

Please Pray and Give thanks for:

- the Fellowship at Hamsterley Baptist Church in its faithful and steadfast commitment in the local community of Hamsterley

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

NBA message - from Rev Paul Revill

Greetings!

John Claydon's Sabbatical - John is now away, firstly on holiday and then for his sabbatical - so he will not be available to us until the New Year.

In the intervening time a few of us are covering for him, in particular: me, Elaine Webster and Tony Ruddle.

In the first instance please do come to me for pastoral or ministry matters; to Elaine for administrative concerns; and to Tony for matters relating to the governance of the NBA such as the Council and the transition plans for the Association.

If in doubt, I'm happy to be your first port of call.

Obviously, you're not going to be having any difficulties or problems during this time, so the NBA team are confidently looking forward to a very quiet couple of months!

But seriously, please remember that we are here and available to help you.

A Reflection - As the pandemic drags on and I sense there is a growing weariness and discouragement at the ongoing restrictions and disruption which seem to be with us for quite a while yet, may I take this opportunity to share with you some thoughts which were shared by one of our church members in a prayer gathering one morning recently.

She likened our current experience to the exile of Judah, and from Jeremiah 29 and she reminded us:

- ✓ that firstly it's OK to be honest with God - and others - and lament;
- ✓ that we are called to settle down for the long haul;
- ✓ that God still has good plans for us and through us for others;
- ✓ that God wants us to be a blessing and to seek his blessing for the communities in which we live;
- ✓ that he calls us to seek him wholeheartedly and make this our aim at this time;
- ✓ and that he promises to come to us.

Rev Paul Revill
Regional Minister: Mission Enabler
Northern Baptist Association
Tel: 01661 599384 / 07504 338559

All Saints' Day/All Hallows Day

1 Samuel 2 v 9 NIV

*He will guard the feet of his faithful servants,
but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness.
"It is not by strength that one prevails;*

After the darkness and sham and mockery of Halloween, the next day, the 1st of November, is often known as "All Hallows Day" or "All Saints Day" in the Christian calendar. It is a day of thanks and celebration and light.

The name derives from the Old English word 'hallowed' meaning holy or sanctified.

All Saints' Day is a day put aside and dedicated by many Christians for people to remember the saints and martyrs who dedicated or sacrificed their lives to Christianity.

Some people attend special church services on this feast day and some Christian schools may offer certain activities to students on All Saints' Day.

These activities focus on the theme of various saints' lives and their role in the history of Christianity.

Many Christian Denominations say that a commemoration of “All Martyrs” began to be celebrated as early as 270 A.D. but no specific month or date is recorded.

In 837 AD the then Pope, Gregory IV, made All Saints' Day an authorized HOLY DAY.

It is speculated that the chosen date for the event, November 1, may have been an attempt to supersede and replace the pagan Festival of the Dead (also known as Samhain or the feast of Saman, lord of death).

All Saints' Day, which is celebrated globally, is closely tied with All Souls' Day, which was first instituted at the monastery in Cluny (Saône-et-Loire, France and was dedicated to St Peter) in 993 AD and quickly spread throughout the Christian world.

It is thought that originally the celebration arose out of the Christian tradition of celebrating the martyrdom of saints on the anniversary of their martyrdom. When martyrdoms increased during the persecutions of the late Roman Empire, local dioceses instituted a common feast day in order to ensure that all martyrs, known and unknown, were properly honoured.

John 10:27-29 NIV

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
no one will snatch them out of my hand.
My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all;
no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

Remembrance

Again, the season for Remembrance is almost here.

It is a reality that as time passes, we forget and diminish the appalling times and personal losses that our grandparents and their parents suffered because of armed conflicts between nations around the world.

Even so, ever since and including our time, the world's people still seem able to find an unlimited supply of reasons to kill each other.

The Weight of a Snowflake - "Can you tell me the weight of a snowflake?", a coaltit asked a wild dove.

Nothing more than nothing", was the answer.

In that case, I must tell you a marvellous story", the coaltit said.

"I sat on the branch of a fir tree, close to its trunk, when it began to snow - not heavily, not in a raging blizzard: no, just like in a dream, without a sound and without any violence.

Since I did not have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch.

Their number was exactly 3,741,952.

When the 3,741,953rd snowflake, weighing nothing more than nothing, as you say- dropped onto the branch - the branch broke off."

Having said that the coaltit flew away.

The dove, since Noah's time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while, and finally said to herself:

"Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace to come to the world."

[In 'New Fables, Thus spoke the Marabou' by Kurt Kaufer]

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

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.

A Blessing and Benediction for All Saints Day (based on Hebrews 12: 1)

Go on your way rejoicing;

Surrounded as you are by such a great cloud of witnesses, take courage as you face each new challenge and comfort when you pick yourself from a fall,

In whatever good you choose to do, precede it with hope, accompany it with prayer, and follow it with thanksgiving.

The blessing of God Most Wonderful, whom the saints have trusted as

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, will be with you now and ever more.

Amen.

(written by Bruce Prewer)