

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.

Wednesdays and lockdown

- Tier 3 measures have now been introduced for the next 4 weeks and face-to-face services are no longer possible over this period.
- We are therefore continuing to suspend both Bible Study and Wednesday Community days, but the production of takeaway food will continue where circumstances allow

Church Services

- We will continue to with the creation of online services which will be available via YouTube and our website.
- Audio CD's of the services are available upon request.

Sharing God's Comfort

- If you know of anyone 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.

Spreading God's Love

- 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.

Please feel free to contact the following NBA members for additional help and support:

- 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:

- ***Woodhouse Lane***
- ***Alnwick Close***
- ***Lambton Drive***
- ***Dudley Grove***
- ***Lady Eden Avenue***
- ***Cockton Hill Road***
- ***Sandringham Nursing Home***
- ***Church View Nursing Home***

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.

Remembrance Day – 8th November 2020

This day has many names around the world but no matter what you call it, it is a day on which we honour the men and women who have served in the military. and died or were injured whilst protecting our freedoms.

Nowadays many of us also remember and honour all those who have died for the cause of freedom whether they were “military” or not.

- It is a time for us to say "Thank you" for the sacrifices they have made.
- It is a time to think about the freedoms we enjoy because they were willing to serve.
- It is a time to think about love -- the love they showed for their country and for their fellow man.

At this time, we may:

- *Spend some time in prayer* - Give thanks to God for those who served to defend the cause of freedom.
- *Observe two minutes of silence* - Concentrate on remembering those who have died defending the cause of freedom.
- *Wear a Poppy* - The red poppy which is worn in remembrance of those who died for their country.

The poppy was chosen as a symbol of remembrance because of the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by John McRae honouring the soldiers who died in the fields of Flanders, France during the First World War:

**“In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.”**

It is a time that we take very seriously, but that doesn't mean that it is a time to only languish around and be sad.

It is also an occasion when we can be happy too that because of the sacrifice of these brave men and women, we all enjoy great freedom.

We can be happy that even though many of these people died on our behalf that is not the end of their story.

Here is the rest of the story -- those who had put their trust in God will be raised and will go to be with Him.

That is a promise from God's Word. Think about these words from the book of Job, "*My flesh may be destroyed, yet from this body I will see God. I will see him for myself.*"

That promise is for all who put their faith and trust in God.

Jesus said, "*Those who are considered worthy of taking part in the resurrection are like the angels. They can no longer die. They are God's children.*"

We are God's children and one day we will see him - won't that be a wonderful day!

Dear Father, we remember and honour all those who have served to preserve and protect our freedom.

We also celebrate the resurrection, because all of us who have placed our faith and trust in you -- even though we die -- will live again.

Amen

NBA Praying Together – 8th November 2020

This week, as part of our fellowship of prayer, we ask you to pray for our Military Chaplains.

Thanks to Pastor Bob Adams for the following guidance:

Military Chaplaincy is much like any other ministry because people are the same regardless of their circumstances.

There are, of course, some aspects that make the role different.

Wearing uniform is the obvious example, but working within a hierarchical structure, particularly from a Baptist perspective is rather unique.

The Chaplain's role is to work alongside the chain of command in order to be the 'neutral voice', and the 'advocate' for all.

This means the role includes being a minister, priest, confidant, friend, companion, and even an irritant at times.

The one difference that does stand out is the age of those whom they minister. There are no elderly, and very few long-term sick. This means that they have as their community young, fit people with plenty of ambition. This brings pressures of its own.

- *Chaplains are often isolated. Pray that they would know the companionship of the Holy Spirit and to be strong when others are weak.*
- *Pray for focus, motivation and relevance as the military machine continues to move and change.*
- *Pray for Chaplains' families as there are constant moves.*
- *Pray for Chaplains who are married and serving unaccompanied, which brings unique pressures.*
- *Pray for the Chaplain General and his team who must balance pastoral care of the team and the needs of the Army.*

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.*

Respect and Honour

The villagers of Wootton Bassett stood,
As the hearses all went by.
Above the sky had opened,
As if the clouds themselves did cry.
Old and young stood silent,
As they thought about the cost,
While families of fallen men grieved from sudden loss.
Meanwhile several hours ahead and a thousand miles away,
The fallen soldier's comrades had seen out another day.
Another day of fighting in this distant brutal land,
Another day of being the line drawn in the sand.
Soon the fallen soldier's name will be chiselled into a wall,
Please remember not the statue,
Remember,
All gave some, some gave all.

(written by a British soldier whilst serving in Afghanistan)

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

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>

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

Send us out to be beacons of peace in a dark world of conflict

Make us instruments of peace for whoever we meet and wherever we go,

In the name of the Prince of Peace, Our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.