

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.

Wednesday Community Days

- Whilst we are not currently holding our indoor events due to Covid and the need to protect everyone's safety, we will continue to provide takeaway food at lunchtime each Wednesday whilst observing the appropriate safeguards.

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.

Bible Study

- We are continuing to suspend face-to-face Bible Study for safety reasons. Electronic solutions are available. Please contact us if you would like to be included.

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:

- Paul Revill paulrevill@thenba.org.uk or
- Elaine Webster elainewebster@thenba.org.uk

Prayers

Please keep in your prayers all local churches in Bishop Auckland area and especially our Northern Baptist Association, and the work they are continuing to do to help the local people cope with the problems caused by Coronavirus and Covid -19, and continue to do the Lord's work in our towns and communities.

As the Anti Covid restrictions and various support schemes, all of which are in a state of flux and constantly changing, we must remember those who will be affected by the onset of major job losses soon across our economy. Many people are only just hanging on financially now, commonly being reliant on food banks to feed their families and who are going to be faced with more hard times. Remember them and "look out" for them

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***

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 – Bishop Auckland and North Durham Hospitals***

Please pray for all those living, working and playing in the following communities:

- **Nelson Street**
- **Station Approach**
- **Grey Street**
- **Green Lane**
- **Alnwick Close**
- **Lambton Drive**

Please remember too:

- **Our Pastor and his family**
- **Bishop Auckland Baptist Church Leadership Team**

February Notable Dates

We all know it's Valentine's (originally Saint Valentine's) Day on 14th February each year even though nowadays many people are unaware of its Christian origins - marketing seems to be the winner, but did you know that:

International Book Giving Day also takes place on 14th February each year?

The aim? To get books into the hands of as many children as possible.

14th February is about sharing the love of books! **#bookgivingday**

International Book Giving Day is a 100% volunteer initiative aimed at increasing children's access to and enthusiasm for books.

Most children in developing countries do not own books.

In the United Kingdom, one-third of children do not own books.

In the United States, two-thirds of children living in poverty do not own books.

International Book Giving Day's focus is on encouraging people worldwide to give a book to a child on February 14th.

- People are encouraged to:
- Give a book to a friend or family member.
- Leave a book in a waiting room for children to read.
- Donate a gently used book to a local library, hospital or shelter or to an organization that distributes used books to children in need internationally.
- Subscribe to our website, join over 11,000 already committed to #bookgivingday.

- Donate to a local charity. (Bishop Auckland has an excellent shop that gives good condition books away).

Then on the February 17th there's National Random Acts of Kindness Day which is growing in popularity each year and is being adopted by an expanding number of countries around the world. It is celebrated by many individuals and groups and organizations nationwide, to encourage acts of kindness to family, friends and strangers alike. It is a favourite day to many, as people everywhere are enjoying doing these acts of kindness.

Website: <https://acts.kindness.org/lp/random-acts-of-kindness>

The 20th of February is Love Your Pet Day and it's a great day to show your love for our four-legged friends. Whether cats, dogs, birds, or even tigers, our furry friends are showered with love and affection on this day!

Pets have been a part of human life for thousands of years. Ever since we've made our first steps into civilization, animals have been right there alongside us. And look at those faces! Who could blame us?

Nobody really knows exactly what animal the very first pet was, but, even as far back as 12,000 years ago, dogs and cats were buried in their human counterparts' graves. It seems that even early humans had a deep attachment to their furry and feathered friends.

***However, we are now approaching Lent which will begin on
Wednesday 17th February and ENDS WITH GOOD FRIDAY, 2nd April.***

Lent is the season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, ***Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.*** Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

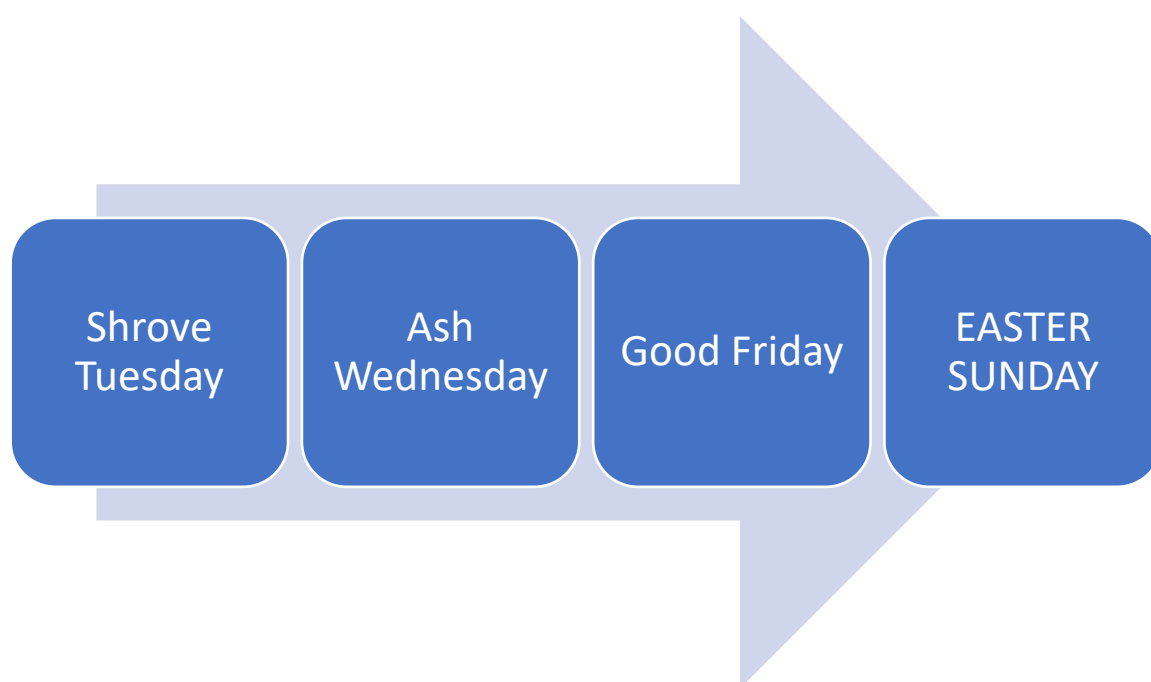
We prepare for Lent by observing **Shrove Tuesday (aka Pancake Tuesday) on 16th February** this year, which is, as always, the day before the first day of our Lent season.

Shrove Tuesday is the Christian Holy Day that occurs the day before "Ash Wednesday", which marks the first day of Lent, the traditionally 40 days of penitence and fasting leading up to Easter.

Shrove Tuesday was originally the last day before Lent and Christians had to use up their fresh produce like eggs and fats and indulgent foods ready for the 40 days of Fasting - pancakes were the ideal recipe to up all of these ingredients that would otherwise spoil.

Christians who now observe Lent use it as a time for prayer and penance and “giving up” various over indulgencies.

By observing Lent, Christians are remembering the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who withdrew into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days.



Psalm 27 v 13 NKJV

“I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.”

We can't deny that, at present our lives, society, our world, are in a state of chaos and confusion, and we're all struggling in our own many ways.

It's not surprising that each of us, from to time, feels that we have too many problems and concerns to cope with.

However, perhaps we don't have more problems than other people.

Perhaps we just think about our problems more often.

What you **think** produces how you feel.

Just try feeling angry without first having angry thoughts, or sad feelings without first having sad thoughts.

To experience a feeling, you must first entertain the thought that produces it.

That is a life-changing thought – and it will change your life if you act on it!

David said, in Psalm 27 vs 13 +14, *“I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.”*

Wait in the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart.”

(UCB Word for Today 11/7/2)

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”

Love does not focus on myself, but on others.

Each of these qualities of love is based upon an affectionate, compassionate, and forgiving attitude that regards others as being valuable and not just placing value on myself and my desires.

No wonder the old saying goes: "The middle of sin is a big I!"

When "I" become more important than others and what "I" want and that "I" win is more significant than what someone else truly needs, then "I" have lost my way and do not display the love of Christ.

phil@verseoftheday.com

NBA Praying Together - 7th and 14th February

(This item from BABC was forwarded to us last week but arrived too late for inclusion so we've included it this week).

From Bishop Auckland Baptist Church

Prayers: for our Pastor Moderator, Tony, and his family. Tony's wife has recently passed away. Pray for his protection against Covid 19 as Rosemary was tested Covid positive.

Mission: Our community hub REINVENT continues to grow in ways we could not have imagined, reaching out to the community every Wednesday. Pray for the training and looking after of volunteers, keeping them safe during this pandemic.

Praise: For provision from various agencies including FareShare, Feeding Families, The Auckland Project, and those who have donated food and other items enabling us to serve the community in providing a nutritious meal every week. Help us to engage with people and listen to their needs.

Please pray for the online service produced each week and put together by our technicians, including the weekly update of our website.

May God inspire us to take a fresh look at worship as we hopefully restart our services in a way that we can engage with all the folk we meet. We pray that we can facilitate a space and style of worship which God can use to bring folks into his Kingdom.

We at BABC: pray for Andrea and Ian as they continue their work in media production.

At the present time they are both struggling with health issues. Andrea has developed vertigo following a head trauma. Ian has problems related to his back and shoulder and has recently had to have a CT scan of his heart and he is also awaiting a nerve conduction test.

All this takes time, but as we remember that the Lord knows all this and is never surprised, it is a great comfort to acknowledge His everlasting faithfulness and His promises to us all.

NBA Praying Together - 14th February 2021

We ask you to join us in prayer this week for

Berwick Baptist Church (www.berwickbaptistchurch.com)

Give thanks to God for the growth they have seen in people's spiritual lives and in people joining them online, getting involved in doing a short bible course and request for baptism.

Praise God that the church family is moving on together, encouraging one another in sharing testimonies and faith stories.

Please pray that God would continue to meet the financial commitments that they have as a church family and that they would see a greater and deeper work of the Holy Spirit in all of their lives - that they would continue to see growth and people coming to faith.

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."

NBA Vacancy

We are looking for a: Transitional Strategic Leader (Regional Minister)

2 to 3-year appointment North East England to oversee a process of review, seeking to identify strategy and structures within our Association and Regional Team that will serve our churches into the 21st century.

Our vision is to establish this transitional role that will discern and establish an approach which is pioneering & missional to its core.

We want that approach to be strategic, flexible, responsive, visionary, relational, imaginative and creative.

We desire a greater releasing, empowering and an urgency to share the gospel within the life of our Association and to truly encompass the wide range of gifts given by God to the church.

In order to develop that vision, we seek an inspirational strategic transitional leader to oversee an in-depth review and transition period.

We're looking for a practising, committed Christian with an understanding of Baptist principles and with an involvement in the life of Baptist churches.

A person who listens attentively, can be bold, take risks and experiment. Someone with a proven track record and experience of Christian ministry, who is imaginative and creative with an enthusiasm for exploring new initiatives and pioneering activities. Someone who is spiritually mature but still committed to growing in relationship with God. Are you called to lead the NBA into the future that God has for us?

If you're interested to know more, you can contact the NBA Moderator by email on moderator@thenba.org.uk

A full appointment brief (including role profile, a full list of our selection criteria and further background to the role and the NBA) is available and you will also be able to request an application form for completion.

The closing date for submission of completed applications is 22nd Feb 2021 and it's envisaged that interviews for the role will be held in the week commencing 15th March 2021.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Closing Prayer of Love for Valentine's Day

Holy God and Sacrificial Father,

Teach me to notice others and value them just as you do.

I know you loved me when I was not lovable and redeemed me when I was not worthy.

Help me to take my eyes off myself and see others as you see them.

In the name of Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

phil@verseoftheday.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>

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.