

<i>Weekly Prayers, News and Thoughts</i>

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 contacts 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:

- **Dudley Grove**
- **Lady Eden Avenue**
- **Cockton Hill Road**
- **Milton Avenue**
- **Rutland Avenue**
- **Lambton Drive**

Please remember too:

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

Email From The NBA

We have been asked by Northumbria Police to pass on to you the following email.

We're aware of a number of scams doing the rounds at the moment where fraudsters are claiming to be police, HMRC, Amazon, Sky and other organisations.

We've received a number of reports today from people who've been cold-called by con-artists asking for personal information such as address, bank details and National Insurance numbers - and threatened they'll be arrested if they don't comply.

This is a scam – please keep your personal info safe.

If you receive a call like this, hang up and report immediately to Action Fraud via their website or by calling 0300 123 2040.

NEVER download apps or click on attachments sent via unsolicited emails or by strangers.

Challenge cold-callers, and ALWAYS take your time, and if in doubt HANG UP.

For more info visit <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Hopefully the pancakes went down well for you.

Now, for Lent, here are a couple of “stories” to perhaps think about:

1. “I only want to get my nose in”

An Arab fable tells of a man who was sleeping in his tent on a cold night.

But his camel wanted to get in too.

“It’s very cold outside,” said the camel, “I only want to get my nose in.”

Eventually, after prolonged resistance, the nose was allowed in, then the neck, and finally the whole body.

Soon the man began to be inconvenienced by such an ungainly companion in a tent not large enough for both.

“If you are inconvenienced,” said the camel, “you may leave, as for myself, I shall stay where I am.”

Moral: Give but an inch “and the devil will take a mile; if he can get his nose in, he will carry on, to take over your life.”

2. A comical, illustrative story shows us how adept we are at rationalising our actions.

A very overweight man decided that it was time to shed a few pounds.

He went on a new diet and took it seriously.

He even changed his usual driving route to the office in order to avoid his favourite bakery.

One morning, however, he arrived at the office carrying a large, sugar-coated coffee cake.

His office mates roundly chided him, but he only smiled, shrugged his shoulders and said, “What could I do? This is a very special cake. This morning, out of habit, I took my old route past my favourite bakery.

I felt that it was no accident that I happened to pass by, so I prayed, ‘Lord, if you really want me to have one of those delicious coffee cakes, let me find a parking place in front of the bakery.’

Sure enough, on the ninth trip up and down the road, there it was!”

Moral: Temptation is strong, but we must be stronger. We should not tempt fate and we should not rationalise our actions.

(www.tkayala.com)

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

The battle we face is not a physical one.

It is a spiritual battle, with powers that we do not easily see, and which are very powerful.

We shouldn't dismiss this as an imaginary battle or as an irrelevant struggle.

Just as clearly as Satan was crouching at Jesus' side in the wilderness, desiring to have him, (Matthew 4:1-11) so he crouches at our side too.

He will use his forces of evil to do all he can to defeat, destroy, or corrupt us.

We must take this war seriously and recognise the spiritual power of our foe.

Father forgive me for the times I have not taken the threat of temptation, sin and evil seriously.

Give me a loathing for anything that is tied to what is unholy and opposed to your work and will.

Let me not be deceived by temptations and deliver me from the power of the evil one in all his forms.

In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

(phil@verseoftheday.com)

NBA Praying Together

Please join us in prayer this coming week for: *Wallsend Baptist Church*
(www.wallsendbaptistchurch.org.uk)

Give Thanks

- For our online Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings which started during the lockdown and has seen growth in the numbers attending.

Pray For

- A member of our group coming to faith as a result of the “Christianity Explored” course which was run last year by our minister and a member of the leadership team.
- Our online services that have reached many more people than would normally attend church.
- The people in the community who we are supporting during these difficult times.
- That our leadership team will be renewed and refreshed as we continue to support one another and our members.
- Those who are attending the new “Christianity Explored course”, which is being run jointly by our Minister Nick and also Luke Cuzens from Wallsend Salvation Army, that those who are on the fringes will come to know God.

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.”*

Bishop Auckland Baptist Church

Please continue to pray for our Pastor Moderator, Tony, and his family.

Tony's wife has recently passed away.

Pray for the family's protection against Covid-19,

as Rosemary was tested Covid positive.

If anyone wishes to attend Rosemary's funeral, please let me know and I will inform Pastor Tony of numbers for socially distanced seating. The church is large enough and they are only a small family.

The funeral has now been re-arranged for 1.45pm Monday 22 February, at Kirkby Stephen Methodist Church.

Once again, please pray for the family at this difficult and sad time.

John Gaines

First Sunday of Lent – Closing Prayer
--

As Jesus resisted the devil's temptations in the wilderness, help us to reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values, and to keep and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond.

Lord, we ask that You, will guide us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way.

We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you will not forsake us, but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant and eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, Your precious Son, Jesus.

Amen

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.