

<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:

- ***Peel Street***
- ***Railway Street***
- ***Chester Street***
- ***BA Railway Station***
- ***Bob Hardisty Drive***
- ***Prince's Street***

Please remember too:

- ***Our Pastor and his family***
- ***Bishop Auckland Baptist Church Leadership Team***
- ***The work of Baptist Home Mission***

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/>

A Lenten Reading

He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. (Mark1:13)

Lent is a season that is inspired and informed by the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness at the outset of his earthly ministry.

Seeking to determine his purpose and vocation, he was tempted to pursue pathways that did not belong to the way of God's Kingdom.

Yet in those temptations there is more than an echo of the kind of religion that we can all too easily find ourselves pursuing.

Lent is a time for us also to free ourselves of such inclinations and be reminded again of their emphatic rejection.

*Turn these stones into bread
Grant us a faith where self is satisfied
And tables are spread at which believers can dine
With backs turned on a needy, hungry world.*

*But bread alone will not sustain
And the food of your word calls us to place others before ourselves;
To seek your Kingdom and speak your truth,
Casting its light upon pathways of hope.*

*Leap from the temple's highest tower
Grant us a faith that thrills and entertains
where we can applaud and cheer for more
To take our minds off the crosses that others may bear.*

*But you refuse the temptation of being shaped by our desires
to willingly dance to tunes of our making.
You call us to capture this world's attention
with refrains of justice and acts of compassion.*

*Sign up to the agendas of the powers that be
Grant us a faith that leaves their gods and idols unchallenged and undisturbed;
That asks no questions of systems and structures
That leave many behind, oppressed and forgotten.*

But you are the one we are called to enthrone
whose kingdom is founded on justice and right
that nations might rejoice in the light of its coming
and hope can echo when its cause is embraced.

(This item from NWBA , forwarded to us by John Gaines.)

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant Hapus!

St. David's Day, or "Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant" in Welsh, is the feast day of the patron saint of Wales, Saint David.

St. David's Day is celebrated on the 1st of March every year (but not by many people in the N.E. of England - but he does have local connections).

St. David's Day is not actually a national holiday in Wales, although there is much support to make it so by turning it into a bank holiday! A petition in 2007 to make St. David's Day a bank holiday was rejected by the office of the British Prime Minister at the time, Tony Blair.

However, St. David's Day remains one of Wales' proudest traditions, with Welsh language festivals, concerts, church events, promotion of Welsh science, language industry, trade etc and parades being increasingly held by many communities throughout Wales!

(This is unlike St Georges Day in England, which nowadays seem to be heralded only by displaying St George flags on cars and aggressive nationalism. (Discuss!))

St David was born on the south-west coast of Wales, close to where the City of St David is today, where there are many stories about miracles happening.

David's fame as a teacher spread throughout the Celtic Christian world when he was alive, and he supposedly helped found 12 different monasteries!

The date of his death is believed to be the 1st of March 589, which is why that day specifically is used to celebrate his achievements!

For centuries, this day has been a Welsh national festival. St. David was recognised as a national patron saint in the 12th century at a time of Welsh resistance to the Normans.

St. David's Day remains one of Wales' proudest traditions, with the festivities and parades being held in an increasing number of towns and cities throughout the country!

Some facts about Dewi Sant

- St. David was officially recognised as a saint by Pope Callixtus in 1120 AD.
- During St. David's life, it was said that he performed many miracles and the most famous one happened in Llanddewi Brefi when he was preaching to a crowd of people. The ground where he stood rose up to form a small hill so everyone could see him properly.
- St David was a contemporary and a close friend and associate of St Mungo (aka St Kentigern) who founded Glasgow Cathedral and they were both contemporaries and friends with St. Columba of Iona.
- It is believed that St. David lived to be over 100 years old!
- St. David was a vegetarian!
- St. David's supposed last words to his community of monks were: "*Brodyr yn ye'n gyson. Mae'r iogwrt sydd, gydag un meddwl ye, yn dwyn ye i'r diwedd; ac o gwbl ye wedi gweld gyda mi ac wedi clywed, cadw a chyflawni.*"

Translations

- "*Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant Hapus!*"
(Happy St David's Day)
- "*Brodyr yn ye'n gyson. Mae'r iogwrt sydd, gydag un meddwl ye, yn dwyn ye i'r diwedd; ac o gwbl ye wedi gweld gyda mi ac wedi clywed, cadw a chyflawni.*"
(Brothers be you constant. The yoke which with single mind you have taken, bear you to the end; and whatsoever you have seen with me and heard, keep and fulfil)

(Wikipedia and Google Chrome)

NBA Praying Together

Please join us in prayer this coming week for:
Praying for the roadmap out of lockdown

Praise God and thank Him for:

- His many blessings and the new things we have learned through this challenging time.
- The reduction of Covid-19 cases, hospitalisation and deaths.
- The new vaccines and for their swift distribution.

Pray For

- All who continue to suffer from Covid -19 and its effects: those who are ill, anxious or grieving.
- Those who serve in all our caring professions: for protection and resilience.
- Those waiting and preparing to re-engage in work and education and all the preparations that they need to make.
- Churches as they negotiate the own roadmap to a new future post lockdown.
- Wisdom for all those in authority and leadership.

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."

I heard the voice of Jesus say

This does not seem to us a likely hymn for children, especially with its original tune in the minor key, yet Horatius Bonar wrote it as such, back in 1846.

He was born in 1808 in Scotland, one of eleven children.

Perhaps his family life was part of the reason he related well to children.

However, he and his wife lost five of their own children in a short period of time, so that may have increased his love and concern for other little ones.

He began writing hymns only after becoming a pastor in the town of Kelso, and many of his hymns were for young people.

Later on, at Bonar's church in Edinburgh, only the Scottish versions of the Psalms were sung, and only the children were permitted to sing Bonar's hymns!

It seems that the adults thought these were beneath their dignity, and at one service, when a hymn was announced, two church leaders walked out in protest!

Horatius Bonar wrote the above hymn with each verse based on a promise of Jesus.

These are found in Matthew 11:28, John 4:14, and John 8:12.

He requested that no biography of him be written, but that **all the glory be given to Christ.**

<p><i>I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto me and rest; lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast.'</i></p> <p><i>I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad; I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.</i></p>	<p><i>I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold, I freely give the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.'</i></p> <p><i>I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.</i></p>	<p><i>I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's Light; Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise, And all thy day be bright."</i></p> <p><i>I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my Star, my Sun; And in that Light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.</i></p>
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www.hymnal.net

Spring Budget Day

Wednesday March 3, 2021

The time is yet to be announced but it's usually delivered in the morning after Prime Minister's Questions.

The Budget was due to be delivered last autumn but was cancelled back in September.

Instead, Mr Sunak updated MPs on plans "to continue protecting jobs", including furlough extensions and support for businesses to get them through the Covid crisis.

The Chancellor has to finish tackling Covid, secure a recovery, then announce fix the public finances, in a blizzard of tough decisions.

England and Wales 2021 Census

The census is a survey about all the households in England and Wales.

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales.

The next Census takes place on Sunday 21 March 2021

All households are legally required to complete a Census Questionnaire, with accurate information, and return the Census form.

The census should take you about 10 minutes for the Household questions and 10 minutes per person.

You can choose to either fill in your census online or fill in your census on paper to be posted.

Your answers to the census questions will help organisations make decisions on planning and funding public services in your area, including transport, education and health care, so helping to decide how services in your area are funded.

All households should complete the census on Sunday 21 March 2021 or as soon as possible after. If you responded before 21 March and things change, you can contact us to let us know.

General enquiries:

Email: info@ons.gov.uk or census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk

Web Chat: 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday (Speak to an advisor)

Social Media: Twitter, Facebook

Phone: 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4pm Friday +44 (0)845 601 3034 (Calls cost 5p per minute in addition to your phone company's access charge)

Overseas calls or as an alternative to our main number: +44 (0)203 973 4760 or +44 (0)1633 817521

Fax: +44 (0)1633 652747

Post: Customer Contact Centre, Office for National Statistics, Room D265

Second Sunday of Lent – Closing Prayer

*Whatever wilderness you have been led to:
walk in boldness, as the loved creation of our Maker,
walk in peace, protected by His everlasting shield,
and walk, in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.*

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

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