

<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 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:

- **Conway Grove**
- **Byron Avenue**
- **Granville Road**
- **Arthur Terrace**
- **Richmond Avenue**
- **Morpeth Grove**

Please remember too:

- ***Our Pastor and his family.***
- ***Bishop Auckland Baptist Church Leadership Team.***
- ***All who visit and volunteer BABC on Wednesdays.***
- ***The work of the Zephaniah Trust, John Froud & his family.***

Lenten Prayers Week 4

*O Lord and Master of my life,
take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk,
but grant rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.*

*Yea, O Lord and King,
grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother,
for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen*

(Saint Ephraim of Syria, 4th Century)

*Bread of the world, in mercy broken,
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,
By Whom the words of life were spoken,
And in Whose death our sins are dead.*

*Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
Look on the tears by sinners shed;
And be Thy feast to us the token,
That by Thy grace our souls are fed.*

(Reginald Heber (1783-1826), Journey With Jesus, A Weekly Webzine For The Global Church, Since 2004)

Jeremiah 33: 2-3

This is what the Lord says, he who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it — the Lord is his name: Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

In a universe of billions of stars, think of the power of God who made them and knows each of their names.

Think of all he knows that we don't.

Think of all he has seen that is not in our history books.

Think of all he has done and can do.

Add to this that God invites us to speak to him about the things of our heart and you appreciate the great expanse of his grace and the very limited knowledge of our minds.

There are so many things about which we grossly ignorant.

There are so many things in our world that we can't keep up.

There are so many things about God that we long to know but we can't begin to comprehend.

Father give me more of you: Help me know more about you so that I may know you more completely. You are beyond me, so please deal gently with me as you reveal yourself.

I know that one day we shall meet face to face and many things will be revealed, including what you know about me.

Father, through Jesus Christ, may it be a happy day.

Amen

phil@verseoftheday.com

NBA Praying Together

This week we are praying for:

Headland Baptist Church in Hartlepool

The Bread & Butter Thing

This is a new project coming to us at Headland. Food that would be thrown out by suppliers will be delivered to our church and sold much cheaper. As well as reducing food waste it will help families financially.

We pray that as people collect their shopping, we can become a very relevant presence in the community, and that we can serve with a humble heart.

Our Church Family

We have had people lose loved ones through this pandemic and one family in particular has lost two close family members within weeks. We ask for prayer for them and also for those in our church who are struggling with ill health. We seem to have been hit hard over the Christmas period with very serious illnesses.

Easter Trail

Using the artwork of One Friday, we plan to use posters to tell the Easter Story in a trail around the three churches on the Headland. We pray that as people come to visit the Headland that they may follow the trail and understand something of the story of the Gospel, that it will be a witness to them and that they will want to know more about what it means for them and their life.

We want to give thanks for *The Bread & Butter Thing* that has just fallen into our laps and is very much a God thing.

We give thanks for the opportunity that we have had to turn our church into a prayer room called "The Sanctuary." We want to give thanks for all the hours of prayer that have taken place over this time.

Give thanks for the way that God has provided for Headland Baptist church, though small in numbers, mighty in God's power.

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."

Dates for the Diary

Mothering Sunday

- Sunday 14th March in United Kingdom (it is also the 4th Sunday in Lent this year)

Comic Relief 2021

- **Red Nose Day 2021** is on Friday 19 March, with fundraising activities taking place around the big day.
- The main TV fundraiser is being broadcast on the BBC and will be hosted by Alesha Dixon, David Tennant, Davina McCall, Paddy McGuinness and Sir Lenny Henry.

(www.bbc.co.uk/newsround)

England and Wales Census

- Sunday 21st March

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. 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.

For more information visit: www.census.gov.uk (Office for National Statistics)

NB: You may have received a post card through your letter box re the census. It says that you will receive soon, by post, an invitation pack. It is NOT an invitation to take part. It is a legal requirement!

Clocks Go Forward

- Sunday 28th March

Influence Church @ BABC

Influence Church people are going to arrange to paint the stair area adjacent to our side door and the vestry. They have asked us to “put you in the picture”:

Subject: Decorating / carpet etc

Good morning,

We hope you're well.

Just to let you have an update on stairway painting (vestry area) and the timescales.

The painters are due in the building for three days from Tuesday 16th March.

As it's a main access to the building, would you be able to communicate to people who may be coming in? Also access to the room at the top of the stairs, and the cleaning cupboard may be limited at times.

Our plan is to have cleared the hallway of items on the walls, such as posters and signs and place them safely in the lounge.

Also, we will look to remove the carpet to ensure a clean line on the skirting boards.

Hopefully, the new carpet will go back down the following week, but we are just awaiting confirmation on the date.

So, we may have a short time without a carpet being down in the hallway.

Hopefully, all of this doesn't cause too many difficulties or inconvenience for you.

Many thanks

Dan Hoyle
(Influence Church)

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Closing Prayer

***May God our Creator renew in us the creative Spirit
that brings healing and life to our world.***

May Jesus the Christ, uphold us in grace and love.

***May the Holy Spirit fill us with courage
to be bearers of God's words of hope in the world.***

Amen.

Anon

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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