

<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:

- ***Cockton Hill Road***
- ***Lindsay Street***
- ***Hutchinson Street***
- ***Durham Street***
- ***Hazel Grove***
- ***Newgate Street***
- ***The work of Baptist Home Mission***

Please give thanks for the organisations and private people who contribute food, clothing, books for us to redistribute to others:

- ***FareShare from Asda***
- ***Feeding Families***
- ***The Auckland Project***
- ***Local Donations***

Spotlight on Feeding Families

One of the organisations that donate food to us to pass on to people with problems and difficulties affording food, is Feeding Families:

Feeding Families was founded and is based in the North East of England, with 2 packing centres, one in Byers Green, Spennymoor and one in Gateshead.

8.4 million people in the UK are experiencing food poverty.

There are numerous and often complex reasons why this happens, it impacts people of every age, from all social backgrounds.

The charity started by bringing communities together at Christmas. Families and individuals in need are linked by the charity to donors who collect food for hampers for the festive period.

The charity now runs projects throughout the year.

Our 'Emergency Food Boxes' provide food that will support 2 people for 3 days.

We need a constant supply of food so we can support those in need in our local communities.

Sometimes we feel that the little we can do, will have no impact, but your support, will make a huge difference.

Can you arrange a collection at your work or on your street?

We have large collection boxes for you to gather your donations.

Please contact sarahmcphie@feedingfamilies.org.uk for more details.

You can download the emergency food list we urgently need from our website.

We are working on some major changes to our website, and how we deliver our message all year round. Please check back soon for a new look!

In the meantime, you can keep up to date with what we are doing by visiting our Facebook page.

Help us with our ongoing projects by making a gift, for more information, check our Donation Information Page.

We would love for you to become part of our Feeding Families movement.

Join our mailing list to get all the latest news and find out how you and your community can get involved.

Lenten Prayers - Week 5

Psalm 25:6–10 (NIV)

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths;
guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour,
and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you are good, O Lord.

Jesus said:

I am the bread of life.
He who comes to me will never be hungry;
he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

Jesus said:

I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will have the light of life
And will never walk in darkness.

Psalm 37 v5-6 (NIV)

*Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him and he will do this:
He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.*

How much of yourself have you entrusted to the Lord?

We may have focused over the past several days during Lent on the promised blessings that the Lord longs to give us.

Yet in his wisdom, God has chosen to make the release of many of these blessings dependent upon our trust in him and our asking of him.

As long as we grip the steering wheel of our life, it is hard to let God take us in the direction of his blessing and his will.

There is a car bumper sticker that puts it this way: "If God is your co-pilot then you had better swap seats!"

Committing our way to the Lord is offering our lives to him to do his work, to receive his blessing, and to know his presence.

So what are you waiting for?

Almighty and Loving God, everything is yours except the *hearts of men and women*.

You have chosen that these will be yours only if we choose to voluntarily and lovingly commit them to you.

Abba Father, I want to commit my way — my heart, my life, my future, my abilities, my wealth, my family... to you.

I want to be used by you for your glory.

I trust that you love me and long to give me your blessing, along with your grace and salvation.

I love you and thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Thoughts and Prayer on Today's Verse are written by Phil Ware (phil@verseoftheday.com)

Hospital Chaplaincy at Bishop Auckland General Hospital

From time to time, we may need to spend time in our local hospital, or we may have a family member who is being cared for there.

This has been an all-too-common situation over the past months, for our self, or for someone we know and care about.

Bishop Auckland's hospital is an excellent facility for this town and not only are high quality medical and health care administered there, but also there is a very supportive Chaplaincy team to give guidance and spiritual help if requested by any of the hospital users.

One member of the chaplaincy team is the Reverend David Etherington who is a Baptist Minister.

This following item is based on the Chaplaincy's Information Leaflet.

Hospital Chaplaincy, Bishop Auckland General Hospital.
"with you all the way"

Our messages to you.

Along with our best wishes to you, we extend to you our offer of personal support; We will do all that we can to ensure that if you need to use the hospital then your time there is worthwhile and suitable for you.

Who are we?

We are a team of clergy and lay people. We work in a variety of ways: some of us are working full time within the hospital and some of us are working part-time with a base in a local church or faith community.

Some of us are paid by the Hospital Trust; some of us are volunteers.

We are all appointed by The Trust and are accountable to the Trust.

We also abide by proper occupational standards and strict rules of confidentiality.

What do we aim to do?

We work to promote the spiritual well-being of everyone in hospital. You may wish to interpret 'spiritual' specifically in terms of faith and look to us for religious and sacramental support.

Or you may wish to interpret 'spiritual' more broadly and look to us for personal and emotional support. All this is fine by us – we aim to help you in the way that's right for you.

Anyone can talk to a chaplain. We are available for all patients, relatives and staff.

You don't have to be religious to talk to a chaplain and you can talk to us about anything you like. We will listen and we will try to understand.

If you are religious, the chaplains will be pleased to minister to you in accordance with your wishes and the practice of your own faith.

The prayers and sacraments of the church are available in the hospital; prayers, Anointing, Holy Communion and all the sacraments can be administered at the bedside.

Chaplains have a responsibility to care for people of all faiths.

All our hospitals have quiet rooms available for prayers.

Some have chapels, prayer rooms and regular services.

We will be happy to talk to you about your needs.

If you wish we can call in a minister of your own faith, but only with your permission.

Staff can arrange for one of us to visit you on the ward or you can contact us directly by phoning our office.

With your permission, the chaplain or chaplains who visit you will record the care given to you in a discrete section of your healthcare record dedicated to Chaplaincy.

Conversations with us are confidential but the recording of the care that Chaplains give you can be helpful to your wider care team; it will help them be aware of your spiritual care needs and be able to help us to better support you in meeting them. We will not view or access any other section of your records which may contain sensitive personal information.

You have the right to refuse the consent to us recording this information, and we will always check with you before we record anything.

At BAGH the chapel/prayer room that is set aside for private prayer and personal reflection is situated on the main corridor on the hospital's ground floor and is open at all times. This space is designed to be used by people of all faiths and we hope that you will feel at home there.

The Chaplaincy Office is also on the main corridor, next to the Prayer Room.

You can leave a message there, or phone us direct on 01388 455 451.

Urgent calls can contact the main switchboard (01388 455 000) to page an on-call chaplain.

At present, our Chaplains are:

Mrs Patsy Ottwell
Father Dennis Tindall
Reverend Dave Etherington

NBA Praying Together

Eternal God whose love is ever faithful
Deepen our love for you,
Inspire our passion for your Kingdom, and
Increase our longing to see your power at work in Your world.

God of mission who has reached out to us
we give ourselves to working together for your Kingdom.
Help us as we encourage and support one-another.
Enable us to be creative in mission and grant
that we may be effective in our ministries.
Strengthen us as we build together for your Kingdom.
In the name of Christ our Lord
Amen.

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.

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

- *Daylight saving time will begin Sunday 28th March at 1:00 am*

Closing Prayer

*The blessing of God and the Lord be yours,
The blessing of the perfect Spirit be yours,
The blessing of the Three be pouring for you
Mildly and generously,
Mildly and generously*

*Originally from the Carmina Gadelica III, 201
Taken from Esther de Waal, editor, The Celtic Vision*

(Liguori, MO: Liguori/Triumph, 1988, 2001), p. 165

Journey With Jesus, A Weekly Webzine For The Global Church, Since 2004

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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