

<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:

- **Peel Street**
- **Railway Street**
- **Chester Street**
- **BA Railway Station**
- **Bob Hardisty Drive**
- **Princes Street**

Please remember too:

- **The BABC Leadership Team**

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

- **FareShare (via Asda)**
- **Feeding Families**
- **The Auckland Project**
- **Local Donations**

Romans 6: v5-6

"If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin..."

Paul reminds us that our baptism was more than just a dunking in water. In baptism, we shared in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. What he did to save us is now shared with us. We die to sin and are raised to be a new person, cleansed and made holy, empowered by the Holy Spirit. We have been set free from the power and the penalty of sin.

Father, thank you for giving me new life in Jesus. I am truly thankful that my guilt is covered by your grace. I ask for the power to live my life of freedom from sin.

Forgive me for my times of mediocrity and flirtation with sin.

Give me a strong sense of repulsion toward anything that would pollute my soul or distract my heart from your will.

In the name of Jesus, I pray.

Amen.

(phil@verseoftheday.com)

Prayers for Easter Sunday

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3)

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You so much for the cross. Through the work of Jesus on those two simple beams of wood, You have given me eternal life.

I pray I will never forget Jesus' incredible sacrifice.

Yes, the world may think the cross is foolish, but the message of the cross is the **power** of God.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

(Sharon Jaynes)

Lord God, You loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too.

Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, everyday. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation.

Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray Lord.

Amen.

(Rachel Marie Stone)

Father God, I'm so thankful forgiveness isn't something I have to earn or achieve. It's a gift of grace I get to receive. Thank You that Jesus' blood was enough to pay for my sin. Help me receive all You are offering me.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

(Lysa Terkeurst)

CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

Christ our Passover has been
sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with the old leaven, the
leaven of malice and evil,
but with the unleavened bread of
sincerity and truth. Alleluia.
Christ being raised from the dead
will never die again;
death no longer has dominion
over him.

The death that he died, he died to
sin, once for all;
but the life he lives, he lives to
God.
So also consider yourselves dead
to sin,
and alive to God in Jesus Christ
our Lord. Alleluia.
Christ has been raised from the
dead, the first fruits of those who
have fallen asleep

For since by a man came death,
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die,
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

(Book of Common Prayer)

Season of Singing

"Flowers appear on earth: the season of singing has come (Song of Songs 2 v12).

Life, like nature, has its seasons.

The Psalmist reminds us that *"weeping may stay for the night but rejoicing comes in the morning."* (Psalm 30 v 5).

As we observe new flowers springing up and young animals and birds and insects venturing out, may we remember the faithfulness of our God and keep our hope in Him no matter the season of our life.

(From Our Daily Bread Calendar - April 2021)

NBA News

The online NBA Spring Assembly is taking place over the weekend of 23rd to 25th April.

Please feel free to advertise this within your church communities.

Friday 23rd April at 7pm

Evening Celebration:

DEFEATING THE DRAGONS: OBSTACLES TO MISSION

Speaker Alan Donaldson (former General Director of Baptist Union of Scotland)

Saturday 24th April at 10am

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Including the appointment of the Transitional Strategic Leader (Regional Minister)

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 24th April - Evening

A Youth Event organised by Paul Revill and Dan Holland (of Portrack Baptist Church)

Sunday 25th April

Streamed morning service from Stockton Baptist Church

<p><i>Details on joining instructions will be sent nearer the time.</i></p>
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<p><i>We look forward to you joining us.</i></p>

<p><i>Elaine Webster (NBA Admin Support)</i></p>

Prayers for Easter from our Regional Minister Rev Dr John Claydon

He is risen, Alleluia! He is risen indeed.

Praise God for:

- the wonder of His love shown in Jesus and the glory of his resurrection.
- the victory of the cross and the hope of the resurrection.
- those who made know the Christian message to us and helped us to grow in faith.
- That He “was in Christ reconciling the world to himself”

Pray that:

- the message of God’ redeeming and reconciling love may clearly be made known at this time.
- people may be drawn to God and find hope, peace and love in Him.
- Christians who are persecuted for their faith may know protection, comfort, encouragement and hope.
- as we emerge from the pandemic people may be sensible and sensitive.
- as churches and missional communities look to the future, they may creativity and imagination led by the Spirit and may be fruitful for the Kingdom.
- the NBA Assembly weekend may honour God and be a time of encouragement for us.

(Mike Cross, NBA Prayer Co-ordinator)

Easter Sunday – A Benediction

*Lord, the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.*

(New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book)

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.