

**Weekly Prayers, News and Thoughts**

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 CDs of the services are available upon request.

**Bible Study**

- *Takes place on Tuesdays 1pm.*
- Please use the front entrance on Cockton Hill Road, but if you are physically unable to enter that way, you may use the side entrance on Westfield Rd.
- We will be using the Sanctuary and will be socially distanced.
- Please wear a face covering, unless you have an exemption and sanitise your hands, on entering.
- The only toilet to be used, is the one by the front doors.
- No refreshments will be served, so please bring anything you need, for your own use only.
- No Church Bibles or Hymn books will be available, so please bring your own.
- ***Sorry to give so many rules, but it is so we all keep safe. Very much looking forward to seeing each one of you - John Gaines***

**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](http://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](mailto:paulrevill@thenba.org.uk) or
- Elaine Webster [elainewebster@thenba.org.uk](mailto:elainewebster@thenba.org.uk)

<b>Prayers</b>
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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:*

- **Nelson Street**
- **Station Approach**
- **Grey Street**
- **Green Lane**
- **Alnwick Close**
- **Lambton Drive**

Please also continue to pray for:

- **Cockton Hill Schools**
- **King James Academy**
- **A successful transition to the ending of lockdowns**
- **The people who have received food through our Community Food Share**

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**

**Trinity Sunday – 30th May**

Many Christians in the United Kingdom celebrate Trinity Sunday, which is the first Sunday after Pentecost. It is one of the few feasts that are celebrated as a doctrine/principle instead of an event.

It is a symbolic/ representative of the Unity of the Trinity i.e., *God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Three in One.*

Although the word “trinity” does not appear in Scripture, it is taught in *Matthew 28:18-20* and *2 Corinthians 13:14* (and many other biblical passages).

The concept of the Trinity can never be completely understood or rationalised, but it is clearly taught in Scripture.

An understanding of all scriptural doctrine is by faith, which comes through the work of the Holy Spirit; therefore, it is appropriate that this mystery is celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost, when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit first occurred.

Today, Trinity Sunday is to explain, to the best of man’s ability, the clues written in Scripture to guide us to a fuller understanding of our triune God:

The Father is God from the beginning (John 1:1); Jesus revealed Himself as equal to the Father in John 10:30, *“I and the Father are one.”* Together, they sent the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matthew 28:19).

*(www.beliefe.net.com / www.GotQuestions.org)*

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**Our own understanding of God.**

Some of us may say God is like a Father – providing us with what we need, but maybe with elements of chastising us when we go wrong, keeping us on the straight and narrow path.

Some of us may say God is our Mother – giving birth to us, nurturing us and caring for us.

How careful we have to be here, of stereotypes of mother and father and how different people may have experienced their parents.

Some may say – God is like our brother, sister, friend, companion.

Some may say God is like the wind – we feel God without ever seeing what God is like but know the effect he has on our lives.

Others may use images of a butterfly, a flower, a rainbow, a rock, a stone, a mountain, a thunderstorm, the sea, or fire.

For some it might be sensing God in an early morning sunrise or the quietness of a summers evening. In the smile of a young child or the tenderness of someone we are close to. There may be many simple events that we translate as movements of God's love.

Some may feel comfortable talking about God primarily in terms of Jesus – God's Son. So strong may be their sense of companionship with Jesus that to them God is best expressed through Jesus' language. Others may prefer Holy Spirit language, especially those deeply nurtured in the Pentecostal experience of God.

We cannot package God up into one description. There is always so much to discover about God, we must always keep exploring.

Maybe the Feast of the Holy Trinity can help us to remember the tremendous breadth and depth of God's reality and prevent us from wrapping him up into a tidy package.

It reminds us there are many ways we can relate to and experience God – and that in Christian tradition these ways have for centuries focused on God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are on a life-long journey of discovery of the God in whose image we are created. We are invited to share in the joy of the God who created us, who saves us, forgives and makes us whole, who strengthens us and leads us into truth.

Let us ask God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to draw close to us in the coming days and strengthen us in his service. Amen.

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### **Church And Charity Leaders Urge World Politicians To Prioritise Equal Vaccine Distribution.**

Several UK faith leaders have called on world leaders to share information and technology to help the global vaccine rollout if they want to avoid a future of *"conflict, insecurity and poverty"*.

They write in a letter that *"No-one is safe until everyone is safe"* and that *"equitable vaccine distribution is a humanitarian imperative"*.

Justin Welby, alongside the executive director of UNICEF and leaders from the Red Cross and others, argues that the effects of Covid-19 will be seen for years to come and that the whole world urgently needs to be vaccinated to limit the negative effects as much as possible.

They write: *"The world of the next 10 years can be one of greater justice, abundance and dignity. Or it can be one of conflict, insecurity and poverty. "*

The charity and faith leaders speak about the poverty that Covid has caused and will cause, with nations facing economic slumps and individuals not being able to afford to send their children to school. They argue that access to healthcare should be drastically improved.

*"We need to build a world where each community, regardless of where they live, or who they are, has urgent access to vaccinations: not just for Covid-19, but also for the many other diseases that continue to harm and kill. As the pandemic has shown us, in our interdependent world no one is safe until everyone is safe."* *"We have a choice: vaccine nationalism or human solidarity."*

The leaders argue that it is in rich countries' own interests to get the world out of coronavirus, saying: *"studies show that if we focus only on vaccinating our own populations, the world risks global GDP losses of up to \$9.2 trillion (with half of that cost being incurred by high income countries) this year alone."*

They call on world leaders to: *"ensure equitable access to vaccines between countries by providing vaccines, sharing knowledge and expertise; to ensure equitable access to vaccines within countries by ensuring all sectors of the population are included in national distribution and vaccination programs, regardless of who they are or where they live, including stigmatised and marginalised communities."*

They also urge world leaders to support countries financially, politically and technically, to ensure that stopping Covid-19 is just one important element of a broader strategy to bring longer-term improvements to healthcare.

They end: *"It is time for decisive leadership. Countries and organisations across the world have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address global inequality and reverse some of the fallout from the past year. In doing so, they will bring hope not only for the poorest in the world, but for us all."*

(Article by Cara Bentley - 24th May 2021, who is a multimedia journalist and newsreader and covers Politics for Premier Christian News)

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**NBA Prayers**

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**We are asked to pray for: Portrack Baptist Church**

We give thanks for a year of deepening fellowship together and of growing together in intergenerational and multi-voiced worship.

We are thankful for God's continued provision and for the work of our Baby Bank which started just before the pandemic began and has been accessed by many young families over this difficult year.

We are grateful too for the ministry and call of Rachel Holland as her initial training in Baptist Ministry comes to an end.

As lockdown ends (hopefully) we want to be led by God in all that we do.

The image of the cloud and the pillar of fire in the wilderness leading the children of Israel sums up our desire - to be Spirit led and inspired and to move at God's command.

Please pray for us as we seek to listen and follow God's leading alone as we emerge from the pandemic and please also pray for Rachel as she discerns God's will with the church call on her life and ministry.

*(Mike Cross, NBA Prayer Co-ordinator)*

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***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."*

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Events

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## **Advance Notice**

### **The John Froud Live Concert**

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm - FREE EVENT

Renown Singer/Song Writer, John Froud

Comes to Bishop Auckland Baptist Church In Live Concert.

If you like Christian music with a country twist  
then this is a must-see event!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A FREE EVENT AND IS OPEN TO EVERYONE.  
Donations are also welcomed.

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### **Green Conversion Launching the Association Environment Network Hub**

Thursday 10th June at 7.30pm Online via zoom

Featuring guest speaker Rev Dave Gregory Former BU President  
and Co-ordinator of BUEN

“Share in God’s vision to care for creation.”

To book your place contact Paul Revill  
[paulrevill@thenba.org.uk](mailto:paulrevill@thenba.org.uk)



## Prayers for Trinity Sunday

May The Lord God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the undivided Trinity, guard you, save you, and bring you to that heavenly city, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

May God the Father, who first loved us and made us accepted in the beloved Son, bless you.

Amen.

My God the Son, who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, bless you.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit, who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts, bless you.

Amen.

The blessing of the one true God, to whom be all love and all glory for time and for eternity, come down upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

*(from Church of England Trinity Sunday Readings)*

**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**

<b>BABC Sunday Service</b>	<a href="https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/babc-sunday-service/">https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/babc-sunday-service/</a>
<b>BABC Newsletter</b>	<a href="https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/newsletter/">https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/newsletter/</a>
<b>BABC Garden Blog</b>	<a href="https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/church-garden-blog/">https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/church-garden-blog/</a>
<b>NBA Sunday Service</b>	<a href="https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/nba-sunday-service/">https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/nba-sunday-service/</a>
<b>BABC Main Website</b>	<a href="http://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk">www.bishopbaptists.co.uk</a>

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.