

<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 CDs of the services are available upon request.

Bible Study

- *Takes place on Tuesdays from 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 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:

- ***Windsor Court***
- ***Kenilworth Avenue***
- ***Brough Grove***
- ***Berkley Grove***
- ***Lumley Grove***

Please also continue to pray for:

- ***Bishop Auckland General Hospital***
- ***Emergency & Rescue Services***
- ***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***

The Parable of The Builder

A wise and wealthy businessman once called one of his builders to him saying, *"I want you to build for me a good and well-built house. You may decide on and make the plans and the actual construction choices will be yours. When it is built, I want your work to have been the best, as I want to give it to friend of mine"*.

And so, the workman departed willingly to start the project.

But he had a plan in mind. *"Surely,"* he thought, *"I know my business. I can use a bit of cheap stuff, inferior material here and there, and skimp a bit on my workmanship a little, and cut a few corners and still make the finished work look good. Only I will know that what I have built is shoddy and has weaknesses."*

And so, at last the work was completed and the workman reported back to businessman.

"Very good," said the businessman. *"Now remember that I wanted you to use only the finest materials and craftsmanship in this house because I trusted you and gave you a free hand to choose how to build the house. I said I wanted to make present of it when it was finished?"*

"My friend, you are the one I had it built it for." Now it is all yours."

How much like man. He comes to earth a stranger. He has his free will. He may build as he likes. But on the morning of his resurrection, he will receive what he has built for an eternal home and habitation.

(Anon)

Psalm 147 v3 – He heals the broken-hearted

Some hurts take a long time to heal, but don't be discouraged; "He (God) heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds."

If God can love you and accept you with full knowledge of your imperfections, then the message is "Take it easy on yourself!"

You can be loved, you can love, but only with the same wholeness with which you love yourself! (see Matthew 22 v39).

Be careful, because when you don't value yourself, you attract those who feel the same about you, including those who look to control you.

Remember, you train others how to treat you by how you treat yourself.

Make sure that your choices are healthy ones, and not based solely on your need, or your fear of being alone.

God can give you more, but God is waiting for your self-values and perceptions to line up with His perceptions of you.

Your best days are ahead!

(UCB Word for Today)

NBA Prayers

We are asked to pray this week for: Lakeside Baptist Church, Sunderland.

Please Give Thanks for:

- The Parents and Toddlers Group which started in the Church Building today.
- Our first Sunday Service in the Church Building this Sunday.
- The care support and encouragement of our Moderator John Claydon who has been walking closely with us as a Church.
- For the Zoom services we have been able to upload on to You Tube during lockdown

Please Pray for:

- The Church Fellowship as Peter Wallace Assistant Minister at Enon BC preaches with a view to the Pastorate on Sunday 20th June and the Church Meeting the following Thursday 24th June, that we might know the clear leading of the Lord.
- Anne who has lost her sister to a long battle with cancer.
- Gail whose brother-in law has been told by the doctors that they can't offer any more options for treatment of his cancer.

- Carol-Anne whose grandson aged eight has severe mental health issues and has been told that there is an eighteen-week waiting list just to be seen by a specialist.

Mike Cross, (NBA Prayer Co-ordinator)

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."*

Events – Hamsterley Baptist Church

A Heart for Hamsterley (Charles Whitfield)

It is 200 years since Charles Whitfield served as Minister at the Baptist Church, and we are celebrating his life and work. He served as a Baptist Minister for 50 years, preaching and pastoring and baptising, and he started the first school in Hamsterley village. He organised the building of our present church and he lived in the Manse next door. Also, he was the founder of several other new Baptist churches across the North-East of England.

.....and why did he do it?

Everything Charles Whitfield did for the people of Hamsterley, he did, from a heart devoted to God and from his desire for them to know his Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

You are invited to join us:

Saturday 17th July 1:30pm – 4:30pm at our OPEN DAY and feel the local history as you browse our church displays, with quizzes for the children!

Sunday 18th July at 10:30am we can learn more about John Whitfield's faith at our morning worship service.

If you would like to visit us when it is less crowded during the previous week, then please phone us on either 01388 488 970 or 07813 383325 to confirm that the church is open at times convenient for you.

ALL VERY WELCOME - IT'S FREE!

Events – Bishop Auckland Baptist Church
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Advance Notice

The John Froud Live Concert

Saturday 11th 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 welcome.**

A Prayer for Summertime

May you walk with God this summer,
in whatever you do and wherever you go.

Walking with God means...
Walking with honesty and with courage,
Walking with love and respect,
and with concern for the feelings of others.

May you talk to God this summer,
and every day and In every situation.

Talking with God means...
Praying words of praise for the beauty of creation,
saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times,
asking God's help in all your decisions,
Expressing sorrow when you have failed.

May you talk with God every day.

Amen.

(Author Unknown)

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.