

<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 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:

- **Walmer Terrace**
- **Tivoli Street**
- **May Street**
- **The Copses**
- **East Parade**
- **Ladysmith Street**

Please also continue to pray for:

- **Newgate Centre**
- **Market Square & Town Hall**
- **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**

BABC Notes

- If you're reading this page for the first time later than 11.00 am on Sunday 27/6/2021, then I'm afraid that you may have missed attending the Joint Morning Service between Bishop Auckland Baptist Church and our close friends and neighbours, Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, held at the Methodist Church. We'll try to give you an update in this mag next week (4th July edition) covering the salient points and topics.
- Don't forget that each Tuesday afternoon at 1.00pm - 2.00pm +/- you are invited to our Bible Study sessions which recently restarted. Now that summer is here, it is hoped that the meetings can be outside in the church garden. If the weather is inclement, then we will retreat back into the building. Masks will be required to be worn in that case. At present, the meetings are being led by our own Rev Tony, who is covering for John G, who is on holiday. You are welcome to attend no matter where you normally share fellowship.
- Next week, Sunday 4th July, we intend to restart our Sunday Morning Service of Worship at 10.30 am. We plan to meet in the garden and then have a social cup of tea /coffee and biscuits afterwards. If in the unlikely event of rain we have to retreat indoors again, then the refreshments will have to be curtailed and masks will be needed to be worn.
- Like many churches, Bishop Auckland Baptist Church has had its up and downs and moves over the years, but as far as can be ascertained, we are approaching a significant anniversary in the life of the Baptist Church in this town, celebrating when the local Baptists decided to set up a Baptist Fellowship and they advertised for an Evangelist to lead them.

**We are planning, next year, to celebrate our
150th Anniversary (1872 – 2022).**

*We welcome your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to help
to make it a time of celebration and a happy occasion.*

Nehemiah 8 v18 (NIV)

"This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

At the present many things are unjust, unrewarded, worrying, and hard work, and the last thing that you feel like doing, may be to praise God!

But these are the very times when we need to praise God.

Anytime that you praise God, especially when it is the last thing that you feel like doing, heaven's forces will work for you!

Anybody can praise God in the good times, but when you rise above your feelings and your circumstances, then it really counts.

As at the Battle of Jericho, you need to shout praises to God when you are up against a brick wall; or when it feels that you are going round in circles; or your circumstances seem to mock you; or when the plan does not seem to make sense; or when it is the last thing you feel like doing.

But when you praise God despite everything being fraught and everything seems like waste of time, then, *"Do not grieve for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"* (Nehemiah 8 v18).

When you are ruled by circumstances and emotions, you live life on a falling lift.

But when you look to God, Lord of your circumstances, and you praise Him, you move from weakness to strength!

Acts 16 v26 (NIV)

"all at once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose."

UCB Word for Today

“A HEART FOR HAMSTERLEY” - Charles Whitfield

It is 200 years since he 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 Northeast 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 at our OPEN DAY,
Saturday, 17th July, 1.30 pm - 4.30pm
and feel the local history as you browse our church displays,
with quizzes for the children!*

On Sunday 18th July we can learn more about John Whitfield's faith
at 10.30 am at our morning worship service.

*If you would like to visit us during the previous week, when it is less crowded,
then please phone us to confirm that the church is open at times convenient
for you on either: 01388-488970 or 07813-383325*

ALL VERY WELCOME - IT'S FREE!

(Hamsterley Baptist Church)

We invite all of our NBA Churches to use this prayer as we celebrate on 18th July, the remarkable life of Charles Whitfield.

May the same Spirit who inspired him to pioneer for the gospel, reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ, seek the wellbeing of others and develop our common life inspire us as we move in the next chapter of our Association life.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit: We thank You: -

- For all the people You have called by name, who have gathered here;
- For speaking a new Word to us here;
- For gently touching the places that are wounded or as yet un-transformed within us;
- For calling us to remember the ancient paths and to ask where the good way is and walk in it;
- For bread broken and wine outpoured;
- For the peace passed and joy shared;
- For relationships reconciled and feet washed;
- For the harmonies of brothers and sisters, singing with one voice;
- For the silence which has held us and allowed deep to call to deep.

Living God,

Remind us that to everything there is a season; That we are a people of pilgrimage rooted in You, and not in bricks and mortar, wood and stone;

We will trust You; Help us to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown; Give us the faith to leave old ways and to break fresh ground with You;

We believe You for our future, chapter by chapter, until the story is written;

You are our God; And our times are in Your hand; Our times are in Your hand.

In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

(From the Northumbria Community's closing liturgy in the Hetton Hall Chapel prior to moving to their new Mother House, October 2010).

NBA Prayers

We are asked to pray for West View Baptist Church, Hartlepool

We are thankful that we have been able to return to church over the last month. We have been doing online meetings like many, but it is great to meet people again.

As restrictions ease, like many, we pray for wisdom and guidance on what, when and how we can restart various activities safely. This is also a time to take stock of what we were doing and an opportunity to re-assess. We value prayer for God's guidance in all this.

We feel particularly challenged about how to restart Young Church and also what the future might be for our Filling Station project. Both in terms of operating in current climate, but also sensing how best we can use the limited resources we have to best effect.

(Mike Cross - NBA Prayer Requests 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."*

The John Froud Live Concert

Saturday 11th September

at 7.30pm

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!

FREE EVENT - OPEN TO ALL

Donations are also welcomed.

Closing Prayer

Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me,
Save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought,
In the day and the night,
Both waking and steeping,
Thy presence my light.

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.