

<b><i>Weekly Prayers, News and Thoughts</i></b>
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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 are continuing to focus on outdoor activities. Food is available each Wednesday to be eaten outside or taken away and the gardening group is active if you would like to come along and join in.

***Church Services***

- We are holding fortnightly services in church and continue to use online services in the intervening weeks. We have missed you all and look forward to catching up.
- You will need a mask - sanitiser will be available and we will be socially distancing.

***Bible Study – Currently on hold***

- 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:*

- **Ediscum Garth**
- **Bamburgh Avenue**
- **Langley Grove**
- **Warwick Road**
- **Walmer Grove**
- **Grove Road**

Please also pray for:

- **Church View Nursing Home**
- **Butterwick Hospice**
- **A measured and successful transition to the ending of lockdowns**
- **The people who have received food through our Community Food Share**
- **Your prayers are asked for Pam following her recent falls.** She has been in Stanhope Community Hospital for a few days but is now home again. Pam has been assessed to consider what her future needs may be to make life easier for her. The house has been assessed too for various aids to be installed to make getting around easier. At present she is feeling somewhat better and thanks you all for your best wishes and the prayers she has received. ***Please keep her in your prayers.***

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**

This summer the Zephania Trust is running the  
**CREATION STAYCATION CLUB**  
Online Holiday Club across 4 weeks of the Summer Holidays.

YouTube videos every Monday  
with activity videos Tuesday to Friday

Stories, Activities, Treasure Hunts, Crafts, Challenges  
2<sup>nd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August

Join us : [www.Youtube.com/Zephstoryteller](https://www.Youtube.com/Zephstoryteller)

Follow us: Facebook.com/zephaniamusictrust for your Youtube links  
and reminders.

Sign up for email updates every Monday, with Video Links, Activity  
Content, Craft Resources, and generally useful information.

If you don't have any children of your own to watch along with,  
why not share this with any families that you know, within your  
church or neighbourhood. One joy of an online club is that  
geography is no barrier to joining in the fun. We really hope you'll  
be able to join us as we explore just why God looked at everything  
He had made and declared that it was good. *The Zephaniah Team.*

Dates For Your Diary

**SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER @ 3PM**

**Induction of Revd Hayley Young as  
Transitional Strategic Regional Minister.**

We are currently waiting on Government Announcements and guidance.

It is hoped that we will be able to invite you all to physically join us at Heaton Baptist Church for the service, so please save the date and we will let you know and take bookings soon.

*Elaine Webster (NBA Admin Support)*

**NEXT YEAR BABC ARE PLANNING TO CELEBRATE  
OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY (1872 – 2022)**

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

Please feel free to contact us with appropriate thoughts ideas and suggestions - all will be considered and gratefully received.

<b>Services</b>
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Recently we opened our Sanctuary for the re- commencement of our Services of Worship there.

As most of you will know, we have been meeting on Zoom and also sharing, through the expert and kind services of our “technical department”, YouTube Services on the web.

It was lovely to meet in person again and praise the Lord together.

At present, we can’t meet every week because of other already arranged plans, but here are our intentions for the next few Sundays:

<p><b>1st Aug ..... Café Church at BABC at 10.30am</b></p>
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<p><b>8th Aug..... YouTube Service</b></p>
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We have missed you all and look forward to catching up.

- When we meet for services in the Sanctuary, we would like you to wear face masks as part of our protection of attendees.
- Hand sanitiser will be available, and seating may be socially distanced.
- During the services in the Sanctuary, we will be invited to stand for singing even though the present anti-Covid regulations seem to prohibit our singing (this is subject to change as government guidance allows).
- If the weather is favourable, we hope to use the garden for the Service, and then have a social cup of tea /coffee and biscuits afterwards.
- In the occasional unlikely event of rain, we will have to retreat indoors again, but then the refreshments will have to be curtailed and masks will be needed to be worn.

Please share this news with others when you can.

<b>Don't Doubt God's Word</b>
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*Romans 10:17 NIV: Faith comes from hearing.*

You may doubt your own ability, but never doubt God's - or His promises and His willingness to fulfil them.

The psalmist wrote, *'You have magnified Your word above... Your name'* (Psalm 138:2 NKJV).

The only thing in the universe that God has placed above His name is His Word, so fill your mind with it, speak it daily, and don't ever question it.

Doubt often comes from our inclination/wish to appear as self-confident.

Self-confidence is a concept touted by the world; it encourages us to rely on our own skills and abilities.

But the Bible says, *'Those who trust in themselves are fools'* (Proverbs 28:26 NIV).

The verse considered to be at the centre of the Bible is: *'It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man'* (Psalm 118:8 NKJV).

So, centre your confidence on God, not yourself or anybody else.

- Do you doubt yourself and your own worth?
- Do you question your ability to pursue your career?
- Do you doubt your aptitude to form healthy relationships?

Despite having lived with Jesus for almost three years and hearing His promise that He'd rise again from the dead, Thomas still said, *'Unless I can see his wounds and touch him, I will not believe'* (see John 20:25).

Did Jesus turn His back on Thomas because of his doubts?

No, He never rejects a sincere, doubting heart!

Jesus showed up in person and resolved all of Thomas' doubts.

And as you read His word and seek His face, He will alleviate your misgivings and qualms too.

When you stop living in the 'sense' realm and learn to 'walk by faith', your doubts will begin to die (see 2 Corinthians 5:7).

*(Bob and Debby Gass - UCB The Word for Today 25th June 2021)*

<b>NBA Prayers</b>
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We are asked to pray this week for the prayer life of our own individual Church.

As the lockdown restrictions are eased may the prayer life of our own Church be more intimate, more disciplined, more eager, stronger, deeper, and richer as we cooperate in the Lord's purposes for us.

Thank you

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

<p><i>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.</i></p>
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# The John Froud Live Concert

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Thought For The Day</b>
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*This is the script for a "Thought for the Day" programme on BBC Radio 4's  
Today Programme by Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds since 8 June 2014:*

Before the lockdowns I watched a man painting white lines in a park.

The reason I stopped was simply that I was curious to know what game the white lines were going to frame.

Before working out where to put them on the grass, you first have to know what game you want to play.

Now, this sounds obvious, I know. But, in the current climate it perhaps suggests something useful as the whole country tries to work out how to behave, which rules to follow and what guidance is most important.

Repeated mantras of "*it is absolutely clear*" fail to recognise that clarity is defined by the hearer and not primarily the speaker.

Hence, the first rule of communication: *it's not what you say that matters, but what is heard.*

I am used to this. The gospels are full of Jesus telling a story or offering an image after which he asks the audience: "*Do you know what I mean? Have you got the ears to hear?*"

Clearly, some couldn't hear, didn't want to hear, or refused to hear.

This is pertinent at a time when many people are clearly struggling to know how to behave best – within the Government's Covid lines of rules and guidance.

Does 'best' mean 'in a way that makes me comfortable' or 'in a way that protects me and other people'?

The point about white lines on a pitch is that everyone in the game knows where the ball can be played, can choose where to run, and is free to be creative within the parameters.

Debates in the last few weeks about compliance with government rules come down to this:

If I am to choose well, I need to understand not only where the white lines are, but also what game I think I'm playing.

Mature citizenship can be exercised where people know why they are being expected to behave in particular ways – what the game is and how to play it.

For example, if I think the most important thing in the world is my individual freedom, unconstrained by the security of other people in a common and interdependent society, I will filter out guidance that infringes that freedom to do as I like.

If, on the other hand, I take seriously that inherent interdependence, I might be ready to sacrifice my individual freedom on the altar of the common good.

To reprise the white lines theme: I might sacrifice my moment of glory by letting someone else score the goal that gives the team a victory. In my terms, this means, in the words of St Paul: ***“Do nothing from selfish ambition, ... but look to the interests of others”***.

## **Closing Prayers**

Father of Grace, Love and forgiveness,

We pray to You for our weakness and failings;  
for those times when we have failed you;  
for the times we have justified a reason for looking the other way;  
for the times when we have kept our hands tightly on our money avoiding the needy hand;  
for the unkind words we have thought and the deaf ear we have turned.

Lord, we have already received your forgiveness,  
but the remembrance of our actions is still intolerable.

Lord, please make us whole again.,  
so that we might become bearers of YOUR Good News!

Amen!

*(Jaquie Stubberfield)*

<b>Online Prayer</b>
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- 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>

<b>Helpful Links</b>
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<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>

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