

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

- Starting on Sunday 4th July at 10:30am we will begin 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

- 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:

- ***Deerness Road***
- ***Bolton Grove***
- ***Escomb Road***
- ***Etherley Lane***
- ***Pollards Drive***
- ***Dene Hall Drive***

Please also continue to pray for:

- ***Bishop Barrington School***
- ***Evergreen Primary School***
- ***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***

Shared Service at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church

For those of you who were not able to join with us at our Joint Morning Service last Sunday at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, led by their Rev John Purdey, here as promised, is an outline of the Service:

- Welcome
- Intro – theme: 'You are so rich in all you have: in faith, speech, and knowledge, in your eagerness to help and in your love for us. And so, we want you to be generous also in this service of love.'
- Hymn: StF 78 "Give thanks."
- Opening Prayer by Rev John.
- Reading: Psalm 30 (read by Ralph the Methodist and David the Baptist).
- Hymn: StF 494 "Come thou fount of every blessing."
- Video of Rev Tony Taylor in BABC's garden followed by Tony reading: Mark 5:21-43.
- Hymn: "Amazing Grace (My chains are gone)."
- Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
- Sermon
- Hannah's Creative Prayer
- Hope and Millie's Slides: "(King Of My Heart "(Live) from the album "Starlight (Live)" performed by Steffany Gretzinger, Jeremy Riddle ©Bethel music)
- Prayers of Intercession
- The Lord's Prayer
- Hymn: StF 566 "Take my life, and let it be."
- Closing Blessing.

Thankyou Methodists for inviting us to share fellowship with you in this service. We all had to follow the current distancing and hygiene rules but, even so, it was a very happy occasion during which we were made to feel very welcome.

The Service may still be followed by copying the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGEWslOOD1g>

Bible Study

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 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.

Sunday Services

On Sunday, 4th July, we intend to restart our Sunday Morning Service of Worship at 10.30am.

We were intending to meet on a fortnightly basis, but our initial dates will be:

4th JulyService at BABC at 10.30am

11th JulyOnline on YouTube

18th JulyHamsterley at 10.30am for their "Charles Whitfield" Celebration Service.

25th JulyOnline on YouTube

1st AugCafé Church at BABC at 10.30am

We have missed you all and look forward to catching up.

You will need a mask. Hand sanitiser will be available, and we will be socially distancing.

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 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.

“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)

You Can Win In The Second Half!

'I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely.'
(Hosea 14:4 NKJV)

Have you been watching the football or Wimbledon or le Tour de France, or the cricket or the rugby etc on the telly?

We see fantastic athletes and teams, but many teams or competitors seem to be getting walloped by half time and the game is as good as over, and they can't wait for a half time and a breather.

But half-time in the game is for rest and assessment.

It's a time to regroup – to evaluate how things have been going and to decide what adjustments are need for the rest of the game in order to achieve a victory.

Often a team may look like they're losing at half-time, but by the time the game ends they've turned things around and won.

Until the final whistle sounds, the game is still up for grabs.

And the same is true in life.

If you're still here, the game of life isn't over for you.

Your clock is still ticking. You have a life yet to live.

Not only that, but the first half doesn't have to determine the outcome of the game.

Maybe you've made mistakes, experienced disappointments and failures. Maybe life has dealt you a harsh blow here or there.

But you are still here – and so long as you are the whistle hasn't blown and it's not too late for God to take you straight to the plan that He has for you.

You see, God looks at your future while the enemy tries to keep you focused on your past.

Satan tells you: "You can't... because of what you've done or not done."

But God says: "You can... in spite of what you've done or not done!"

God will never define you by your past, whereas the enemy will try to control and confine you by using it against you.

Whether the good, the bad, or the ugly dominated your first half, Satan's goal is to keep you chained there.

God, on the other hand, wants you to learn from your past – not live in it!!

(UCB Word for Today)

Premier Christian News

***POLITICIANS URGED TO WORK WITH CHURCHES AND CHRISTIAN GROUPS
TO TACKLE THE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY.***

Politicians and policymakers should examine the work of churches and Christian action groups if they want to tackle the root causes of poverty in the UK.

That is the conclusion of research led by Coventry University's Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, which found that Christian groups serve a broader audience than their name suggests and have built direct relationships with disadvantaged groups, gaining valuable insight into the causes of poverty.

Dr Chris Shannahan and Dr Stephanie Denning, spent three years working on an Economic and Social Research Council funded project entitled "Life on the Breadline".

The project analysed the scope and impact of Christian engagement with urban poverty in the UK in the context of austerity since the 2008 financial crisis.

The research, conducted across the UK with national and regional Church leaders, shows faith groups are running social action projects, campaigning and looking at wider causes in an attempt to tackle the structural issues surrounding the causes of poverty.

Dr Shannahan said: "We have found that churches and Christian action groups have relationships with excluded and disadvantaged communities that politicians might not be able to reach.

"This is not about Christians working with Christians, but Christians working with everyone, across the whole of society and we want policymakers to try and partner with these groups when it comes to issues relating to poverty, because the churches and groups are on the ground, trusted and have track records of helping."

He told Premier that the nature of Christian social action in our communities is a valuable resource for policymakers:

"The church remains a major force in the UK. Churches are rooted deep in local communities up and down the land, they are much more deeply rooted than policymakers and politicians. The church provides immense invaluable pastoral care, support and immediate help for people who are hungry, living out those gospel mandates to feed the hungry and preach good news to the poor.

"Many of the headlines in the mainstream media about the church focus on attendance at Sunday worship.

But what we have encountered is an immense amount of Christian action on poverty, which is far more varied than many people might imagine - the food bank, the soup kitchen, the Breakfast Club, the night shelter. We've also encountered churches who are campaigning, first for structural change, for political and economic change, for a living wage, for a universal basic income for housing justice. "

Dr Shannahan says they have also developed an anti-poverty charter which they hope congregations will sign up to in order to think about what it means to act upon poverty in their local area.

Dr Denning believes increased communication is key - highlighting how Notting Hill Methodist Church developed links with local and national government in the aftermath of the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire.

She said: "They did not just care for people who had nowhere to lay their head with food and shelter, but they also campaigned with local and national government for changes to the quality of social housing."

The team is now working with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Poverty to develop a joint event in Parliament about the findings.

(Donna Birrell - Premier Christian News 23rd June 2021)

NBA Prayers

We are asked to pray for New Silksworth Independent Methodist Church

Give Thanks:

- That no one in our Congregation has had COVID 19 and all members have received their two vaccinations.
- That the Church was able to resume meetings (with restrictions) since Easter Sunday.
- That the Zoom technology meant that we were able to meet every Sunday and did not miss a single Sunday through- out the lockdown.

Please Pray For:

- Our several members who have health problems and are undergoing treatment from hospitals.
- The time when we will be able to resume our midweek meetings.
- The lifting of the restrictions to allow us to sing and worship together as normal.

(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: "Hannah's Prayer"

Dear Father,

Show your grace to me and my family.

Give us hearts that are so generous we will
be able to share with those who need help.

May we give ourselves first to you,
and then to others.

Help us to give of our means,
even beyond our means.

May we relieve the needs of those who
are poor and whose lives are burdened.

Help us not only take action to do good,
but to complete the good we set out to do.

Help us to excel in everything -
in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in love.

In the name of Jesus,
I ask for your help in giving us a gracious spirit.

Amen.

(Bishop Auckland Methodist Church)

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

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