

<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

- 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 – On Hold

- *For the time being our weekly Bible Study meeting on Tuesday afternoons has had to be put on hold.*
- *We hope to restart again in the coming September.*
- *More detailed information will be given in the near future.*
- *We apologise for this deferral, and we thank you for your patience and understanding.*

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.bishoppbaptists.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:

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

Please also pray for:

- **Cockton Hill Schools**
- **King James Academy**
- **A measured and successful transition to the ending of lockdowns**
- **The people who have received food through our Community Food Share**
- **Update for Pam following her recent falls.** She has been in Stanhope Community Hospital and the Doctors had diagnosed a fractured pubic bone. She is now able to get up and around the ward with a Zimmer Frame and seems more cheerful in the Zoom call I had with her. Our house has been assessed and 2 handles will be fitted to the front door to help her get in and out more easily along with a second stair rail and some other adjustments. Football may not be coming home but Pam is on 15th July! Please keep her in your prayers. *John Gaines*

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**

Services

Last Sunday 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 www.

However, 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:

**18th July Meet at Hamsterley at 10.30am for their “Charles Whitfield”
Celebration Service (it is advisable to contact David and
Caroline to reserve a seat for yourself.)**

25th July Online YouTube Service.

1st Aug Café Church at BABC at 10.30am

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

You will need to wear a face mask. Hand sanitiser will be available, and seating will be socially distanced.

During the services in the Sanctuary, we will be invited to stand for singing even though the present anti-Covid regulations prohibit our singing.

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.

Bible Study

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We hope to restart again in the coming September.

More detailed information will be given in the near future.

We apologise for this deferral, and we thank you for your patience and understanding.

Anniversary Celebration

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 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.

Try Today To Be Gracious

Ecclesiastes 10:12 NIV

'Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious, but fools are consumed by their own lips.'

Aesop, the famed fable author, said, *'No act of kindness, no matter how small, ever is wasted.'*

As one pastor writes, *'It costs to be unkind, but it pays to be kind.'*

Now, being kind doesn't mean tolerating wrong or refusing to confront a problem in order to be politically correct. Sometimes we must confront. But it should always be done in a gracious way.

A calm demeanour will go a lot further than a harsh comment or an ugly tone of voice. You can make your point with a kind spirit, and even a sense of humour.

Don't be like the man who was standing in line to buy a plane ticket. When he reached the counter, he said, *'I'd like to purchase a ticket to London'*.

The representative said, *'No problem, how many pieces of luggage do you have?'* The passenger replied, *'I have three.'*

The rep asked, *'Would you like me to check all three to London?'*

The man replied, *'No, I want to send the first bag to Paris, the second to Amsterdam, and the third to Dublin.'* Dumbfounded, the rep looked at him and said, *'I'm sorry, sir, but we can't do that.'* The man smiled and said, *'I don't see why not; that's what you did last week.'*

You will always make your point more effectively with a butter knife than a butcher knife. Remember: *'Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious, but fools are consumed by their own lips.'*

If you're serious about living by the teachings of God's Word, today, try to be gracious.

(Bob and Debby Gass. UCB Word for Today 4/5/21)

NBA Prayers

We are asked this week to pray for Hamsterley Baptist Church – a missional community.

Thanksgiving

Give thanks for the ministry of Charles Whitfield who founded Hamsterley Baptist Church and was its minister for fifty years! It is the 200th Anniversary of his death this month.

Prayer

Let's be encouraged, inspired and challenged by Charles Whitfield's legacy. (Please find Paul Revill's three videos on You Tube under Charles Whitfield Anniversary)

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>

“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)

A Tale of Woe

A tale of woe': UK butterfly numbers hit by cold, wet spring. "Public urged to join world's biggest butterfly count to help collect data on impacts of climate crisis."

- If you have a bit of time to spare in the nice weather you can go into the garden or a nearby stretch of park or railway path etc., and count butterflies!
- Go with friends or take the children or grandchildren.
- Take a picnic!
- The three-week citizen science event is open to everyone in the UK.

"It's a tale of woe,"

A lot of our wider countryside species of butterflies are declining, and we really don't understand why. There'll be a cocktail of drivers, so it could be habitat loss, agricultural intensification, climate change as well as development.

- **Butterflies are suffering serious declines in numbers at present and the 2021 Big Butterfly Count will run from the 16th July to the 8th August.**
- **A three-week citizen science event is open to everyone living anywhere near an open space or countryside and takes place from 16th July to 8th August.**

Participants need to spend just 15 minutes in an outdoor space counting common butterflies and day-flying moths they see and recording their findings on the Big Butterfly Count app.

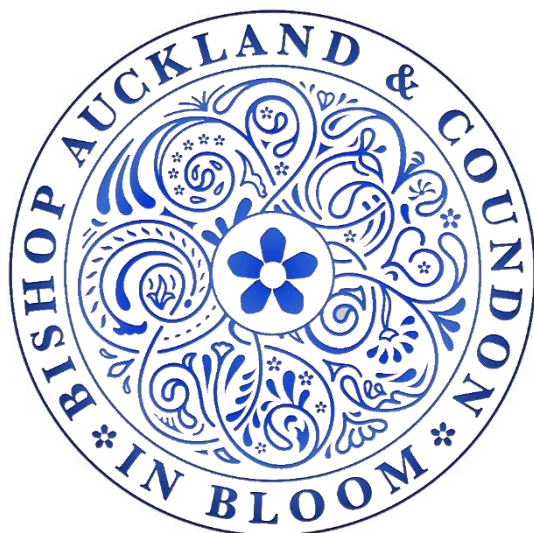
Free identification sheets or an ID app are available.

This year's Big Butterfly Count, sponsored by Vivara and the DFN Foundation, is being launched at Winchester Science Centre, which neighbours Butterfly Conservation's Magdalen Hill Down nature reserve, and runs nationwide from July 16th to August 8th.

For more information and to take part people can visit <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Or, using your usual Search Engine, just type in: "UK butterfly survey 2021"

BABC Church Garden



We are now pleased to
announce that BABC is:

A Bishop Auckland and
Coundon In Bloom

2021 Entrant

(All logos used are the property of their respective owners)

Thanks to gargantuan efforts by Dan and a dedicated group of stalwart volunteers, our church garden has been reinvented and now receives many well warranted compliments from passers-by because of its masses of flowers – many of which are edible – fruit and veg and raised planting beds and a seating area.

It is a delight to behold and is appreciated by local people and is a favourite meeting place on Wednesdays to have free cups of tea/coffee and also food distribution activities.

The garden is always open at other times too, for anyone to sit in and take a breather, or just a stroll round, as it is never locked.

You can see impressive photos at <https://www.bishopbaptists.co.uk/church-garden-blog/> or just by looking up our church page via Google (others are available) just by typing “Bishop Auckland Baptist Church”.

Last Wednesday (14th July), the garden was visited and assessed by a team of judges from “Bishop Auckland and Coundon in Bloom”, who, though they were non-committal, were impressed.

You never know!

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 Prayers

The first prayer is apparently the oldest known Biblical text that has been found; amulets with these verses written on them have been found in graves in dating from the First Temple Period, and are now in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. It has been traced back to the book of Numbers where Aaron and his sons bless the Israelites with this blessing:

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”*

(Numbers 6:24-26)

*“May the beauty of God be reflected in your eyes,
the love of God be reflected in your hands,
the wisdom of God be reflected in your words,
and the knowledge of God flow from your heart,
that all might see, and seeing, believe.”*

(John Birch - <https://www.faithandworship.com/blessings>)

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.