

<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:*

- **Peel Street**
- **Railway Street**
- **Chester Street**
- **Bob Hardisty Drive**
- **Princes Street**

Please also pray for:

- **Bishop Barrington School**
- **St. John's School and Sixth Form**
- **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**

From: QR Poster Service <qr.poster.service@notifications.service.gov.uk>



GOV. UK

Letting you know about changes  
to the venue check-in regulations

Dear venue owner,

Thank you for downloading and displaying the official NHS QR code poster. Since April 2021, NHS Test and Trace has issued over 500,000 alerts to individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 at a venue they visited.

This has made a huge impact on identifying positive cases, breaking chains of transmission and supporting businesses to stay open.

Thank you for all your support to make this happen.

**Changes to venue check-in regulations:**

From Monday 19 July 2021, designated venues are no longer legally required to ask customers, visitors and staff to “check in” (attendees can scan the NHS QR code poster via the NHS COVID-19 app or provide their contact details).

Although it isn’t a requirement, you are strongly encouraged to retain your NHS QR code poster and maintain your “logbook” containing attendees’ contact details.

By asking individuals to check in and promptly sharing the records of those who provide their contact details with NHS Test and Trace, you will help us to identify people who may have the virus. NHS Test and Trace will only ask for your records if there is an outbreak at your venue, and then alert attendees who checked in on the same day.

**Venue alerts:**

- will be triggered if there are two or more cases at a venue (unless it is a large venue, such as a football stadium, which will lead to a case-by-case assessment).
- will ask individuals to book a test as soon as possible. A venue alert will not ask individuals to self-isolate.

- will never name the venue linked to the outbreak.
- does not mean your venue needs to close. Public health guidance will be given to you if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace so that you can continue to operate safely.
- are not the same alert that individuals receive on the NHS COVID-19 app if they have come into close contact with a confirmed case. Close contact alerts will advise the individual to self-isolate, venue alerts will not.
- will be sent as an app notification to those that scanned the NHS QR code with the NHS COVID-19 app, or by text message to people who provided their contact details to check in.

Once again, thank you for all your continued support

## **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)*

<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>25th July ..... Our “Online” YouTube Service.</b></p>
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<p><b>1st Aug ..... Café Church at BABC at 10.30am</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.

### **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.

<b>Thoughts</b>
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**Read Genesis 15: v1 - 6**

The young couple desperately wanted a baby, but their physician told them they were unable.

They found themselves having some very “honest talks” with God.

But it was after one of those “talks” that they spoke to their pastor, who told them about an Adoption ministry at their church.

A year later they were blessed with an adopted baby boy.

In Genesis 15, the Bible tells of another honest conversation—this one between Abram and God. (v1).

God had told him, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am . . . your very great reward”.

But Abram, uncertain of God’s promises about his future, answered candidly: “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless?” (v2).

Earlier God had promised Abram, “I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth” (13:16).

Now Abram—in a very human moment—reminded God of that conversation.

But note God’s response: He assured Abram by telling him to look up and “count the stars—if indeed you can,” indicating his descendants would be beyond numbering (15:5).

How good is God, not only to allow such candid prayer but also to gently reassure Abram!

Later, God would change Abram’s name to Abraham (“father of many”).

Like Abraham, you and I can openly share our hearts with God and know that we can trust Him to do what’s best for us and others.

*(James Banks - Our Daily Bread - Sun 25 July 2021)*



**NBA Prayers**

We are asked to pray this week following on from the legacy of Charles Whitfield for those communities which at present haven't a Baptist witness.

***The County Towns***

- Hexham
- Barnard Castle
- Yarm

***The Industrial Towns***

- Blyth

***The Rural Areas***

- Teesdale

Thank you

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

# 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.

Hamsterley Baptist Church

**Charles Whitfield Commemorations**

If you didn't manage to visit Hamsterley BC last weekend to enjoy the Fellowship there, and to appreciate their Charles Whitfield commemorations, then I'm afraid that you missed a real treat!

It was a delightful occasion with lovely weather, meeting new friends and chatting to "old" ones, (including a spookily realistic Charles Whitfield look-alike (aka David Clarke), eating cake and fruit salad (in the graveyard) and browsing round the well displayed exhibition.

## Charles Whitfield and Hamsterley



NEWCASTLE  
COATHOOK  
HEBREW  
PREACH  
PULPIT  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
HAMSTERLEY  
HORSE  
BAPTIST  
MANSE  
CHURCH  
GRAVESTONE  
CHARLES  
WHITFIELD  
PEWS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2109868/>

## HAMSTERLEY VILLAGE PRAYER WALK - WEST

This is a description of a prayer walk around Hamsterley village, of around half a mile, with 12 stops for prayer. It starts by turning right (west) on emerging from the Baptist Chapel, and goes clockwise around the village.

1. *Walk west along Saunders Avenue, and straight on at junction. On the left is the Primary School. Pray for all the children, their teachers, and others who work there.*
2. *Continue west. On left. Injury Clinic. Pray for health workers in the village, for those who use the clinic, for those in the village who are unwell in any way.*
3. *Continue west to end of village. The road continues towards Woodland and other villages in the Gaunless Valley. Pray for these relatively remote villages.*
4. *Cross road and head back into Hamsterley. On left. Village pond, surrounded by grassy banks, tall trees and seats. Give thanks for the beautiful setting of Hamsterley and appreciate it.*
5. *Continue east. On left. Village Hall, dated 1822. Pray for the communal life of the village, for the celebrations and other events that take place there, and for a return to normal following the pandemic.*
6. *On reaching junction, turn left along Bedburn Road. On left. Northern Powergrid Substation. Pray for all those based outside the village, whose work provides the basic services that Hamsterley needs but is too small to provide for itself.*
7. *Continue along road. On left. Farm stables, perhaps with horses visible. Pray for the farms around the village, and for those who work in them.*
8. *Look ahead, down road into Bedburn Valley. This road leads to Wolsingham, and into Weardale. Pray for these communities, including the Secondary School and Baptist Church in Wolsingham.*
9. *Cross road and return along it into village. On left. Greenacres Caravan Park, on the edge of Hamsterley Forest. Pray for tourism in and around the village, for those who work in the tourism sector, and for the tourists (including ourselves) who enjoy leisure time in this lovely place.*
10. *Return to junction. On left. Village Green and Public Toilet (perhaps welcome at this stage). Give thanks for the necessary infrastructure which we often take for granted.*
11. *Turn left along Saunders Avenue. On left. Cross Keys Inn. Pray for those who make use of its hospitality, and for those who work there, and give thanks for the food we enjoy.*
12. *Continue on to Baptist Church on left. Pray for this church, for its life and witness in the community, and for future plans for it.*

*(Printouts of the Prayer Walk and the Word Search are available in our church lounge and at Hamsterley Baptist Church)*

## Closing Prayers

It was not to the rich and famous,  
the powerful, or the intellectual or influential,  
that you came to earth and entrusted your Word,  
but to lowly fishermen, outcasts and sinners,  
and to ordinary people like us.

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When the journey is hard, and our strength is failing,  
when we stumble or fall, You raise us up,  
to refresh us, to encourage us, and to give us hope.  
You enable us to continue and walk with you day by day.  
Thank you, gracious Lord for your presence and your help  
along the way.

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You have revealed to us the things of heaven,  
so that we might become bearers of YOUR Good News!  
So, we praise you, Lord for revelation and the message of  
Salvation.

Amen

*(Daily Prayer from Faith & Worship)*

<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>

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.