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| <i>Weekly Prayers, News and Thoughts</i> |
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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 until September

- 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

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| Prayers |
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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:

- **Arthur Terrace**
- **Byron Avenue**
- **Granville Road**
- **Arthur Terrace**
- **Richmond Avenue**
- **Morpeth Grove**

Please also pray for:

- **Bishop Auckland General Hospital**
- **Emergency & Rescue Services**
- **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.** Pam is now at home and 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. She is managing to get out a bit with the aid of a wheelchair and John's continuing assistance but still has a lot of pain. ***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>

Save The Date

SATURDAY 2ND 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)

Services

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:

8th Aug YouTube Service

15th Aug Café Church

22nd Aug YouTube Service

29th Aug Meet at Hamsterley Baptist Church

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

- When we meet for services in the Sanctuary, we would encourage 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.

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| Thoughts |
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Philippians 3 v14: *"I press on towards the goal to win the prize."*

Growing in the Christian life in a secular world can often be very difficult, but when we persevere with Christ, then barriers are surmountable.

Our circumstances may be unfavourable, with much discouragement, and may seem like an obstacle and rejection.

Yet, if we ask Jesus for His help, then we can flourish like a plant growing in a crack in a pavement.

This was Paul's experience too, but despite the severe hardships, rejections and the challenges that he faced (Philippians 11 vs 23 – 27) he wouldn't give up.

He wrote, *"I ... took hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."* and, *"I press on towards the goal to win the prize,"* (Philippians 3 vs 12 – 14).

Paul realised that *"he could do all things through the Lord who strengthened him"*, and so we too can, as we press on with the help of the One who gives us strength.

This is the day that you have made Father. Thank You that You will be near me in whatever I face today. Amen

(from OUR DAILY BREAD, 02/01/2018)

Jeremiah 29 v11 - *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Jeremiah was telling God's people that 70 years after the devastation, God would deliver and restore them.

Despite the fact that they had repeatedly abandoned God, he would not abandon them, or abandon his promises to them.

He would be faithful.

In fact, God was planning and preparing a bright future for them.

This promise also reminds us that no matter how deep our own personal gloom may seem, God does have plans for us.

He will keep his promises to us.

He will deliver and bless us.

We can have a vibrant hope and a bright future because of his faithfulness and our trust in his Son, Jesus, who delivers us from every foe.

Give me faith, O Lord, during the times I'm weary, discouraged, and beaten down.

Inspire me to trust in your great promises.

Please give me courage, O Lord, when my faith wavers.

*Help me obey your word no matter how challenging it may seem or how
discouraged I feel.*

Thank you for giving me a bright future in Jesus.

Please help me live more consciously aware of this great gift.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.

(Written by Phil Ware. phil@verseoftheday.com)

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| NBA Prayers |
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We are asked to pray this week for **South Hylton Independent Methodist Church, Sunderland**

They have recently had a fire in their building, thankfully not arson and thankfully not damaged the structure of the building

They returned to their building last Sunday 1st August though there is still a lot of work to be done.

Give Thanks

- For being able to worship for six weeks in the Tansy Centre, and for the fact that we have still been "together " and known many blessings.
- For the power of all prayers offered.
- For the restoration and redecorating of the building.
- For the work of God, that it will continue and the witness will be strong as we look to the Lord for guidance in the days ahead.

(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 Prayers

*For your goodness and generosity
in giving us all we need,
help us to praise you O God.*

*In every circumstance of life,
In good times and bad,
help us to trust you, O God.*

*In love and faithfulness,
with all that we have and all that we are,
help us to serve you, O God.*

*As we speak or write or listen
to those nearby or far away,
help us to share your love, O God.*

*In our plans and work
for ourselves and for others,
help us to glorify you, O God.*

*In every thought and word and deed,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
this week, may we live for you, O God.*

Amen.

(Sunday Services (modified) Anglican Diocese of Sydney.)

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| Online Prayer |
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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>

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| Helpful Links |
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| 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.