

Weekly Prayers, News and Thoughts

Wednesday Community Days

- Whilst we are constantly aware of the dangers of Covid we are now open both inside and out in the garden. Lunch is available from 11:30am to eat in or take away.
- Volunteers to help are welcome as are gardeners.

Church Services

- We are holding fortnightly services in church and continue to use online services in the intervening weeks.
- Next services are:
29th Aug Service at Hamsterley Baptist Church - Preacher: Ray Richardson.
5th Sep YouTube Service.
12th Sep Preacher - John Froud
19th Sep YouTube Service.
26th Sep Harvest Festival Service followed by Lunch - Preacher: Tony Taylor.
- In-church services will need a mask - sanitiser will be available and we will be socially distancing.

Bible Study

- Currently on hold until 14th September 2021.

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.

Prayers

Please keep in your prayers all local churches and remember those still suffering from the virus plus those whose finances are compromised.

Please continue to pray for:

- All in Bishop Auckland Hospital including Rev David Etherington, Hospital Chaplain.
- Walmer Terrace, Tivoli Street, May Street, The Copses, East Parade, Ladysmith Street, Butterwick Hospice, Bishop Auckland General Hospital, The Litter-picking Group.

Please give thanks for:

- The organisations and people who contribute food, clothing, and books for us to distribute to others including FareShare (via Asda), Feeding Families, The Auckland Project, Local Donations.

NBA Prayers

We are asked to pray this week for: **Lakeside Baptist Church, Sunderland**

Thanksgiving

We are so grateful to the Lord that He has called Peter to Lakeside BC beginning 1st August 2021. His Induction Service is Sunday 14th November.

Prayers

As we start meeting in the church again in September, please pray that the Lord will lead us:

- with regards to renewing the Toddlers Group on Mondays (Wednesday Toddlers already established).
- how long to maintain Zoom services?
- AGM and election of Deacons.
- Peter's new preaching series on Galatians.

(Mike Cross -NBA Prayer Requests Co-ordinator)

Save The Dates

- Sat 11th Sep 2021John Froud Concert (7:30:pm)
- Sat 2nd Oct 2021Rev Hayley Young Induction (3:00pm)
- Sun 3rd July 2022BABC 150th Anniversary (All Day)

Thoughts

Proverbs 29:25 NLT: *"Fearing people is a dangerous trap."*

When our identity is wrapped up in other people's acceptance, our sense of self-worth is always in the hands of others, and we're set up to become approval addicts.

That's not how God wants us to live.

Other people's approval or disapproval can only affect us if we allow it to carry more weight than God's opinion of us.

Jesus was free to speak the truth in love because He didn't feel the need to win the approval of people by saying what they wanted to hear.

We can spend a lot of time worrying about what others think of us, but what we should try and focus on is pleasing God and following His will.

There are times when pleasing God means we won't be able to please people, but as Paul wrote:

***"I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God.
If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant" (Galatians 1:10 NLT).***

(UCB 04/06/2021)

How Do I Pray for Afghanistan?

Our prayers matter, and now, more than ever, we need to lift up Afghanistan to our all-powerful God, who has the power to protect, transform hearts, and enact his plans that no man can hinder.

There isn't a right formula for prayer. Prayers can be spontaneous. They can be cries of confusion and hurt. They can even be something as simple as, "*Jesus, help.*"

When it comes to the situation in Afghanistan one of the best ways we can pray is for the people.

Below are some major groups affected by the Taliban occupation in Afghanistan, and some ways to pray for these people.

Christians in Afghanistan

Many Christians there are Afghans converted from Islam. The extremist Taliban group has made it clear that the penalty for conversion to Christianity from Islam is death.

For our brothers and sisters, we should pray that God may grant them peace and courage.

Missionaries in Afghanistan

Similarly, missionaries in Afghanistan are facing the penalty of death with Taliban groups. These men and women have set their lives on the line to fulfil the Great Commission.

Pray that God be with them as they await the next few days as events unfold.

Military and Loved Ones

Not all troops have evacuated Afghanistan in the past few days. Pray for the safe travels of those who are traveling back home, through war-torn countries. Lift also those up who remain in Afghanistan that God may protect them and keep them safe.

World Leaders

Pray that they may make decisions that can preserve lives and that God may help them to make the best decisions possible, done so with humility and diplomacy.

The People of Afghanistan

Many people who remain in the country now have to wait what will happen over the next few days. Many are in vulnerable groups and are at the mercy of seemingly unrestrained extreme Taliban and Isis-K, the Afghan affiliate of Islamic State.

Pray that God places a strong wall of protection around the people of Afghan, and that they may be able to remain safe.

Taliban

It may seem difficult to pray that God may soften the hearts of the enemies of his people. Knowing the atrocities that many "Muslim" extremists perpetrate may make it hard to pray for them, but here is a sample prayer from Crosswalk.com that may offer a helpful way to do so:

"Lord, even when it doesn't make sense to our earthly selves, you call us to pray for those who persecute (Matthew 5:44). We lift up the Taliban to you today. We pray that your Holy Spirit would work in them and soften their hearts.

Only you truly know their hearts, Lord. Just as we are your children, help us to remember that they are your children as well and you love them deeply. Help us to desire the restoration of their hearts and welcome them with open arms into the family of Christ when their hearts are changed. You alone can work in their hearts and minds, and we pray that through this process we see a transformation and revival. Let us continue to lift them up to you in love, knowing that you came to save each and every one of us.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5:43-44)

We know that ultimately, God is sovereign over all things.

No matter what wars are being waged, won, or lost here on earth, God will have the victory in the end.

It's so hard for us to see this reality while we live through fearful and uncertain events. But by turning our eyes to God and lifting up our fears and desires to him, we can truly know that he is in control."

(Abridged from Christianity.com - Editorial Staff - 17th August 2021)

Closing Prayers

God is our refuge.

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,*

*though the mountains shake
in the heart of the sea;*

though its waters roar and foam,

*though the mountains tremble
with its tumult.*

*God is in the midst of the city;
it shall not be moved;*

God will help it when the morning dawns.

*The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

(from Psalm 46)

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.