

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:
12th Sep..... Preacher - John Froud
19th Sep..... YouTube Service.
26th Sep..... Harvest Festival Service followed by Lunch - Preacher: Tony Taylor.
3rd Oct..... YouTube Service.
- In-church services will need a mask - sanitiser will be available and we will be socially distancing.

Bible Study

- Has now restarted each Tuesday. The next meeting will be held on:
14th Sep..... 1:00pm – 2:00 pm +/-

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.
- Lindsay Street, Hutchinson Street, Durham Street, Hazel Grove, May Street, East Parade, Windsor Court, Vickers Street, Lingford Court.

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.

The Zephaniah Trust

Zephaniah 3:17 NIV - *The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you but will rejoice over you with singing."*

We are a Christian charity based in Bradford, West Yorkshire, specialising in schools- work. We support Christian musicians and artists who work with Schools, Churches and Community Groups to "take light into dark corners".

We have 24 years' experience of Christian work with schools and can provide advice, training and partnership working where appropriate to support you.

It's always nice to be invited to share our work with others – members of our team can speak or preach at events or services on a variety of topics. Please contact us to find out more.

Email: office@zephaniah.org.uk

Tel: 01274 533732

Post: Zephaniah Trust, 2a Norwood Road, Shipley, BD18 2AZ.

Social: Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Last evening's concert at Bishop Auckland Baptist Church was part of our mission to spread the light of Jesus.

- We work with churches across the denominations/traditions.
- At Zephaniah we want to spread the shining light of Jesus into this dark world.
- More than ever in the midst of the pandemic, and more than ever in this coming Christmas, that light is needed.
- ***Join with us and shine your light – all around! Share it about!***

NBA Prayers

We are asked to pray this week for: **Great Asby, Cumbria**

Thanksgiving

- We continue to thank and praise God for His guidance here at Great Asby and our relevance in the local community.
- Also, for the friendship, fellowship and caring of fellow believers of all the denominations within the village.

Prayers

- We continue to pray for the protection of Christians in Afghanistan in the current turmoil, that they may know the power of prayer uplifting them during the desperate weeks ahead.
- For the mental and physical wellbeing of a number of our fellowship who are ill at the moment.

(Mike Cross -NBA Prayer Requests Co-ordinator)

Save The Dates

- Sat 2nd Oct 2021Rev Hayley Young Induction (3:00pm)
- Sun 14th Nov 2021Remembrance Sunday
- Sun 3rd July 2022BABC 150th Anniversary (All Day)

Thoughts

What's in a name?

Names are important, but often, but not always, interchangeable.

In Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" for example, we had the Montagues and the Capulets. Powerful families with powerful proud names.

Their names were important!

But Juliet asks, "*What's in a name?*" and then goes on to say, "*A rose by any other name is still a rose and would smell just as sweet!*".

So, names are interchangeable.

Another example can be found in international folk tunes.

A song in one country may have another name in another country, but it's still the same song.

However, in music too, for example, there are lots of "Bachs", many of them related, but there is only one that you would call THE "Bach" and countless people are passionate about J S Bach's music.

There are lots of J S Bach orchestras, choirs, societies.

One of them, The Netherland's Bach Society has just celebrated its 100 years of playing his music.

They boast the slogan, "*There always is and always will be time for Bach!*".

Yet, even though, not everyone is batty about Bach, and instead of "Bach" you could swap the name for Harry Kane, or Marcus Rushford, or Roger Federer, Christiano Ronaldo, Ed Sheeran, and so on.

But that slogan statement has great enthusiasm. Fans are all enthusiastic in their devotion to their particular idol. But their idols are just that! They are just idols. They have feet of clay.

However, Isaiah 45 v 5 says: "*I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God.*".

So, we should be just as enthusiastic when we declare our God's name.

Our God is all mighty and powerful and gracious and loving, and always will be!

We're not yet back to normal following the Covid epidemic, and our enthusiasm for many things has waned over the past months.

Our God is the only name we can always praise we with enthusiasm and always will be!

"There is no other God!" There is only one God! All other gods are false gods!

***Lord God, who is, was, and always will be,
help us to see in these down days,
the countless good things that your Mercy and Kindness bring to us.
In your name, Amen.***

(Andrea Rea)

Romans 8:26 – *"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express".*

Isn't it incredible that even in those times that our words are impeded, and our heart is heavy, God still hears our prayers?

It is not because we are articulate, wise, or faithful enough to pray as we should.

No, it is because God has graciously placed his Spirit in our hearts to make known to us what our words cannot capture and our minds cannot verbalise.

God hears our groaning, our yearning, our heartbreaks, and our heart-cries. God knows what we cannot think, but only feel.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, he answers those unuttered prayers with his presence, grace, and power.

***Father, I am comforted by the assurance that even if I don't know what to say,
you know what I cannot verbalise.***

***I trust you to answer my longings as you see fit,
for I know that you know what I need far more than I know how to ask for it.***

In Jesus' name, and with full confidence in the Holy Spirit, I pray. Amen.

(phil@verseoftheday.com)

Closing Prayers

Almighty and loving and everlasting God, You are the only true God.

*You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve.
Let the prayers of your children who are in trouble rise to you.*

*We claim your promises of wholeness as we pray for those who are ill or
are suffering loss and long for your healing touch.*

*Make the weak strong, the sick healthy, the broken whole, and confirm
those who serve them as agents of your love.*

*To everyone in distress, grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment.
As we begin to rebuild, we commend our neighbourhoods to your care.*

*Give us strength of purpose and concern for others, that we may create a
community where your will may be done.*

*God of compassion, you watch our ways, and bring, out of terrible
happenings, wonders of goodness and grace.*

*Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your
present love and hold them in faith.*

Though they are lost in grief, may they find you and be comforted;

*Father, we ask that You hear our prayers through Your Son, our Saviour,
Jesus Christ, who was dead, but lives and rules this world with you.*

Amen

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.