

**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 too.

***Church Services***

- We are holding fortnightly services in church and continue to use online services in the intervening weeks.
- Next services are:  
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***

- Next meeting is:  
Tuesday ..... 28th September at 1:00pm

***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.

**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.
- Tivoli Street, May Street, The Copses, East Parade, Ladysmith Street, Newlands Avenue, Butterwick Hospice, Emergency & Rescue Services.

***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**

This week, commencing 26th September 2021, we are asked to pray for:

***The NBA Prayer Pilgrimage***  
***from Newcastle to Hamsterley,***  
***led by Rev Paul Revill***

Pray that they may hear from the Lord, that the weather may be kind to them, that their fellowship may be a rich blessing and that the Lord will keep them well physically

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

**Save The Dates**

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

**Thoughts**

Our friends, members of Singing the Faith Choir, are holding practice meetings in our church building again. You are welcome to go along and join them on Tuesday morning at 10.30am.

This is good news and, hopefully, after the sad and difficult months that they have gone through, they will be able to successfully re-establish themselves again.

Studies show that singing, alone or in church, or in groups or choirs or communally, brings many benefits to many people , such as helping to reduce depression and feelings of loneliness, and developing and making friendships, with positive effects on self -belief and personal confidence and so on:

*“One man, a member of a church, sat slumped in his wheelchair in a nursing home following a stroke, having had lost the ability to utter words or communicate, and was very isolated and cut off.*

*A small local church teenage choir, from another church, was visiting the nursing home singing popular church songs and hymns.*

*As they couldn’t carry on a conversation with him, the teens decided to sing to him.*

*Something amazing then materialized!*

*The man, who couldn’t talk, begin to join in with the singing becoming more and more enthusiastic in joining in with his new friends!*

From time to time, we all have barriers.

They may be caused by relationship conflicts, or money problems or, sometimes, they may be worship barriers. At such times we may want to remember the greatness and majesty of our God, who can overcome any barrier!

*“O Lord, my God, - when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds Thy hands have made!”*

Struggling in worship? Reflect on how great our God is by reading a passage such as Psalm 96, especially v4, and you too may find your obstacles and objections replaced by praise.

*“Our great God, I do hold You in awesome wonder . How great Thou art!”*

Amen.

*(Adapted from Our Daily Bread, 08/05/2020, Dave Branon)*

### Harvest Reflection

**Deuteronomy 8: v17-18** - *You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.*

*“I never thought this could happen to me”* is something often heard at food banks and similar organisations.

At times, we can all tend to assume that foodbanks are for other people - for people ‘not like us.’

However, some of the accounts heard can be sobering reminders that sometimes, hard work and planning are simply not enough to get by.

Debilitating illness, redundancy, relationship breakdown, bereavement, unexpected increases in living costs and much more can leave people vulnerable, in situations which are completely beyond their control.

Others find themselves in predicaments which, with the benefit of hindsight, may have been partially preventable; in reality, many more people’s situations are a very complex indistinguishable mixture of both.

At harvest, God warns us against trying to draw (often impossible) distinctions between self-inflicted and circumstantial poverty.

Instead, he invites us to remember the true source of all our (fragile) wealth and our (transitory) ability to produce it - Himself.

Moreover, in celebrating the source of all our material blessings, we are encouraged to give thanks for the ultimate gift they foreshadow: the rich, undeserved, unearned, extravagant grace offered freely to us all through Christ.

Although identifying the causes of someone's crisis will shape the form and duration of "foodbank" support that may be given to them, it should never curtail our desire to express God's generous heart.

Please pray that we will all develop a richer, deeper grasp of God's grace this harvest time, in the midst of a noisy world that can be quick to judge and slow to love.

As we seek to act with wisdom and discernment in the messy reality of life, pray that our attitudes will remain rooted in thankfulness for all that we have freely received.

*(Based on Harvest Reflections: Thankfulness in scarcity & in plenty <http://exeter.foodbank.org.uk>)*

## Closing Prayer

Father ,as we celebrate this season of thanksgiving,  
we give thanks for the blessings of food, provision, and nourishment.

Please grow in us a harvest for the world.  
Come sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord,  
that we might yield goodness, patience, and kindness in abundance.

Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord,  
that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion, and righteousness.

Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord,  
that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship, and community.

May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us,  
into a harvest that can be feasted on by all.

Amen

*([https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/harvest\\_prayers.html](https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/harvest_prayers.html))*

### 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](http://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.