

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 now back to holding in-church services each week.
- We encourage the use of masks - sanitiser will be available and we will be socially distancing.

Bible Study

- Next meeting is:
Tuesday 12th October 2021 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 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.
- Dene Hall Drive, Pollards Drive, Etherley Lane, Escomb Road, Bolton Grove, Bishop Barrington School, King James Academy, St John's School & Sixth Form College.

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

It would be good if in the next few weeks, we could pray for those Churches supported by Home Mission, particularly with the grants significantly reduced

We are asked to pray this week for: **Marsden Road Baptist Church, South Shields.**

Thanksgiving

- Thank God for keeping us safe during the Covid pandemic and for the ability to meet continuously, either through Zoom during the lockdowns and in person since Easter Sunday.
- Thank God for the positive response to the Pete Greig prayer course that was run on Zoom for the church. Please pray for those that plan to continue to meet on-line for Bible reflection, sharing and prayer - that they would continue to grow in their faith and be encouraged.
- Thank God that some of our activities are re-starting and for wisdom as we consider starting a new project called The Bread Church.

Prayers

- Please pray that the church would remain united as we look to move forward in the future.
- That we would know when and what activities to restart.
- Please pray that we could become more missional in our activities and find ways to engage at a deeper level with those we come in contact with and also with new people in the community.
- Pray for an openness to the Holy Spirit's leading so that we can discern a vision for the work that God wants us to do.
- Please pray for Peter, the minister in training, for his studies and for wisdom in trying to balance the demands of study with his responsibilities at church.

(Mike Cross -NBA Prayer Requests Co-ordinator)

NBA Event

Northern Baptist Association Assembly - Saturday 6th November 2021 at 9:30am
Oxford Road Baptist Church, Hartlepool

“Come and Join the Adventure....” we will be exploring how we can be a part of the adventure of God in our local communities; through worship, inspirational teaching, learning from missional communities & pioneers - reflecting together.

This is a free event, and all are welcome – we recommend booking.

Please book your place by contacting admin@thenba.org.uk

Other Events

- Sun 14th Nov 2021Remembrance Sunday
- Sun 3rd July 2022BABC 150th Anniversary (All Day)

BABC Gardening Team Award

Huge thanks and a massive “Well Done!” to Daniel and all the members of the Gardening Team for their hard work and achieving a SILVER AWARD in the Bishop Auckland and Coundon Best Gardens Competition 2021.

The much-changed garden is appreciated by local people, and they can often be seen enjoying a few minutes sit down, musing over the passing world and chatting to each other and the passing pedestrians.

You can see examples of their hard work on our Church Garden blog and also see the Award attachments on Facebook’s “Incredible Edible” page.

Thoughts

Matthew 28 v20 *“Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

When Jesus sent his disciples out on the road, He gave them this promise: *“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

According to several notable scholars of the Greek language, the word *“always”* literally means *“all the days”*.

So, Jesus didn’t just simply say *“always”* but said *“all the days.”*

That takes into account all of our various activities, the good and bad circumstances surrounding us, the varied responsibilities we have through the course of each of our days, the storm clouds and the sunshine.

Jesus is present with us no matter what each day brings. It may be a day of joy or sadness, of sickness or of health, of success or of failure.

No matter what happens to us today, our Lord is walking beside us, strengthening us, loving us, filling us with faith, hope and love.

As He envelopes us with His quiet serenity and security, we can begin to reduce our foes, our fears, afflictions and doubts.

His power can help us to bear up in any setting and circumstance because we know the Lord is at hand, just as He told Paul in Acts 18 v 10, *“I am with you.”*

Try to practice God's presence, stop in the midst of your day and say to yourself *"The Lord is here."* And pray to him who is invisible – and see Him everywhere.

(David Roper, "Our Daily Bread")

Isaiah 55 v6: *"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon him while He is near"*

A beautiful yet broken world: After watching Sir David Attenborough's new documentary "[*Extinction: The Facts*](#)" recently, many people couldn't help but lament and sorrow and feel angry over the damage that humanity continues to do to creation, the extreme and unfair impacts on those living in poverty, making life even harder.

Creation was made by God the Creator of everything, through Jesus, and for Jesus.

Colossians 1:16: *"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."*

That's a stunning declaration of our planet's worth. This is a world of awe-inspiring beauty, a world that God has created teeming with life – full of diversity and abundance and colour.

The Bible shows that God, people, and the natural world are deeply interconnected. If one aspect of those relationships is broken, then everything will be impacted (see, for example, Amos Chapter 8). We don't have to look very far to see evidence of this through racial injustice, gender inequality and environmental breakdown.

The climate crisis is wreaking havoc in our world, putting millions of lives at risk. It's intensifying global threats such as extreme weather events, sea-level rise and melting glaciers. The overwhelming scientific consensus is that this is a human-made problem, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, releasing heat-trapping gases such as CO₂.

We are seeing the exhausting of a global system through greed and overconsumption that is fundamentally at odds with God's original intention for the world. We're reaping what we've sown!

The impact of climate breakdown on people can be seen through poverty as it affects their health, access to food and their security. As global temperatures rise, rains are becoming less reliable and droughts, floods and storms are becoming more frequent and extreme.

For those who are already vulnerable, this is a life-threatening emergency that is pushing them further into poverty. The climate crisis is a justice issue.

This is even more evident when we reflect on what it means that we're made "*in the image of God*" (Genesis 1:26–28).

Firstly, it speaks of the absolute equality between people. Acting justly means not only responding to the needs of our immediate communities, but also looking to our global neighbours living in countries that do not have the financial protection or healthcare that we do.

Secondly, being made in the image of God defines our relationship with the whole of creation - **We are God's representatives, created to serve and look after the rest of what he has made.**

As Christians and Churches, we have a crucial role in calling for, and working towards, a world that allows everyone to flourish – one that enables us to live in harmony with the rest of creation. To turn this into reality, and to prevent further harm to our global neighbours.

The climate crisis is a huge and urgent challenge that requires all of us to play our part in tackling the climate crisis together.

Proverbs 31:9 says: "*Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.*" Therefore, we are called as Christians to stand up for justice, calling on those in positions of power to make decisions that protect the most vulnerable people and the Earth we all rely on.

As followers of Jesus, through whom all things were made, surely, we should be at the forefront of protecting and restoring his creation.

Let us keep standing together in prayer and action to see a breakthrough in the climate crisis.

Closing Prayer

Creator God

Thank you for the beauty of your creation, teeming with life.

Thank you for the ways you have designed all things to work together.

We pray for your whole creation, as it suffers and groans.

And we pray for those who are vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis.

Where there are droughts, we pray for rain; where there are storms, we pray for protection.

Lord, forgive us for the ways that we have made this problem worse.

We pray for leaders in governments and businesses around the world to take bold steps towards tackling this climate crisis.

Guide us in raising our voices and living differently to bring justice to this situation.

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

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