

Today's Stewards: AM Beth Rolfe PM Steve Mayo.

## Abbey Diary

Tuesday: **Ladies' Prayer Circle** at 10am. All ladies welcome.  
See Mary for details.

Thursday: **Kickstart**. 6pm.

Friday: **Abbey kids, 11up, Reboot**.

## Cleaning

**Saturday** - John and Bethan Lipp; Iain Baker; Geoff and Beth Rolfe.

## Special Church Members Meeting

There is a special church members' meeting on **Wednesday 13th September, 7.45pm**. This will include a formal ballot regarding the new constitution. Votes can be submitted in advance or through another member. Agendas are available from Simon.

## Pilgrim Homes Sponsored Walk

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**. Meeting at 10.30am at Radley Railway station, OX14 3AE. In aid of the en-suite project. 5 mile circular walk. Bring a picnic. Sponsor forms at the back of the chapel.

## Schools Presentation

The annual schools presentation is taking place on **Monday 25th - Friday 29th September**. Volunteers are required each day. Speak to John or Bethan if you can help.

## Welcome to Abbey Baptist Church!

Our morning service is led by Simon Hutton, Simon will also be preaching from **Genesis 11:27-32 - The Family of Faith**.

There is a staffed crèche for children aged 0-2.  
**Venturers** for children aged 3-10 resumes today and takes place during the service.

Our evening service is led by led by Simon Hutton, Simon will also be preaching from **2 Timothy 1 - Guardians of Grace**.

Tea and Coffee are served after each service.  
There is a loop system installed and printed copies of the songs are available.

- The ministry schedule card for September and October is available today.
- Our new assistant minister, **Clive Bowsher, and his wife Kerstin** will be with us from Sunday September 17th, when we will welcome them into membership. Clive's Induction Service in on Sunday 1st October at 6pm, preceded by a tea at 4.30pm.
- The regular activities for **children and young people** resume this week (except Abbey Toddlers which resumes on Monday 11th).
- **11Up on Sundays** will begin again on Sunday September 17th, for young people in school years 6-9.
- Our **Connect Groups** meet in local homes. All are welcome to join a group. For more information please see Simon.
- We welcome members from **the church at Hanney** who are joining us for the evening service while their building is being extended.



*Those who have faith are the children of Abraham. Scripture... announced the gospel in advance to Abraham... So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (Galatians 3v7-9)*

Introduction: who do you think you are? - tracing our ancestry as God's people.

Setting the scene: three key principles

### **Gateway to redemption** (Abram's context c.2100BC)

- Polytheism/idolatry (Joshua 24v2,14)
- 300 years after the flood (11v10-26)
- Human self-exaltation (11v4)
  - An 'Exalted Father'? (11v30)
- God's gateway to address the mess and to bless (Genesis 1v2)

### **Journey of promise** (11v31)

- From Ur to Canaan (12v1; Acts 7v2)
- Stopped at the 'crossroads' / Harran
- Israel's journey to Canaan / promised land – and ours
  - The road to redemption

### **Family of faith**

- In the godly line of Shem (9v26-27, 11v10-26)
- The father of God's people – the Family of Faith
  - Jesus (Matthew 1v1,16)
  - Those who have faith in God (Luke 9v9; Rom 4v16-17; Gal 3v6-9,29)
- A role model of faith (Hebrews 11v9-10)
- A recipient of righteousness (Romans 3v22, 4v1-3)

Conclusion: Like Abraham, we are called to forsake our self-exaltation and idolatry to journey on the road to redemption. Through faith in Jesus' "blood and righteousness" we are in Abraham's family, and heirs of God's heavenly promise.



*Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us! (v14)*

Introduction: what do we associate with guarding?

### **What we are to guard: the gospel of God's grace**

- 'The testimony about our Lord... the gospel' (v8; Mark 1v1)
- 'The promise of life that is in Christ Jesus' (v1)
- God's 'grace given in Christ Jesus' (v9)
- Destruction of death, and the revelation of 'life and immortality' (v10)
- 'Sound teaching', the 'good deposit entrusted to you' (v13-14)

### **How we are to guard it: with our unashamed lives**

- 'With the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us' (v7, v14)
- 'Sincere faith... and love in Christ Jesus' (v5, v13)
- 'Called to a holy life... because of God's own purpose' (v9)
- 'Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you...' (v6)
- 'Do not be ashamed...' (v8, v16-18; Romans 1v16)
- 'Suffering for the gospel by the power of God' (v8, v12, v15)
- 'Herald, teacher, apostle/leader' (v11)
- 'Know whom you have believed' (v12)

Conclusion: God entrusts the gospel of his grace to us (v14), we are to guard it by unashamedly proclaiming it with our lives. We can do this with confidence, knowing that we are assisted by God's Holy Spirit and that God will fulfil his own purposes in us and through us. 'He is able to guard what we entrust to him' (v12) until the glorious day of his return.