

Today's Stewards: AM Diana Stonell PM Paul Sadler.

Abbey Diary

Monday: **Abbey Toddlers.** At Abbey. 10am.

Wednesday: **Special church members meeting.** At Abbey. 7.45pm.

Thursday: **Kickstart.** 6pm.

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

Cleaning

Saturday - Nigel and Ruth Barker; Steve and Steph Mayo; Caroline Whitehead.

Welcome to Clive and Kerstin

Our new assistant minister, **Clive Bowsher, and his wife Kerstin** will be with us from Sunday 17th September, 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.

11Up on Sundays

11Up on Sundays will begin again on **Sunday 17th September**, for young people in school years 6-9.

Pilgrim Homes Sponsored Walk

Saturday 23rd 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.

Welcome to Abbey Baptist Church!

Our morning service is led by Simon Hutton, Simon will also be preaching from **Genesis 12:1-8 - Blessed to bless.**

There is a staffed crèche for children aged 0-2.

Venturers for children aged 3-10 takes place during the service.

Our evening service is led by led by Simon Hutton, Simon will also be preaching from **2 Timothy 2 - Strong in 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 now available.
- 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.
- 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.
- Our **Connect Groups** meet in local homes. All are welcome to join a group. For more information please see Simon.
- Over the past few months the number of people on the **Coffee Rota** has dwindled due to illness, moving away etc. There is a particular need for a team on the first Sunday morning in the month, but there are other gaps as well. If you are able to help, please speak to **Beth.**



I will bless you... and you will be a blessing... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. (v2-3)

Introduction: 'The Family of Faith' – our ancestry – redemption's gateway

Recap: Abram's context and call (ch11, 12v1) – timeline

Abram's faith: obedience

- Faith is a journey with Jesus (v1)
 - A journey with a departure and a destination
- Obedience is the sign of true faith (v4-5; Hebrews 11v8-10)
- Obedience is true worship (v7b, v8; Romans 12v1)

God's promise: blessing

- Abram: a great nation, prosperous and protected in their own land (v2-3,7)
- Believers today: a kingdom, heirs of glory, safe in Christ (Ephesians 1v3-6)
- Reciprocated blessing
- God's agent for blessing 'all peoples/nations on earth' (v3)
 - The nations receive the blessing through faith in Christ (Gal 3v8-9,14)
 - Blessing prevails over curse

Our mission: calling the nations

- 'Calling the nations to the obedience that comes from faith' (Rom 1v5, 16v26)
- 'Make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey' (Matthew 1v1, 28v19-20)
 - Modelling and duplicating the faith of Abraham

Conclusion: when we come to faith in Jesus we enter into the promise and blessing to Abraham and fulfilled in Christ. The genuineness of our faith is evidenced by our obedience and desire for others to come to faith through our example and activity.



Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (v1)

Introduction: an Apostle's parting words – passing on the baton (v1-2)

Strong in grace: beyond our own natural inclination / ability...

Higher purpose (v3-7)

- Three metaphors – needing strength that comes from purpose:
 - A good soldier (v3-4)
 - A competitive athlete (v5)
 - A hardworking farmer (v6)
- Gaining insight through 'reflection' (v7)

Solid foundation (v8-21)

- Remembering the gospel of Jesus Christ (v8)
 - A word that will be declared (v9)
 - Salvation that brings eternal glory (v10-13)
- Correctly handle the word of truth (v14-15)
 - Avoiding harmful and false teaching (v16-19,23)
 - 'Instruments for God's special purposes' (v20-21)

Godly character (v22-26)

- Fleeing 'evil desires' in pursuit of godliness (v22)
 - Righteousness, faith, love, peace, purity of heart
- Kindness, maturity, contentment, gentleness (v24)

Conclusion: we need to be 'strong in the grace of Christ' to avoid falling into temptation (v25-26). God's strengthens us so we can focus on our **higher purpose**, build on the **solid foundation** of the gospel, and develop **godly character**. Then we are best placed to be 'useful to the Master, prepared for any good work.' (v21)