

Abbey Diary

Sunday: **After Hours** - 7.45-9pm. Please speak to Iain or Krista for more details.

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

Tuesday: **Ladies' Prayer Circle** at 10.00am. See Mary for details.

Thursday: **Kickstart**. 6pm.

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

Cleaning

Saturday - Paul and Sue Sadler, Lydia; Simon and Rebecca Hutton; Phil and Janet Hawkes.

Lord's Supper

During the service this morning we will be celebrating the Lord's supper (communion). This is a time for those of us who have put our faith in God to remember together Jesus' death as the means of our salvation from sin. In conjunction with baptism and commitment to a local church fellowship it is an important biblical response and expression of our love for the Lord.

GBM Annual Mission Day

GBM Annual Mission Day is on Sat 28th October. If you have never been before, see the leaflet or GBM Herald magazine for details. It is a great day out in London where you will learn a lot about world mission. Main preacher: Matt Gamston. See Jim and Helen Sayers for details.

Welcome to Abbey Baptist Church!

Our morning service is led by Simon Hutton, Simon will be preaching from **Genesis 15 - Counting in faith**.

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

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

The group for year 6-9 is now called **Ignite!**

They head out today for the duration of the sermon to look at the Bible together.

Our evening service is led by Simon and this includes **Clive Bowsher's Induction, John Stevens from the FIEC** will be preaching.

Tea and Coffee are served after each service.

There is a loop system installed and printed copies of the songs are available.

- Thanks to all who helped with **the schools presentation** this week.
- Our **Connect Groups** meet in local homes. All are welcome to join a group. For more information please see Simon.
- There will be a chapel tea today at 4.30pm to welcome **the Bowsher family**.
- **Congratulations to Iain and Krista** who celebrate their 1st Wedding Anniversary today!
- As we are in the process of becoming a new charity, members are being asked to **reaffirm their membership**. Forms are available from Simon. If you are currently not a member and would like to find out more about membership, **please see Simon**. Copies of our new constitution and church handbook are now available.



Abraham is also the father of all who believe... in order that righteousness might be credited to them ...who follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had... (Romans 4v11-12)

Introduction: The Family of Faith... Counting the stars...

- Theme: looking to the heavens, counting on the infinite God
Instead of just looking to the earth and counting on ourselves
- Counting on = relying on = having faith in...

Counting on God's blessings (v1-5)

- The word of the Lord (v1, v4) - so do not be ignorant
- Our shield (v1) - so do not be afraid (Psalm 94v19)
- God's promises / reward (v1-5) - so do not be short-sighted
- Application: live actively in the light of God's blessings

Counting on God's covenant (v6-21)

- Credited with righteousness: a primary definition of a Christian (v6)
- *We can count on God's righteousness because God counts us as righteous*
- Counted as righteous = within the covenant (the family of faith)
- All true believers from all nations are counted as in the covenant (Romans 4)
- We are credited with righteousness *through faith in Jesus*
- God will fulfil his covenant promises (v9-21; Galatians 3v16-17,22)
'...what was promised [to Abraham], being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe' (Gal 3v22)

Conclusion: relating our lives to God and maintaining meaningful faith in him through everyday life often seems difficult, puzzling or counter-intuitive. We need to learn to count. Through faith we can count on God's blessings and the status he gives us in Christ. We can therefore live with confidence in the God who made the stars and who *will* fulfil his eternal promise to us, his covenant people in Christ.



Guest speaker: John Stevens, National Director FIEC

Ephesians 4v7-16

To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says: 'When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.'⁹(What does 'he ascended' mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.