

Today's Stewards: AM Diana Stonell PM Steve Mayo.

Abbey Diary

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

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

Thursday: **Kickstart**. 6pm.

Christmas Choir Practice at 8pm At Abbey in the upper hall.

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

Cleaning

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

11Up needs your cardboard tubes!

11Up are collecting cardboard tubes and other suitable recycling for building a marble run later this term. Please save what you can and give it to one of the leaders. Thank you!

Pilgrim Home Christmas Fayre is taking place 9:30 am to 11:30 am on Saturday 2nd December at and in aid of the Framland Pilgrim Home, Naldertown, Wantage. OXON. OX12 9DL.

Phill and Vicky invite you to an open house afternoon in Harwell on Saturday 2nd Dec. Their postcode is OX11 0EZ. Just for reference 'Shimna' is 2nd house on the left as you turn into Church lane, with limited parking, but only a short walk from the church where there are more spaces.

Welcome to Abbey Baptist Church!

Our morning service is led by Simon Hutton and Simon will be preaching from **Matthew 1:1-17 - Great David's Greater Son**.

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

Ignite! For years 6-9, head out today for the duration of the sermon to look at the Bible together.

Our evening service is led by Clive Bowsher and Simon will be preaching from **2 Corinthians 1:1-11 - The God of all comfort**.

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 joined in the week of prayer.
- We are starting two new sermon series - AM '**that glorious song of old**', PM - 2 Corinthians '**weakness and glory**'.
- It is **Remembrance Sunday**, so we will be observing 2 minutes silence around 11am.
- Our **Connect Groups** meet in local homes. All are welcome to join a group. For more information please see Simon.
- **Family Nativity Service** 17th Dec AM, **Carols by Candlelight** PM. Publicity coming soon.
- The **Quarterly Church Members Meeting** is on Wednesday 29th November, 7.45pm.
- The **new ministry schedule card 'that glorious song of old'** is available at the back of the chapel.



He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever.

(Isaiah 9v7)

Series introduction: It came upon the midnight clear - **that glorious song of old...**

- Matthew: meaning of the Christmas story enriched by context of OT prophecies
- Ch1v1-17: the Christmas story as a climax of the story of God's kingdom
 - We should locate our personal story within God's eternal story
 - Jesus the Messiah is the ultimate King:

The King in David's line

- Joseph and Mary's royal ancestry (1v1; Luke 3v23-37)
- The promised king on David's throne (2 Samuel 7v11-16)
- 'Established': his reign over God's kingdom *for ever* (Isa 9v7; Luke 1v32-33)

The King of justice and righteousness (Isaiah 9v7)

- Definitely reflecting God's own rule – true wisdom
 - Gen 18v18-19; 2 Sam 8v15; 1 Kings 10v9; Psa 89v14; Prov 8v12,15,20
- Righteousness: facilitating *relationships* with God and each other ('neighbour')
- Justice: promoting and restoring *right relationships* by eradicating wrong
- King Jesus does what is just & right (Isa 11v1-4; Jer 23v5, 33v14-15; Heb 1v8-9)

The King we need

- Justice: to eradicate the wrong/sin that lives within us by taking our penalty
- Righteousness: to give us a direct relationship with the Father *in him*
- To lead and equip us as a community in our priestly duty to reflect God's love
- To create an everlasting kingdom of loving, right relationships (2 Peter 3v13)

Conclusion: Christmas is the story of when God himself became the human King we need. Jesus' kingdom of ultimate justice and righteousness will last forever and should be reflected now in our individual lives and the local church community.



If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm. (v6-7)

Introduction: *how do we relate to the concept of comfort?*

- Context of the letter: Corinth... persecution... (v8)
- Three key features of a true Christian experience:

Abundant comfort (v3-7)

- 'The Father of compassion and the God of all comfort' (v3)
- 'Our comfort abounds through Christ' (v5)
- 'He comforts us in ALL our troubles...' (v4)
- *How do we 'comfort those in trouble'? what can we learn from v4?*
 - Comparative comfort vs. Christian comfort

Patient endurance

- 'We share abundantly the sufferings of Christ' (v5)
- Christian comfort should 'produce in you patient endurance' (v6)
- 'Despairing of life itself' – beyond our resources (v8)
- *In hardship, how can we learn to 'not depend on ourselves but on God?'* (v9)

Firm hope

- In Christ, our hope for each other is 'firm' / solid / real (v7)
- Pragmatic hope underwritten by ultimate hope (v9-11)
 - Temporary deliverance
 - Eternal deliverance
- *How does this inform our prayers and activity for ourselves and others?*

Conclusion: This teaching is an example of praise (v3). Through worship we remind ourselves of these key truths and prepare ourselves for our own inevitable suffering, and become a Christ-like source of true comfort to our brothers and sisters.