

**Today's Stewards:** AM Beth Rolfe PM Lawrence Hutton.

## Abbey Diary

Sunday: Service at **Nicholson House** this afternoon at 2.30pm.

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

Thursday: **Abbey Coffee Morning**, at Abbey. 10.30 am.

**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.

## Lord's Supper

*During the service this evening 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.*

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1:18-25 - Firm in faith**.

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

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

Our evening service is led by Simon and Clive Bowsher will be preaching from **2 Corinthians 1:12-22 - Reassurance from God**.

Tea and Coffee are served after each service.

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

- We are starting two new sermon series - AM '**that glorious song of old**', PM - 2 Corinthians '**weakness and glory**'.
- 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 29<sup>th</sup> November, 7.45pm.
- The **new ministry schedule card 'that glorious song of old'** is available at the back of the chapel.
- We are planning to begin a new round of **baptism classes** next month - please talk to **Simon or Clive** for more information or to register an interest.



*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel', which means 'God with us'. (1v23; Isaiah 7v14)*

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

- Context – when your world is falling apart, where is your salvation?
  - Individually – Joseph (1v18-19)
  - Nationally – Judah (Isaiah 7v1-2)
  - Universally – God's people (1v21)
- The birth of Jesus is God's sign of assurance to us (1v23; Isaiah 7v14)

#### **The fact: God will provide salvation**

- Judah is saved from imminent destruction (Isaiah 7v4-7)
- Joseph is saved from his personal crisis (1v20-25)
- God's people are 'saved from their sins' (1v21)

#### **The sign: God is with us**

- Judah's temporary deliverance (8v1-10) – Immanuel: the son is the sign
- The ultimate deliverance of God's people
- Another promised son (Isaiah 9v6-7) – Immanuel: the virgin birth (1v20)

#### **The need: stand firm in your faith** (Isaiah 7v9b)

- Faith in the God who works supernaturally
- Ahaz: faith in God's Sovereignty over the superpowers (Isaiah 7v7-9)
- Joseph: faith in God's Fatherhood and word (1v24)
- When your world falls apart – 'do not be afraid...' (1v20; Isaiah 7v2)
  - ...for God is with us: Immanuel – a platform for joyful obedience

Summary: In life's situations – big or small – God calls us to embrace him in faith. He will save his people from their sins. His people are the family of faith, evidenced by our underlying confidence that his sovereign plans will prevail, and our faithful obedience. Jesus' birth shows us that we can trust him – he is with us for all eternity



*"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ." (2 Corinthians 1:20a).*

(A format with spaces to make notes as you listen, for those who find that helpful).

#### **Introduction**

Longing for a committed relationship

#### **(1) Paul's Reassurance & Motives (1:12-18, 1:23-2:4)**

Explaining what went wrong

Being Christ's presence when relationships are showing the strain

#### **(2) God's Reassurance & Motives (1:18-22)**

"You matter deeply to me ... I will take delight in you on that final day"  
God's 'Yes' to you in Christ

Set apart, sealed and secure



#### **Coffee Cup Question (more important than the biscuit!)**

How do verses 21 and 22 of Chapter one provide what you need to keep going as a Christian, especially if you're struggling in your relationship with God at the moment?