

**Today's Stewards:** AM Beth Rolfe PM Diana Stonell.

## 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. All ladies welcome. See Mary Grist for details.

Thursday: **Kickstart**. 6pm. **Christmas Choir Practice** at 8pm at Abbey.

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

## Cleaning

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

## 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 OX12 9DL.

**Phill and Vicky invite you to an open house afternoon** in Harwell on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec from 2-5pm. Their postcode is OX11 0EZ.

**Venturers Christmas Party** – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 11-1pm at Abbey.

## 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.*

## Welcome to Abbey Baptist Church!

Our morning service is led by Jim Sayers and Simon Hutton will be preaching from **Matthew 2:7-12 - Jesus: Prophet, Priest and King**.

**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 Dan Bryant and Clive Bowsher will be preaching from **2 Corinthians 3 - What's exciting about Christianity?**

Tea and Coffee are served after each service.

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

- **David and Judy would like to thank all their friends at Abbey** for the messages, cards, flowers, offers of help, and prayers (please don't stop praying). They would especially value prayers for next Thursday, 7th December at 2.30pm which is Mim's thanksgiving service at Trinity Church Abingdon, OX14 1DB - and of course, anyone who would like to would be welcome to come to it.
- Our **Connect Groups** meet in local homes. All are welcome to join a group. For more information please see Simon.
- 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.
- **Can you help?** On Saturday 9th December we will be delivering Carol service flyers around town. See Iain or your Connect Group leader for more information.
- **Christmas services:**
  - 17th AM **Family Nativity Service**, 10.30am
  - 17th PM **Carols by Candlelight**, 6pm
  - 24th AM - **normal AM service** with Venturers
  - 24th PM - no evening service
  - Christmas Day - **Family Service** 10.30am.

*They bowed down and worshipped him... opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (v11)*



Introduction – the Magi of Christmas & the Christmas chord

Why were the Magi’s actions so significant for their time and for our time?

**Journey of divine discovery**

- The authorities in Jerusalem: all the information but no desire to discover
  - Seeing Jesus as merely ‘political’
- The Magi: actively searching, keen to discover the divine
  - Seeing Jesus as Lord (and Messiah)

**Jesus as he really is**

- The King of Kings – Gold: visible splendour and honour (Psalm 72v15)
  - ‘Now something greater than Solomon is here!’ (Matthew 12v42)
  - Leading the people in ‘justice & righteousness’ (72v1-2)
  - Universal worship: ‘all nations will be blessed through him’ (72v17b)
  - Ruling ‘to the ends of the earth’... ‘all nations serve him’ (72v8,10-11)
  - He will receive eternal praise, and his glory will fill the earth (72v19)
- The Great High Priest – Frankincense: Divine / Holy to the Lord (Exodus 30v37)
  - A fragrant offering (30v34) on the altar of incense (30v10; Eph 5v2)
- The Incarnational Prophet – Myrrh: a spicy messenger
  - Preparing for death (John 19v39)
  - The word made flesh – the gospel message in human form

Summary / Conclusion: Jesus himself is God’s prophetic message of hope to a broken world. He is the priest who intercedes between sinful people and a holy God, he offers himself on the altar of atonement so we can experience forgiveness and a relationship with God. He is the King of all – born to bless all nations and establish universal justice and righteousness in a redeemed society. Like the Magi, we must bow down and worship him and “give him the throne of my heart.”



*"But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."  
(2 Corinthians 3:16-17)*

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

**Introduction**

What should I do when I feel "stuck" spiritually?

**(1) The Veil of Death (3:1-6, 12-15)**

Cut off from God and unable to see who he is (3:12-15)

The letter, the written code by itself, kills; but the Spirit gives life (3:6)

**(2) The Spirit of Life, Freedom & Glory (3:7-11, 16-18)**

Knowing and showing others the source of life

Turn and See!

**For Discussion Afterwards**

What does this passage remind us is truly exciting about our faith?

