

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

Sunday: **Prayer meeting** before the evening service. 5.30pm.

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

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

Tuesday: **Time Out for Seniors**. At Abbey. 2.30 am.

Thursday: **Kickstart**. 6pm. Preston Road Community centre.

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

Saturday: **Cleaning**- Peter and Karen Akrill; Graeme and Diana Stonell.

Geneva Bible Notes- for 2018/19. Subscriptions for the next 12 months are now due. The cost will be £19 for the year. New readers are welcome. If you wish to renew or to become a new subscriber, please let me have your subscription by today, Sunday 27th May. Thank you. Philip Grist.

Welcome to Abbey Baptist Church!

Our morning service is led by Clive Bowsher and Clive will be preaching from **Matthew 4: 12-25** **Freed to Follow**.

There is a staffed crèche for children aged 0-2 in the chapel lounge.

Venturers for children aged 3-10 takes place during the service. 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 Dan Bryant and Clive will be preaching from **Psalms 4** **Finding Safety**.

Tea and Coffee are served after each service.

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

Our young people are sitting important exams. Let's remember them in prayer and encourage them where we can.

Connect Groups meet regularly during in local homes. All are welcome to join a group, please see Simon for more details.

Fun in the Park Saturday 2nd June, helpers will be needed. Please see Peter.

You are all encouraged to join us for the **Church Family Weekend** (31/8 - 2/9). Booking forms are available at the back and include further information. If you can't make the whole weekend please consider coming for the Saturday. *Please book now!*

"Come, follow me," Jesus said." (v. 19a)

Introduction

What kind of place do you want to live in?

Isaiah 9:1-7 looks forward to a Kingdom of joy, freedom, peace and righteousness.

(1) Freed by the King (v.12-17)

Jesus is the King who brings the light and freedom God promised through Isaiah.

This is where we long to be.

The Kingdom's people are transformed by Jesus; individual hearts are set free.

(2) Called by the King (v.18-22)

'Come walk with me, spend time with me, live the way I'm living.'

Decisive responses to who Jesus is and his authority.

'I will make you into ... Kingdom people' (v.19).

Jesus is leading you into a place and a life beyond your wildest dreams ... keep following!

(3) Healed by the King (v.23-25)

In these verses Jesus shows what he is like and what the Kingdom is like.

A foretaste of the freedom from captivity God promised through Isaiah.

What could compete with what Jesus has in store for us?

For Reflection and Discussion

Have you encountered Jesus in this life-changing way?

How does this passage help us to understand what the Kingdom will be like?

If you follow something or someone else, how is the destination going to measure up compared to Christ's Kingdom?

"You alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety." (v. 8)

Introduction

Dismay and anger in a fallen world.

The response of faith.

(1) Set Apart (v.2-3)

A world trusting in empty and false things for life.

Solid hope in place of futility: set apart by and for God himself.

(2) Seeking Security (v.4-6)

Security, safety, well being, "shalom," and peace are key words in Psalm 4.

Verses 4-6 tell us how to find these things: listen humbly to God, don't rant; submit to the One who wants your joy and your good; live life in conversation with him.

Do you know the security of Christ keeping you?

(3) Finding Safety (v.7-8)

Safe because Christ is King; guaranteed to survive and flourish in the long-term.

An inner joy and peace that doesn't depend on circumstances because it depends on things that don't change: who Christ is and his enduring presence with us.

For Reflection and Discussion

Where do we sometimes look for security outside of Christ?

How does that affect your peace and joy?

How can we turn more towards the light of Jesus when there is darkness around?

Share how that sustains you.

