



Welcome

...to Scartho Celebration Church!

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger forever; He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:8-12

September 2017

Sunday services, 10.30am:

3rd: (communion) Ant Spitteler;
10th: Andy King;
17th: Andy King;
24th: Andy King;
1st Oct: John Lavric.

Bible study home groups:

Wednesdays 7.30pm at Glen & Debbie's

Thursdays 10.30am at Margaret's

Friday 15th 7.30pm at Andy & Karen's

Prayer meetings:

Mondays, 7pm at Jill's

Prayer for Israel meetings:

Thursday 14th & 28th, 7.15pm at Ruth & Tony's

Mens Prayer Breakfast:

7am, 2nd at Glen's

7am, 16th at Andy's

Ashgrove Nursing Home service: Tuesday 19th, 2.30pm

Food donations for CARE & Womens Aid: Sunday 17th

Coffee morning and dancing:

Wednesday 6th & 20th, 10:30 – 12:00 midday, St John Fisher hall.

The Miracle of Dunkirk [Article](#) by Dr Clifford Hill (adapted version), *Prophecy Today UK*.

If we erase God from our past, we will also bar him from our present and future.

July saw the release of a new film about Dunkirk, to rave reviews. But as might have been expected, the film fails completely to do justice to what the whole nation agreed was a miraculous answer to prayer that saved Britain in one of her darkest hours.

The early days of the Second World War threatened to bring the whole of Europe under the dark cloud of Nazi oppression. France had fallen to the rapidly advancing German Panzer divisions, leaving the British army stranded on the continent and desperate to return across the Channel to defend their homeland from what appeared to be inevitable invasion. It was a desperate situation and on 27 May 1940 the German High Command announced “*The British army is encircled and our troops are proceeding to its annihilation.*”

The dire plight of the situation had already been recognised in Britain. The day before the German announcement, Sunday 26 May, King George VI had called the nation to a day of prayer. In a stirring broadcast, the King had called the people of Britain and the Empire to commit their cause to God.

The whole nation responded. Large crowds went to Westminster Abbey. Unable to find seats, they stood outside listening to the service and joining in prayer. Churches across the land were filled - and this day of prayer proved to be the first victory of the war. A great spiritual battle was fought in the heavenlies against the forces of darkness. A [series of miracles](#) followed:

A spirit of confusion clouded the German High Command. Irrationally, Hitler ordered his generals to halt the advance towards the west coast of France. This gave the British army time to make their way to Dunkirk.

A storm of extraordinary fury grounded the German Luftwaffe on 28 May, allowing the British forces to reach the beaches. A great calm followed which settled over the English Channel for several days with low cloud cover allowing the armada of little ships, many of them only riverboats, to cross the Channel and ferry the waiting soldiers from the beaches out to the Royal Navy warships for their return to Dover.

Amazingly 338,226 Allied soldiers were evacuated from Dunkirk in those few momentous days which would prove to be a turning point in world history. This was seen at the time as a direct response from God to the whole nation coming in humility before him in prayer.

Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, told the nation that he believed this to be a miracle – an answer to prayer. In a speech to Parliament he said, “*I thought, and some good judges agreed with me, that perhaps 20,000 or*

*30,000 men might be re-embarked. The whole root and core and brain of the British army seemed about to perish upon the field or to be led into captivity.*¹

The King called the nation to a day of prayer – and this proved to be the first victory of the war. The safe return of so many men did not guarantee the survival of Britain. The army had to leave its weapons and equipment in France. Now it had to re-group, re-arm, and re-position itself to face the threat of imminent invasion. But the spirit of confusion in the German High Command continued to affect Hitler's judgment.

Amazingly, he did not follow across the Channel immediately after Dunkirk when Britain was at his mercy. He continued to hesitate throughout June to August 1940. This gave Britain a breathing space and an opportunity to re-group and prepare for the coming battle. It was at this point that Field Marshal Goering, head of Germany's Air Force, told his commanders that before Germany could invade Britain they had to destroy the Royal Air Force. On 30 August 1940, 800 enemy aircraft darkened the skies over southern Britain aiming to destroy the RAF's airfields. The Battle of Britain had begun!

The King again called for a National Day of Prayer on Sunday, 8 September 1940. This was to have been a day to give thanks to Almighty God for the miracle of Dunkirk. But the prayers of thanksgiving also turned to crying out to the Lord for the Battle of Britain in the air.

This became the next miracle when RAF Spitfires and Hurricanes, although greatly outnumbered, took a tremendous toll of the enemy bombers. By mid-September the Germans had sustained such heavy losses that they called off the mass attacks. On 17 September 1940, the German Supreme Command issued another order – *The invasion of England is postponed until further notice.*

Once again Churchill addressed the nation and acknowledged the 'miracle of deliverance' in his famous speech, "*Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few*".² But everyone knew that it was not just 'the few' who had given the victory: it was God who had answered the prayers of the nation.

Since the Referendum vote, the battle for Brexit has taken on many characteristics of Dunkirk – not least that we want to withdraw from Europe! Although of course, it is only the European Union from which we wish to withdraw so that we don't come under its ungodly jurisdiction. Recent events in Westminster with a hung Parliament, the *political* resurrection of Tony Blair and the advent of Vince Cable as the new leader of the Lib Dems all demonstrate the spiritual nature of the battle we still face to escape the clutches of the EU.

But this is not all. As a nation we have departed from our great biblical heritage and embraced the values of secular humanism – to our own

destruction. This is why it is sad, but not surprising, that the new Dunkirk film focuses only on human bravery, failing to mention faith, prayer or even belief in the existence of God.

In so doing, it not only falls short of telling the full story – it actually sides with the enemy in the present spiritual battle for Britain’s soul. For if we try to erase God from the testament of Britain’s history, we erase him from her present and future. Christians should recognise the true nature of this battle, whether it takes place in our Parliament or in our cinemas, but should also take heart that our God is a God who answers prayer.

If ever there were a time for Christians to come before God in prayer, confessing the nation’s unfaithfulness and interceding for people to turn in repentance, it is surely today. If we were to put our trust in the Lord and call upon him to heal the land, he would undoubtedly answer prayer today as he has done in the past.

References: 1 [Speech to the House of Commons](#), 4 June 1940; 2 [Speech to the House of Commons](#), 20 August 1940.

Season of change There are three changes for us to embrace as we move from summer to autumn. From 3rd September our Sunday services have started at 10.30am, instead of the traditional 11am. The earlier start means an earlier finish and more of an afternoon for us all to enjoy.

Secondly, we have moved our weekly congregational prayer meeting from Sundays to Mondays. Again, this means there is more time now on Sundays to spend with family and friends. Also, hopefully it will make it more convenient for people to be able to get to the prayer meetings. Prayer changes thing!. Let’s seek God together in faith and unity!

Thirdly, this month will see the handover of the role of treasurer from Debbie to Karen (Facer), who is kindly taking on this vital role in the fellowship. Debbie has done a tremendous job, quietly serving the Lord as treasurer so faithfully and so well for nine years! Please pray for them both during this transition period, and for Glen as he assists in all this.

Scartho Celebration Church, meeting at St John Fisher Church Hall,
Waltham Road, Scartho, Grimsby, NE Lincs, DN33 2NA.

Pastor Andy King 07866 265155; email: ajking70@ymail.com

Website: Scarthocelebrationchurch.org



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‘Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!’ John 4:35