

June Calendar & Readings

Sunday 3rd: Sunday service 10.30am: Andy King
 Mon. 4th: Prayer meeting at Andy & Karen's
 Wed. 6th: Bible Study, 7.30pm at Glen & Debbie's
 Friday 8th: Bible study, 10.30am at Andy & Karen's

2Kings 22 -
 1Chron. 8;
 Nahum 3 -
 Zephaniah 3;
 2Cor. 9 - 13

Sun. 10th: Sunday Service, 10.30am, Andy King
 Mon. 11th: Prayer meeting, 7pm at Ann's
 Wed. 13th: Bible Study, 7.30pm at Glen & Debbie's
 Dancing group at 1.30pm, Scartho Library
 Thurs. 14th: Bible study, 10.30am, location to be advised
 Sat. 16th: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7am at Steve's

1Chronicles 9 - 19
 Haggai 1 - Zech. 7
 John 1 - 5

Sun. 17th: Sunday Service, 10.30am, John Lavric
 Food donations for local charities
 Mon. 18th: Prayer meeting, 7pm at Jill's
 Tues. 19th: Ashgrove Nursing Home service, 2.30pm
 Wed. 20th: Bible Study, 7.30pm at Glen & Debbie's
 Thurs. 21st: Bible study, 10.30am, location to be advised
 Prayer for Israel, 7.15pm at Ruth & Tony's

1Chron. 20 - 2Chron. 1
 Zechariah 8 - 14
 John 6 - 8

Sun. 24th: Sunday Service, 10.30am, Andy King
 Mon. 25th: Prayer meeting, 7pm at Ruth & Tony's
 Wed. 27th: Bible Study, 7.30pm at Glen & Debbie's
 Dancing group at 1.30pm, Scartho Library
 Thurs. 28th: Bible study, 10.30am, location to be advised
 Friday 29th: Bible study, 7.30pm at Andy & Karen's
 Sun. 1st: Sunday service 10.30am, Andy King

2Chronicles 2 - 11
 Malachi 1 - 4;
 Psalms 73 - 75
 John 9 - 11

Special notice: If you have a heart for the poor and needy and would like to be involved as we look to develop this congregational ministry, then you are welcome to attend a meeting towards the end of June (date to be announced) to discuss and pray into this subject.



Welcome

...to Scartho Celebration Church!

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
 How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

“For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counsellor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?”

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things,
 to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

June 2018

Newsletter & Calendar

Scartho Celebration Church

meeting at Scartho Community Library, St Giles Ave, Scartho,
 Grimsby, NE Lincolnshire, DN33 2HB.

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

Website: Scarthocelebrationchurch.org

Natural and Wild Branches

A devotional by Jill Southern-Jones, in *Seeds of the Kingdom* daily devotional from Ellel Ministries. Jill is the founder of Ellel Ministries Pierrepont and is on the Executive Leadership of the ministry.

"Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles so as to make Israel jealous ... but if some of the branches were broken off and you although a wild olive branch were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree ..." Romans 11:11 & 17, NIV

In today's scripture, the apostle Paul likens the Gentile conversions to the agricultural grafting process. The natural branches are Israel. They were broken off and the wild branches, the Gentiles, were grafted in.

My friend overheard two top horticulturists having a conversation related to pruning and grafting of wild and natural branches from cultivated trees. They said that the process begins with cutting off the perfectly healthy fruit-bearing branches of the cultivated tree and laying them down on the ground at the base of the tree. Then new branches are taken from the wild tree and are grafted into the very places from where the cultivated branches were cut off.

Because the new branches are from a different sort of tree they do not have the right DNA to cause them to draw up the sap from the root. Consequently, the cultivated tree needs to literally force its sap into these wild branches. The cultivated tree just knows to pump sap out into the capillary structure to bring the sap into the wild branches, the flow will always go into a cut. For three years this process continues without any fruit.

In the fourth year, the farmer drills holes alongside the grafted in wild branches and inserts the original cultivated prunings that were cut off. The next thing is quite amazing. The in grafted wild branches cause the cultivated branches that have been disconnected from their tree for over three years to experience a 'jealousy' over the wild branches. It was the horticulturist himself that used the word 'jealous'.

This jealousy causes the cultivated natural branches, which must appear very dead after three years, to begin to miraculously draw on the sap and come back to life. For another three years, the tree still bears no fruit, while both branches continue to feed together on the nourishing sap in the cultivated tree.

Then seven years after it all began, this traumatised tree, with twice the number of branches, yields for its harvest a double portion, which should be abundant and pure. Interestingly, if the natural cultivated branches are not grafted back in then the entire tree will die.

This fascinating account testifies to God's plan that the Jews were destined to be

the conduit through which God's blessings would flow to all mankind, whilst the Gentile believers were destined to represent the character of Jesus and to make His firstborn, the Jews, jealous for His presence.

By the grace of God, we're now witnessing the coming of the one new man, foretold in John 11:52 and Ephesians 2:14-16. *'For He Himself is our peace who has made both one, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two thus making peace and that he might reconcile both to God through the cross'*.

Prayer: *Father, we are so thankful for Your unchanging purposes and Your unbreakable covenant with Abraham and his seed forever. Help us to understand the profound truth today of the one new man and that we are a part of it, through the cross. Amen.*

God's pruning process for Christians: How is God pruning you?

An abridged article by Alannah Francis on *ChristianToday.com*

The prospect of pruning can be pretty off-putting if we're still attached to the things that we know God is telling us to separate from. But the act of pruning is done out of love in order to stimulate growth. Understanding the purpose of pruning is key if we're to appreciate it as a positive exercise when we're called to do it in our lives.

The dictionary defines pruning as "to trim by cutting away dead or overgrown branches or stems, especially to encourage growth," and this definition works when thinking about pruning in a Christian sense. For us to grow spiritually, become purposeful and remain in a healthy relationship with Christ, we have to cut the bad influences and distractions out of our lives. We can't continue to pursue worldly values which don't correspond with godly values if we choose to prioritise God and put him at the centre of our lives. "The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives for ever," (1 John 2:17).

What Jesus says in John 15:1-4 is a great reminder of the positivity and purpose of pruning. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." Essentially, the things which don't lead to Jesus cannot remain in our lives if we chose to remain in Jesus.

The process of pruning is rarely easy but reminding ourselves of the point of it, the fact that it frees us up to fulfil God's purpose for us, can help us adjust to the changes we're called to make.