

## February Calendar

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February: Sunday service 10:30am, Ant Spitteler  
Holocaust Memorial event in Sheffield, 3pm  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup>: Coffee morning at Barbara's, 10.30am  
Israeli Dance at the Library, 2.15pm  
Prayer meeting at Ann's, 7pm  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>: Bible study at Glen & Debbie's, 7.30pm  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>: Bible study, location TBA, 10.30am  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup>: Bible study at Andy & Karen's, 7.30pm

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>: Sunday service, 10.30am, Clive Jackson  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup>: Prayer meeting at Steve & Nicky's, 7pm  
Wed. 13<sup>th</sup>: Bible Study at Glen & Debbie's, 7.30pm  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>: Bible study, location TBA, 10.30am  
PFI prayer meeting at Ruth & Tony's, 7.15pm

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>: Sunday service, 10.30am, Dr Annang  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup>: Prayer meeting at Julie's, 7pm  
Israeli Dance at the Library, 2.15pm  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>: Ashgrove Nursing Home service, 2.30pm  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>: Bible study at Glen & Debbie's, 7.30pm  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>: Bible study, location TBA, 10.30am  
AGM at the Library, 7.30pm  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>: Bible study at Andy & Karen's, 7.30pm

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>: Sunday service, 10.30am, Andy King  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup>: Prayer meeting at John & Hilary's, 7pm  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>: Bible study at Glen & Debbie's, 7.30pm  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>: Bible study, location TBA, 10.30am  
PFI prayer meeting at Ruth & Tony's, 7.15pm  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March: Men's Prayer Breakfast at Paul's, 7am  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>: Sunday service, 10.30am, John Lavric



# Welcome

...to Scartho Celebration Church!

A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
"All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is  
like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people  
are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever."

Isaiah 40:6-8

## February 2019

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@ymail.com](mailto:ajking70@ymail.com)  
**Website: [Scarthocelebrationchurch.org](http://Scarthocelebrationchurch.org)**

**Hope in a hopeless world.** We all need hope, don't we? Life can seem pretty hopeless at times, but when we walk with the Lord in faith and trust we have genuine hope! Hope for today and hope for the future. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will be no means pass away." Mat.24:35. His promises stand the test of time. Our hope in Him is never misplaced!

### **What is the Christian's hope?** *(from Gotquestions.org)*

Most people understand hope as wishful thinking, as in "I hope something will happen." This is not what the Bible means by hope. The biblical definition of *hope* is "confident expectation." Hope is a firm assurance regarding things that are unclear and unknown ([Romans 8:24-25](#); [Hebrews 11:1, 7](#)). Hope is a fundamental component of the life of the righteous ([Proverbs 23:18](#)). Without hope, life loses its meaning ([Lamentations 3:18](#); [Job 7:6](#)) and in death there is no hope ([Isaiah 38:18](#); [Job 17:15](#)). The righteous who trust or put their hope in God will be helped ([Psalm 28:7](#)), and they will not be confounded, put to shame, or disappointed ([Isaiah 49:23](#)). The righteous, who have this trustful hope in God, have a general confidence in God's protection and help ([Jeremiah 29:11](#)) and are free from fear and anxiety ([Psalm 46:2-3](#)).

The New Testament idea of hope is the recognition that in Christ is found the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises ([Matthew 12:21](#), [1 Peter 1:3](#)). Christian hope is rooted in faith in the divine salvation in Christ ([Galatians 5:5](#)). Hope of Christians is brought into being through the presence of the promised Holy Spirit ([Romans 8:24-25](#)). It is the future hope of the resurrection of the dead ([Acts 23:6](#)), the promises given to Israel ([Acts 26:6-7](#)), the redemption of the body and of the whole creation ([Romans 8:23-25](#)), eternal glory ([Colossians 1:27](#)), eternal life and the inheritance of the saints ([Titus 3:5-7](#)), the return of Christ ([Titus 2:11-14](#)), transformation into the likeness of Christ ([1 John 3:2-3](#)), the salvation of God ([1 Timothy 4:10](#)) or simply Christ Himself ([1 Timothy 1:1](#)).

The certainty of this blessed future is guaranteed through the indwelling of the Spirit ([Romans 8:23-25](#)), Christ in us ([Colossians 1:27](#)), and the resurrection of Christ ([Acts 2:26](#)). Hope is produced by endurance through suffering ([Romans 5:2-5](#)) and is the inspiration behind endurance ([1 Thessalonians 1:3](#); [Hebrews 6:11](#)). Those who hope in Christ will see Christ exalted in life and in death ([Philippians 1:20](#)). Trustworthy promises from God give us hope ([Hebrews 6:18-19](#)), and we may boast in this hope ([Hebrews 3:6](#)) and exhibit great boldness in our faith ([2 Corinthians 3:12](#)). By contrast, those who do not place their trust in God are said to be without hope ([Ephesians 2:12](#), [1 Thessalonians 4:13](#)).

Along with faith and love, hope is an enduring virtue of the Christian life ([1 Corinthians 13:13](#)), and love springs from hope ([Colossians 1:4-5](#)). Hope produces joy and peace in believers through the power of the Spirit ([Romans 12:12](#); [15:13](#)). Paul attributes his apostolic calling to the hope of eternal glory ([Titus 1:1-2](#)). Hope in the return of Christ is the basis for believers to purify themselves in this life ([Titus 2:11-14](#), [1 John 3:3](#)).

### **What is the blessed hope?** *(from Gotquestions.org)*

[Titus 2:12-13](#) says that the grace of God teaches us "to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ." This passage identifies the "blessed hope" as the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ, our great God and Saviour.

The word *blessed* can mean "happy" or "beneficial"; our hope is "blessed" in that Jesus' return will be an amazing, joyful experience for the believer in Christ. We will be blessed beyond measure when we see Christ. The trials of this life will be over, and we will see that "our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" ([Romans 8:18](#)). The word *hope* does not communicate uncertainty, as in "I hope that something might occur"; rather, it is the glad assurance that something *will* take place. Jesus is our hope, and no one can take that hope away. "Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us" ([Romans 5:5](#)).

The "blessed hope," then, is the joyful assurance that God will extend His benefits to us and that Jesus Christ will return. We are waiting for this event now. Jesus said He would return ([John 14:3](#)), the angels said He would return ([Acts 1:11](#)), and the epistles say He will return. Jesus could come back at any time for His church, which includes all believers in Christ from the [Day of Pentecost](#) in [Acts 2](#) onward. This event is called the rapture. It will be announced by the voice of the archangel and God's trumpet call. The bodies of those who have died will be raised to be joined with their souls, and then the bodies of those believers still living on earth will be changed into a body like the Lord's resurrection body. The believers raised from the dead and the believers living at Christ's return will meet the Lord in the air and be taken to heaven. They will "fly the friendly skies united" (cf. [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)). This will happen in the twinkling of an eye ([1 Corinthians 15:52](#)).

Should this blessed hope of Christ's any-time return have an effect on the believer in Jesus Christ? John wrote, "All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as [Jesus] is pure" ([1 John 3:3](#)). The believer anticipating Christ's blessed return will seek to live, in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, a life of purity. We will all stand before the Lord and give an account of how we lived for Him on earth ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#)).

Jesus' [imminent](#) return should motivate the believer to live godly in an ungodly world. The word *looking* in [Titus 2:13](#) is the key for that to happen. To be "looking" means that we live each day in continual anticipation and expectancy, with the conviction that Jesus could come at any time. That hope becomes a transforming reality in this life, resulting in God being glorified through us ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#)). The blessed hope brings us joy and cheers us through the trials of this world. It should also cause us to stop and evaluate our thinking, words, and actions.

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