

December Calendar

Sunday 1st Dec: Sunday service 10:30am, Dr Annang
Celebration Care donations
Monday 2nd: Prayer meeting, 7pm at Steve & Nicky's
Wednesday 4th: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
Thursday 5th: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am
PFI prayer meeting, 7.15pm at Ruth & Tony's
Julie's Stepping Stones fellowship group, 7pm
Saturday 7th: Men's prayer breakfast at Paul's, 7am

Sunday 8th: Sunday Service, 10.30am, Andy King
Monday 9th: Prayer meeting, 7pm at Julie's
Israeli dance at the library, 2.15pm
Wednesday 11th: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
Thursday 12th: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am
Saturday 14th: Carols outreach in Freshney Place, details to be advised. See Steve for details.

Sunday 15th: Sunday service, 10.30am, Ant Spitteler
Monday 16th: Prayer meeting, 7pm, location to be announced
Tuesday 17th: Ashgrove nursing home service, 2.30pm
Wednesday 18th: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
Thursday 19th: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am
Saturday 21st: Carols outreach in Scartho.

Sunday 22nd: Christmas Carol Gospel Service, **6pm**,
followed by mince pies, cakes and teas &
coffees. Please note there is no Sunday
morning service today.
Monday 23rd: Prayer meeting at Ruth & Tony's, 7pm.

Sunday 29th Dec: Hanukkah service, 10.30am, Jeff Facer
Saturday 4th January: Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7am
Sunday 5th: Sunday service, 10.30am, Andy King

May you know

the Light of the world
this Christmas!



Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I AM the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life." John 8:12



Welcome

...to Scartho Celebration Church!



...Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1:20-23

December 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

Website: Scarthocelebrationchurch.org

The Miracle of the Virgin Birth *by Ron Graham from simplybible.com*

Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Joseph took her as his wife, and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to her firstborn son. This fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet, "The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold! A virgin will be with child and will bear a son, and she shall call his name "God with us"" (Matthew 1:18-25, Isaiah 7:14).

The Virgin Birth Is a True Story: Matthew and Luke tell story of Christ's birth as fact. Millions of people believe it around the world, in every generation throughout the Christian age. Some professing Christians, however, do not believe in anything miraculous or supernatural. They are like the Sadducees among the religious leaders of Jesus's day. Pharisees believed in the supernatural, but the Sadducees did not (Acts 23:8). Some people today won't accept the virgin birth of Jesus as a real event. The supernatural is woven inextricably into the whole Bible story — especially the story of Christ Jesus, his virgin birth, his signs and wonders, his resurrection from the dead, his ascension into heaven, his sending the Holy Spirit—all must be rejected if the supernatural and miraculous is rejected. Taking the supernatural element out of the story of the Bible, is like taking the thread out of a garment. You undo the entire garment except for a handful of buttons.

The Virgin Birth is Not Like a Myth: The gospel nativity bears no resemblance to myth. Were it written that Mary picked a pumpkin and found the baby Jesus inside, then well might we think we are reading a myth. The account, however, is straight forward and contains none of the trappings of fables. The story's extraordinary point is that Mary was a virgin when she conceived and was still a virgin when she gave birth. This, and the rest of the story, is presented as straight facts and real events among real people. The account bears no resemblance to the myths of the Greek and Roman gods or the unscriptural Jewish fables.

Myths, fables, and legends are written not to embody great truths, but to make a hero out of one who, in real life, falls short of the ideal. If faith in Jesus requires myth or legend to bolster it, then it is a vain faith, because the real Jesus, stripped of the legend and myth, is just another Robin Hood or Davy Crockett. Peter testifies, "We did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses of his majesty..." - a clear, evidential refutation of the claim that the story of Christ is a myth (2Peter 1:16).

The Virgin Birth was a Sign: The virgin birth was to be a "sign" from God (Isaiah 7:14). A birth in the ordinary course of nature is not a sign. As wonderful as it may be, human procreation occurs every minute of every day. If Jesus's birth were an ordinary natural event, how would it be a sign of anything? On the other hand, if the mother had conceived being a virgin, and was still a virgin when she gave birth, then that would indeed be a sign. Matthew is clear that Joseph kept Mary a virgin until she gave birth to Jesus (Matthew 1:24-25). Nothing less than that fact makes the birth of Jesus a sign, and Jesus the unique son of God in whom we should believe (John 3:16).

Giving thanks

We thank God for the really lovely time we had at our recent Thanksgiving meal at The Beeches. It was such a blessing to hear so many give thanks for various things, but especially giving thanks for the 'church family' we feel part of in Scartho Celebration Church.



For many in the fellowship these are tough times, having to endure various illnesses, operations, bereavements and other difficulties. Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another", John 13:35. By God's grace, we continue to love and support one another through these times.

Although Glen and Debbie were unable to be with us at the meal, Debbie wanted to share her personal testimony with the fellowship, and here it is:

Dear friends at Celebration Church,

The last few months for Glen and I have been very difficult. The diagnosis of my cancer and the dark places that that takes you, topped with the loss of Glen's father. It has been a roller coaster of a ride but looking back now we can both see that God has been with us every step of the way. This could have been so much worse but through prayer the outcome is good. The cancer was contained, the surgery was a success.

I confess I am very disappointed and apprehensive that I have to go through 6 months of chemotherapy; this is as an insurance policy. I know that the Lord will be with me. When Glen's Dad passed away on the 23rd September we both felt knocked back, especially Glen, even though it was expected. But even at this time the Lord was with us. Work was very good about compassionate leave. All the timings of going to Suffolk, the funeral, hospital appointments, nothing clashed. It is amazing how everything worked out.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, words of encouragement, cards, flowers, chocolates, food and visits which has helped us both get through this period and if I could ask you for prayer for the next few months, for the strength to go through the chemotherapy and hopefully no side effects because I would like to go back to work through this time. Maybe the only side effect that I have so far experienced is getting closer to God.

It was wonderful to hear the cancer consultant tell me that he had not expected to see such positive results from the surgery and histology reports that he did as the cancer was very aggressive. Thanks be to our God for His gift of life.

So thank you all once again. Love and blessings, Debbie X