

these hidden things. Help me to come into a more intimate relationship with You, where I can experience freedom from anxiety and worry, and live in the peace that only You can bring. In Jesus' name, Amen.

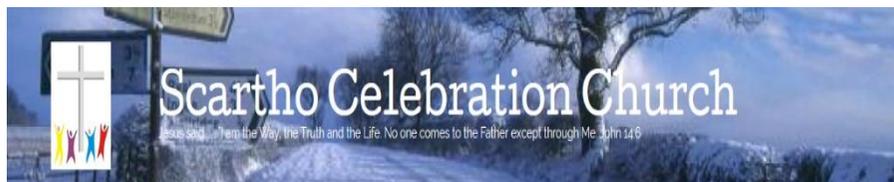
February Calendar

Sunday 2nd: Sunday Service, 10.30am, Dr Annang
 Monday 3rd: Israeli dance at the library, 2.15pm
 Prayer meeting, 7pm at Margaret's
 Wednesday 5th: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
 Thursday 6th: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am

Sunday 9th: Sunday service, 10.30am, Rob Burrell
 Monday 10th: Prayer meeting, 7pm, location TBA
 Wednesday 12th: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
 Andy & Karen's Bible study, 7.30pm
 Thursday 13th: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am
 Prayer for Israel at Ruth & Tony's, 7.15pm

Sunday 16th: Sunday service, 10.30am, John Lavric
 Monday 17th: Israeli dance at the library, 2.15pm
 Prayer meeting, 7pm, location TBA
 Tuesday 18th: Ashgrove nursing home service, 2.30pm
 Wednesday 19th: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
 Thursday 20th: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am

Sunday 23rd: Sunday service, 10.30am, Jeff Facer
 Monday 24th: Prayer meeting, 7pm at Andy & Karen's
 Wednesday 26th: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
 Thursday 27th: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am
 Prayer for Israel at Ruth & Tony's, 7.15pm
 Sunday 1st March: Sunday service, 10.30am, Andy King



Welcome

...to Scartho Celebration Church!

"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Jesus speaking in Matthew 11:28-30

February 2020

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

Here are two devotionals taken from Seeds of the Kingdom, the Ellel Ministries daily devotional page. Both focus on Phillipians 4.

No More FOMO by Peter Brokaar, Co-Director of Ellel Ministries Scotland

FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) has probably been around since the fall of mankind, but the term has become more widely used over the last ten years. With the rise of the internet, and social media in particular, people's feelings of anxiety have skyrocketed. Many feel they are missing out, they are being left out, and their lives are not as wonderful and fulfilling as those of others. Polished snapshots of seemingly happy and beautiful people on social media continually feed these feelings of anxiety and inner distress.

I remember reading about J.D. Rockefeller. Still considered the richest man in modern times, he was the first American billionaire, back in the early 1900's. During an interview, his response to the question, "How much money is enough?" was "Just a little bit more". Although he originally set out to make \$100,000, but then discovered he had an insatiable desire to keep increasing his wealth. It was never enough to satisfy him.

We can learn from this in our current struggles with FOMO, powerfully fanned into flames in our social media age. We might think, "If only I had what these other people have, then I would feel happy". But this is a lie.

Amazingly, long before the invention of internet, we find the answer to this problem in the Bible. Paul was able to share from his own experience of life, *'I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation'* (Philippians 4:11-12). And the 'secret' to being content is a principle which applies to all situations at all times.

It is not having what we want which makes us content. Only appreciating what we already have can do that. This is why Paul was content, whether he had a lot or a little. And we can be like that too, when we thank God for what we already have. This applies not only to money but to friends, social life, romance - every sphere of life. The miracle is that, when we thank God and appreciate what we already have, it suddenly becomes enough.

In this life we have Jesus with us at all times, in all circumstances, in all places. In our future life we will have heaven with Him. It is ours to enjoy forever. Whatever the world has to offer, it cannot compete with God. So, think about it, it is impossible for us, as God's children, to 'miss out'.

Prayer: *Father in heaven, You know when I feel unhappy, discontent or ungrateful. You see my inner anxieties and fears. Please forgive me for being caught up in wanting what others have. I now choose to thank You for what You have already given me and also for what You have promised me in the life to come. Thank You for being such a great Father. Amen.*

My Worries and God's Care by Julie Smith, an associate teacher with Ellel Ministries

A little while ago, something was troubling me, in fact it had been troubling me for some time, but I kept trying to rationalise it away. I wonder how many of us have done that? I'm guessing I'm not the only one!

In the end, without any real prayer of explanation, I waited on the Lord. I was surprised by His quick response, as I sensed Him saying, "I am with you always, I'll never leave you". Receiving His comfort, I replied, "Oh thank You, Father, for that reminder." I was about to move on then and get on with life, when, unexpectedly, I sensed Him speaking again, saying, "I didn't mean it like that!"

It was His loving conviction. I knew what He meant. I was taking His comforting words that He wouldn't leave me, like a plaster and sticking it on top of a wound. In a sense, I was saying, "That's ok then, You're with me, so everything's OK." In one way that is true: when we have received Jesus in our lives, we are held safe, we are loved, and to know that, is a huge comfort and blessing. However, His presence is not an instant cure-all.

How easy it is for us to mistake it for that, and how sad that in the process we depersonalise our Father God. Through Jesus, He is our Father, and we are His children. Yet we can be so religious! But He doesn't want religion, He wants a real relationship with you and me, one where we let Him into the hidden depths, through opening our hearts and pouring out to Him the good things and the bad things, the joys as well as the worries, the concerns, the things that weigh heavy. The Bible tells us, *'Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you'* (1 Peter 5:7).

He cares about us. That's a truth we need to allow to sink deep down inside. Our Father God cares, and His care isn't a passive blanket to cover over the things that trouble us. He knows they would simply fester in the hidden place. How many of us have experienced gnawing anxiety that feels like it's eating us up inside?

Thankfully, our Father God understands, and His care is active, but it does necessitate us being active too. When we open up, we let Him in. We facilitate Him speaking back into the real issues of our lives, bringing His words of comfort, conviction, reassurance and love. This is His care, which mercifully meets us in the place of our worries and anxieties and replaces them with His inexplicable peace.

So, let's be encouraged by Paul's words today: *'Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand'* (Philippians 4:6-7).

Prayer: *Father God, I'm sorry for the times I've taken Your words of reassurance and just put them like a blanket over my worries. All I've done is cause them to fester even more inside. Thank You that You really care about me, and about the things that trouble me. Please help me to really know that deep inside, and to talk to You about my worries and concerns, and to hear Your voice as You speak back into*