

## March Calendar

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February: Men's prayer breakfast, 7am at Paul's  
Sunday. 1<sup>st</sup> March: Sunday Service, 10.30am, Andy King  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>: Israeli dance at the library, 2.15pm  
Prayer meeting, 7pm at Eva's  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm  
Jeff & Margaret's Bible study, 7.30pm  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>: Sunday service, 10.30am, Andy King - Purim  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup>: Prayer meeting, 7pm at Ruth & Tony's  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm  
Jeff & Margaret's Bible study, 7.30pm  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am  
Prayer for Israel at Ruth & Tony's, 7.15pm

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>: Sunday service, 10.30am, Andy King  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup>: Israeli dance at the library, 2.15pm  
Prayer meeting, 7pm, location TBA  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>: AGM at the library, 7.30pm  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm  
Jeff & Margaret's Bible study, 7.30pm  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>: Sunday service, 10.30am, Matt Petley  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>: Prayer meeting, 7pm, location TBA  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm  
Jeff & Margaret's Bible study, 7.30pm  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am  
Prayer for Israel at Ruth & Tony's, 7.15pm

Sunday. 29<sup>th</sup>: Sunday Service, 10.30am, John Lavric  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup>: Israeli dance at the library, 2.15pm  
Prayer meeting, 7pm at Eva's  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm  
Jeff & Margaret's Bible study, 7.30pm  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>: Men's prayer breakfast, 7am



# Welcome

...to Scartho Celebration Church!

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication,  
with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;  
and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your  
hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

## March 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@gmail.com](mailto:ajking70@gmail.com)

Website: [Scarthocelebrationchurch.org](http://Scarthocelebrationchurch.org)

## **The Secrets of Esther the Intercessor** *by One For Israel (Messianic Jews in Israel)*

Esther was an undercover agent. Esther wasn't even her real name. She was really called Hadassah (the Hebrew name for the myrtle plant) originally by her Jewish parents. Who, by the way, we never get to hear much about. Nor does she disclose her Jewish identity while in the court of the Persian king Artaxerxes, until absolutely necessary. She was the opposite of showy and brash, just like her namesake, the lowly myrtle bush. She was humble and unassuming, modest and delicate. However, her codename totally suits her – Esther means “star”, like the tiny star shaped flowers of the myrtle, and sounds just like the Hebrew word “hesstair”, which appropriately means “secret”, or “hidden”. There are wonderful lessons to be learned from this Biblical woman of mystery!

**In the shadows** A well-known fact about the book of Esther is that not only do we have an undercover agent in the hidden Hadassah, but also God himself does not make his presence obvious. He hides between the lines of the story, and his name is not even mentioned once. However, there are countless clues to indicate his activity behind the scenes. 1 Corinthians 10:11 explains that the stories of the first Testament were written down as examples or “types” for us to learn from. And there is much we can learn from this story in every way. Think about the very set up of the story: An ornate palace with woven hangings, silver and golden vessels, furniture, poles and clasps, in “inner room” into which one must not go (or else face death) unless they have met certain strict requirements... An all-powerful king enthroned inside who can grant requests, and royal robes are essential dress code to approach the king in his chamber. All these things are like shadows, types, of the tabernacle, the temple, and of the protocol of our meeting God himself in his throne room.

**The sceptre** Esther speaks up on behalf of her people, and the myrtle in Scripture is a picture of intercession. In the story, she asks the Jewish people to back her up with three days of prayer and fasting (three days and three nights – how about that) and then dares to go boldly into the throne room, hoping she will find grace. And the kind king does indeed hold out his sceptre to her, inviting her to approach with confidence. In that meeting, she finds favour in his eyes, and he encourages her to ask for whatever she likes, even up to half the kingdom. Which, if you have forgotten, included 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia.

This sceptre itself is very significant, and this symbol is mentioned in a few key places in Scripture. As usual, the very first mention holds the key to its meaning: *“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples”.* (Gen 49:10) This prophecy that Jacob gives to his fourth son, Judah, is a messianic prophecy. The Messiah, as king, would come from the tribe Judah and rightfully hold the sceptre. In Psalm 60:7 and 108:8, God calls Judah his sceptre, and another key prophetic passage is in Numbers 24:17: *“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel...”* This prophecy was spoken by Balaam, unaware of the powerful truth of his words.

Yeshua the Messiah did indeed arise out of Israel, out of Jacob, and only through Yeshua is it possible for us to approach the throne of God.

**The fate of Israel's enemies** Balaam later prophesied the destruction of the Amalekites, Israel's enemy who attacked them mercilessly as they straggled out of Egypt. Years after that, God commanded King Saul to finish them off, but Saul flunked. But then, oddly enough, some descendants of Saul (Mordecai and Esther) were given another chance to carry out God's instruction, since the evil Haman was a descendant of the Amalekites, still bent on wiping out the people of Israel. It is almost as if the whole scenario had been planned and orchestrated from long ago.

There have been many attempts to destroy the people of Israel as the enemy of our souls plots to eradicate the apple of God's eye from the earth. Pharaoh tried, the Amalekites tried, and Hitler was filled with the murderous spirit of Amalek, after the same old goal. The people of Israel have always been surrounded by enemies, hostility and death threats, and even today there are political leaders who speak openly of “wiping Israel off the map”. But just as God was covertly pulling the strings to create a supernaturally orchestrated series of events to save Israel in exile back in Esther's day, so he will keep them today. The Protector of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.

God's activity in the book of Esther may be only hinted at – a curious nocturnal desire to read the record books, a “chance” midnight meeting in the palace courtyard... but we also read that prayers were sent up from the Jewish people, which implies God was the recipient of those prayers. There is even awareness of God among Haman's camp – his wife warned him that fighting against Israel is a pointless endeavour: *“If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not overcome him but will surely fall before him.”* (Esther 6:13).

They understood that the Jewish people had an unassailable supernatural force on their side. As God promises in Zechariah 12, those who come against the Jewish people will only harm themselves in the end.

**The King invites us to come** God called Esther to stand up and intercede for the Jewish people, and thanks to her courage and wisdom, the people of Israel were saved. The line of Judah continued, and the Messiah arrived in Israel safe and well in the passage of time. As Mordecai warned Esther, if she did not take that stand, then God would surely just find another way to save his people that did not involve her. But what an invitation! What an incredible privilege Esther was given! And a similar invitation is before us today.

Jesus tells us that it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom (Luke 12:32). Thanks to our Messiah, the sceptre of God, we have the right and invitation to come boldly before the throne of God and ask whatever we wish. Would you like to step into the legacy of Esther, and intercede for Israel before the King? You are welcome to join us as we petition God for the protection of Israel and for spiritual awakening. Whether you focus on praying on behalf of Israel or for your own people, I think that's a prayer we can all join in with!