



# Welcome

....to Celebration Church!

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving  
and His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His Name.  
For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting  
and His truth endures to all generations. Psalm 100:4-5.

## May 2017

### **Sunday services, all at 11am:**

7 <sup>th</sup> : (communion)	Clive Jackson;
14 <sup>th</sup> :	Dr Annang;
21 <sup>st</sup> :	Andy King;
28 <sup>th</sup> :	John Lavric.

### **Ashgrove Nursing Home service:**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> at  
2.30pm

### **Bible study home groups:**

Every Wednesday 7.30pm at  
Glen & Debbie's

Every Thursday 10.30am at  
Margaret's

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> at Andy &  
Karen's

### **Prayer meetings:**

Sundays 7pm: At Margaret's

### **Prayer for Israel meetings:**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 7.15pm  
at Ruth & Tony's

### **Mens Prayer Breakfast:**

7am, 6<sup>th</sup> at Paul's  
7am, 20<sup>th</sup> at St Peter's

### **Coffee morning and dancing:**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 – 12:00 midday, St John Fisher hall.

This year Ascension Day falls on 25<sup>th</sup> May. This was an event 40 days after the Feast of Firstfruits, the day Jesus rose from the dead, Resurrection Sunday. Even though He had appeared several times to not only His disciples, but the women who had followed Him and many others, each time He had 'disappeared' again. I think they probably wouldn't have known whether this would continue to happen or what?

But when Jesus left by physically ascending into the sky (as opposed to another 'disappearing'), this time it was different. It was His formal departure, if you like, from His earthly ministry and it was understood as such. So, it is clearly a very significant and important event. Here are two articles from Got Questions Ministries on [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org) looking at this wonderful subject. AJK

### **"What is Ascension Day?"**

Ascension Day is the celebration of Christ ascending into heaven after His death, burial and resurrection. Ascension Day is observed primarily in Catholic and Anglican churches, and it occurs on the Thursday 40 days after Easter. Ascension Day is also called the Feast of Ascension.

The story of Jesus' Ascension is told in [Luke 24:49](#), [Mark 16:19](#) and [Acts 1:3, 9](#). Putting these accounts together, we find that after His resurrection, Jesus appeared several times to His disciples and others. During this time, He spoke to them further about the kingdom of God and the coming of the Holy Spirit, for whom they were to wait ([Acts 1:2-9](#)). After 40 days of these appearances, He was taken up to heaven for the last time ([Acts 1:9-11](#)). As the disciples watched Him go, two angels appeared and declared to them that, just as He ascended, Jesus would return in glory.

According to one of the early church fathers, Augustine of Hippo, the Feast of Ascension originated with the Apostles. It may be one of the oldest feasts practiced by the Church, possibly going as far back as AD 68. There is no written evidence, however, of the church honouring Ascension Day until Augustine's time in the fourth century. Churches around the world have observed Ascension Day Feasts for centuries, including ceremonies and traditions including processions, prayer vigils, and Catholic masses.

Whether or not we actually celebrate Ascension Day, its significance is that it reminds us that the glorious and triumphant return of Christ is near. It is a reminder of the Kingdom of God within our hearts, and of the ever-present Holy Spirit, watching over and protecting us as we spread the light of Jesus' truth throughout the world. The fact that Jesus was resurrected from the grave and ascended to the right hand of the Father is the source of our hope ([1 Peter 1:3](#)). We know that those who belong to Him by faith will one day be with Him in heaven.

## **"What is the meaning and importance of the ascension of Jesus Christ?"**

After Jesus rose from the dead, He "presented Himself alive" ([Acts 1:3](#)) to the women near the tomb ([Matthew 28:9-10](#)), to His disciples ([Luke 24:36-43](#)), and to more than 500 others ([1 Corinthians 15:6](#)). In the days following His resurrection, Jesus taught His disciples about the kingdom of God ([Acts 1:3](#)).

Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus and His disciples went to Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem. There, Jesus promised His followers that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit, and He instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit had come. Then Jesus blessed them, and as He gave the blessing, He began to ascend into heaven. The account of Jesus' ascension is found in [Luke 24:50-51](#) and [Acts 1:9-11](#).

It is plain from Scripture that Jesus' ascension was a literal, bodily return to heaven. He rose from the ground gradually and visibly, observed by many intent onlookers. As the disciples strained to catch a last glimpse of Jesus, a cloud hid Him from their view, and two angels appeared and promised Christ's return "in just the same way that you have watched Him go" ([Acts 1:11](#)).

### **The Ascension of Jesus Christ is meaningful for several reasons:**

1) It signalled the end of His earthly ministry. God the Father had lovingly sent His Son into the world at Bethlehem, and now the Son was returning to the Father. The period of human limitation was at an end.

2) It signified success in His earthly work. All that He had come to do, He had accomplished.

3) It marked the return of His heavenly glory. Jesus' glory had been veiled during His sojourn on earth, with one brief exception at the Transfiguration ([Matthew 17:1-9](#)).

4) It symbolised His exaltation by the Father ([Ephesians 1:20-23](#)). The One with whom the Father is well pleased ([Matthew 17:5](#)) was received up in honor and given a name above all names ([Philippians 2:9](#)).

5) It allowed Him to prepare a place for us ([John 14:2](#)).

6) It indicated the beginning of His new work as High Priest ([Hebrews 4:14-16](#)) and Mediator of the New Covenant ([Hebrews 9:15](#)).

7) It set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to set up the Kingdom, He will return just as He left-literally, bodily, and visibly in the clouds ([Acts 1:11](#); [Daniel 7:13-14](#); [Matthew 24:30](#); [Revelation 1:7](#)).

Currently, the Lord Jesus is in heaven. The Scriptures frequently picture Him at the right hand of the Father—a position of honour and authority ([Psalm 110:1](#); [Ephesians 1:20](#); [Hebrews 8:1](#)). Christ is the Head of the Church ([Colossians 1:18](#)), the giver of spiritual gifts ([Ephesians 4:7-8](#)), and the One who fills all in all ([Ephesians 4:9-10](#)).

*Did you know? The newsletter is available on the website, and all the references above in blue are links on the website version that will pull up the Scriptures for handy reference.*

**News on the building** As was announced on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, after seeking the Lord we have submitted an offer for the property that would enable us to maintain the building and site as a church serving the local community.

We believe the Lord has planted us as a fellowship in Scartho and also believe that should continue to be the case. We will of course continue to keep you informed of any developments. Whatever the outcome the Lord will lead us forward, as He has good plans for us! Jer.29:11 (as Barbara shared).

**Craft afternoons** Amy has started hosting an afternoon for ladies who enjoy being creative making cards and other items and having fellowship together. If you'd like to be involved speak to Amy.

**Coffee mornings (with optional dancing!)** These continue every other Wednesday morning for all, ladies and gentlemen, to come and enjoy fellowship around coffee (or tea) and biscuits. There is also the opportunity to practise for when we 'praise the Lord with dancing' in our services!

**New church magazine** John is looking to produce an occasional church magazine, so if you have any contributions please pass them on to him.

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