

December Calendar & Bible Readings

Sun. 26th Nov: Creation Sunday Service, 10.30am, A King
 Mon. 27th Nov: Prayer meeting, 7pm at Ruth & Tony's
 Wed. 29th Nov: Coffee morning & dancing, 10.30am at SJF
 Bible Study, 7.30pm at Glen & Debbie's
 Thurs. 30th Nov: Bible study, 10.30am at Margaret's
 Fri. 1st Dec: Bible study, 7.30pm at Andy & Karen's
 Sat. 2nd Dec: Men's prayer breakfast, 7am at Steve's

Genesis 38 - 44
 Psalms 29 - 35
 Luke 21 - 24

Sun. 3rd Dec: Sunday Service, 10.30am, Andy King
 Mon. 4th Dec: Prayer meeting, 7pm at John & Hilary's
 Wed. 6th Dec: Bible Study, 7.30pm at Glen & Debbie's
 Thurs. 7th Dec: Bible study, 10.30am at Margaret's
 Prayer for Israel, 7.15pm at Ruth & Tony's
 Fri. 8th Dec: Home group meal, 7.30pm at Andy & Karens

Gen. 45 - Ex. 4
 Psalms 36 - 41
 Hebrews 1 - 7

Sun. 10th Dec: Sunday Service, 10.30am, John Lavric
 Mon. 11th Dec: Prayer meeting, 7pm at Andy & Karen's
 Wed. 13th Dec: Coffee morning & dancing, 10.30am at SJF
 Bible Study, 7.30pm at Glen & Debbie's
 Thurs. 14th Dec: Bible study, 10.30am at Margaret's
 Carolling in Scartho, 7pm, church car park
 Fri. 15th Dec: Christmas party at John & Hilary's
 Sat. 16th Dec: Men's prayer breakfast, 7am at Glen's
 Churches United carols, 11am, in the village

Exodus 5 - 17
 Proverbs 1 - 8
 Hebrews 8 - 13

Sun. 17th Dec: Sunday Service, 10.30am, Andy King
 Mon. 18th Dec: Prayer meeting, 7pm at Ann's
 Tues. 19th Dec: Ashgrove Nursing Home service, 2.30pm
 Wed. 20th Dec: Bible Study, 7.30pm at Glen & Debbie's
 Thurs. 21st Dec: Bible study, 10.30am at Margaret's
 Prayer for Israel, 7.15pm at Ruth & Tony's
 Sat. 23rd Dec: Carol service, 6pm, St John Fisher

Exodus 18 - 32
 Proverbs 9 - 14
 Matthew 1 - 5

Sun. 24th Dec: Christmas Eve Service, 10.30am, Andy King
 Sun. 31st Dec: New Years Eve thanksgiving service, 10:30

Ex. 33 - Lev. 6
 Proverbs 15 - 21
 Matthew 6 - 9



Welcome

...to Scartho Celebration Church!

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;
 And the government will be upon His shoulder.
 And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end,
 Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with
 judgment and justice, from that time forward, even forever.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7.

December 2017

Christmas is the traditional time we celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our **Carol Service** will be a celebration the fact that Jesus was indeed born as a baby, a truly amazing event full of good news, glad tidings and great joy, just as the angels declared! It will be on Saturday 23rd December at 6pm, followed by lashings of mince pies and teas and coffees! Bring a friend to hear the good news!

Also, this year we will be carolling in Scartho on Thursday 14th December, meeting in the church car park at 7pm. We'll be singing from house to house and distributing invitations to our Carol Service. If you're not able to join us carolling on the Thursday there's a Churches Together carol event in the village on Saturday, 16th, at 11am.

Scartho Celebration Church, meeting at St John Fisher Church Hall,
 Waltham Road, Scartho, Grimsby, NE Lincs, DN33 2NA.
 Pastor: Andy King 07866 265155; email: ajking70@ymail.com
Website: Scarthocelebrationchurch.org

Light in a Dark World by Charles Gardner, Dec 2016, Prophecy Today (abridged).

When the stars lined up to lighten the path of the Wise Men as they travelled from the East to worship the new-born King of the Jews, it was the dawning of an amazing new era: an era of light. The Jewish feast of Hanukkah *sometimes* coincides with Christmas (*as last year*), but they are usually close together. Both are festivals of light cheerily illuminating our dreary winter days with sparkling symbols of God's intervention in human affairs.

The Story of Hanukkah Special candles will be lit all over Jerusalem to remind her people of the time, in 167 BC, when God came to their rescue. The ruthless Syrian-Greek emperor Antiochus Epiphanes had desecrated the Jewish Temple by sacrificing a pig there and blasphemously proclaiming himself God. Judah Maccabee led a brave and successful revolt against the tyrant and re-established temple worship ('Hanukkah' means *dedication*) with the aid of the menorah (seven-branched candlestick) which burned miraculously for eight days despite having only enough oil for a day – the Greeks had polluted the rest.

I believe this event foreshadowed another great rescue, less than two centuries later, when the Jewish Messiah – the light of all mankind ([John 1:4](#)) – was born in a stable at nearby Bethlehem, as prophesied in the Scriptures ([Mic 5:2](#)). And now, much of the world is lit up with brightly-coloured decorations – for many people, in commemoration of his birth. *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light..."* Isaiah prophesied of Jesus ([Isa 9:2](#)) who did not at first lead Israel in a military victory, although that will indeed happen one day ([Zech 12:9](#)), but came to cast his glorious light on a dark world and bring peace, hope and comfort to all those who seek him.

King of the Jews I love Christmas, partly because it draws my faith back to its roots in Israel. Tragically, much of the Western Church seems for the rest of the year to have divorced itself from the Jewish state, as if it were unrelated to the ongoing story of the Church. But there is no getting away from the Messiah's birth being inextricably linked with Bethlehem and Jerusalem, as the carols clearly reflect: *Once in Royal David's City, O Little Town of Bethlehem, O come, O come, Emmanuel...shall come to thee O Israel.* And, in *The First Nowell* (an archaic word for Christmas), the chorus keeps repeating the line *"born is the King of Israel!"* The Bible clearly teaches that the Messiah will come first as the *"suffering servant"* (Isa 53) and then, in the fullness of time, as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, ruling and reigning from Jerusalem as the 'Lion of the tribe of Judah' ([Rev 5:5](#)) after finally defeating God's enemies on the mountains of Israel.

So it is that, as with his first coming, the focus returns to Israel for his second advent. Should we Christians not more adequately prepare ourselves for this great event by re-aligning our hearts with the hopes and aspirations of God's chosen people? We are in this together.

The anti-Semitic hatred currently manifested through Islamic State and related terrorist groups (and in past generations through Haman, Hitler and others) is directed at those who look to the *God of Israel* – first the Jews, then the Christians. Encouraged by growing co-operation on this level in the face of an implacable foe, we hope for increasing revelation for all that the child born to a virgin ([Isa 7:14](#)) is the true Messiah – *Emmanuel* (God with us) – who fulfilled all the Jewish scriptures. As the carol put it so beautifully, *"He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all."* It's an awesome truth. He is the Prince of Peace ([Isa 9:6](#)) promised, first to the Jews, and also to the Gentiles ([Rom 1:16](#)).

Bringing Light to All Who Will Believe Avi Snyder, European Director of Jews for Jesus, tells of a time when his colleague Julia asked a young woman called Miriam to read Isaiah 53, written around 700 BC. *"Miriam's eyes literally grew wide as she read from her own Bible the description of the Servant of the Lord killed as an atonement for our sins."*

"Does this sound like anyone you've ever heard about?" Julia asked. *"It sounds like Jesus,"* Miriam replied. And, after re-reading the passage, she asked, *"Why don't the rabbis believe this?"*

"Actually, that's the wrong question," Julia said. *"The right question is, 'why don't you believe this?'"* Miriam thought for another moment, then said, *"I do."*

Just a few chapters later, Isaiah wrote, *"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn"* ([Isa 60:1-3](#)).

The Festival of Dedication Jesus himself celebrated Hanukkah – also referred to as the 'Festival of Dedication' – and it was there that he came under fierce attack from the Jewish religious leaders. As they debated with him about his identity, they threatened to stone him for blasphemy because he claimed to be the Son of God ([John 10:22-42](#)). The encouraging thing about this account is that Jesus subsequently returned across the Jordan to where his cousin John had earlier been baptising, and many followed him there and came to believe in him. Today we rejoice that more and more Israelis, along with Jews across the diaspora, are putting their trust in Yeshua (Jesus name in Hebrew) who, at Christmas, came to dwell (or tabernacle) among us ([John 1:14](#)).

Have a happy Hanukkah and a blessed Christmas!

Although it is customarily and traditionally believed Jesus was born at Christmas, it is actually far more likely He was conceived at Hanukkah and born on the Feast of Tabernacles. For more information, click on the 'Christmas' tag (on the right hand side of our website) and go to the article 'The related timings of the births of Jesus and John the Baptist' for some Biblical detective work! God bless you!