

Grace Christian Fellowship

May 22 - Newsletter



Welcome to May

May Day is a European festival of ancient origins marking the beginning of summer, usually celebrated on 1 May. Nature's summer is a season of growth and production in the plant life cycle. Flowers and fruits bring fragrance, beauty, and delicious sweetness. It is a time of warmth, extended light, slowing down, taking a break from our usual schedules, and refreshment in our everyday lives.

Spiritual summer is also a time of spiritual growth and production. This is a season to build up our spiritual foundation by maturing our faith. The Bible also encourages us to work and remain prudent during this time, as historically this season included cultivation and development. Often, when the Bible refers to summer it is in the context of summer fruits, (in fact the Hebrew word for summer means *'to clip off, to pluck or gather fruit'*, or *'the time of fruit'*.)

In Jeremiah 40v10, the governor of Judah says to the people, *'but as for you, gather in wine and summer fruit and oil and put them in your storage vessels.'* The people were encouraged to cultivate the fields and vineyards, in order to gather provisions and security for their future. Let us see this time as a time to gather in the spiritual fruits of our labours, to continue to walk in the faith we have developed over the years, to put into practice our knowledge and experience of God and to bring forth spiritual fruit for salvation. Amen. Serena

Prayers

For many people around the world and in our own homes and families, this is a challenging time. Not only have we come through a pandemic, but we are facing a brutal war in Ukraine, with millions of innocent people displaced, and rising food and fuel costs in our own country. Let's remember, we serve a mighty and loving God, who delights to hear our prayers, has compassion upon our/others needs and is willing and able to answer our petitions.

1 Peter 3:12 - 'For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer.'

Let's remember to pray for the following:

Anne - recovering from her hip operation.

Les - who is supporting Anne in her recovery.

Jayne - recovering from a fractured knee.

Georgie - continued health after her kidney transplant.

Ukraine - for peace and an end to a senseless war.

Putin/Moscow - that God would reveal the error of their ways.

Refugees - displaced from their homeland and suffering trauma.

The poor - who are struggling to make ends meet financially

Dear Lord, we thank you for your unending love and compassion upon all those in need. We remember our friends and family members who are sick or in pain, and those recovering from injury or surgery. We pray Lord that you would grant health, strength and healing to them and that your grace and mercy would encourage them and give them peace. We also remember those suffering from the effects of war, those who have lost loved ones through violence or who have been traumatised and displaced from their homes. Please have mercy upon these people Lord, and provide for their needs of food, water, shelter and health care. Your own people were at times removed from their land and so we ask that these people would either find safe refuge in other lands or be able to return to their homes and loved ones. Please keep them safe from violence and brutal assaults or war and help the children traumatised by fear and loss. We pray for those in positions of power, that they would have compassion upon ordinary people, who suffer because of decisions that are made. Open their eyes Lord and let them work for peace not war. Help all those who are working to help and minister to others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

There are so many distressing things occupying the headlines these days, it can be hard to wrap your head around them. When will the madness end? The people who lived in Bible times were no strangers to atrocity. But many were also well acquainted with the character of God—a loving, protecting Father quick to console His people. He comforted them then and comforts us now. Take a few moments to soak in these passages of Scripture and let them sustain you in the days ahead.

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” —**Psalm 27:1**

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” —**Deuteronomy 31:8**

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” —**Psalm 23:4**

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” —**Lamentations 3:22-23**

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”
—**John 14:27**

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” —**Psalm 46:1**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.” —**2 Corinthians 1:3**

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” —**Matthew 5:4**

“Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.” —**Psalm 55:22**

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” —**Romans 8:37-39**

Grace Christian Fellowship

Meetings/Events

Church Service - every Sunday 11am at Saints Event Venue

Communion Service - first Sunday in the month

Charity Offering - third Sunday in the month

Revival Prayer Session - every Thursday evening 7.30pm

Zoom Monthly Bible Study - see Serena for invite

Forthcoming Events for 2022

Sunday 5th Jun - Church Service and Jubilee Picnic

Saturday 20th Aug - Church Day Out?

Sunday 25th Sep - Harvest Festival

Sunday 16th Oct - Church Birthday

Sunday 6th Nov - Service with Fireworks and Food

Sunday 13th Nov - Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 18th Dec - Carol Service/Christmas Lunch

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If you would like to donate to the church, you can give during the service, donate by bacs online, or go to the 'donate' button on the 'Contact' page of the website and make a payment there.

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Grace Christian Fellowship is part of registered charity

Hope Community Trust - 1000798

www.gcfnorwich.co.uk gcf@norwich.myzen.co.uk

Sunday Services are held at **Saints Event Venue**,
217 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0SQ from 11-12.30pm