

Grace Christian Fellowship

November 23 - Newsletter



Hi everyone, it's November and many people will be enjoying a fireworks party. The history of fireworks dates back to ancient times when people would celebrate the arrival of spring with bonfires and other forms of pyrotechnics. Over time, these celebrations became associated with the Christian holiday of Easter, and fireworks began to be used specifically to celebrate this important religious festival.

The first recorded use of fireworks in the UK was for the wedding of King Henry VII, which took place in 1486. By the time Queen Elizabeth I came to the throne, fireworks were extremely popular and Elizabeth herself was extremely fond of them. She famously appointed a fire master to oversee royal firework displays to make sure they went to plan!

The most famous connection with fireworks comes from British history with the plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605. This became well known as the gunpowder plot and is now celebrated each year with fantastic firework displays.

In many cultures, the use of fireworks has religious significance. In the Catholic tradition, for example, fireworks are often used to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the victory of light over darkness. Just as the resurrection of Christ brings new light and hope to the world, fireworks illuminate the sky with a dazzling array of colours and patterns.

So as we all watch the fantastic firework displays this year, let's also remember our resurrected Saviour - the light he has brought into our lives and the beautiful colourful eternal life that is awaiting us in heaven! Amen! xx

Firework Facts

1. Fireworks originated in China around 2000 years ago

The birth of fireworks can be traced back to 7th century China. But there is further evidence that primitive Chinese firecrackers date back as far as 200BC. It is thought that a Chinese cook accidentally invented gunpowder by mixing three common kitchen ingredients! Today, it is estimated that China produces around 90% of the world's fireworks.

2. The bard loved a banger

Shakespeare refers to fireworks in a number of his plays, suggesting that they were widely used by his lifetime. In Love's Labour's Lost one character states, "the king would have me present the princess, sweet chuck, with some delightful ostentation, or show, or pageant, or antique, or firework."

3. A firework is behind the expression "damp squib"

These days, we use the expression "damp squib" to describe a disappointing event that is not as exciting or impressive as expected. But a squib is literally a miniature explosive device, or form of firework, usually cylindrical in shape and with a paper fuse at one end, which fails to ignite if it gets wet.

4. The largest ever firework display consisted of 810,904 fireworks

According to Guinness World Records the biggest ever fireworks display was achieved by Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ) in the Philippines, who welcomed 2016 in with a record-breaking bang. The display lasted for 1 hour, 1 minute and 32.35 seconds and, sadly, it poured with rain the whole way through.

8. Disney is the largest consumer of fireworks in the world

The Walt Disney Company is said to be the largest consumer of fireworks in the world. It is estimated that they spend around \$50 million a year on their displays. That's no Mickey Mouse operation!

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Prayers: Let's keep praying for Georgie who has an important health appointment this month and for Roger who we haven't seen for a while. Please keep praying for Samuel and all the pressures of the ministry in India. Pray for Annie's continued recovery and also for Nicky's sister who has a health issue.

Jeremiah 17:14 - 'Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.'

News

Church Birthday and Macmillan Coffee Morning

I hope you all enjoyed the Church Birthday celebrations and Macmillan Coffee Morning. The offering that day was £130, so we sent £200 to Macmillan Cancer Research.

Thank you all for your kind donations. xx

India Update

Sue and John raised £300 for the India Children's Christmas Clothes this year. We also had £300 in the 'India pot', so we were able to send Nicky £600 all together, to buy a new outfit for each of the children and staff at the children's home on the campus this Christmas.

Here's an update from Samuel with the latest news.

'Hello everyone. We are fine and doing well. I hope all are fine in church.

Here is an update on the work here on the campus. The boys accommodation building work is going on and we are working hard to put the roof. The time of registration is finished by 21 October and I have prepared a file of renewal to submit.

One good thing happened is they changed the rules for renewal so I got some more time before inspection to put the roof on. I need another 15 days to put the roof. Please pray for us and for the work. We are having pastors conference from 6th November to 9th November. Please pray for it. Thank you.

We will continue to pray for you and for the church. Samuel.'

Below are the latest pictures of Samuel and his pastors feeding the poor, in a rural village.



Grace Christian Fellowship

Meetings/Events

Church Service - every Sunday 11am at Saints Event Venue

Communion Service - first Sunday in the month

Prayer Meeting -10am before service at SEV / first Sunday of the month

Charity Offering - third Sunday in the month

Live from India - Nicky preaches usually on the last Sunday of the month

Forthcoming Events - 2023

Sunday 12th Nov - Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 12th Nov - Deadline for Shoebox Appeal.

Sunday 17th Dec - Church Service and Christmas Lunch

Sunday 24th Dec - Carol Service and mince pies

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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. If you would like to donate by cheque, please make the cheque out to Hope Community Trust.

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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 11am-12.30pm