

Grace Christian Fellowship

June 22 - Newsletter



Welcome to June

Hello everyone. It was lovely to see Nicky, Samuel and the children at church last week and to be able to have fellowship with them over lunch. It has been hard waiting three years to see them again, but in scripture there are many times when people had to exercise patience and wait for God to answer or meet their need. Waiting on the Lord may be one of the most difficult aspects of the Christian life.

Waiting is not just something we have to do while we get what we want. Waiting is the process of becoming what God wants us to be. What God does in us while we wait is as important as what it is we are waiting for. Biblical waiting, is not a passive waiting around for something to happen that will allow us to escape our troubles.

Those who wait are those who work, because they know their work is not in vain. The farmer can wait all summer for his harvest because he has done his work of sowing the seed and watering the plants.

Those who wait on God can go about their assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and conclusions to their lives and the harvest to their labour. Waiting is the confident, disciplined, expectant, active, and sometimes painful clinging to God. It knows that we will reap a reward. When Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem, he was telling them that this was a means of experiencing his peace, his prosperity, and his power. In waiting they would catch the wind of God's Spirit. In waiting they would see God move. Let us wait patiently for God to work in us, so that, in waiting, we are perfected and see Him move in us, in our families, our church and our nation. Amen. Serena xx



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

This weekend, the UK and Commonwealth will celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a four day Bank Holiday for national celebrations, which ends on Pentecost Sunday.

Her Majesty the Queen is the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. It is a 70 reign that has consistently reflected her steadfast faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She has consistently testified to the importance of her faith in Christ. Her strong Christian faith has been evident throughout her life in her words and actions. As well as her formal role as 'Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England', which came with monarchy, her personal faith was evident even before she was crowned.

'Pray for me ... that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.'

That was the prayer request made by Queen Elizabeth II in her first Christmas broadcast in 1952. Her father, King George VI, had died on 6 February 1952. She was crowned Queen 18 months later on 2 June 1953 at Westminster Abbey, London. She has often used her public messages to speak of forgiveness, Jesus' sacrificial life, the fact that no one is beyond God's love and the example that she herself takes from Jesus.

Below are some quotations by the Queen relating to her Christian faith, the duty we have as Christians and the Christ-like example we should set for others.

Quotations by Her Majesty the Queen.

In her Christmas message in 2014, the Queen said, 'For me the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none.'

'To many of us our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.' (Christmas message, 2000)

'Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves – from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive... It is my prayer that on this Christmas day we might all find room in our lives for the message of the angels and for the love of God through Christ our Lord.' (Christmas message, 2011)

'For Christians, as for all people of faith, reflection, meditation and prayer help us to renew ourselves in God's love, as we strive daily to become better people. The Christmas message shows us that this love is for everyone. There is no one beyond its reach.' (Christmas message, 2013)

'I know just how much I rely on my own faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God. Like others of you who draw inspiration from your own faith, I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.' (Christmas message, 2002)

Prayers for the India Ministry

Below are some of the needs for the India ministry that Nicky and Samuel have asked us to pray for.

John 14v14 'If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.'

1. Nicky needs to buy an A3 colour printer to print the children's text books for them to use in the school on the campus.
2. They are trusting God to be able to put a concrete roof on the school, so it can be registered by the government in the coming year.
3. There are currently 18 students in college, who Nicky and Samuel are supporting financially. Please pray that God blesses them with finances.
4. There are also 3 very poor children who have done their exams (GCSE's) and are waiting for their results, please pray that they get good results. They need sponsors to be able to go to college.
5. Compassion for India – Nicky and Samuel are aiming to support disabled people in the local area, with food, provisions and care.
6. They also need to finish their church building on the campus

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

Forthcoming Events for 2022

Monday 30th May - Nicky + Samuel leave for Wales/Spain

Sunday 5th June - Queen's Jubilee picnic

Tuesday 21st June - Nicky + Samuel return to Norwich

Sunday 26th June - Nicky + Samuel at GCF Church Service

Thursday 30th June - Samuel goes to USA

Friday 1st July - Nicky goes to Holland

Monday 4th July - Nicky returns from Holland

Thursday 7th July - Samuel returns from USA

Sunday 10th July - Nicky + Samuel at GCF Church Service?

Sunday 17th July - Nicky + Samuel at GCF Church Service?

Saturday 23rd July - Nicky + Samuel return to India

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