

# Grace Christian Fellowship

## December 2021 - Newsletter



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

'December represents both ending and beginnings. It has marked the end of the year since the ancient Romans established their first calendar in 738BC. The year's end is neither an end or a beginning, but another season - a 'going on' with all the wisdom that experience can instil in us. It seems like everything sleeps in winter, but it's really a time of renewal and reflection. It's a time to look back at the year and to see where the hand and grace of God has touched our lives, even when we were not aware of it. It has been a difficult and challenging year for us all, but we can thank God the Father, that He has been with us every step of the way.'

Yes, we may well have walked through the floods and fires, but we have learnt that the Lord saves and our faith has strengthened. We can take the knowledge that God is with us, and that we are precious in His sight, into the new year to enjoy the blessings.

This year, 2021, may we celebrate the Christ of Christmas with our hearts. It is my hope and prayer that Jesus will be at the centre of all we do this Christmas and in the new year. May we reflect upon the message that Christ brought. May we too, join in the work of bringing the Good News, the joy and peace of Jesus, just as the angels on that night of celebration. My prayer is that we experience afresh and anew a celebration of Christ in our lives.'

Stay encouraged! Be filled with gratitude! God's love is reaching you. Talk to Him; tell Him your concerns. And know that, ultimately, things are going to work out for your good. God already knows the plans He has to favour you and He is planning the very best for you. GOD BLESS US ALL!  
Leslie xx

## **Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Appeal**



**‘Each shoebox gift becomes a tangible expression of God's love for a child in real need.’**

Hi everyone, this year we sent **four shoeboxes** to Samaritan's Purse, for the Operation Christmas Child mission. Thank you to everyone who collected gifts or who gave online. This is an amazing opportunity to enable the gospel to be preached to children and families around the world. After receiving a shoebox gift, children have the opportunity to enrol in 'The Greatest Journey' - 12 fun and interactive Bible lessons, where they get the chance to discover who Jesus is and how to begin their own journey of faith. Let's pray that children are open to the gospel and the lives of many are transformed.

Thanks to Karen and Tim for coordinating the appeal this year.

*‘Let the little children come to me, for of such is the kingdom of God’  
Luke 18:16*

**Prayers - Let's remember to pray for Georgie, after her procedure and for her continued health and prosperity.**

**Let's also pray for Nicky and Samuel and the busy time they have in the ministry during December.**

## **Church Invite and Gospel Tract delivery.**

In December we are going to deliver some leaflets and gospel tracts to houses around the church area. We have done some leaflets advertising the church, and in particular the Carol Service on 19th December, and will deliver it with a gospel tract to houses on the Yarmouth Road and around the Dussindale housing estate in Thorpe St Andrew. Please pray for this event as we would like to see people come to salvation and also to come into the church. As always however the 'ground' needs to be prepared with earnest prayer, as we ask God for souls to be saved. (See enclosed prayer leaflet.)

If you would like to deliver some leaflets through letterboxes, please let Serena know and we will organise a date for this 'gospel outreach'.

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## **Salvation Army Donation**

We are going to make a donation of £50 to the Salvation Army for their Christmas appeal, which seeks to help homeless/vulnerable people at Christmas, by providing them with a meal, a place to stay or other support. If you would like to give to this appeal, please give any donations to Serena and we will add it to the church donation.

Thank you!

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## **'Sing on Saturday' The Old Meeting House Congregational Church**

Rev John Clements holds a service at 3pm on the third Saturday of the month at The Old Meeting House Congregational Church on Colegate, where they sing wonderful old hymns accompanied by the church organ. If you would like to come along, then please use the Colegate car park on Golden Dog Lane, NR3 1HS, (2hrs = £3). The next 'Sing on Saturday' is on Saturday 18th December and will be carols!

John is coming to visit us at GCF and **preach on Sunday 5th December**, so please do try to attend on that day, to encourage and support John. Thank you.

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## **Christmas Lunch - 12.30pm Sunday 19th December**

If you would like to come to the Christmas Lunch after the carol service on Sunday 19th December, please let Serena know, as we will soon have to give numbers to Chere and Stewart, who will prepare the lunch for us, as they did last year. Feel free to invite a friend/s, but do let us know numbers soon! Thanks!

Prayers for Gospel Outreach  
**Leaflet Drop around Thorpe St Andrew**

We are going to deliver some gospel tracts and an invitation to the Carol Service to houses around the church area, in December.

The 'ground' needs to be prepared for the gospel by the prayers of the saints. Please pray for the outreach, perhaps using the prayers below and being led by the Holy Spirit! Serena

Pray for:

- The Lord to go before us and prepare people's hearts for the gospel
- The Lord to soften hearts to receive the truth in the tracts
- The Lord to lead us deliver tracts to the right houses
- People to take the time to read the tracts and think about them
- The Lord to remove the blindness to the gospel from people's hearts and minds.
- People to be open to the truth
- People to be convicted by the Spirit of their sins and be willing to repent and seek the Lord.
- Deliverance from opposition or hindrance to the work
- For the safety of those delivering the leaflets
- The Lord to move in this area by His Spirit and bring people out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- For salvation of families
- For salvation of the lost, that they would be brought to Christ and meet/experience Him in a real and personal way.
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Prayer the the gospel outreach:

'Dear Lord, we pray for you to bless this venture, as we seek to take the gospel out to the surrounding area. We ask Lord that you would open people's hearts and minds to the gospel. Let them be willing to receive the Truth of the Lord Jesus Christ and forgiveness of sins. We ask Lord that you would convict sinners and enable them to repent and turn wholeheartedly to you. Please prepare the ground as we go and lead us to deliver leaflets to the houses where you would have us go. Deliver us from evil and open doors for the Light of your Truth. Open the eyes of those who are darkness, free their minds from blindness to the Truth. Go before us Lord in your mighty power as we seek to do your will. *'Go into all the world and preach the gospel...making disciples of all men.'* Mark 16/Mat 28. Amen.'

# 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 Coffee Morning** - see Serena for invite

**Zoom Monthly Bible Study** - see Serena for invite

## Forthcoming Events

**Sunday 5th Dec** - Visiting speaker Rev John Clements

**Sunday 12th Dec** - Church Service

**Sunday 19th Dec** - Carol Service / Christmas Lunch

**Sunday 26th Dec** - **NO SERVICE** (Boxing Day)

**Sunday 2nd Jan** - Church Service / Nicky preaching /  
Communion

We have changed the date of the Christmas meal from Sunday 12th December to **Sunday 19th December**, which we will now have after the Carol Service at 12.30pm. Don't forget to put it in your diaries **and please let us know if you are coming!**

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Grace Christian Fellowship is part of registered charity

**Hope Community Trust - 1000798**

**[www.gcfnorwich.co.uk](http://www.gcfnorwich.co.uk)    [gcf@norwich.myzen.co.uk](mailto:gcf@norwich.myzen.co.uk)**

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