

Grace Christian Fellowship April 2025 - Newsletter



Welcome to April

Hi everyone, well Spring is finally here! The sun has been glorious and the daffodils and crocuses are coming up. There is a saying about April that says, **'April showers bring May flowers!'** Rain can be annoying. It can stop you from doing activities outside. Of course, rain is important, it helps flowers and other plants grow. There are some periods of the year when it rains more than other times and the month of April can be especially rainy. If you hear someone complain about all the rainy weather in the spring, you can remind them that April showers are helpful. This is a literal meaning of this expression, but it also has a deeper meaning too.

'April showers bring May flowers' means that even after long periods of adversity, good times will follow. 'Adversity' means difficulty and hardship. Sometimes we simply say, **'this too shall pass'**, which means that difficult situations will not last forever.

The poet Rudyard Kipling, in his poem 'IF' wrote, *"If you can meet with triumph and disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same..."*. These words from the second stanza of his famous poem are often attributed to the New Testament. His poem is similar to, but not the exact inspired words of the Bible. However, the verses in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 talk about troubles being temporary. *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

Remember, **'April showers bring May flowers'** and our difficulties and trials now, will pass and bear godly fruit in the future. Serena xx

How the Empty Tomb Represents Hope for Believers

'He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' Luke 24v6-7



The empty tomb is a powerful symbol of hope for believers, as it represents the triumph of life over death and the promise of eternal life. One of the primary ways the empty tomb represents hope for believers is through the assurance of eternal life.

The empty tomb tells us something. It tells us that the grave could not hold Jesus. That he bodily rose from the grave.

Jesus Christ's resurrection proves that death is not the story's end but the beginning of a new life. There is a future available that is free from suffering and pain. Even in the darkest of our circumstances, one day, In Christ's eternal Kingdom, all things will be made new.

The empty tomb gives us the courage to face the world, knowing that Jesus has already won the victory! Through His goodness and faithfulness, He has always been in control, and all things will be for His glory.

The empty tomb was not just a historical moment; it is available today. We can experience the glory of the resurrection and its transformative power in our lives. This gives you and me the confidence to face any challenge knowing that they have access to the power of God.

Be filled with hope! The tomb is empty! Christ is alive!

Notices

Prayers

Let's remember to continue to pray for the work in India.

Nicky is making all the arrangement for the visit and is trying to organise and book all the ministry that she and Samuel have to do. She is also moving David and Angela from their current school to a new one in Bobbili and she has to get a certificate from the current school before they can leave. Please pray that she gets the certificate easily. Please also pray that she can communicate with the people in Spain to arrange details for her visit and with the people in America for Samuel's visit. Thank you.

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Nicky's Bible Study Day

We are hoping that Nicky will do a Bible Study Day at church on Thursday 1st May. It will probably start at 10am with coffee and will end at about 3pm. We will provide lunch and hopefully have a great day with teaching and fellowship. Let Serena know if you would like to come.

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Easter Services

Our Easter services are coming up, which include a Palm Sunday Service on Sunday 13th April and our Easter Sunday Service on the 20th April. Do come along, so that we can celebrate this wonderful salvation, obtained at great cost by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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Easter Hymn Lyrics

Hymn - 'Jesus paid it all'

*'Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.'*

Grace Christian Fellowship

Meetings/Programme

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 usually preaches on the last Sunday of the month

Forthcoming Events / Church Programme 2025

Sunday 13th Apr - Palm Sunday Service

Sunday 20th Apr - Easter Sunday Service

Thursday 24th Apr - Nicky and family arrive in UK from India

Sunday 27th Apr - Nicky and family at church + meal

Thursday 1st May - Nicky's Bible Study Day with lunch, at church?

Saturday 3rd May - Nicky goes to Spain?

Thursday 19th June - Nicky and family return to India

Saturday 23rd Aug - Church Day Out?

Sunday 28th Sep - Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 19th Oct - Church Birthday/Macmillan Coffee Morning

Sunday 2nd Nov - Service with Fireworks

Sunday 9th Nov - Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 14th Dec - Christmas meal

Sunday 21st Dec - Carol Service

If you would like to donate to the church, you can give during the service, donate by bacs, 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.

GCF supports Hope Community Trust India, which is a Christian ministry, run by Pastor Samuel Zion and his wife Nicky. The ministry has a campus in Andhra Pradesh, with a children's home, school

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