

Red Chinese New Year (CNY)

Lawrence Woo

Do you know Downing Street was transformed for CNY! This was the headlines earlier on last week. Despite the plights of Brexit, Prime Minister (PM) Theresa May made time to welcome families from across the UK to Downing Street for a colourful CNY reception. Guests were treated to a display of lights and hanging lanterns, while the No. 10 door was specially decorated with cherry blossoms and traditional Chinese couplets. When I saw the photos of the decorations, I cannot miss the fact that the dominant colour of decorations is red. It actually looks quite nice as the colour red stands out well against the black front door to the PM's residence.

It is the culture and traditional for Chinese to decorate our home and household items in red for CNY. You might be told off if things are draped in white which is the colour to avoid in this time of the year. The colour red, which to most Chinese, represents materialistic prosperity, wealth, success, good fortune, joy.....etc. For this reason, some believe in having red candy box, receiving red packets, putting up red Chinese couplets, wearing red outer garments, etc at the start of the CNY will bring good consequences and circumstances to them during the rest of the year.

Now for Chinese Christians, I wonder if the colour red means a similar thing to you during CNY. As a matter of fact, do you know the colour red appears many times in the English Bible? For example, "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." – Isa 1:18 (ESV). So, the colour red (or scarlet/crimson) symbolises sin. Though this may sound bad, the colour red has a positive meaning too: i) "Then they shall take some of the blood (red in colour) and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ¹³.....And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt." (Ex 12:7,13 - ESV), and ii) "for this is my blood (red in colour) of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." – Mt 26:28 (ESV). So, red is a very powerful colour in the Bible. It speaks of the sin that all mankind holds, but more significantly, the salvation and redemption that every confessed sinner has received because of Christ Jesus shedding His blood on the Cross.

No doubt many of us would have worn something in red and put up red decorations in the past week to celebrate CNY. I trust that Chinese Christians will see less of the material blessings but more of the spiritual meaning that comes with the colour red.

The church leadership wish you a very happy, peaceful and richly blessed CNY!

Bristol Chinese Christian Church 布里斯托華人基督教會

Charity Registered No: 1058943



2019 Theme: "We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ"

10th February 2019

A New Year, a New You (2 Cor 5:17)

Chee Kiat Wai

*Combined service	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK 17th February
Host	Lloyd	Victoria
Worship	Wai	Yin
Offering	Lloyd	Victoria
Reader	Lloyd	Christine

Next week's sermon: Reconciliation with God (Eph 2:11-18) Edward Stuart

A very warm welcome to everyone joining us for today's service, especially those who are with us for the first time. Please feel free to introduce yourself to one of us and stay for the refreshments after the service so that we may get to know you more.

It is our prayer that you may know and experience the love of God today.

Contact Us

BCCC - Tyndale Baptist Church, 137 Whiteladies Rd, Bristol, BS8 2QG

www.bristolccc.org | bristolccc.uk@gmail.com |  Bristol Chinese Christian Church

Pastor Martin Choi - 07563 060361

Chairperson: Lawrence Woo - 07952 461935

Pastor Chee Kiat Wai - 07725 749501

Announcements & Prayer Items

1. Today is the 6th day of Chinese New Year (CNY). **We wish you a happy Spring Festival and may the Lord be gracious to you in the new year.**
2. The speakers today are: **Pastor C-K Wai (EM)** and **Rev Frank Mui** from **Cardiff (CM/MM combined)**. May the Lord speak to us through His word.
3. There will be **celebration for CNY** right **after the service today** when photos and video will be taken. **If you do not consent to being included in the photos and video, please inform the service host or tell the photographer and video taker directly. For those who take personal photos and video of the performance, please comply with GDPR and refrain from posting your recordings on social media without the explicit permission of those who appeared in your footage.**
4. The February **corporate prayer meeting** has been **postponed** and will now be held **next Sunday 17/2** from **4:15-5:15 pm**. Let us all come together and pray in unity.
5. Please **strengthen home security** during Spring Festival in order to deny burglars the opportunities.
6. **Verse of the week: "Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you."(Job 22:21)**
7. At the beginning of the new year, let us be quiet before God and **pray for God's blessings on each other**. Also give thanks for the **abundant grace** that the Father has bestowed on us.
8. Pray for **vision** of the church in 2019. Pray that brothers and sisters will **continue to establish each other** and **honor the Lord's name**. May God grant the **pastors and leaders vision, wisdom, and strength** to **build His church**.
9. Pray that God will **lead and guide** the **fellowships/cell groups** of the church. May the **spiritual life** of brothers and sisters **be enriched and established**. May they be willing to **be disciples of Jesus Christ**.
10. The next **election of the Executive Committee** will be held on **28 April**. May God touch the hearts of brothers and sisters so that more are willing to serve in the committee.
11. **Thank God for watching over the CNY Gospel Event on 3/2**. There were about **70 non-believers** among the **130** who **attended** the meeting, **May the seed of the Gospel be planted in their hearts and that they will come to receive Jesus as their personal saviour in the future.**
12. **Please continue to pray for Ho Wang, Tak Hing and Mui Tsang's son that he will recover soon.**
13. **Queensland, Australia** is experiencing the worst **flooding** of the century. Streets are **flooded** and **thousands of people** had to **vacate from their homes**. Pray that the **local rescue operations** can **react quickly** and **save the wounded**. Pray also that the provincial government will **assist residents to rebuild their homes**.

Church Life

Life within the church is much more than just a Sunday service. God's community is a great place to build lifelong relationships with friends and with God. We encourage and invite you to be a part of the many fellowships that take place within the life of BCCC each week.

English Ministry	2:00pm - 3:30pm	EM Worship Hall
Combined	Every 1st Sunday	Sanctuary
Sunday School (LIFE) Primary School Group & Toddler's Group	Nursery Room 2:00pm - 3:30pm	Mrs Judy Ho 07917 619061
Rooted (Youth)	Church Attic 2:00pm - 3:30pm	Anna Leung 07511 081977
Lighthouse (Young adults)	Every 1st and 3rd Sunday 4.30pm - 6pm	Carpet Room bristolccc.em@gmail.com
Family Group (Families with young children)	Every 1st Saturday	Various locations bristolccc.uk@gmail.com
Connect (Students)	Thursday Evening (Biweekly)	Various locations bristolccc.connect@gmail.com

Last Week's Attendance and Offering:

EM+CM+MM: 141 SS: 30
 Church Offering: £812.95 Building Fund: £20.00
Offering via Standing Order: Bristol Chinese Christian Church
Sort Code: 20-13-34 / Account: 80202576

Upcoming events (2019):

- 10/02 CNY Sunday Service
- 24/02 Church Google Drive User Presentation
- 31/03 BCCC 19th Anniversary