**Blessing Every Day**

A project from the Mission Theology Advisory Group



The Mission Theology Advisory Group is an ecumenical group formed in partnership between Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Church of England We provide resources in the areas of Spirituality, Theology, Reconciliation, Evangelism and Mission.

 This resource belongs to our Spirituality series. Please print and share.

More information from

[www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/deeper-god-mission-theology](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/deeper-god-mission-theology)

<https://ctbi.org.uk/mission-theology-advisory-group-resources/>

**A Blessing for those who celebrate Chinese New Year**



*Epic Fireworks/flickr*

More than a billion people, a sixth of the world's population, mark the Lunar New Year in late January or early February. The date varies. From China especially, to Singapore, the Philippines, Mauritius, Korea and Cambodia, businesses close and people start to prepare for family gatherings, festivities and the giving of presents. In the UK, we are perhaps especially aware of celebrations around Chinese New Year with pictures from our cities where Asian communities celebrate with parties and fireworks. You can find cards in shops with messages of goodwill for the festival. People with Chinese friends and relations will often want to offer good wishes for their celebrations. And Asian friends may send us cards and greetings with their good wishes too.

But some people also celebrate Chinese New Year as part of their spiritual explorations. Chinese New Year traditionally comes with a Spring Cleaning, - a fresh start-, the importance of the colour red as a lucky colour and an attempt to bring in good fortune and promise into the family home. Many people find the food and feasting, the fireworks and lighting of lanterns attractive. Each New Year comes with a zodiac animal and each animal has its own attributes and qualities which are said to be imparted to children born within the year.

If you have friends and neighbours who are celebrating Chinese New Year and you want to send a message to them or a card, you might consider offering Christian greetings by including the prayer of blessing opposite.

# A Blessing for those who celebrate Chinese New Year

May the God of joy and goodness,

Bless you, our friends and neighbours

Who are celebrating Chinese New Year.

May all of us honour our families

Remember our neighbours

Give gifts to others

Join in feasting and laughter

And look to the future

To make a new start

In a world joined by friendship and peace.

*Amen*