**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 Lunar New Year**



*Epic Fireworks/flickr*

More than a billion people, a sixth of the world's population, mark the Lunar New Year usually in late January or early February. The date varies and there are in fact a number of different lunar new years depending on which calendar people use. But many people, especially those from East Asia, South Asia and South-East Asia mark a Lunar New Year. 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 Lunar 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 Asian 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 Lunar New Year as part of their spiritual explorations. Lunar 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. Some foods are eaten with symbolic meanings and it is a time to respect the elderly, remember ancestors and give gifts to children. Many people find the food and feasting, the fireworks and lighting of lanterns attractive and want to be part of it, even if they are not part of these cultures themselves.

If you have friends and neighbours who are celebrating Lunar 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 Lunar New Year

May the God of joy and goodness,

Bless you, our friends and neighbours

Who are celebrating Lunar 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*