

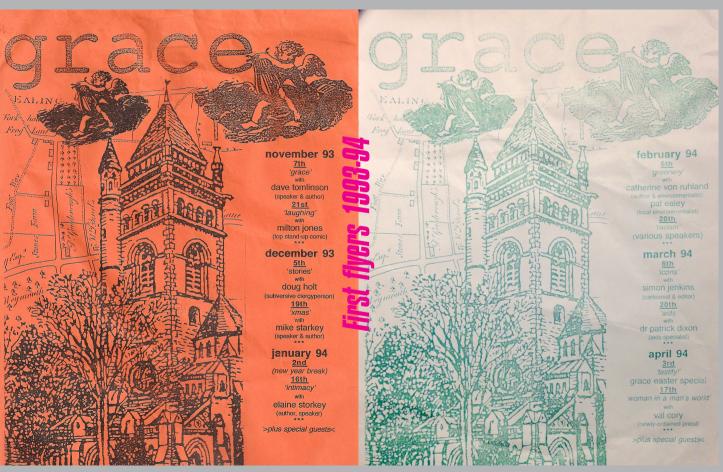
### fresh vital worship since 1993

XXV



we are ready for grace when we are bone tired of our struggle to be worthy and acceptable. after we have tried too long to earn the approval of everyone important to us we are ready for grace. when we are tired of trying to be the person somebody somewhere sometime convinced us we had to be, we are ready for grace.

quote from 'shame and grace', l.s. medes



On Sunday 7th November 1993 the first Grace service took place. It started when everyone who had promised to come had arrived - about 35 people in total! Dave Tomlinson spoke at the service which contained many elements still used by Grace today - 'homemade' music, visuals and liturgy; plenty of ambient and chilled out music to accompany readings and prayers and a sense of freedom and space to explore God in different ways.

The story had begun a few months earlier when a small group of women and men decided to put on some services which would be very different from those usually 'served' at their church. The major motivation at that stage had been dissatisfaction, an increasing frustration at a church culture which played music we'd never listen to at home, used language we wouldn't use anywhere else and served up a diet which had become over-familiar and often irrelevant. Church had become something that was 'done to us', a dependency culture that we didn't fit into. But it wasn't all negative. We thought that there had to be many other people out there who felt like us, living in the pick'n'mix culture in which we were immersed. We didn't just want a room full of dissatisfied churchgoers, we wanted a service we could invite friends to.

Planning these services opened our eyes to some truths about God which we'd forgotten or ignored over the years. God accepts us because he's decided to, it's got nothing to do with 'deserving' his love. He knows what we're like and what we will be like. There is nothing that can keep God from accepting us. The grace of God, this unconditional love, frees us from the fear of failure as we try to express our belief in a loving God in ways that we find relevant and real.

Grace is Christian. We seek to worship God in ways and forms that we can relate to, using the cultural resources which are our native language. This isn't a gimmick to try and reach a 'target audience'. It stems from who we are and is an attempt to be authentic in that. This by no means excludes old things or traditions, but the old things we incorporate are those that speak to our current situation, rather than being hangovers from the past that remain through indifference or fear of change. Because we are feeling our way with things that are new, sometimes things don't work but we accept that as part of what we are about.

We try and incorporate ritual, discussion, liturgy that engages people rather than that which is passively consumed. Using the body and senses is important - we try to get away from the overcerebral nature of most church services. Sometimes it's necessary to be, not just to think.

We don't 'target' visitors but invite them to participate at whatever level they feel comfortable, recognising that we are all on a journey of faith. We aim to provide an 'open door' into the presence of God for those who are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with conventional church culture. By being less prescriptive about what people get out of the service, by allowing the mysterious, ambiguous and allusive, we try to make space for the participants and God to relate on a more individual and personal basis. There is room for those who have doubts or questions.

Grace is small, experimental and to a degree fragile. Relationships are essential to making it work. The team is essentially a group of friends, loose at the edges, without any specific roles or hierarchy except what comes with being good at some aspect of something. Given that our services are multimedia and participatory, there are few ideas or skills that cannot be used - practicality is the usual restraining factor!

We are pleased that we are still part of St. Mary's church and form one of its congregations. Grace has meant that dissatisfaction has been replaced by hope, hope that wins through when it gets really tough and it seems that no-one has any time, energy or ideas for the next service. It has become a place where we can bring our whole selves to God and receive wholeness in return, where we can be real with God, and God can be real to us.

Grace 1997/2000/2018

*qod accepts us because she's* decided to, it's got nothing to do with 'deserving' her love. she knows what we're like and what we will be like. there is nothing that can keep god from accepting us. the grace of god, this unconditional love frees us from the fear of failure as we try to express our belief in a loving god in ways that we find relevant and real.



## [freshvitalworship]

8.00pm . Third Sunday of every month . St. Mary's Church . St. Mary's Road . Ealing . W5 . Relaxed funky ambiei

and reflective . Visuals, meditations and tunes . All welcome . Info . Mike: 0181 567 3466 or Jonny: 0181 567 6926

## New logo and strapline 1996

### TV To Screen 'Rave Style' Christmas Services

HANNEL 4 are broadcasting a series of Christian rave services over the festive period, seemingly aimed at clubbers. Entitled 'God In The House', the programmes feature worshippers getting down to a range of dance music including techno and ambient, and claim "funky Christian services did not end with the Chris Brain/Nine O'clock Service scan-

neredulous mention in Mixmao 1996 -----

dal. In fact, Chris Brain's services marked the beginning of a vibrant new movement." The programmes run at 12.30pm from December 24th to the 30th.

Unbelievably, the final programme, subtitled 'Grace' describes itself as a "chill-out after-hours service, and ideal way to end a hectic weekend", and compares itself to Cafe Del Mar in Ibiza.

### **Club Owner Overcrowding** Club

**C** LUB owner Pak Hei Li was jailed for four months this week for breaching licencing conditions at 'Celebrities' in Stratford on Avon. During a spot check, environmental health officers Jailed For counted 260 people leaving the club when the limit was 160. Stratford's Principal EHO Rob Weeks said, "Over-crowding is a serious offence, yet many club owners seem to ignore the dangers To have 100 people over the limit shows a total disregard for the safety of everyone concerned. I hope this sentence sends the message to other club owners."

29 mixmag



# worship

love grotto beer can altar bittersweet rembrandt block of ice bouncy castle icons hey man slow down plate smashing emmaus road hospitality turbo trainer easter vigil gas masks red and blue glasses giant board game occupy goldfish chord cards singing in the toilet **ashes** curry

### God of broken people and places (far I have come, far I must go)

God of broken people and broken places We confess to you our love of comfort, of the known and predictable, of the safe and secure. We recognise that you call us into liminal space To leave what we know and venture with you into desert and wilderness, into blindness and discomfort We want to follow you, but it's hard to leave what we know Help us to trust you, and to set out.

#### On the journey of faith, Far I have come, far I must go

God of broken people and broken places We thank you for all that Grace has been to us and to many others We thank you for the space to listen, to grow, to create, to be challenged We recognise that you are calling us on To leave what we know and venture with you into new things, into engagement and participation, into creativity and risk, into new structures and opportunities We want to follow you, but it's hard to leave what we know and we're not sure where we're going Help us to trust you, and to set out.

#### On the journey of faith, Far we have come, far we must go.

God of rebuilt people and rebuilt places You have plans for deserts and wilderness 'Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, The thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, Grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness.'

God of transformation we look forward to what you will do With our lives and with Grace

#### On the journey of faith, Far we have come, far we must go.

Jenny Baker

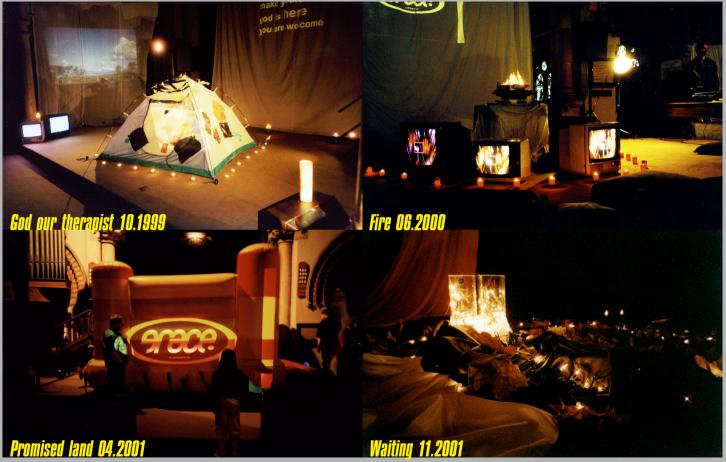






'God in the House' Channel 4 30.12.1996





















## We hang our lives upon your mercy

We hang our lives upon your mercy measured out in miles your boundaries and pathways, coordinates and charts that guide our steps along roads you travelled before us

We will make time for you and your word We will practice your ways until they are part of us We will rest and play in you We will be your people

We are not complete without one another We cannot run the race alone

We will support one another encourage one another wait for the weak pick up the fallen through your strength and love When we are together we will remember what it is like to travel alone

When we are alone we will remember what it is like to travel together

Wherever we are we will remember God who always goes with us

Steve Collins



eating drinking laughing tired wet hot cold praying gardening young old in Hackney in Margate in Bruges in Cheltenham in Suffolk in Ealing









### **Purple**

Christ's piece is you, Christ's piece is me, It is those that do, And it is those that be, Without one another we can't cover 360 degrees, Because we don't need 'I's to see, we need We.

As every image that we see of ourselves is reflected, Every image that we see of the world is subjective, We need two points of view to gain some perspective, And the ability and humility to accept this.

Because in our vision lies division, A polarised view of action and pacifism, But contradiction doesn't mean fact and fiction, more like discordant harmonies in the melody of wisdom.

I need you, like red needs blue, You need me, like do needs be, And life shouldn't be binary, Our eyes shouldn't be primary, We need to trade in reds and blues for indigos and violets see: We need to try and be purple. Not just protest march bruises as we go out and do, Or blood filled cheeks as we hold our breath and be, I mean purple. Full circle. The hares and the rabbits, the tortoises and turtles, Purple.

So let us be moved to be mauve, Maroon and mulberry, Lilac, plum and lavender, May the red and blue poles of our souls and our minds combine to be magnets of magenta, Purple.

May we take the opposites and make the composite, As every image has its limits And every picture could be richer, If we have someone else to see that we are in it, We need to be purple.

Harry Baker

# technology

vinyl turntables slide projectors CDs email PA system old TVs VHS recorder website minidisc vision mixer G3 ibook ipods mac classics video projector ENG camera **blogs** text messages idi console macbook DVDs posterous **iphones** facebook twitter polaroid whatsapp





### persistence of vision

We saw this effect at a Massive Attack concert, and Adam made a version for Grace 10 in 2003. If you look straight at the line of LED lights you see nothing unusual, but as you turn your head away the Grace logo seems to appear in thin air. In fact the lights are writing the logo on the retinas of your eyes as a series of vertical 'lines', and as you move the lines spread out across your retina to form the logo, as shown below. The effect depends on 'persistence of vision', the fact that you continue to see a light a little while after it has gone - turn your head at the right speed and you still see the first line of the logo until the circuit board has written the last line on your eyes.









7 April 2002 at 20:24

Adam Baxter

To: Jonny Baker

Cc: Mike Rose, Steve Collins, Jenny Baker, Anna Poulson, Steve Lawson, Mark Waddington, Julia Wickham, Justin Hill, Jackie Elton, Moya Ratnayake

## what a wonderful thing the internet is...

Well after managing to finish off the web pages last week, Mike was kind enough to send out an email advertising it (to the usual mailing list I guess). So being a geek I decided to have a look at the statistics the webserver gives to see how many people have looked at the page since - the number doubled on the day Mike sent the email compared to every other day this week.

Whilst there I flicked through some of the other stats that it records. One of these is what people have typed into a search engine (such as Google) to find the Grace website and then clicked through to the site. Usually these are things like "fresh worship" or "grace london" etc. But at the bottom of the list for the past month was:

## "naked fat men in tights pictures"

A little confused by this, I checked it by putting "naked fat men in tights pictures" in Google (probably a sackable offence as I was at work and most of the results looked very dubious) and yep half way down the second page was the Grace website.

(It appears Steve's piece on the Image of Christ includes all/most of these words - although probably not in that order!)

3 times people have accessed the Grace website by finding it in this manner.

Grace, reaching people other worship doesn't reach! :-)

# labyrinths

**live on planet earth** christmas **st pauls cathedral** I am the way **mown labyrinth** google streetview **buried ipods** event horizon **octagonal** 













### **Seeds confession**

#### Gardener God

Forgive us for the times we have kept our seeds in the packet For the times we've been too scared to risk, too selfish to love, too embarrassed to try

#### Gardener God, have mercy on us

Forgive us for where we have let weeds grow in the soil of our lives For the times we have forgotten to pray, for the days when we don't bother to listen, for the moments when we neglect the stirring of your spirit **Gardener God, have mercy on us** 

Forgive us for when we have trampled on the seedlings of others Through careless words or outright criticism, through envy or feeling threatened, through being insensitive or wrapped up in ourselves **Gardener God, have mercy on us**  Forgive us for when we think it's all down to us When we forget that to grow we need the earth of our community, The water of other people's contribution, The sunshine of your favour, The nutrients that come through conversation and challenge **Gardener God, have mercy on us** 

Amen

Jenny Baker

## greenbelt

five services mud cigars mainstage eucharist labyrinth lock-in block of ice shrine phone hacking shed obscura jelly new jerusalem ferrero rocher slow trashed kitchen 3D glasses buried ipods





#### opening prayer

Eternal God, fling open the doors of our hearts to the weather of your Spirit. Lead us out beneath the dancing sky and wind across the stumbling ground of our reality to where the sound of worship never ceases and the view stretches further than the human eye can see. Through Christ the faithful witness, Amen

Relax God is here

There will be some space and quiet music to prepare our hearts for worship.

#### Mainstage eucharist Greenbelt 1999

Driving to Ikea as a spiritual space Greenbelt 2001









## music

## grace favourite tunes from beginning to XXV

#### 1993

The Disco Evangelists - De Niro Sabres Of Paradise - Smokebelch II

#### 1994

Goldie Presents Metalheads - Inner City Life Massive Attack - Protection Global Communication - 14:31 Tuu - All Our Ancestors Salt Tank - Sargasso Sea Glowworm - I lift my cup

#### 1995

Alex Reece - Pulp Fiction Sounds from the Ground - Triangle The Absolute - There Will Come A Day Heights of Abraham - E.V.A. A Man Called Adam - Easter Song Leftfield - Release the pressure

#### 1996

The Prodigy - Firestarter JMJ and Richie - Universal Horn remix 96 The Tabernacle - I know the Lord Two Lone Swordsmen - Azzolini and the Branch Brothers Meet Being

#### 1997

The Verve – Bitter Sweet Symphony Moodswings - Redemption Song Routine - The Creator has a master plan The Space Brothers - Forgiven (dub vocal mix)

1998

Faithless – God Is A DJ Mama Oliver - Stoned Together

#### 1999

Aphex Twin - Windowlicker Moby - Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad Nightmares on Wax - Les Nuits

#### 2000

Boards Of Canada - In A Beautiful Place Out In The Country Beloved - Sun Rising (Tom's drum and bass edit)

#### 2001

Radiohead - Everything in its Right Place (live)

#### 2002

LCD Soundsystem – Losing My Edge 1 Giant Leap - The Way You Dream Attaboy - New World Sam Sever and the R.O.T.L.A. - Do you understand?

#### 2003

Blur – Out Of Time Johnny Cash – Hurt Four Tet - My Angel Rocks Back and Forth

#### 2004

Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds – There She Goes, My Beautiful World Craig Armstrong - Sunrise Laura B - Lovebleeps Lazyboy - Nothing to be afraid of

2005

Sigur Ros - Hoppipolla Arsenal feat Jhelisa - Far I have come Roy Davis Junior - Gabriel

#### 2006

Thom Yorke - Analyse Burial - Distant Lights Urban Myth Club - So Beautiful

#### 2007

Radiohead - All I Need Cinematic Orchestra - To build a home

2008

Portishead - The Rip Roots Manuva - Let the Spirit

#### 2009

The XX - Islands Joy Orbison – Hyph Mngo Moby - Walk with me Jon Hopkins - A Drifting Down **2010** Four Tet - Love Cry Recreate - Resonate (Matt's tune)

**2011** Bon Iver - Holocene

#### 2012

Leonard Cohen - Going Home Michael Kiwanuka - I'm Getting Ready Bobby Womack - The Bravest Man in the Universe

#### 2013

James Blake - Retrograde Burial - Come Down To Us Nils Frahm - Says Steve Mason - O My Lord Gregory Porter - Liquid Spirit Jaimeo Brown - Power of God

#### 2014

Caribou - Can't Do Without You Diggs Duke - Something in my Soul

#### 2015

Jamie XX - I Know There's Gonna Be (Good Times) Kendrick Lamar - King Kunta

#### 2016

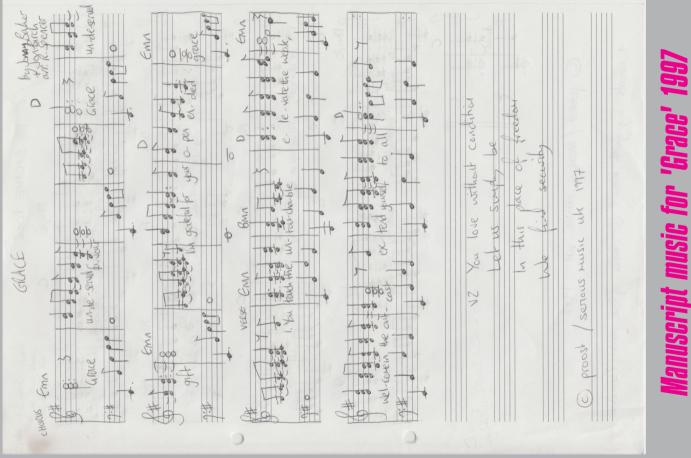
Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds - I Need You Chance the Rapper - Blessings

#### 2017

The XX - I Dare You Sampha - (No One Knows Me) Like The Piano Stormzy - Blinded by your Grace pt 1

#### 2018

Rival Consoles - Untravel Olafur Arnolds - sanam







*Grace* 1997









## Landskanes 2010

#### LINZSKIPES

D1/lightness/electrik café/written by brian bennett D2/water/jon birch/written by jon birch

D3/as time ticked by/roly miller/written by roly miller D4/contaminate/rekreate/written by matthew stevenson & paul abbott/vocal samples ben cohen, dean ayres, recorded live at Grace 'contamination' service october 2008

O5/dust/dubb & coyote/written by harry baker & joel baker/ vocal harry baker

Ob/horizontal dancing/rekreate/written by matthew stevenson O7/resonate/rekreate/written by matthew stevenson % jenny baker/vocal jenny baker

D8/nothing in the way (grace mix)/agents of future/written by agents of future & matthew stevenson/vocals by agents of future

O9/imagine/dubb & digital pilgrimz/written by harry baker matthew stevenson & david michael/vocals by harry baker 10/skape/electrik café/written by brian bennett

produced, arranged & mixed by matthew stevenson mastered by brian gardner at safe and sound studios published by proost www.proost.co.uk

T

prcdDll copyright proost 2010

cover design by steve collins www.smallritual.org



REFI



## Gold frankincense myrrh confession

Holy God accept our prayers tonight You asked for all of our being, our thoughts and actions, our creativity and expression What do we give you?

We think back two millennia to when the Christ child was born What would we give the baby? What does a baby need? What does the baby ask of us? What gifts did the baby receive?

#### Gold - a gift for a king

A metal so precious that we have died and killed for it We treat your creation like it wasn't our home We've robbed the earth and left its wounds open to infection Forgive us for not giving you the best of us What's the point of offering you the religious bits if the rest is kept closely guarded?

Think of the best parts of your life Give them to God Frankincense - a gift for God The fragrance of worship, God's eau de cologne Worship giving God the honour that is due Forgive our efforts to worship you only when it is convenient to do so And with people that we choose, making outcasts of our brothers and sisters Forgive us when our actions make our words of worship meaningless

#### Think of your worship Give it to God

Myrrh - a gift for a mortal The smell of a cover-up to hide death and decay But nothing is hidden from you Forgive us for denying the reality of pain, suffering and struggle Do we get angry and shout at God? Or do we bury our pain?

#### Think of your sufferings Give them to God

Mike Rose

## ethos



### The short list:

**Create** - Grace values creativity

**Participate** - Worship should not be a 'show' or just 'led from the front'. Grace aims to minimise the separation between those leading and the "congregation" through interaction and opportunities to contribute. The same is true of other areas of Grace.

**Engage** - Grace wants to maintain an outward focus by engaging with everyday life and connecting with culture. Grace offers hospitality and supports members of the community/ network in their own areas of engagement.

**Risk** - Grace gives itself permission to push its own edges, take risks, not be afraid to fail, think outside the Grace box, try new things, reinvent Grace

### The long list:

Creativity - as above

Participation - as above

Risk taking/experimental - as above

**Holistic Christian faith** - life isn't split into sacred and secular. We expect to encounter God in all areas of life and culture and hence those aspects are likely to inform and be part of our worship and other activities

**Minimal exclusion** - Grace is shaped by the people that are involved. It's an open door, all contributions and people are welcome. We recognise that Grace is different to other groups and other churches so It won't be to everyone's taste - some will self exclude.

**Consensus** - everyone is to a degree constrained by being part of a wider community, but the way we plan is to all bring ideas/ contributions. At times this may take courage and it requires a level of sensitivity to other people who are perhaps less confident in bringing ideas. Our ideas are a gift offered to God and the community. We make decisions together. **Low permission threshold** - we are not into controlling what people do. We want to encourage involvement without things being policed.

**Freedom of speech** - sometimes there are hidden issues in Grace whether because of personal power or gender. Grace values listening and speech - in other words we want to be honest, and listen to each other.

Hospitality - to one another, to visitors, to the wider church

**Outward impulse** - a growing aspiration of Grace is to include other things than developing creative worship as part of who we are.

**High quality** - Grace understands that how worship and other activities are presented affect how they are received. We endeavour to produce events and items that are of a high quality of presentation and accessible style.



Grace 12.11.11 \* Each human life is a gift from God. Each person has equal worth & value. We stand in solidarity against any We stand together wi relationships practices or structures. FWe are called which deny or undermine this belief. one another 2 to H A The resources of the Earth Community seeling ki are God's gifts to us for which we are called to take responsibility & show care. Whe are called to live simply identify with the poor I know that our possessions & wealth are gifts from God, to be shared for the conner H We value human creativity as a gift from God

Grace 2.1.1 & he are of all genders. ethnicities, backgrounds & dis/abilities. We stand together with Christians all over the world A We are called to love one another & to be a healing Community seeking the wholeness & liberation of all people. A he want to minimise the separation between those leading and the congregation "through Internaction & apportunities to \* We ofter hospitality to all & We enjuge with progday life connect with culture & Grace gives itself permission. to pushit's own edges take notes not be afraid to fail, think autride the Grace box, to new things roundent Grace.

# 201 possible' 2 world Another Values **Pare**

### An order of embrace

may the extravagant love of god the father fill your hearts and minds and his embrace hold you when you feel unworthy to be called his son or daughter

may the friendship of jesus christ your brother rid you of any notion that you are only a slave and you find your home in and with him in his kingdom

may the spirit of god release you from a world of duty so that a new joy and freedom wells up in your life

go and reconfigure the world as an order of embrace in your friendships in your work place in your families in your street and in your churches

and the blessing of god the father, the son and the holy spirit be among you and remain with you always amen

Jonny Baker

#### Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to:

Everyone who has been part of our community - thankyou for your creativity, commitment and love

Mike Starkey, Doug Holt, Steve Paynter and the people of St. Mary's Ealing for hosting us and our stuff all these years

Our bishop Pete Broadbent and the Church of England for encouraging an experiment

Everyone who has visited us, even if only once

All our overseas visitors - from the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway... and of course Denmark!

Our friends and fellow travellers around the world - for inspiring and supporting us, and letting us use your material

Greenbelt Festival - for letting us do our thing on a bigger scale and to a wider audience

And most of all thankyou to God - for inspiration, help, forgiveness - it's all been for you



#### fresh vital worship since 1993

freshworship.org facebook.com/freshworship twitter: @grace\_london

2nd Saturday in the month 8pm at St Mary's Church, Ealing W5 5RH



