

Church Website and Social Media Report 2013

Sermonaudio (sermonaudio.com/freegrace)

We have 1561 sermons from both Sunday services and Thursday evening available for people to listen to online or to download for later listening.

Between October 2012 and September 2013 29,389 sermons were heard or downloaded, This is almost 2,500 each month. Since we started making our sermons available online in 2001 Over 430,000 sermons have been heard by listeners in almost every country in the world. This includes many countries where access to gospel preaching by more traditional means is severely restricted.

We continue to receive feedback from this ministry from those who have been encouraged by this work.

Website (free-grace.org.uk)

The church website continues to be a valuable communication and information tool and numerous contacts have been made with individuals throughout the year. It has now been more fully integrated with both sermonaudio.com and facebook.com to show our latest updates from both these sites.

Facebook (facebook.com/freegracebelvedere/)

The church facebook page has continued to grow throughout the last year. All new sermon uploads are linked to the timeline of the church facebook page. This is intended to make our sermons accessible to those who may be casually surfing facebook. We also list all upcoming church events there. In the last month this page reached more than 200 people in the UK as well as visitors from the USA, Netherlands, Philippines, and 7 other countries.

A couple of listeners comments

Don't Look Back, Press Forward by Bill Gardner

Stan Evers from Bedfordshire writes " Great Sermon! "
A rousing sermon for the new year!

Amazing Benefits of Grace by Mark Gladwell

Robert from New Jersey writes " Great Sermon! "
Thank you for this great message and wonderful prayer at the beginning! May God bless your church and ministry...!

Annual Report

Free Grace Baptist Church

208th Church Anniversary 2013

We read in John 12 verse 32

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me"

Once again on this anniversary occasion we meet to proclaim our gratitude to our God for His patience and tender mercies towards us over another year. As with many of our sister churches we continue to ensure that Christ alone is lifted up both in the ministry on the Lord's Day and during the various outreach activities during the week. We have this tremendous promise from the head of the church that this is the only path to the extension of His kingdom. Expressing once again our appreciation to the many visiting brethren who have graciously ministered God's Word among us underlines the real debt we owe them.

We continue to be blessed with further additions to the family life of the church with the gift of baby Bella to Darren and Ruth. Mark and Debbie are in our prayers as they await the arrival of their first child. It is a great privilege and responsibility to have been given the spiritual care of so many children within the body of the church. We pray that our love for Christ and His service will commend the Saviour to them.

Whilst on fellowship matters, we must mention dear friends who have had to move their membership. We know that scripture clearly teaches that membership of the local church is like being a member of a living body, so that when one member of the body suffers so the whole body suffers. Leaving a local church therefore must never be done lightly as it will bring a sense of loss. However there

are times when such moves must be made. Ralph and Rebecca have recently moved to Cornwall with the prayer that their membership of Penzance Baptist will be a real means of blessing and encouragement to that fellowship. Also Sacha recently took up work for Barnabus in Swindon which necessitated his move to Swindon Evangelical Church. These brethren and sister were very active in the life of this church and brought many gifts to the work. We miss them greatly but rejoice that God has raised up others to fill the gaps.

"Monday Club" caters for children from reception to year 3. Numbers are picking up again with several new additions. Ineke and Elaine have recently commenced helping with the Bible talk each week. "Mums and Tots" on a Wednesday morning continues to be very popular and Karen is given grace each week to bring great truths from God's word in a simple format. "KIC" club on a Wednesday evening is very popular and a lot of prayerful planning is put into the series of talks that are given. Now that Ralph and Rebecca have left we are grateful to Matthew Tracey and Mona for offering their help now on a Wednesday. Mona is particularly gifted in craft work. On Friday evening around 26 teenagers meet each week. There is a good atmosphere which in God's goodness is a result of some of the youth growing through our clubs and also as a result of the love and enthusiasm shown by the leaders. Matthew, David and Lee take main responsibility for giving the epilogue each week. We are praying that the Holy Spirit will powerfully break into this group. Eight of this group went to C.C.I.W. camp this year. Please join us in prayer that there will be lasting fruit from this outreach.

Sunday Bible Club and Bible Class run from 9.45 to 10.30 on a Sunday Morning. The younger ones always have some craft activity to do as well as their story. Many of the children are from church families. We are thankful for other secondary aged young people attending Bible

class. The Ladies Rest Hour continues on a Thursday afternoon when God's word is opened up. We are encouraged to have some of our young mums regularly attending.

Our monthly open air preaching continues on the last Saturday in the month - most months. We had the privilege of serving the Lord in the "Christian Camps in Wales" again this year. Ralph was a leader on camp 4. Matthew, Karen and Rebecca went as officers. We had a good group of our young people attend this camp. Daniel and Sarah went as assistant leaders for camp 3 with Mark, Debbie, Joyce and Cliff going as officers. We thank those of the fellowship who helped with escorting the group on the trains. The church makes a considerable financial commitment to support these young people in attending the camp.

We held our Holiday Bible Club in the spring and had around 55 children attend. The talks were given very ably by three of our members. We are no longer able to advertise the HBC as we are full with just our own contacts. It is an opportunity for the church to work together and to meet parents at the prizegiving.

Following extensive consultation with the membership and long discussions within the leadership agreement was reached on ways in which the buildings could be improved and made more welcoming. We thank God for the resources to undertake this work and have been conscious all the time of our need to be wise stewards of the money He has given us. Our desire is that the living body of Christ here will also be bright and welcoming by God's grace.

We again appreciate the fellowship of sister churches in the south east and value the area prayer meetings. Please pray for us that the Lord will lead us soon to a pastor after His own heart, and we will continue to remember your needs in our prayers.