

Church Website - summary

Some facts and figures relating to the church website and mp3 sermons

The church website receives an average of 140 visitors each day, over a month an average of 6760 pages will be viewed. The most popular pages on the site are the weekly church bulletin, as well as the Bible reading plans and the regular sermon podcasts.

Since the last church report there have been a total of 18,551 sermons either podcasted, heard online, or downloaded for later listening. This averages 1500 a month, and the amount is continuing to slowly increase.

Countries where our sermons are heard come from every corner of the world, including both Muslim and Communist countries where missionary activity is prohibited.

Last month we had listeners in nearly 40 countries, including Africa, Asia, the Middle East, South America, North America, Europe, and Australasia

Some Recent Sermon Comments

• **Sermon: The Wheat and the Chaff Separated** (Mark Gladwell - Sermon ID: 81302143259)

Great Sermon! — Thank you for this wonderful message, preached clearly for all to hear the great truth as found in the word of God!

• **Sermon: The Golden Censer - Vital Principles of Prayer** (Mark Gladwell - Sermon ID: 11103881)

The blessed truth! — Thank you Pastor for this message. Not often people preach on a message from Revelation without looking at the excitement of what might come. A very neglected part of this chapter is indeed this message of prayer. A very timely reminder to me - as indeed we need such reminders frequently in our innate ability to fail. Yes, from time to time from pastors these message must be heard (shepherds directing us aright).

Despondency sinks in at the state of the world, and with despondancy comes a weakening of prayer. It is a good reminder that our Lord is indeed the conqueror and who has won the war, and that we are part of the war that has been waged through time. We must not relent or give up, in fact we must redouble our efforts in the face of this message.

• **Sermon: Predestined for His Glory** (Mark Gladwell - Sermon ID: 1300582428)

Wonderful Message! — Thank you for this wonderful message!

Free Grace Baptist Church 201st Anniversary

& Pastor's 4th Anniversary

Annual Church Report

I have the joy of bringing this brief report to you on the occasion of our church's 201st anniversary and our Pastor's 4th Anniversary. As we pause to remember the way our Lord has led us over another year, it is right that we erect another memorial stone to record His gracious deeds. As always this is a personal review of the year and may not reflect particular matters that others in the fellowship may view as important.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou has been Thou for ever wilt be.*

This past year has been a really blessed year of service for our Lord, with a real sense of striving for unity in the bond of peace. As time passes we grow even more aware of the blessing of such unity but also the grace needed from above to deal with the many devious and subtle attacks of the enemy. We are blessed with the faithful and practical ministry through our pastor. We are so grateful to God for the gifts He has given him and the daily grace to undertake the ministry. We are grateful to all our friends for your prayers for him, and thank God that he has been generally clear of his Meniere's for a good while. As a fellowship the year has been marked by a variety of various trials that different brothers and sisters have been called to pass through. Thankfully, based on God's Word, we need not be discouraged by this but see it as His hand for good upon the fellowship. We indeed pray that it will draw us into a deeper dependence on our Lord. We extend our thanks again to other brethren who have ministered to us over the year.

We were thrilled to see Peter united with Mona after a very long wait for visas etc. They are now occupying the church flat for a temporary period. Earlier in the year the church was much in prayer for the little one that Elizabeth was carrying after doctors warned that the baby had a high risk of abnormality. We

are very grateful to God for His gracious gift of a healthy little boy, James. We are much in prayer for the children of christian families in the church that while young they may come to know the sovereign work of God in their lives. We have also been able to welcome into fellowship this year Simon and Ali and our brother Peter, following his marriage to Vanessa.

Last Christmas we were invited back to “David Coffer Court” sheltered housing complex, to lead a carol service for the elderly residents. We were pleased to hear that this was as a result of a request by the residents. It had been several years since we last had an invitation. We expect to return this year. 3000 T.B.S. Photographic Calendars and tracts were distributed just before Christmas. We pray that the displaying of God’s Word in many homes will bring light, we know that many in the area look forward to this annual gift.

Most of the church were again involved in the Easter Holiday Bible Club when once again we reached around 50 children. This year the talks were taken by Ralph, Philip and Pastor.

The church continues to recognise its total dependence upon the Lord for any blessing. We meet every Lord’s Day morning for prayer before the day’s ministry; we meet once a month on a Tuesday morning for prayer particularly for revival; we meet every Thursday for prayer and Bible study and we meet for a prayer meeting prior to our open air outreach once a month. We pray that such meetings may not become mechanical but that we may always know the burden of the Spirit.

Our Sunday School work is very small. We now meet in the morning but still thankfully reach three children in addition to the children of church families. Our midweek meetings are very encouraging and the leaders feel deeply the responsibility of their calling. The epilogues contain solid Bible teaching. Our “Mums and Tots” group on a Wednesday morning is fully subscribed; the Childrens’ Hour for years 1 – 4 meet at 3.45 on a Wednesday and regularly get between 10-15 children; the KIC Club for years 5 and 6 children meets at 6.45p.m and can get up to 12 children. F.O.Y for secondary age children meets on a Friday at 7.30p.m.

This year a team of our young workers took a group of children to a “Christian Camps in Wales” week, with several of them being tent leaders. This was a real adventure for many of the children. We had the privilege of subsidising this holiday, ensuring that finance would not be a barrier to attendance. We also

sought, once again, to support this work with morning prayer meetings at 7a.m. We were kept in touch with prayer requests each day by “text”.

In addition to the youth work, there is a Ladies meeting on a Thursday afternoon which is evangelistic, numbers vary considerably but the opportunity is great.

Recently we had an evangelistic evening when we had a B.B.Q and Paul Pease gave a short evangelistic presentation on aspects of the life of William Carey. Despite wide circulation of invitations we only had a small response from non church members.

The use of the Church Website has continued to grow. We have had friends visit the church as a direct result of finding us on the “web”. But most encouraging of all has been the knowledge that this ministry is proving to be a blessing to many. We attach a summary at the end of the report.

We have sought to maintain a practical ministry of compassion. Gifts at Harvest went to “Fegan’s”, and a collection to the work of Christian Compassion Ministries in the Philippines. We also have regular visits from other societies.

As always our elderly building continues to need constant T.L.C. The building works completed last year continue to be a great blessing to us. This year we have installed a small kitchen on the first floor of the cottage and provided a flat for letting on the first and second floor. Currently the church is benefiting from the use of the ground floor.

We really appreciate the fellowship and support of the South East District Churches. As we continue to regularly bear you up in prayer, so we would ask you to pray for us. God’s Word reminds us that it is all too easy to be active in service and yet to grieve the Spirit. May He help us to retain that first love for Him and do all things in total dependence on Him that He may be given all the glory.

“We will remember the Name of the Lord our God” Psalm 20 v 7
