

### **Audio on Sermonaudio ([sermonaudio.com/freegrace](http://sermonaudio.com/freegrace))**

We have now had more than 477,000 sermons streamed or downloaded since 2001. Nearly 30,000 of those downloads have been on mobile devices. We have regular listeners in over 60 countries taking in every continent on the earth. We continue to receive feedback from listeners saying they have been encouraged by our content.

### **Facebook ([facebook.com/freegracebelvedere](https://facebook.com/freegracebelvedere))**

Our Facebook page has 162 people following the page. An average of 100 people view each post, with many seen by over 300 people. It has been encouraging to see more engagement over the past year. The number of people engaging with our content is frequently far higher than other local churches with pages that are followed by far more people. Our most popular post recently was seen by over 1600 people. 58% of our followers are male and they are mostly aged 35-44. 129 of our followers are in the UK, 9 are in the US, 6 in the Philippines, many other countries are also represented.

### **Twitter (@FGB\_Belvedere)**

Our Twitter feed had 188 followers. Our posts are usually very similar to the material on the Facebook page and are frequently re-tweeted by followers. It is noticeable that while many local churches have Facebook pages comparatively few have active Twitter accounts.

### **Instagram (<http://instagram.com/freegracebelvedere>)**

Our Instagram page has 92 followers and the almost 200 pictures posted there are regularly seen by a wide audience, often attracting notice long after posting as Instagram content is visible for far longer than posts on Facebook and Twitter. Engagement on this platform is noticeably higher than on Twitter despite the number of followers being smaller.

All social media accounts are linked from the website, and each account also includes links back to the website allowing visitors to interact with us through whichever channel they prefer.

["O to GRACE how great a debtor!"](#)

**Contact** [contact@free-grace.org.uk](mailto:contact@free-grace.org.uk)

## **[Annual Report 2017](#)** **[Free Grace Baptist Church](#)** **[212<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary and Thanksgiving](#)**

**Your mercy our God  
Is the theme of our song**

**We thank our Lord for the opportunity on this day of thanksgiving to unite in praise and thanksgiving to our triune God.**

We particularly praise our loving God for the gift of His servant Tom to the church as pastor/teacher so that through God's word we may be comforted, equipped for service and be more conformed as a body to the likeness of Jesus Christ. We thank Tom for his gentleness, his zeal for the Lord's work and his love for the flock. We also have valued fellowship with dear Cat and appreciate the support she has been for Tom behind the scenes. We rejoice with them in the gift of Reuben and assure them that Reuben will remain in our prayers along with all the other precious children of our brothers and sisters. We yearn that young in life they each come into that living union with Jesus Christ. We praise God also for His tokens of mercy in seeing a young lad asking for baptism, a young lady professing faith in Christ and another being restored to Christ.

**Sunday congregations have shown some growth over the year.** We particularly note the fact that there is a marked increase in the number of casual visitors that we see on a Sunday. We pray that those yet unsaved may meet with Christ here and those who are seeking to find a spiritual home may clearly know the Lord's burden for membership of a local church.

**Since commencing the pastorate last September** Pastor Tom finished Haggai, completed Ruth, the Armour of God in Ephesians 6 (8 Sermons) and begun a series on Luke and Ezra. We have reached chapter 3 of Luke (15 sermons so far), and also 9 Sermons into Ezra. We are currently at chapter 6. Tom has also preached stand-alone evangelistic sermons throughout the year. We've also commenced working through the shorter catechism which will take a number of years to finish. There are also two separate study groups for brothers and sisters that meet monthly to work through a study book.

**As we mentioned last year, we no longer do the monthly open-air preaching as the road is so quiet now on a Saturday morning.** By God's grace and with His enabling we have been able to do personal tracting on local streets and in Bexleyheath. There have been many encouraging conversations. Tom has also run Christianity Explored and Discipleship Explored for friends already known. We are currently now planning a repeat of C.E. and have now extended the invitation to contacts through the midweek meetings and also by giving personal invites to homes in a few local roads. We are also in the process of distributing 4,500 tracts in the area with a gospel challenge and welcome.

**Sunday school, Bible Class, Monday Club, "Lambs" (formerly "mums and tots"), KIC club and FOY are all very well attended.** In total we have around 80-90 tots (and mums), children and young people hearing God's word each week. The Ladies Rest Hour continues each Thursday afternoon and we are very grateful to those who bring God's word on these occasions. This is a good time of fellowship with younger mums and older friends meeting to worship together.

**Now that we are supporting a pastor full time we felt it wise to cease subsidising the CCIW camps fees this year.** They are already very reasonable for a full week away. We however, did subsidise the coach fares and again had a large group of teenagers attend from our Friday evening youth work. How we pray to see evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in these precious young lives.

**We are grateful to those who made our annual trip to Westbrook Bay in the summer such a success.** Despite an unsettled period of weather, we were graciously blessed with a lovely day for the trip. We took two coaches and there were over 100 adults and children on the beach. There were many opportunities for making new friends. We have continued our "kraft@church" Saturdays. Most of the able bodied members of the fellowship are involved in one way or another. We

are so blessed with one or two in the church who are so gifted at giving the talk on this occasion.

**Our Spring BBQ wasn't quite so well attended this year for various reasons but we still had a good number and opportunities to make new friends.** We were also encouraged with visitors attending our Family Harvest Thanksgiving service when Tom was greatly helped in preaching the gospel.

**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 our Saviour to them.

**We again appreciate the fellowship of sister churches in the south east and value the area prayer meetings.** Please pray for us and we will continue to remember your needs in our prayers.

**[Online Activities 2016-2017 – report by Peter Townsend](#)**

**Website ([www.free-grace.org.uk](http://www.free-grace.org.uk))**

The church website remains a vital point of contact for our visitors. A redesign has been almost completed which will make it more interactive and also more accessible on a wider range of mobile devices. New blog sections have been added for the youth groups to enable them to more easily engage with their audiences from the website as well as from their social media accounts. Further improvements and new sections will be added to the website in the coming weeks.

**On Google and Google My Business**

In the past month 1.33K people found the church through Google, either using search results or through Google Maps. 443 people also found the church through Google My Business. Of those who saw the Google My Business listing 61 people had typed the church name directly into Google. 14 of those people who found the business listing clicked through to read the website while 5 people requested driving instructions from Google to show them the fastest route to the church.