

## Report on Internet Ministry 2011-2012

We have 1440 sermons available for people to listen to online through their computer or to download for later listening on any mp3 player.

Between October 2011 and September 2012 41,614 sermons were heard or downloaded, This is almost 3500 each month. Since we started making our sermons available online in 2001 Over 403,000 sermons have been heard by listeners in almost every country in the world. This includes many countries where accessing gospel preaching by more traditional means is severely restricted. We continue to receive feedback from those who have been encouraged by listening to these messages.

The church website continues to be a valuable communication and information tool and numerous contacts have been made with individuals throughout the year. The most recently preached sermon is always displayed on the front page of the church website. A more recent initiative has been to post a notification to the timeline of the church facebook page every time a new sermon is uploaded. This is intended to make our sermons easily accessible to those who may be casually surfing facebook. We presently have access to over 8000 "friends" of those who have "liked" our page and therefore have the potential to see our posts if their friend comments on them or likes them.

## Annual Report Free Grace Baptist Church 207th Church Anniversary 2012

The psalmist says in Psalm 100 and verse 3

**Know that the LORD, He is God;  
It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;  
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**

As we pause today to remember God's mercies to us over another year, we are filled with wonder that we can know ourselves to be His people and the sheep of His pasture. We have been praying to the Lord that He would provide for us a pastor to shepherd the flock, but this verse reminds us that we have one who ever remains our shepherd. There are times when we can reflect on the ministry of the word through visiting brethren and clearly trace the overruling of the Holy Spirit in the messages brought. Yes, He is shepherding His flock. Whilst reflecting on that may we take the opportunity to express our warm appreciation of the ministry of visiting brethren. Our friends demonstrate so clearly their pastoral heart for God's people.

We have also had our horizons extended with visits from: Albanian Evangelical Mission; Christian Witness to Israel; Middle East Reformed Fellowship; Prison Ministries; L.D.O.S.; Gideons; Slavic Gospel Association and Home Mission. We are looking forward in the new year to a visit from United Beach Missions to inform us more about that work.

We continue to be blessed with further additions to the family life of the church with the gift of baby Amie to Sarah and Daniel. Darren and Ruth are in our prayers as they await the arrival of another addition to their family. 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. We were thrilled this year to rejoice with Ralph as he was joined in marriage to Rebecca. We have been so pleased to welcome Rebecca into the fellowship.

"Monday Club" caters for children from reception to year 3. Numbers are lower at present and if they do not grow naturally we can extend invitations in this age range to our Holiday Bible Club in February. This has effectively built-up our clubs in previous years. "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 very simple format. "KIC" club on a Wednesday evening is "bursting at the seams". Their leaders also bring systematic teaching of God's word. On Friday evening around 25 teenagers meet. Again, the gospel is faithfully presented and we are praying that the Holy Spirit will powerfully break into this group. Our leaders have been helped and encouraged by the seminar on reaching youth that was arranged by the South east District.

We remind ourselves regularly that it is the beauty of Jesus seen in the loving unity within the local church that is the powerful witness to a needy world. However, we are also conscious of the need to keep the buildings in a good state of repair and decoration as that also commends the gospel. With that in mind the schoolroom and rear vestibule have been refurbished and with the additional lighting now provide a pleasant bright environment for many of the activities. The church flat has also been redecorated and is now occupied by a christian family. We are currently discussing ways of refreshing the interior of the chapel.

Last December 2000 gospel calendars and tracts were distributed in the local area just before Christmas, and we will be doing the same this year. Many of our neighbours look forward to this annual gift, although on occasions we have had angry rejections. We continue to pray for days of revival when God's word will powerfully break into needy hearts.

We had the privilege of serving the Lord in the "Christian Camps in Wales" again this year. Ralph was a leader on camp 3. Matthew, Karen and Rebecca went as officers. We had several of our young people attend this camp. Daniel and Sarah went as assistant leaders for camp 4 with Mark, Debbie, Joyce, Cliff, and Rebecca going as officers. We thank God for safe travel for all concerned and believe there will be fruit to God's glory from this service for Him.

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. Again we ask for prayer for wisdom in our planning for next spring. What a privilege we currently have to teach children the truth and bring to them the light of God's word in this increasingly anti-christian culture.

We thank God for the wide variety of gifts He has given to the church including those within the fellowship gifted in dealing with the "social media". Please pray particularly for wisdom for those involved with this work. This weekend we rejoice in being able to set apart Michael Wayman as an elder of the church. Please pray for him as he naturally feels his weakness and human inadequacy for such a calling.

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.