

1800

An open-air meeting conducted by two young men on August 10th, 1800-that is how it all started! One of the two young men was John Chin, who, with a companion, was crossing Lessness Heath.(Belvedere). They went to the houses to invite the people to come to hear the gospel, and a tolerable company was collected... "Mr. Chin and his friend were so encouraged that they determined before their meeting had ended to repeat it on succeeding Lord's Days. Thus it appears that from that day in August, 1800, the Gospel was regularly preached in Belvedere.

Kids weekly

We hold several different children's and young peoples meetings throughout the week, we try to cater for all ages. There are meetings for everyone from pre-school to late teenage. Generally these meetings involve plenty of fun, and physical activity, although we never forget that the real focus of our activities is on the spiritual welfare of those children with whom we come into contact.

Holiday club

> We were able to hold our Easter Holiday Bible Club once again. This is a "whole church" venture and we were blessed with many children over the three day period. We are limited with our premises and numbers often take us to full capacity. The H.B.C. is not only a tremendous Gospel opportunity but also a blessed opportunity for real fellowship in the work.



Compassion

We have sought to maintain a practical ministry of compassion. Gifts at Harvest were sent to Fegans homes, and a collection to the work of Christian Compassion Ministries in the Philippines. We continue to send clothing etc to brothers and sisters in Zambia. Our collections at Christmas usually go to a children's ward of a hospital.

Lord's Day

These meetings are the primary focus of our church life. Most will be taken up with a time of teaching based a passage from the Bible. We attempt to make the content of these meetings accessible and try to avoid using words or phrases that would be difficult for an unchurched person to follow.

Ladies

The Ladies of the church meet together on Thursday afternoons for an informal time of fellowship around Gods word. Often there is a visiting speaker to lead the meetings, these afternoons are greatly valued by all, and normally well attended.

Prayer meeting

Someone once said that "Prayer is the power house of the church." This is something we continue to prove in the life of our fellowship. Every Thursday we meet together as a church to study the bible and to pray together for God's blessing on our fellowship, and for the ever increasing extension of his kingdom in Belvedere, and around the world.

FREE GRACE BAPTIST CHAPEL BELVEDERE



After Church

While as a church we recognise that our primary function is to glorify God, we do not want to neglect our responsibilities to each other. This is where our after-church fellowships have really proved helpful. These take place in the setting of a member's home, and generally involve large amounts of tea, coffee, and cake, with perhaps a fun quiz thrown in for good measure. This atmosphere provides an opportunity for growing together and a mutual sharing that would not be possible during a formal service.

Evangelism

As you will realise many of the activities mentioned are avenues for outreach with the gospel. However, in a more direct form, we have continued with the monthly open-air preaching and tract distribution on a Saturday morning. Recently we were able to distribute over 100 copies of John Blanchard's booklet 'Where was God on September 11th?'. We distribute 2000 of the TBS calendars every year, and we know these are generally well received

Wider focus

In addition to our own local evangelism Free Grace Baptist church actively supports a number of missionaries and mission groups.

We support the Grace Baptist Mission which has missionaries in many countries around the world. We also regularly invite representatives from other missionary organisations and Christian groups to visit us and talk about the work of their group.

Recent visits have included representatives from:

- Albanian Evangelical Mission
- Biblical Creation Society
- Christian Witness to Israel
- Evangelical Tract Society
- Grace Baptist Mission
- Lords Day Observance Society
- Trinitarian Bible Society •
- UFM
- SASRA

Sunday club

> Every Sunday afternoon we hold meetings to teach the young people of the church. Classes are arranged according to ages, and are usually well attended. Many profitable discussions have been held with the older children as we seek to grow together with them in our knowledge and understanding of our Lord and his Word.

This work on Sunday afternoons brings us into contact with both children and their parents and we have become friends with many of them. Various activities are arranged to give an opportunity for these friendships to be developed further. As a church we would particularly covet your prayers for this work.



Website

One of our more recent endeavours has been to set up a church website to provide valuable reference resources for church members, and to promote the church within the local community. This has already led to numerous enquiries and brought in contacts from any different people both locally, and around the world.

Visit us at www.free-grace.org.uk

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It is with a sense of deep gratitude to the Lord that we can report that Mark Gladwell has recently accepted a call to the Pastorate of the church in Belvedere. We look forward with confidence in the Lord to the continued extension of his kingdom in this area.