



Annual Review of 2010

godmanchesterbaptist.org

Welcome to our Annual Review of 2010 which outlines our activities during the year and brings much encouragement as we recognise God's many blessings over the last year.

Congregations

We have continued to develop our various congregations during 2010 as we work out our vision of being **a multi-congregational church** and **a worshipping community**. Across our congregations we have rejoiced at the news of people coming to faith and we have shared important times together at communion, dedications, baptisms and thanksgiving services. Many new people have begun to worship with us and we have received thirteen people into church membership during the year. In March, we had a wonderful celebration of Abe Kalyapu's 5 years with us as our Youth Pastor, and in September we celebrated again when Daniel Beckett joined us to take up that role. We have enjoyed a number of opportunities for times of corporate prayer and we have heard regularly from all those involved in the various areas of overseas mission that we support. As always, we want to record our thanks to all of those who give of their time and gifts and servant hearts to enable so many people of all ages to celebrate and learn together in all our congregations.

SUNDAY MORNINGS



Our **Sunday morning congregation** has continued to grow – with all rooms in use and some bursting at the seams! We have benefitted from preaching series on Luke (The man who is God), the Song of Songs (Love Story), Daniel (Re-discovering Hope), 1 John (Church Re-imagined) and Isaiah (Face to Face with God). Our worship leaders and musicians have led us in sung worship and others have used their gifts to help us draw near to God. We are glad that a number are also able to use their gifts in support of other local churches. Creche and Re:forge – our groups for children and young people have been busy, fun and hard work!



*"GBC is fun, exciting, caring and friendly."
Christopher*

*"Dance and movement in worship
Always blessed to see the number of little ones waving flags to worship God
New ideas to express our worship
Course in London was inspiring
Exciting, amazing, creative God!"
Delia*



"I greatly look forward to gathering with other Christians on Sunday morning to exalt and praise the Lord. It's lovely to feel my heart warmed by the Lord and receive encouragement from other Christians after the service. It's a GREAT joy to see so many young people."

Ruth

SUNDAY EVENINGS

The content and style of our **Sunday evening services** varies from week to week but regularly includes: Healing and communion services; Café Style services; a focus on one of our overseas or local missions.

In addition we have heard preaching on Vital Prophecy and The Roots of Righteousness.



"I am unable to easily attend morning services and so for me the evening and 'Songs of Praise' services mean everything. I find great comfort and encouragement in the intimacy of a smaller congregation and I love to listen to the chat around the tea tables after Songs of Praise as the older folks can be inspirational!"

Diana

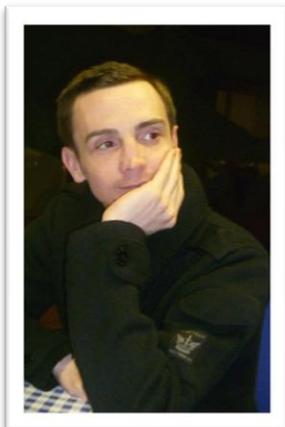
SONGS OF PRAISE

Every third Sunday at 4.00 pm, our newest **Songs of Praise** congregation meets for a short service with well loved hymns, readings, prayers and a short talk. About 40 then stay and enjoy tea together – and the chance to meet others and spend time chatting. We have enjoyed looking at the 'I am' sayings of Jesus, and celebrating Easter, Harvest and Christmas together.



D-CAF

Our **D-Caf congregation** for 16-25+ year olds has continued to meet each Wednesday evening in term time for a meal, followed by a talk, a testimony and small group discussion of various themes. D-Caf has seen new people joining over the past year (including new babies!) and others really growing in their faith, sometimes in the midst of personal struggles and some very difficult life stories. D-Caf takes time and effort, but all of that is worth it when people share testimony of what God is doing in their lives - what Mike Yaconelli called "messy spirituality" – all very humbling!



"Belonging to GBC means being part of a bigger family"
Brendan



"GBC is a place I feel welcome and it feels like home"
Dan



"Belonging to GBC means having somewhere to go and people who will talk with you"
Lauren

Cells

We continue to work out our vision of being **a small group community** in many ways with people 'loving, learning, doing and deciding' together – whether that is in a prayer triplet or a team working together in many of our services, activities and events.

Our small group structure is primarily based around our **cell groups**. Thirteen groups meet on a weekly basis for caring, sharing, praying, studying, worshipping and reaching out.

"God is closer than you think! Some people have been on a journey and we are stepping out of the boat and attempting to walk on water. Come along to find out more. Any mum or carer with kids welcome."

Helen

"Full of Faith, Fruitfulness, Friendship, Fun, Food, Following our Lord with hope for the future."

Delia

"A very encouraging year when the numbers have increased to between 9 and 12. Members are participating more, sometimes testifying to what the Lord has done in the past week. We had a meal out together in October, and a link has been made with the Tuesday Lunch Club with 2 ladies from there planning to attend."

Rachel

World Mission

We held a World Mission Sunday in June where our speaker was Peter Farley from France Mission, and have shared financially and prayerfully throughout the year in the work of

Anglo-Indian Concern in Chennai, India;

Rehoboth Children's Homes in the Philippines;

Kathryn Thompson working at Rehoboth to provide educational support;

Joe Warton working among the homeless in Cape Town, South Africa;

Mission Direct working around the world; and

Cambodia Action

In addition, during 2010 some members of our congregation have been on **short-term assignments** in Zimbabwe, Uganda, Cambodia and Russia.



Connie visited Rehoboth in November and says, "It was a great privilege to see some of God's marvellous works in His redeemed, growing people. The reunion of former residents brought together a number from the past 29 years. Seen here are Joffrey Ocampo (in social work) and his wife, Cheryl (in sponsorship and counselling), both former residents, who work with Open Heart Foundation. Strong encouragement as we face the challenge of the global downturn."

Connie

Youth Ministry

Youth ministry in 2010 has included a wide variety of activities and adventure!

Our weekly youth groups have continued to meet with **Rock Solid** (years 7-9) and **Rendezvous** (years 10-13) both happening on a Friday night with lots of games and challenges, all involving more energy than most of the leaders can keep up with; but we do have the sweets and drinks to keep everyone going!



"Rock Solid has a great atmosphere of joy and learning, you go there and you feel comfortable and welcome! You want to keep coming back to learn more and simply enjoy yourself with people you wouldn't normally speak to or see, you can build on old friendships or make new ones. The games and activities are numerous and can occupy even the shyest people - no one is left out!" Josh

We have continued with **Furnace** (years 7-13), on a Sunday morning once a month at the local school. This youth celebration is still developing into a place where church is done in a way that helps young people to access God.

*"Furnace is cool"
Matthew*

On a Sunday evening we have **Crucible** (years 10-13) which is a discipleship based session to help young people in their faith journeys.

Reveal (years 7-9) is our new discipleship group which began in 2010.

"I really like Reveal. We discuss some interesting things while having a lot of fun." Sam

There have been a number of **Residentials** throughout the year: **Frontier Centre** in February; **SHINE** in March and **Soul Survivor** in August. All of these were great times for young people to go away from their normal environments, have lots of fun and grow in their knowledge of God.

RISE (years 10+) actually happened in January 2011 but was so good we've included it here!

(editorial licence!)



"really encouraging that I was able to bring a friend along with me, and that we both enjoyed it - I'm also glad I didn't get a carrot in my bed!"

Amy

"the weekend was a really positive start to mine and my friend's relationship with God....as well as that, Daniel hiding in the kitchen cupboard was hilarious!"

Charlotte

The **Youth Band** is currently under re-construction as we have a number of our musicians recently gone or soon to be going to university. So we are trying to gather musicians among the young people and start to help them play together and encourage them to a point where they can lead worship for us at Furnace and in other places.

God has been good once again over the last 12 months; we don't take this for granted and must continue to pray for wisdom as to how to reach and help young people in their Christian journey, and also for each of the young people.

Community

2010 has been a busy year as we seek to live out our vision of being **a serving community**.

Children's activities have included

- **Stepping Stones** for toddlers on Monday afternoon – a small group but much enjoyed.
- **Littlefoot** for babies and toddlers on Wednesday morning – a huge group that just keeps on growing!
- **Explorers children's club** (years 3-6) on Thursday evening – an average of 24 each week – but reaching 35-40 children.
- A **TV Buddies party** on 31 October



*"GBC is a great place to meet people"
Annabelle – at Littlefoot*



Story time at Explorers



*"Explorers is enjoyable with lots of games
and art activities" Mark*

- **School Assemblies**
- **Holiday Club** for a week in August (years R-6)
- An **Art Competition** on the theme of Hope – for Gala Day



*" At Rocky's Plaice Holiday Club in August, 116 children and their leaders listened attentively to the day's message presented by Salt and Vinegar with Mr Tagliatelle – 'That's the way to do it!'"
Duncan*

We're glad that a number of friends from these activities have attended

- **Dad's Days** – a chance for dads and their children to have time, space, a bacon roll and creative fun together on a Saturday morning once a month
- **Men's events** including curry nights, men's breakfasts and the men's weekend away
- the **Journeys Course** – exploring faith together
- the **Marriage Course**

Activities for older people in our community have included

- **Monthly services in sheltered accommodation complexes** – as well as carol singing at Christmas
“At McCartney House, there is always a lovely atmosphere with a sense of caring for one another, and a desire to worship together which we truly value. A number of residents now also look forward to the monthly Songs of Praise at GBC.”
Colin & Hatty
“At Oak Tree Court, the monthly services are only attended by a few residents but those who do attend enjoy the time together. The theme for the year has been The Life of Jesus.”
Peter
- **Lunch Club** – organised by Godmanchester churches and taking place at GBC every Tuesday, with an average attendance of 40



Other activities in the community, many of them in co-operation with people from other churches, which individuals and groups from GBC are involved in, have included

- **Christian Aid Week Collection**
- **Gala Day and Worship in the Park**
- **Mayor’s Carols**
- **Hospital Services at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital**
- **Cornerstone pregnancy advice service** and **Cornerstone PHSE lessons** in secondary schools
- **Support 4 Carers**

“We have been actively supporting carers in our community for a year. I represent GBC and attend sessions at both the Roman Gate and Charles Hicks surgeries. Many carers have no idea that they can receive support and help in their caring, and it is a privilege to work alongside other local volunteers to help these hard pressed individuals. When we have more volunteers we will be able to offer a weekly service.”

Pat

- **Town Chaplaincy (Huntingdon)**

“This last year has been most encouraging. We are just about to print our leaflet about the work after generous gifts of £400. That will help enormously. At the moment we have one volunteer Chaplain who is being trained and a possible one or two shops/businesses that may take a chaplain.”

Peter

Our Premises



"We are encouraged with the many different ways that God is calling us to be church and to serve our community. With more use being made of our multi-use premises, not just on Sundays but throughout the week, we continue to seek the Lord's direction on how best to accommodate our growing ministry and its future needs, whilst making best use of the space we have already."

Paul

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