



Annual Review of 2011

godmanchesterbaptist.org

Welcome to our Annual Review of 2011 which outlines our activities during the year and brings much encouragement as we recognise God's many blessings over the last year.

Congregations

GBC is an amazing mixture of people. Almost everyone at GBC finds a home in one of our four congregations: **Sunday morning Celebration, Songs of Praise, D-Caf, and Generation Rising**. The diversity of style and content of each congregation can provide each of us with a meaningful place to worship God. When our congregations meet, they are also places of learning and prayer. Our local mission activities feed into our congregations and our cell groups give people deeper and closer relationships for discipleship and support.



During 2011, many new people have begun to be part of our church family. Seven people testified to their faith in believers' baptism, 5 people became church members, and we shared 7 dedications of children. We gave time in 2011 to a series of "Meet the Team" events when our vision of life at GBC was shared with everyone.

"We are so grateful for the love and support we have received on our journey to starting a family"
Daniel & Sarah

Prayer surrounds everything we do, but from time to time we set aside special times for concentrated prayer. Of special note were the "Stations of The Cross" week before Easter, the 24 hours we spent praying for one of our sick church members, and the day of prayer regarding our church finances. We support world mission across all our congregations, regularly sharing news of people overseas who are linked to GBC.



Many people enable us to celebrate the goodness of God, to share our lives with each other and to make disciples in all our congregations. We thank them for giving their time and gifts and for sharing their servant hearts.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Our **Sunday morning congregation** has continued to grow and we continue to use every inch of space, having re-designed, re-decorated and re-allocated some of the rooms for our growing children's and youth ministry during the year! We have benefitted from preaching series on 2 Corinthians (Jars of Clay), Revelation (Marks of a Great Church), Ruth (Redeeming Ruth), and Isaiah (Born to Die), as well as short series on Heaven Unearthed and Men of God. Our growing band of 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, including regularly leading worship at Yelling Baptist Church and Medway Christian Fellowship.



"We love being a part of GBC, knowing that in tough times there are others praying for you and in good times, friends want to praise God with you too! We have had plenty of laughs this year (especially in the mud at Soul Survivor) as well as a few tears but seeing our girls grow in their love for God helped by our learning from the parenting course has been a highlight of 2011." Warren & Suzy

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 and a focus on one of our overseas or local missions.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Every third Sunday at 4.00pm, our well established **Songs of Praise** congregation meets for a short service with well loved hymns, readings, prayers and a short talk. About 50 then stay and enjoy tea together – and the chance to meet others and spend time chatting. We have enjoyed looking at themes such as 'Life's Changes' and 'You are never alone'. It has been a real joy this year to see a growing

number of people from our Tuesday Lunch Club attending Songs of Praise and feeling that it is their spiritual home.



"I enjoy the songs and the beautiful tea – I wish it was on more often!" Mollie



"I find the service very helpful and it's so nice to come through to a lovely tea. I have made some good friends through coming." Betty

*"I get a great blessing and fellowship"
Bette*



We have also celebrated Easter, Harvest and Christmas together.

GENERATION RISING

New for 2011

Our **Generation Rising** Youth congregation meets 3 times a month on Sunday evenings at 7.00pm and once a month for small groups in people's homes.

D-CAF



Our **D-Caf congregation** for 16+ 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 which has led to some coming to faith. We held a fantastic baptismal service on a Wednesday evening – attended by people from all our congregations. There are many personal struggles and some very difficult life stories but we are seeing weddings and dedications

which are a healthy sign of people wanting to get their lives on track with God. 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. We have had many new people join us in 2011 although they do not all come every week. Your prayers for the busy pastoral care that is part of this work are very much appreciated.

“D-Caf is a place to go and share problems and socialise.” TANIÁ

“GBC gave me a place where I could be myself and not be judged on my past. It has helped me look towards the future and become a more positive person who was given a second chance and a reason to smile again.” KYRA



Christmas Dinner

“D-Caf has helped me to be myself around others and to gain more confidence with my anxiety.” SIMONE

“A place to learn about God, to get close to Him and to learn different subjects about God.” DEAN



Martine & Maria setting up camp at Soul Survivor



Fred & Jonny with shepherd's pie for 40!

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, a team working together in many of our services, activities and events, or a cell group.

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.

"At Friday Group (10am at GBC) our evangelistic outlook has been via Alpha and meals and the Christmas coffee morning. This has enabled us to make contact with many people some of whom have continued with Friday Group and church. Bible studies have been by John Ortberg – on the theme of Faith. This was challenging and encouraging. This was followed by looking at Women in the Bible. Why not come and join us? Open to all women – children welcome!"

Helen

"At Stileway (Wednesday evenings) our group has continued to use the Cell Outline material for our Bible studies which has been helpful and challenging. We have also encouraged each other during 2011 to step up our commitment to sharing prayer needs and answers to prayer with each other and to be persistent in our prayers – even for seemingly unchanging situations. Praying for each other and spending time in prayer has helped to turn our group from being a place where we meet to a place where we meet with God in a more tangible way and it's bringing us closer together. We do this by e-mail as well as when we meet and that has helped us to stay more in touch with each other even though we can't all meet every week."

Ruth, Mark

"The growth seen in 2010 saw the groups expand into 2 during 2011 with Group A being led by Craig & Nicky Rattigan and Group B led by Keith & Cecilia Doe. Although both groups have decreased due to people moving away, both still have viable numbers and we are trusting the Lord for future growth. Both groups were privileged to be able to support the "Cards & Cakes " evening in October which attracted a number of visitors and raised over £200 in aid of the Joshua Boxes charity run by Amanda Buckenham."

Keith

World Mission

We held a World Mission Sunday in June where our speaker was Andre Chagas from Brazil, and we 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;

Mission Direct working around the world; and

Cambodia Action

In addition, during 2011 some members of our congregation have been on **short-term assignments** in Zambia, Uganda, Cambodia and Russia where they were engaged in projects in medical work, education and building projects.

Seniors Ministry

2011 has seen the development of some of our well established work with Seniors, as well as some new initiatives. There is a growing sense of community and belonging as we celebrate life's milestones and share sad times. Holiday at Home has been a highlight of the year for many and it has also been a real joy to see many come along to Songs of Praise and to call GBC 'our church'.

LUNCH CLUB

Organised by Godmanchester Churches and taking place at GBC every Tuesday, with an average attendance of 40+. This year we have engaged people in fund raising and picking charities close to their hearts for funds to go to. We have also enjoyed our day trip to Kelmarsh Hall.

"A friendly welcoming place. Love the Tuesday Lunch Club and the Songs of Praise Sunday afternoons." Vinny

"It really means so much to have a meal with other people and everyone is so kind." Greta



HOLIDAY AT HOME

New for 2011



This was our first year running Holiday at Home – a Holiday Club for Seniors. The whole week had a holiday theme and each day consisted of morning and afternoon sessions with a light lunch in between and the day ended with a thought for the day and tea and cakes. Our sessions were varied and included music, bingo, a slide show from around the world, children from Godmanchester Community Primary School teaching us games, and visiting speakers. The response was great – with many asking for 2012 dates before the end of the 2011 week! It was a real joy to see

so many from GBC involved in using their gifts and talents.

"I looked forward to every day at the Holiday Club and really had a great time. I look forward to the next one. Everyone was so nice and friendly. Thank you." Connie

A complete success! We all enjoyed ourselves so much with all the amazing activities prepared for us. I met lots of lovely people and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it."

Jean



SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION

We continue to lead services each month in various sheltered accommodation complexes in Godmanchester and St Ives – as well as leading carol singing evenings at Christmas.

"We continue to meet most second Sunday afternoons of each month with loyal enthusiastic McCartney House residents, for a time of worship, prayer, a short sermon and fellowship. We value and thank God for musical support from Pat, and praise God that some residents now look forward to attending the weekly Tuesday lunches and the monthly Songs of Praise Service at GBC, when they are able." Colin & Hatty

"We share fellowship in the Lord with two enthusiastic over 90s residents each month at Oak Tree Court" Peter

Youth Ministry

FRIDAY NIGHT PROJECT *Re-designed for 2011*



We have merged our Rock Solid & Rendezvous youth clubs together and created Friday Night Project for 11-18 year olds. We have lots to do – computers, games consoles, pool and table tennis and most importantly the tuck shop with lots of lovely sweets! We also organise trips such as Bowling.

"I like FNP because there is a new activity every week & there are lots of my friends there. I like it because anyone can go." CAMERON

"FNP is fun and a good place to be. I enjoy the games and like to meet my friends"

Joanne

The **FOOTBALL PROJECT** is going well – with lots of young people coming to play football in all weathers!



FURNACE now meets every week on a Sunday morning, sometimes Home (at GBC) and sometimes Away (at the school). We have lots of young people learning about what being a Christian is all about.

"At Furnace we discuss about God from a teenagers' perspective" Dylan

"I enjoy the multitude of support and warmth in the GBC community" LOZ

REVEAL continues as a monthly discipleship course for 11-14s.



RESIDENTIALS throughout the year have included: **The Horstead Centre** in February; **Soul Survivor** in August and **Beyond Belief** in October where some of our young people put the message of God into action on the streets of Cambridge. All of these were great times for young people to go away from their normal environments and learn to serve and grow in their knowledge of

God. Lots of fun included camp fires, rock climbing, extreme hide and seek with a cupboard, and mud, glorious mud!

"I enjoy being with people and having fun." Nick

GIRLS ONLY *New for 2011*

This new initiative was launched with a weekend away for some of our older teenage girls and the introduction of a mentoring scheme where they are each paired with a mentor to encourage them in their development as young Christian leaders.

STARBUCKS *New for 2011*

An evening in late December saw the local Starbucks taken over by about 50 of our young people + their friends. An informal evening with coffee, chat and a thought provoking short talk on the real meaning of Christmas.



Children's Ministry

SUNDAY MORNINGS *Re-designed for 2011*

Creche, Little Stars and Kids Kingdom, our re-designed and growing Sunday morning children's ministry for 0-11s, continue to provide an excellent age appropriate teaching programme during our Sunday celebrations.

"I love the puppets at Kids Kingdom. They make me laugh." Abigail

LITTLEFOOT CLUB for babies and toddlers on a Wednesday morning just keeps on growing!

EXPLORERS CHILDREN'S CLUB for years 3-6 on a Thursday evening had a break after Easter in 2011 but has recently re-started.



MISSION RESCUE HOLIDAY CLUB with lots of children, lots of fun, all made possible by lots of great volunteers. A week of being spies – investigating the story of Moses.

SCHOOLS WORK included LOGOS – a weekly lunchtime club at St Annes School, run by Godmanchester Churches and School Assemblies including involvement in the GenR8 team's Christmas Assemblies.

Community

We're glad that a number of friends from these and other 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
- **Alpha**
- **Flat Pack Parent**
- **Messy Church *New for 2011*** which met 3 times looking at Easter, Harvest and Advent. A great opportunity for families to have messy time together and learn about these important festivals in a more informal setting.



"I love the painting at Messy Church." Bethany

FOOD BANK PROJECT *New for 2011*



A new community project, supported by all our congregations and headed up by our young people, is the Food Bank. People donate tinned and packet food with long use by dates so that we can respond to requests for help in crisis situations. About 30 food parcels have been given out during 2011.

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**



Our Premises

2011 saw extensive maintenance work carried out throughout the building. Whilst maintenance continued throughout the year, a particular effort was made during our “**60-Day Makeover**” in July and August to generally improve the condition of our church through painting, cleaning, repairs and replacement. As a result, a number of the rooms were extensively renovated and improved and many of the members were able to help with this work. Thanks to all those who made this event a particular success and also to those who continue to serve in this way throughout the year.

John

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