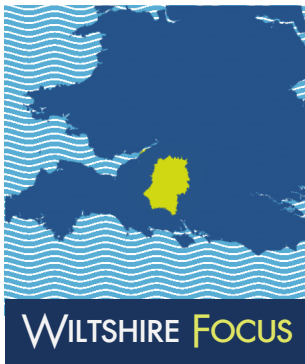


annual village fete each year. Please pray for us.



NEWS



Mark Hope is an evangelist based at Bradford on Avon Baptist Church supported via Grace Baptist Partnership for evangelistic work in and around Wiltshire. Here are some brief updates from places where he has had recent or ongoing involvement.

► **Bradford on Avon** - With a new pastor settling in, the church is encouraged. We have

► **Grittleton** - Grittleton is an affluent village with a large Church of England church, but sorry to say little or no genuine spiritual life. Two years ago, in God's mercy a once closed Baptist Chapel was reopened; now monthly gospel preaching takes place with up to 12 attendees. Please pray the work will grow.

► **Lea** - Lea village has a population of over 800, with lots of families. Lea Baptist Chapel has only three committed people coming along each Sunday. Prayerful outreach to Lea homes has been taking place for over two years with little impact. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to apply God's word.

► **Malmesbury** - Malmesbury is a town that is growing fast. King's Church with membership in single figures has a big harvest field before it. But they are not daunted; with prayerful endeavour they're reaching out

some local Christians to step out in faith and start the work again. It's been really challenging at times but lives have been changed and believers have grown spiritually. Praise the Lord.

► **Yatton Keynell** - Yatton Keynell village situated in the Wiltshire M4 corridor is a busy and active village. The Chapel with only four supporters is also busy and active. Baptismal classes have been held, a weekly prayer meeting has started and a twice month ladies meeting is well attended. Please pray other local Christians would support the work and that people would be saved.

► **Hilperton** - Grace Reformed Baptist Church, Hilperton, was established 3 years ago. We meet in Hilperton Primary School each Sunday at 11.00 and 6.00 and in people's homes during the week. We are seeking to reach out in the area surrounding the school by door to door work, involvement in community activities in a local hall and by a presence at the

Grace Baptist Partnership began out of the church-planting ministry of Grace Baptist Church in Wood Green. Here is a bit of background about the church as well as a summary of their current work and ministry.

Our church began in early 2004, when a group of people came together in a London Borough of Haringey library hall, under the pastoral leadership of Barry King. For well over a year, the newly-formed church functioned without a building of its own. As the church grew, God provided a more permanent meeting place by bringing us into contact with the few remaining members of a church in nearby Wood Green. The two groups began joint meetings and in a few months had naturally come together as one.

A major part of our story is church planting. We have been directly involved in organically and evangelistically planting and revitalising a number of churches, in a range of urban



been working through Rev. 1-3 and Ecclesiastes, to better understand how we should be seeking to live as members of a local church and as believers in this fallen world. Please pray as we engage in various forms of evangelism in the town and beyond.

with the gospel and seeing a few encouragements. Please pray the Lord would uphold and bless them.

► **Upavon** - Fifteen years ago Upavon Baptist Chapel and its grounds were going to be sold for private use. However, the Lord worked in the hearts of



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and rural contexts. Over the years we have sent out called, qualified men with their families to serve in these church plants and faithful members to assist. In 2013 we sent out Pastor Barry, Frances, and three of their children to assist a church plant in the Buckinghamshire village of Edlesborough. At the same time, the congregation unanimously called Ryan King, who had already served as assistant pastor for three years, to be pastor - a role he took up in October 2013. In 2016, Charles Efedua - who was converted and baptised in the church from a Roman Catholic background in 2010 - was added as an elder, and Robert Hunt was recognised as an evangelist in 2017.

From our earliest days, we have been committed to biblical discipleship, evangelism, and missions. We seek to constantly equip the church with knowledge of the Scriptures and their application for today, and to consistently share the gospel in our area. Through church services, personal and small group Bible studies, Sunday afternoon book tables, biweekly sketch-board Street Preaching and book table outreaches, a Parents and Toddlers group, and everyday

interaction in the community we both "Go and tell" and invite people to "Come and See" the beauty of the gospel. Though the days are dark and the work difficult, we praise God that he is saving sinners and building his church, in both ordinary and remarkable ways.

Our gospel work is not focussed only on our local area - although the nations are truly on our doorstep in incredibly multi-cultural Wood Green. We have sent church leaders and members on mission trips to five continents, given to assist church plants at home and missionaries abroad, and committed Pastor Ryan to work an average of two days a week on Grace Baptist Partnership projects in Europe.

People have sometimes assumed that we are a large church with plenty of resources, because we are always growing and going. We are not. We are small, with substantial needs. But we have a big God who saves us with a wonderful message, sends us out on a great mission, and has all power to give all needed to do all he has commanded. Pray that God would give us wisdom, strength, and success, and provide for our every need.



Statement of Faith

Article Four

"We believe that Adam fell from his original righteousness into sin and brought upon himself and all his offspring death, condemnation and sinful nature"

Adam was created perfectly upright by God, but in disobedience he fell from this position. We read in the Bible that because he fell we have inherited Adam's sinful nature and accordingly we become guilty, absolutely corrupt and deserving of punishment. But what does it mean to inherit the sinful nature? All of us are sinful from birth. We did not acquire this after we were born, we are born with it. David makes that very clear in Psalm 51:5, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

We can understand this if we see that Adam was what we might call 'the parent of mankind' or to use a more technical phrase, 'the federal head of the human race'. This Biblical idea is the key link between us and Adam. He was our representative. When he fell from his original righteousness, he was not merely acting alone and for himself, but for us all who were to come through him. So the core issue here is representation. This representation means that when he sinned, all of mankind whom he was representing inevitably became a sinful people, even though they were not yet born.

Genesis 3 records for us the facts of Adam's fall. Romans 5:12-14 makes clear to us the implication of those facts. It says that "sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men." Sin came into the world through Adam and spread to all of us: both legally and actually. The Puritan Thomas Goodwin explains this passage like this:

"Adam...was reckoned as a common public person, not standing singly or alone for himself, but as representing all mankind to come of him. ...Now this man was [a prototype of] Christ...the second man'. ...These two between them had all the rest of the sons of men hanging at their girdle [or belt]. Adam had all the sons of men [who are] called 'earthly men' [included in him]; and Christ the second man had all his elect, ...the 'heavenly men' included in him".

Is Adam your federal head, or is Christ? If you are 'in Christ' and depending upon him, then His righteousness is imputed to you. If Adam is your head, then you remain in sin, under God's wrath. Sin is very dangerous but it comes with subtlety. Sin is prideful but approaches endearingly. Sin looks sweet but is sour to taste. Sin looks beautiful and fluffy to touch but at its core is rotteness. Sin is like a heart-warming Sunday Roast with all the trimmings but is full of poison. Sin is like a brand-new car but the engine knocks as you drive out of the car park. Sin is a liar! It promises good but delivers evil. It promises freshness but is smelly. It promises you what it can never achieve. Sin ravages, corrupts us and brings death! With sin, we cannot please God. With sin, we are His enemy. With sin, we run against Him. With sin, we will lose. With sin we are completely condemned, along with Adam, in our sinful nature. It is better by far to be found trusting in Christ!

'Wale Akinrogonde

Grace Church Walthamstow, London



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