

# Youth and Children's newsletter- May 2016

## What's been going on?

It's been a busy couple of months since the last newsletter although it seems like yesterday that I was last writing it. We have had an exciting few months with trips out and new groups starting.

Most recently we have been to Thorpe Park, after being asked constantly if we can go again since our last trip. We had a great trip and lots of happy memories were made. A huge thank you to Sue Norton who led the trip with me.



You may of noticed that Going Live are raising money to put in a new kitchen area in the youth room, this culminated with a fundraising morning selling cakes and splatting the youth. Keep an eye out for the total TBA.



Other highlights were going on a mini golf trip during half term and one of the young people "accidentally" hitting a lady with an awful shot, yes I made them apologise!

## Un Baja



Originally we thought Un Baja meant Floor 1 in Spanish which we thought was a cool name, it later transpired that it actually doesn't mean this but it was too late by then and it's now a funny inside joke. So this is our new Mid-week group that started on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, the group is led by myself and Sue Norton with occasional guest leaders. The young people were very excited about it kicking off and we had an amazing first evening. A lot of the young people invited their friends and we had nearly 20 young people join us. The group meets every other Wednesday offering time to chill out after school, have some food, have fun and spend some time thinking about faith. I'm super excited about this group, seeing the young people grow in their faith, share doubts and grow in friendship with each other. For more information please check out the page on the website which has all the dates on or please come and chat to me.

## Romance Academy

We were lucky enough to have Romance Academy come and do a seminar for us a few weeks back looking at sex and relationships - this event was aimed at parents and youth workers. It was a hugely helpful event equipping us to be able to begin these conversations with the young people. Have to say a huge thank you to Riana Barnard who did an amazing job organizing the evening. A young person said to me the week before, "Josh,

I don't have to go to the sex thing with my mum do I?" They were fairly relieved that it was for parents not teenagers!

### **School life**

It was great to be back in schools after a long Easter break. The girls' football club, which I always mention, has grown again and we now have nearly 50 girls every week, it's just so much fun. Myself and Charlie continue to do assemblies in the local schools, lunch and breakfast clubs at Trinity and Dunton Green. They are going well and are a great way to witness through our actions.

### **Coming up**

It looks like we have a good group of around 15 of us going to Soul Survivor in the summer 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August, do let me know ASAP if you would like to book a place.



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May we are having a pizza and film afternoon.

### **Prayer points**

- Organisation for trips and events coming up in the future.
- Un Baja, please pray that this is a group that the young people feel at home in and are able to think about faith and how we can live it out in our daily lives. Please also pray for strong long-lasting friendships between the young people in the group

- Giving thanks for the simple joy that children seem to have in life, may it be infectious for us as adults.
- For everyone who has exams coming up, that they can study well and remember to take breaks.

### **Short thought**

While reading a book recently I was reminded of a conversation I had once with a Christian I met at an event. He was talking about how being a Christian was great as we get a ticket to heaven. It almost felt that he was saying that once we welcome Jesus into our lives that's it, we can switch off and get on the plane with our ticket to heaven. It made me uncomfortable at the time (a few years ago now) but now even more so. I see being a Christian not as getting a ticket and then forgetting about everyone else but as an invitation, an invitation to make the world we live in now a better place. Making known the Good news of Jesus through the way we live our lives. I love the passage in Matthew 25 verse 40 "The King will reply. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." When we serve others, bless them, be light in a dark situation were not pointing to ourselves but to Jesus. Showing that there is another way to live.

Thanks for reading and if you do have any questions please do get in touch,

God Bless,

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