

Youth and Children's Newsletter- April 2018

In early October the clocks changed and I looked at the clock in my kitchen and thought...Nahh, not changing it, it'll be right again in 6 months! It's now right again and that means that spring is in the air, safe once again to organise games outside on the green and to start properly thinking about the summer trips.

Looking back

All the way back in January we went on a little outing to support Megan Barnard who was in the Sevenoaks players Panto at the Stag. Our group was made complete by Miles randomly joining us and teaching us how to behave in a Panto! It was a great night and Megan smashed it. In February we went on a Bowling trip to Tunbridge Wells, we had a big group of around 30 young all of whom did really well in the bowling, we only got told off once for balls not going down the correct alley!!



Also in February some of young people attended the Bountiful conference, some of the boys helped on the day to serve the girls. The feedback I got was so encouraging. On Easter day one of our young people made the decision to be baptised, it was a beautiful service. For me, baptising a young person who I've known their whole life is such a huge privilege. As a youth group we have started to sponsor a child through compassion, each month the young people raise £25 themselves to send to our child Steeve who lives in Haiti. This has been a great way for us a group to

put our faith into action and a chance to bless someone.

Powerhouse

In Powerhouse last term we spent time studying the stories of Abraham, Esau and Jacob and Joseph. Through craft, games and engaging teaching the leaders in Powerhouse use their gifts to teach the children these ancient stories and what they mean for us in our world today. We are so blessed to have such an incredible team of volunteers who give their time, gifts and energy to bless the children.

Un Baja

This term at our Wednesday evening youth group we have been doing a video course on evangelism and looking at how we can best share our faith with our friends. We had a brilliant Q&A with Matt Young where the young people were asking some brilliantly searching questions. We enjoyed a film evening and a special guest from Relax Kids who led us in exercises and activities to help us manage stress during exam times. We finished out term off with an MEGA Easter egg hunt, the young people were fairly hyped about this! If you look carefully you may still find little bits of chocolate around the church!

Schools work

Myself, Andy and Charlie continue to lead assemblies in the local schools, last week in our Easter assembly I had an egg cracked over my head! We talked about how Jesus came to wipe away our sin and take the egg of our faces. I continue to help in a breakfast club in Dunton Green Primary School every Thursday and on Tuesdays run a lunch club in Trinity school with Julie from SAYT. The girls in the Amherst football club have really progressed, some of them are having trials with Kent (I like to think due to my exceptional coaching!!)

Coming up

There is always a lot happening in this term as we gear up for the summer, exam periods and various trips out.

Coming up this term at youth group we have lots of varied topics and events, some of them are...

- Thinking about the effect that pornography has on us.
- A group meal, prepared and cooked by some of our young people!
- A session on sexting and how to stay safe while using social media.
- A trip out to Laser Quest (which I will win!)
- A film evening
- 2 sessions on friendship looking at Jonathan-David and Ruth-Naomi.

To end the term we will have a BBQ and social together to celebrate and of course watch England in the Semi Final of the world cup!! (C'MON ENGLAND!)

Our summer trip to Soul Survivor is now fully booked with 30 young people, now we have the amazing problem of how to get everyone there!



Prayer points

- For all our young people taking exams this term, we pray that they are able to do their best and to know that they are loved for who they are not for an exam result.
- For all the trips and events coming up this term, that friendships will be

formed and strengthened through them.

- For all the young people and Children who we get to see and chat with during the course of a week, may we be able to show your love to them through our words and actions.

As ever myself and Liz invite you to come and visit us in the youth room whenever you like, pop your head in and come for a chat with the young people, you'll find a warm welcome.

Youth of today

I want to tell you about something that happened to me a few weeks ago, something that fills me with hope and something that really encouraged me. In youth group a few weeks ago we were having one of our sessions on evangelism, the evening hadn't really gone to plan, the games didn't really work and when we came to watch the video my Laptop on which I was using to play it through started to do about a million updates! I was getting pretty worked up by it and the young people could tell as I was on the brink of chucking my laptop against the wall. The laptop eventually worked and we watched about 5 minutes of this video before we had to finish, I remember thinking "Well that was awful." After the session when everyone was going home I was chatting to one of the young people and apologised for nearly losing my temper and it being a rubbish session. They just looked at me and said "Don't worry about it Josh, it happens." Those few short words were like a breath of fresh air for me, bringing perspective and compassion. As I drove home I remember thinking in the grand scheme of things it doesn't matter if things didn't go to plan tonight. I was so encouraged by these simple words that this young person spoke to me.

Encouraging people is a gift and this young person had it in bucket loads. How are you using your gifts and talents to bless others?

Josh