

## Youth and Children's Newsletter November -18

I don't know about you but the past few months have just flown past, I never used to believe people when they said as you get older time passes so much faster but it's true.

### By The Beach Report

In the last weekend in September we took 20 children from BGBC to our much loved "By the Beach" trip, I think this is the 6<sup>th</sup> one that we have done!



We had the best time with such a packed programme for our time away. From late night movies, boat making, dips in the sea, photo hunts and a bowling trip. Our sessions focused on names that Jesus had, we thought about Jesus as light of the world, Jesus as a teacher and Jesus as our saviour. There are so many highlights to share but please do check out the highlight video on the church website if you haven't seen it. I have to say though my highlight was our time on the beach together, we had perfect weather and it was just a lovely way to spend time together as a group.



We can see so clearly how Jesus valued and loved children, and we are so blessed at BGBC to be able to try and show that same love to them. Over the years I've done a lot of trips like this and in my experience these trips are only as good as the leaders that go. This year was no different, the leaders who came, gave up their weekend to serve and bless these kids, they did such an amazing job. THANK YOU!

### Youth group

Once a term at our Wednesday youth group we have a group meal, this term we had Paul Vogelberg lead the charge in cooking up a real feast for 20 of us.



We had a 3 course bonanza and Paul is the next Jamie Oliver in the making! There is something beautiful about sitting down around a table together to share food.

In early October we took a group of very enthusiastic young people to Thorpe Park for the day. We had a great time, going on crazy rides, getting scared by clowns! And dare I say some of the young people ate far too much sugar that day!

### Prayer points

Please do continue to lift our children and young people up in prayer, also why not tell one of them that you're doing this! I remember Helen Hasler telling me that once when I was a teen, it was so encouraging.

- Young people who are currently in the middle of their Mock exams.
- Children who experience loneliness at school.

- Young people who are struggling with their mental health.
- Those who seek to support young people in this area.
- Prayers of thankfulness for the children who came to the “By the Beach” trip and the fun memories they created.
- Prayers of thankfulness for the leaders who faithfully serve our children and young people.
- Please pray for me as I start work on my last assignment as part of my youth work diploma, deadline is in January!

### **Powerhouse**

Something the teenagers always talk to me about is their fond and foundational memories of their time in Powerhouse. We are so lucky to have such a great group for our children to be a part of. A place where they can learn about faith, celebrate and laugh together, pray and worship together. This has been led so well for so many years by Craig Coston, he has poured himself into it and you don't need me to tell you how much our kids love and appreciate him. From my point of view Craig has been a joy to work with, his passion and skill for sharing the gospel with children is infectious and I know has impacted many lives both through Powerhouse and his work. Thank you so much for the way you've led this group but more than that we are thankful for who you are.

### **Short thought**

I've just got back from the Youthscape “National youth ministry weekend” in Birmingham. There were a 1,000 youth workers from around the country all

gathered together, it was a fantastic conference. Taking place in the state of the art Resort world building next to the NEC the facilities were top notch. Many moments to reflect on but one particular one that I would like to tell you about.....

On the Friday night we had a special visitor called Hannah from North Korea, Hannah must have been in her late 80's, and she came onto the stage with her interpreter and proceeded to share her story. Her and her husband were both convicted of being Christians and sent to prison, Hannah told us of the torture they had both gone through, she didn't spare any detail. It was hard to sit there and listen too, you could've heard a pin drop in the room. She shared her story for about 15 minutes, at the end there was silence in the room for about a minute, she leant into the microphone and in English said “but the Joy of the Lord is my strength” what happened next was bizarre but hilarious. She got up and did the “Mobot” (the one that Mo Farah does) celebration around the stage. You just need to picture a lady in her 80's doing this and it will bring a smile to you. She leant into the microphone again and said “The Joy of the Lord is my strength” It was one of the most bizarre but profound moments I've ever witnessed.

As I walked to the car park later that night I thought to myself “If I went through everything that she has been through could I honestly say that too?” I don't know the answer to that but it did keep me up late that night thinking about it. Is the Joy of the Lord my strength? Is it yours?

God Bless,

Josh