

The 06

Summer Update

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So, I delayed my Summer report so that I could fill you in on a fabulous weekend we had at Spree SW on the weekend of the 28th/30th June. Spree is a Christian youth weekend for young people from 8 years to 17 years. It is organised jointly between Urban Saints and South West Youth Ministries (SWYM). Over the past number of years, it was held at Shobrooke Park, Crediton but this year it was held at West Point in Exeter for the first time. During the weekend there were 1700 young people and leaders present. This was also the first year that I have taken a group from Ottery St Mary. For a number of months, I have really been looking forward to it. I opened it up to groups that I know, for this first year, so I was really pleased to have 13 young people sign up and go. Seven of the young people came from Ottery St Mary and the other six came from Newton Poppleford. Leaders from FiSH and Chillout joined me too. The weather over the weekend was absolutely fantastic – though we had to be mother constantly nagging the young people to put sun cream on, wear hats etc. The weekend started on Friday when a group of us went up to Westpoint in the afternoon to put up tents and a marquis for the group. This went swimmingly until the wind rose up. Honestly, I didn't think the Marquis would stay down. I thought we were going to have a Wizard of Oz moment. Thankfully, Mr Iain Randall provided us with loads of guy ropes to secure it. From then on it went pretty well – apart from a puncture but that's another story! The young people arrived from 6.30 pm onwards and just like me they were so excited to be there. During the weekend the young people attended sessions in the morning and evenings where they worshipped God and listened to great teaching around the subject of John 10:10. The worship and teaching were delivered and experienced in many

forms including rap artists, dance, testimonies, preaching and worship groups. During the sessions there was also time to discuss what had been taught and to raise questions. All the young people attended these sessions and they all enjoyed it. God certainly moved amongst the young people – something we all prayed for. During the rest of the time there were so many activities the young people could do. There was a fairground, inflatables, cage football, skatepark, circus skills, slip and slide, cinema, silent disco, Spree's got talent and so much more. What I absolutely loved about the weekend was the way in which I could get to know the young people better. It was a lot of fun spending time with them, going on the fairground rides, competing on the inflatables and just building great relationships with them. The only thing I didn't get around to doing was having the Sumo suit fight with Iain – but that can wait till next year. And talking of next year – the young people are very keen to go again so if there is anyone knows of any young people in their church who would like to go – remember the weekend of the 26th-28th June 2020. More details later in the year. I would just like to say some massive thank you's to people. First of all, can I thank Ali and Tim, Ivan and Ruth, Chloe and Iain of The United Reformed Church who lent us tents and camping equipment for the young people to use. Without them—the young people will have had nowhere to sleep. Also, a really big thank you to The Rotary Club in Ottery St Mary who lent us a fabulous marquis. This was amazing. Also, a big thank you to Dave, Chris, Ken from Newton Poppleford and Matt and Nigel (son-in-law and brother) who helped put up the tents and marquis. But a special thanks must go to my fellow leaders Iain (from the United Reformed) and the two Rosemary's from Newton Poppleford who were absolutely fabulous in supporting the young people and myself. And the food Rosemary Zirker was second to none!!





In the Schools

This Summer has again seen a very busy time in the Schools. It has been predominantly about Transition and I have been doing a number of transition activities in the schools. At the beginning of June, I helped at a transition event in Payhembury for the Year 6's in Feniton, Payhembury, Tipton St John and Awliscombe. It was a great afternoon and the young people were really engaged in all the activities. I will also be doing some Transition work in Ottery St Mary Primary and Westhill in the next couple of weeks. During the last week of term I also have the chance to do a Transition lesson in Newton Poppleford School which I am really looking forward to. Every year 6 in the local primary schools has received a Scripture Union book called 'It's your Move' and has been funded by the Otter Vale Mission Community. During this past term I have also been running a lunchtime bible club in Feniton Primary School. We have been looking at Jesus' 'I am' statements and I was also an assessor for their Civic Award Scheme. Over the term I have also been going into Ottery St Mary Primary and Kings School. In fact, just today you would have seen me doing the Cha Cha slide at Kings School in the playground with probably half the school. It was indeed an experience.

In the Churches

I have continued this term to support the youth and children's work in the various churches including Chillout and Jigsaw in Newton Poppleford, FiSH and Sunday mornings at The United Reformed Church and Messy Church at St Mary's. I also had the absolute pleasure in speaking at The New Life Church this month. I was able to share with the church what I have been doing within TheO6 using scripture from the book of Nehemiah. In the next coming weeks, I will be doing a family service at The United Reformed Church and I will be visiting Newton Poppleford, Feniton and Payhembury churches. We are now also rapidly approaching the month of August when we will again be being doing our Summer holiday Club 'Landlubbers' A team from St. Mary's, The United Reformed Church and New Life will be joining me in doing it. Over the next few weeks we will be busy putting the final touches together, preparing crafts and dusting down our pirate jokes. Please pray for it. Please pray that our publicity will reach everyone that God wants to be at the club. Pictures of the holiday club will be in my Autumn Report.



XL-Mentoring

All five of our mentors are now fully trained and ready to go. We have one young person currently being mentored under the project with one awaiting matching. We also have had a couple more enquiries. The big issue that we are facing is that they are all boys and currently we only have one other male mentor. So, I would like to ask everyone in their churches to see if there are any males, any age that you think would be a great mentor to a young person. They would only need to commit to 90 – 120 minutes each week to meet up and support a young person. It is an amazing thing to be part of a young person's life and make a difference.

