

cpas Falcon Camps



Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

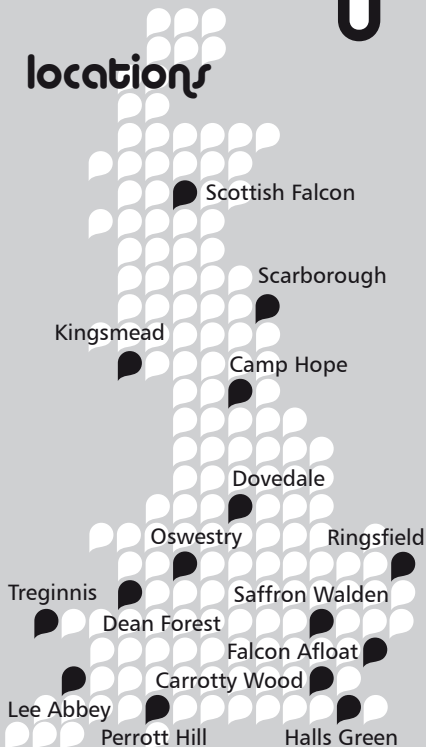
Ephesians 5:1-2, *TNIV*



fun-packed, affordable, unforgettable holidays for 8-18s

cpas Falcon camps

locations



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This summer 514 children took part in Falcon Camps. They swam, danced, climbed high wire courses, skated, bowled and so much more. They have eaten Christmas lunch, ice-creams and fish and chips on the beach. They have made jewellery, remote-controlled cars and didgeridoos. Wow, they have been busy!

The leaders went home exhausted but with the knowledge that they have given these youngsters the best time possible. Many children experienced real respite from tough home circumstances and thrived in a caring Christian community.

The benefits of Falcon Camps are many but the over-riding benefit is encapsulated by this leader's comment: 'We offered a stable, regular rhythm to the day, including prayer, reflection and activity around scriptural issues – God loving them, us loving them, their being special.'

I want to say a big 'thank you' to all of you who help make Falcon Camps happen. Thank you for your prayers, your generous gifts and your servant leadership. Together we have made a difference to the lives of many children and young people – a difference that will last beyond the summer months.

Each holiday only takes place because of the dedication and generosity of a large number of volunteer leaders. If you would like to help next year, please do contact me.

But the biggest challenge is raising enough money – please give generously to support this precious ministry. And please help us spread the word. Tell your friends, family and your church about how they can get involved with Falcon Camps in 2010.

Jane Stephenson
Falcon Camp
Development Worker



Laughing in the rain

Rebecca Gash, part of the CPAS communications team, visited the Perrot Hill 1 Falcon Camp at the end of July. Nineteen young people took part in this fun-packed holiday in Somerset run by a team of 19 committed volunteer leaders – including five serving in the kitchens.



Rebecca said: 'The day I spent on the Perrot Hill Falcon Camp was definitely one of the best days I had over the summer, and certainly the best day ever I have had outside in the rain!

'I went to visit Perrot Hill in my official capacity as part of the CPAS staff team, but left at the end of the day feeling profoundly personally affected. It was great to spend time with such a fantastic, energetic, engaging group of children – from a variety of different challenging home circumstances but all individually loved and valued by God.

'We spent the morning at a nearby bowling alley where it was wonderful to see the children encourage each other and cheer one another on. And then after a picnic lunch, the children enjoyed taking part in a water slide and raft-building (in the rain!) at the Mill on the Brue outdoor activity centre. Watching the children grow in confidence through building a raft was fantastic. It was lovely to see a group of boys working together to paddle their raft down the stream, and their triumph when they had successfully completed the task.

'I was moved by the gentleness, wisdom and compassion of all the leaders who so generously give up their time to serve others. I was particularly impressed by Rachel who joyfully joined in the (cold!) water slide activity with the children.

'It was clear that the high ratio of leaders to young people helped each child be known and valued. The leaders, of all ages, were fantastic at engaging with the children, and showed such patience in listening and answering questions.

'The kitchen and laundry team are also worthy of a mention! They spent the day back at the house preparing a fabulous hot dinner, and washing and drying clothes – a true example of servant leadership.

'As part of the CPAS communications team, I am involved in fundraising for Falcon Camps. I feel honoured to be involved in helping these holidays happen. It's such a privilege to help these precious children and young people discover God's love, and I'm looking forward to being involved in Falcon Camps in 2010.'



Thanks be to God

There is so much to thank God for following this summer's holidays. Here are some thanksgiving prayer points put together by the leaders on Treginnis'4. Please join us in expressing gratitude to God for all he has done.

'Ruth and Jack reading the Bible on the way home.'

'God met us exactly where we needed him in every situation and did absolute wonders.'

'When we were about five minutes from home, Jack said: "If they were to turn this bus around and say we are going to drive the eight hours back to Treginnis now, I'd stay on it!"'

'Dean – the way he relaxed and just loved the week. He read 46 pages of his Bible in about an hour.'

'On the way home as we were passing along the ends of the Welsh valleys, James wondered aloud how God created the mountains of South Wales because "it says in Genesis that God made the mountains".'

'After the bus broke down, I got back on to discover that the kids had prayed and that the bus was completely back to normal. Ben said: "Wow! All week I've been asking John these questions about God then this happens!", and James said: "We prayed to God and he actually answered – I can't believe this!". Everyone else was laughing and in a bit of a wonder.'

'Peter allowing Chris and I to pray for him and his situation after punching the wall.'

"A really productive "men time" about respect and relationships, which sparked further conversations later in the week."

'Jacob sharing his birthday cake with everyone.'

'James called head office after camp to say thank you for letting him go – he had a great time and would love to come again!'

'The transformation in Dean's behaviour – how he grew in confidence and trust as the week went on.'

'My great talk with Dean on the beach about his home situation after praying that God would help him to learn to trust.'

'Great weather for all our outdoor activities!'



A tale of two camps

Often young people attend just one Falcon Camp and that can be a life-changing experience, but sometimes we have the privilege of working with young people over several years. Overall leader, Neil Foster, tells us about the special relationship Joe formed with his Falcon Camp.

'Joe and Callum came to us via the Christian family adoption agency. The boys are brothers with different, both unknown, fathers. Joe, the elder brother, has a degree of autism and attended a very small special school. The boys were very close and incredibly supportive of each other – understandably so – because they were adopted as small boys (their birth mother is still in prison).

'Joe's mum told me that he had no possessions or toys in his bedroom because he has a tendency to smash everything on "wild and frustrating occasions". The only items are a bed and a photo frame which he decorated on camp featuring a picture of the leaders. His one other treasured possession, which has been saved from Joe's lower moments, is the youth Bible which we gave him one year ago.

'Four years ago their adoptive father left home for Australia. This has continued to be a very emotive and affecting issue



in the boys' lives.

Joe was a very challenging and rarely engaging lad, but both he and our team loved camp with him as a part of it.

'Joe was too old to attend our Falcon Camp last year, and so the boys did not have any other holidays away from home. This year, we suggested another Falcon Camp for Joe to attend but he would not consider going to any other except ours.

'Further discussion with Joe and his mum led to our understanding that he would go to an older Falcon Camp if one of our leaders went with him! So we made plans for this to happen, and with the support of his social worker we arranged suitable transport and supervision. He had a fantastic time, as ever rarely joining in, but just being there made it a week for him to remember.

'We have one dear old lady in a nursing home who has helped to fund Joe's holiday and she has prayed for him every day for the last four years. We cannot repair the damage done to some children through their life experiences, but we can help heal some of the wounds and help them see another side to life through our witness.'

Many thanks to Tara Goodall neé Cale-Morgan, a long-time leader on the Lee Abbey Falcon Camp. Tara and her lovely new husband David asked that their wedding gifts should be for Falcon Camps. We wish them well as they start their married life in Darlington where David is the new minister for three churches. Tell them all about Falcon Camps, won't you!



Fearfully and wonderfully made

At each of the sessions on the Scarborough Falcon Camp, the children were asked 'What are you?' And the reply was: 'Fearfully and wonderfully made!' Many of the children had arrived labelling themselves as 'rubbish', and others seemed hardened and damaged by the past experiences, but by the end of the week they were visibly different.

They certainly did not want to go home! Liam said: 'Why can't it last for two weeks? No – it should be for the whole summer holidays!'

In the car going home, two of the boys discussed which of the leaders cared for them the most – and concluded that they all really cared about them. One boy, with no Christian background whatsoever, told a leader on the last day: 'I wasn't close to God when I came here, but I'm closer now – cos you lot never shut up about him!'



On approaching a lake to do pond-dipping, one of the children shouted: 'I can see a penguin – it's a penguin!' (It was a magpie).

'I love coming to Treginnis. I'm allowed to play here'.

One child rolling in sand exclaimed: 'I'm not allowed to get dirty at home...this is BRILLIANT!'

New growth

Kingsmead was a brand new Falcon Camp this summer led by Ann and Bob Clucas. Ann used to lead the Oswestry Falcon Camp at Easter which started a few years ago. Now that Oswestry is really well-established and in the hands of a new overall leadership team, Ann and her husband have started Kingsmead as a holiday for older children.

'We had lots of encouraging movement: young people praying for the first time, earnestly talking about whether you can be a Christian and a scientist (with a doctor of chemistry), seeing members relax and smile, kids amazed on the ferry back across the Mersey to realise we had come under it on the train that morning, one lad making 18 pompoms in a day (and giving them away as love tokens

to the girl he was smitten with), members singing their hearts out in meetings and listening with a real hush to the gospel.'

It is really great to see the Falcon Camp programme we can offer grow in this way, but in order to do this we need more funds. Please consider supporting Falcon Camps financially if you do not already do so.



supporting falcon camps

Your support could help us offer more places to children and young people facing disadvantage and to share with them the good news of Jesus Christ.

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Here is my gift of £15 £25 £40 Your own amount £

I enclose a cheque/PO/charity voucher made payable to CPV Ltd (Falcon Camps)

I would like to make a regular donation. Please send me a standing order form.

I would like to make my gift by: Mastercard/Visa/Delta/charity card (*delete as appropriate*)

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Please tick if you would like a receipt for your gift. All donations are acknowledged.

The value of your gift can be increased at no extra cost to you. If you pay UK tax equivalent to or greater than the amount reclaimed on your donation, please complete the declaration below.

giftaid it

Yes, please claim Gift Aid on this and all my future donations, until I notify you otherwise.

Signed:

Date:

In order for the scheme to apply, you must ensure that you pay a total amount of Income and/or Capital Gains Tax equal to that which we reclaim – currently 28p in every £1 you give.

Please tell me how my church could support Falcon Camps

Please send me some information on helping on a Falcon Camp in 2010

Please return to: Jane Stephenson, CPAS CV0958, FREEPOST, WARWICK CV34 6BR