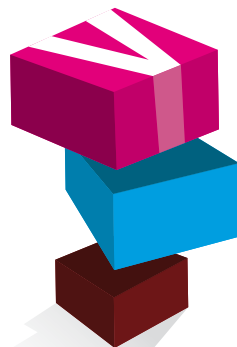


VENTURES

Life-changing holidays for 8-18s



update autumn 09

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New Ventures website!



ventures@cpas.org.uk



There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6, TNIV

Different kinds of service

Unfortunately the HobNob disappeared before my eyes mouthful by mouthful but then amazingly reappeared again. It was truly animated! However, this wasn't the latest Wallace and Gromit film but an animation workshop on a Venture I visited. This was one of the many examples of technical skills I saw being used by Venture leaders to enable children and young people to have a life-changing holiday.

But don't think that if you are a technophobe there's no role for you on a Venture these days. I've been impressed by the whole range of skills used by leaders to ensure members experience some of the great things that God has given us to enjoy. You may have helped with running a nail bar, hair-braiding, smoothie making, climbing, football, song-writing or baking activities. There's been a host of creative ways in which leaders have used their God-given skills to enable Ventures to achieve their mission.

And that's just one small part of the story. You might have been the person who stayed up late managing a Venture's finances, got up early to bake bread for members or drove the minibus with skill and safety. You too have enabled the good news of Jesus Christ to be proclaimed.

And then you might have given your first talk, sat and listened to a member's heartbreaking account of life at home, trained other leaders to run a small group study, or discussed how to become a Christian over a meal with a member. In all these ways too you have enabled Ventures to be the success they have been this year.

There have been many who have given generously of their finances. This has enabled us to keep the price of Ventures low and provide subsidies so ensuring as many people as possible could attend a Venture.

And finally you may well have prayed for Ventures and it certainly seems like your prayers made a difference. The gloomy economic predictions at the start of the year did not seem to affect our overall bookings. We give thanks for the way in which members and leaders have been kept safe from serious illness and injury during this summer.

Thank you so much for the part you played in the life-changing ministry of Ventures this year.

David Hart
Director of Ventures and Falcon Camps

Making time for God

Time-travelling at Adcote 2

'Excuse me, but I have to go and change into a 70s costume now' is the kind of comment which you don't expect to hear on a regular basis.

However, at Adcote 2 this summer it was hardly a surprise, with the energetic and enthusiastic team of leaders entering fully into the spirit of the holiday's all-encompassing 'time-travelling' theme.

The main overall leaders are Catherine Butt, an associate minister at St Mary's Bletchley near Milton Keynes, and her husband Ian, a religious education teacher. They are ably supported by Carmel Murphy and Jude Stone, along with a team of young leaders who have mostly graduated from attending Venture holidays as members in the past.

Ian said: 'Our hope for Adcote 2 is simple: "Have fun, make disciples and grow leaders". We want the members to have a fantastic holiday, be significantly more discipled and leave equipped to keep going with God whatever comes their way over the next year and beyond.

'What I love most are the times of worship and ministry, seeing the members' hunger to go deeper with God, respond to challenges and be filled with the Spirit.'

Based at Adcote School in Shropshire, this house-party Venture was attended by 30 young people aged 14-18.

The week featured a series of talks based on Acts, as well as special themed days including World War II, where the fabulous catering team came into their own with a lunch-time rations challenge and a celebratory 'VE Day' evening meal.

'Ventures provide young leaders with the freedom to put their gifts into practice and become the people God made them to be,' Ian added. 'It is great to see people step up and do things they never thought they would.'

'I love the quote from St Irenaeus which says that "the glory of God is each person fully alive" – and seeing that happen on a Venture is a glimpse into heaven.'

Ian and Catherine Butt



Snapshots and stories from summer 2009

Thank you for praying for Ventures over the summer. Let's now join together in praising God and thanking him for what he has done in the lives of many children and young people.

'I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of you name, O Most High.'

Psalm 9:1-2, *TNIV*

'The leaders are great and I get on really well with them. The worship is excellent and I get a lot out of the talks, especially the ones by younger leaders because I can more easily relate to what they are saying.'



'I feel more connected to God here, with the confidence to talk and share experiences with other young people. There aren't many youth at the church I usually attend so it's great to be able to spend time with more Christians in my own age-group.'

Simeon Scott, aged 15, Adcote 2





'The kids who said the talks made profound things simple...the girl who said she wanted to put the Lord Jesus first in her life after the Venture...the joy of seeing young leaders grow during the week...the grin on the face of the head cook as meal after meal of great food was devoured...singing that gave us just a taste of how amazing it will be to praise God in heaven...kids being secure and happy.'

Celia, leader on Stanbridge Earls 3

'Our daughter attended Lindfield, her first ever Venture. She and her friend enjoyed the trip to Thorpe Park and archery, but also really enjoyed the teaching and the discussion groups. Her tent leaders were really nice and made her feel most welcome. They want to go again.'

'Thank you for this vital ministry that CPAS offers our young people. So much can be done for the kingdom in the space of a week which cannot be done through a whole year of occasional meetings.'

Richard, parent of Venture member



'My first Venture was great because I learned a lot about God, experienced new activities and made lots of new friends! I really enjoyed learning about Mark's Gospel. My favourite activity was canoeing – including falling in the lake and getting soaked! I am looking forward to our reunion in November and to next year!'

Venture member from Stanbridge Earls 3



Ripon – the place to be this summer!



This summer over 100 young people came to two Ventures held at Ripon Grammar School led by overall leader, Sam Corley. Here Sam feeds back some of the highlights from Ripon 1 and Ripon 2.

‘We all had an amazing time. It’s always wonderful to see young people who come back to us year after year growing in their faith and bringing their friends along with them.

‘Three guys who we know well brought along four of their friends from home to Ripon 1 – two of them wouldn’t have called themselves followers of Jesus when they arrived. At the meeting on the fifth night, these two girls

declared their faith in Christ and their desire to live as his disciples. Praise God!

‘And at Ripon 2, it was amazing to see so many young disciples making such bold decisions for God with such tangible faith and sincerity.

‘So, together with high ropes courses, huge inflatables on the school field, theme parks, the biggest water fight ever and lashings of the most delicious food, Ripon was certainly the place to be this summer!’

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6, TNIV

Looking forward....

A brand new website for Ventures will be launched later this year featuring:



▶ A fresh and dynamic layout aimed at young people and their parents.

▶ New and improved 'Find a Venture' facility.

▶ Online reservation.

▶ Tools to aid and equip Venture leaders.

▶ Information and resources for youth leaders.

www.ventures.org.uk

Ventures 2010

The 2010 brochure will be available from December featuring loads of Ventures – from activity to house-party to taster to specialist. Something for everyone!

Please start praying now for any children and young people you know who would benefit from a life-changing holiday on a CPAS Venture.

Our mission is to enable children and young people to meet Jesus, get to know him better and in turn lead others to him.

'I really, really want to go back next year and I'm already looking forward to it!' Venture member

'One girl has said that she had such a fantastic time that there is nothing that will stop her from coming back again next year – she is already saving up!'

Venture leader

