

# Camp Reports 2011

P&DAYC

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Thank you for taking the time to read this report. Should you require any further information regarding the work of camp please contact the camp committee chairman, Dave Landricombe (01752) 347409

**The following reports were compiled by;**

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It seems a life time since we had the house party in March 2011; however I look back it is with good memories of those young people and officers who attended, in all 20 of us.

It is right that we first of all acknowledge the goodness and faithfulness of our God and thank all those who prayed for us. As with much of the work during Senior Camp and Senior Camp House Party, the true success of the investment of time and effort can only be appreciated over the months and years ahead as we see young people mature into men and women of God. It is a privilege to be involved in creating landmarks upon which young people can build their Christian lives.

The weekend theme was a study of Peter's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter with the young people doing their own Bible Study in groups set within a framework of a series of brief notes and questions. Subjects covered included God's calling, suffering and hope, holiness, submission and joy to list a few.

Below are responses from some of the young people recorded at the end of the house party:

*"Start to act in such a way that people can tell I'm a Christian"*

*"Not to retaliate when I am insulted or abused – 1 Peter 3:9"*

*"Trying harder to get along with other Christians in my church and learn to love others, because God loves us"*

*"From this weekend I am going to take away with me a different outlook on suffering. Before now I used to feel really down and wallowing when going through tough times but now I'm really going to try and focus on the positives associated with suffering. For example exploring what God's purpose is through suffering, instead of focussing on the bad stuff. And even though it's difficult I'm going to try and keep in the back of my mind that Christ suffered for me and it's a privilege to suffer for Him."*

The weekend was an enjoyable time of fellowship, both for the young people and officers. In addition to the primary reason of Bible teaching, we also enjoyed a visit to Blue Reef Aquarium in Newquay, the variety and beauty of God's creation is amazing. The practical aspects of the house party were well catered for with the officers combining well together. The food was as excellent as always and was well appreciated; therefore, the diet was postponed once more! Again, I thank the officers who attended the house party this year and appreciated their support and fellowship. We look to the Lord to continue to work in the young people and us as we share in our home churches.

## Senior Camp 2011 Report

On the first Saturday night a wise camper said “What is said in the tent stays in the tent” only for the entire conversation to be heard outside the tent by those on night duty! However, Senior Camp this year was a joy to be a part of and we don’t want ‘what happens at camp to stay at camp’ so we are pleased to write a short report for all of you who are interested in what happened.

As officers we are grateful to God for His provision of a group of individuals who both gelled and worked well together and also for a group of campers who were ready and willing to take part in every aspect of camp. Being that they were teenagers this was even more of a blessing!

It is of course obligatory to talk about the weather in any camp report and this one will do just that, our weather was rather boring actually, we had sunshine in the most and rain on two nights and one morning so there we go, now onto more important matters.

Our padre this year was Mark Oliver from Bodmin Christian Fellowship. Mark brought God’s word to us this week with a verve and passion that our campers responded well to. The teaching for the week was very powerful and both the officers and campers benefitted from it. His morning talks were based around ‘*An Alternative Breakfast Menu*’, which focused on how we look at ourselves in our attitude, our motivation and how we make our life choices. Camp circles theme was answering the question *why did Jesus die?* Inspired by the book *50 reasons why Jesus died* by John Piper. The sessions considered lots of topics such as propitiation, imputing righteousness and sacrifice. Mark’s talks involved illustrations including a wedding, an officer on trial and a Human Sacrifice with the same ending as Abraham and Isaac only without the ram! His talks were interactive, challenging and enjoyable and we as officers are very grateful to him and thankful to Vickie for looking after him for the week and Charlie and Annabelle for keeping us entertained. The campers were forward in taking part in choosing songs in camp circle, involved in prayer times, and many were challenged in their faith or on occasion lack of it and how they stand before the Lord.

A day at camp for officers officially started at 7.45 where we met in the studio for a time of prayer and bringing the day before God during this time Chris shared a thought for the day and challenged the officers to be examples of Christ to the campers through our attitudes.

The activities for Senior Camp included 2 trips to the beach with some even venturing into the sea! Other activities consisted of a leisurely Sunday afternoon walk from Tintagel to Trebarwith, a visit to Hollywell Bay Fun Park, the return of the ever popular waterslide, and for the first time in 4 years we even had a BBQ! We built rafts and raced them along bude canal and even had fine dining introduced with the campers becoming silver service waiters and delivering a very high class meal on Thursday evening. On the subject of food our thanks again to the cooks for their hard work in feeding us through the week.

Also it is right that I acknowledge with gratitude the maintenance work that has been undertaken in terms of the new car park and other helpful instalments that have been put in place that all help the work of camp.

Senior camp this year was a week of activity, late nights, early mornings, good food, great company and a most importantly another opportunity to spend time in the presence of God, learn from His word and have a fresh realisation of just who He is and just what He means to all of us. Finally I leave you with a challenge from our week. **“We as Christian should live for today and look forward to that day”** (that day being when Jesus returns). Thank you all for all your prayers for Senior Camp and its ongoing work.

## Junior1 Camp Report 2011

The main thing that struck many of the officer's at Junior 1 was that the group of campers were excellent. They got on with one another and listened well during camp circle and quiet times.

The morning quiet time notes were centred on the gospel message. We looked at the background of the Jews; we talked about what salvation is and were able to pray for those who are not saved. Three of the girl's tents also developed a keen interest in the bible book of Revelations which we expanded on during quiet times. These girls were already Christians and were keen to have a deeper understanding. They also looked into ways of sharing their Faith with friends at school.

During the main part of the day, campers had the option of either staying on the camp-site or going offsite to do adventure activities. The activities on offer were body-boarding, cycling and canoeing. These were great fun and a brilliant experience for the campers. Those who stayed at camp were able to take part in sports, indoor games or crafts. There was an excellent variety of crafts available and good quality materials were provided. Junior 1 was also donated some giant inflatable's, such as assault course and sumo wrestling outfits, which the campers loved.

In the evening we met for camp circle. Mark Perkins started every night with a bible verse competition. When he said 'draw your swords', everyone had to find the verse. We also played a couple of messy games, with custard flying everywhere!

Keith Bullock was our speaker for the week. Keith has an expressive character and tells stories in an engaging way. In the morning talks, Keith's theme was the sinking of the Titanic. Keith drew out various messages from this, for example, that we should be humble and not proud.

Keith's theme for the evening camp circle's was; 'living on the edge'. He spoke about salvation and the importance of making a decision about whether or not we want to follow Jesus Christ. Keith also used power-point and video clips which grasped the attention of the young people.

Each night after camp circle, the studio was open for 'question time', which was a useful way for the campers to respond to the evening's message, seek advice on different issues and be prayed for. On the last night, after camp circle, an invitation was made to anyone who wanted to make commitment to meet at the farmhouse. This was an emotional time whereby the young people responded, prayed for and encouraged one another.

Along with our first time Commie, Kevin Bartlett, we had a few new people helping out on the team. Becky, a first time tent officer, commented how she found the camp very inclusive for both campers and officers. She said that the family atmosphere seems to draw people back year after year.

The campers and offices have gone home this year inspired and excited to read God's word and to live this out in their schools and lives.

## **Junior 2 Camp Report 2011**

This year, Junior 2 was the best camp we have ever had! We had very little rain, a great group of young people and an enthusiastic happy team of officers. We were able to spend a sunny day at Polzeath (the first time for a few years!) where the campers were able to get in the sea and have an amazing time digging with buckets and spades – even the 15 year olds! There was plenty of time for sports and crafts, as well as a picture quiz hunt to Tintagel and a photo quiz in Bude – the photos of a tent of campers squeezing into a telephone box and hugging trees amongst other things, providing much amusement during the daily showing of photos at teatime!

Martin Erwin was our Padre this year. He spoke on the seven sayings of Jesus on the cross and the young people responded in an amazing way. The whole of our Camp Circle was centred on the subject with sketches, singing, testimonies from officers and campers, video clips and a talk. The young people listened really well from the very first night which was so encouraging. Martin also spent a couple of sessions during the day having questions fired at him from the campers which was beneficial to all. We found that the young people were very receptive and open to the spiritual side of camp both during the talks and at various times chatting with them during the day. We know of at least twelve young people who committed their lives to Jesus during the week – one of which we found out about as the campers were preparing to leave on Saturday morning! Several others were challenged about baptism and living their lives in an honourable way for God when they got home. Others have asked to come back next year and learn how to be assistant tent officers in preparation for when they can do the job themselves which is great. Since arriving home, a group of campers have set up a Facebook page specifically to post verses and Christian videos which we as leaders have found encouraging in a wonderful way – we haven't experienced anything like that before! Please pray that this great enthusiasm will continue in the weeks, months and years to come and that out of this will come young men and women on fire for God in their homes, neighbourhoods and churches.

Despite the difficulties and heartache leading up to camp when there was such a real possibility that Junior Two could be cancelled, our God is faithful and has blessed in a way that our human minds can't always fathom! Our team worked wholeheartedly to serve God, each other and the young people. There was a very happy, relaxed atmosphere at camp which promoted the Lord in an honourable way and campers and officers alike did not want to go home at the end of the week. Our God is great and we give our total praise and thanks to Him for the amazing week we experienced at J2.

## Junior Explorers 2011

What a great week we had at Junior Explorers this year. With only 20 campers, 25 officers and 4 mini campers it was a small camp, fun filled and cosy. With the smaller number of children we were able to have camp circle in the studio. This was much warmer and quieter than having it in the barn. Padre Derek Powell spoke on some of the "I AM's" of Jesus including the Bread of Life, the Gate, the Way the Truth and the Life, the Good Shepherd and finished the week with the Resurrection and Life. His animated story telling, as if he were there at the time, kept the children captivated from start to finish.

After breakfast Padre took up "real life issues" which the children may face, some including money, family, school and behaviour and also did his well known Breakfast Cereal which left the children with a cliff hanger each morning, The children really did get quite annoyed not knowing the next part of the story.

We followed the usual pattern of things again this year, doing a treasure trail on Monday, Trethorne on Tuesday, beach on Wednesday and swimming on Thursday. Sunday, rather than the usual walk to Trebarwith with a scavenger hunt, we walked down to the park in Tintagel. The children enjoyed a good hour and a half of free play on the swings, slides and climbing frames. This is the first year in four that we've made it to the beach and although the original plan was sports and to build sandcastles, however most of the campers did actually go into the sea despite not having a change of clothes!

A tradition started last year was to have a party on the last evening instead of a late night feast. Throughout the week the children earn party pieces (cups, plates, balloons, chocolates and drinks) instead of points for tent inspection. An inspection of the officer's room's was carried out this year, just to show the campers that we weren't exempt.

Points were awarded however, for sports, crafts, good behaviour and answering questions in camp circle. Each tent had a Cars 2 character mascot and throughout the week it was a battle between lightening McQueen and Luigi (girls 1 & 2) but the points were all change on the last day, owing to a quiz during camp circle on Thursday evening, and Tow-mater (boys 1) won overall much to the surprise of all the campers.

A number of children expressed genuine interest and/or concern during the week about salvation, forgiveness and becoming a Christian. We really felt God moving at Junior Explorers camp this year despite the initial concerns of too few officers. We thank the Lord for the smooth running of camp, the good weather and the interest shown and pray that the children will not forget what they have learnt.