



Lighthouse Thame 2008

PRESS RELEASE

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Major Children's Event Shines a Light on Thame

Hundreds of children flooded into Thame showground this week for the launch of the very first Lighthouse Thame. This major summer children's event, organised by over a dozen local churches, was open to all ages and free to attend.

Nearly 400 children and hundreds of volunteers packed the Big Top at the start of the day's events to sing, dance and enjoy main stage fun. Throughout each day the children enjoyed an action-packed string of activities including crafts, games and creative workshops.

"It's incredibly exciting to see so many children and young people having so much fun together," said Lighthouse Chair Linda Newton. "Lighthouse is completely staffed by volunteers many of whom have taken a week off work to help out and it's brilliant that we have people involved from every church in Thame and the surrounding villages."

As daytime activities drew to a close, with more singing the children voted for a leader to be gunged. Ian Mountford, Anglican Vicar of Barley Hill Church, Thame said shortly after being gunged "It is a fantastic event and great fun for the children. Lighthouse Thame has been organised in partnership with ThameChurchesUnited.org, a new coalition of local churches who want to work together for the good of our community."

The fun didn't end there and many of the young people helping throughout the day went on to attend the Halo:Gen activities in the evening. "These guys worked hard during the day and we thought it would be great for them to relax and have some fun too. We laid on a range of activities including the mega assault course, a live gig with the band Electralyte and a BBQ with a rodeo bull", said Paddy Harris, Youth Pastor of Cornerstone Church.

"National government is increasingly recognising that 'faith communities' have a significant contribution to make to local communities," commented Andy O'Connell, leader of communitychurch Thame. "Lighthouse is a good way of showing that the church is still a relevant part of the local community and has a positive part to play in the life of Thame and the surrounding areas."

Information for editors:

Lighthouse, first launched in Great Missenden in 1987 was started by several churches as a new summer event for children and young people during the school holiday.

Hiring a large marquee they were amazed when around 370 children turned up on the first day – and then came back for more for the rest of that week! The event continued to attract more children every year and by 1999 nearly 2000 children were accommodated in eleven marquees and two halls! In 2007, Lighthouse events were held in Great Missenden, Hazlemere, Burnham, High Wycombe, and Princes Risborough, each attracting hundreds of children.

Lighthouse is a registered charity and more information is available at www.lighthouse-thame.org.uk and for more information ThameChurchesUnited.org please visit www.thamechurchesunited.org

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