



COMMUNITY NEWS

NEWS FROM CHURCH-BASED COMMUNITY INITIATIVES IN THE THAME, LONG CRENDON & HADDENHAM AREA OCTOBER 2008



750 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE!

The first-ever Lighthouse Thame was a raging success! Held in July 2008 on the Thame Showground, a total of 750 children and young people visited Lighthouse at some point during the week, with around 500 on site daily.

TALK OF THE TOWN

According to the grapevine, Lighthouse became the 'talk of the town' through the scale of the initiative and numbers of kids involved. One neighbour said, "I had no idea it was so big. I wish I'd sent my kids!"

A SEVENTH LIGHTHOUSE

Dianne Brackley, Secretary of the Lighthouse team and member of St Marys Haddenham, said "Lighthouse was started in Great Missenden in 1987. Several churches over there felt God calling them to work with children

and young people during the school holiday. They were amazed when around 370 children turned up on the first day – and came back for more for the rest of that week! By 1999 nearly 2000 children were accommodated in eleven marquees and two halls!"

Team leader Linda Newton (member of Barley Hill Church Thame) said "By 2007, events were held in Great Missenden, Hazlemere, Burnham, High Wycombe, Marlow and Princes Risborough. Lighthouse Thame is now the 7th Lighthouse."

CORE PRINCIPLES

Lighthouse involves all the churches in an area, working in harmony. No children are charged to attend, although donations are welcome. Children of any faiths or no faith, as well as church families are all equally welcome to attend.

All Lighthouses are staffed entirely by volunteers and for Lighthouse Thame the team included support from a huge list of churches! Barley Hill Church, Thame; Christchurch,

continued overleaf >>

NEWS IN BRIEF

SEP 7 Haddenham Cafepus hosted Zach Freeth, father of Ben Freeth, a Christian farmer standing up for justice in Zimbabwe (Google 'freeth' for the news story in The Times.)

SEP 18 The churches tent at the Thame Show offered a moment of calm in a busy day and saw a steady stream of visitors old and young. Our free bouncy castle was very busy all day!

>> More news online at www.thamechurchesunited.org

DIARY DATES

OCT 11 Saturday 11 October Fusion Breakout
Daytrip for young people aged 12-17
www.fusionyac.org/breakouts

OCT 11 Saturday 11 October KidzKlubThame starts
Monthly Saturday club Y1-Y6
www.kidzklubthame.org

OCT 28 Tuesday 28 October to Saturday 1 November
Godspell the Musical
www.interchurchproductions.com

NOV 8 Saturday 8 November Fusion Breakout
Daytrip for young people aged 12-17
www.fusionyac.org/breakouts

NOV 8 Saturday 8 November KidzKlubThame
Monthly Saturday club Y1-Y6
www.kidzklubthame.org

NOV 28 Friday 28 November Schools Advent Pageant
www.fusionyac.org

DEC 13 Saturday 13 December The Big Christmas Party
Free! and for all the family
Lighthouse & KidzKlub in partnership
www.kidzklubthame.org/bigparty

DEC 13 Saturday 13 December Fusion Breakout
Daytrip for young people aged 12-17
www.fusionyac.org/breakouts

>> More news online at www.thamechurchesunited.org
(Our apologies if we've missed any dates. Do let us have any interchurch event dates and we'll publish on the website.)

Thame; communitychurch thame; Cornerstone Church, Thame; Church of Good Shepherd, Haddenham; Haddenham Baptist Church; Haddenham Methodist; Long Crendon Baptist Church; Oasis Church, Thame; Our Lady of Light, Long Crendon; St Catherine's, Towersey; St Joseph's, Thame; St Mary's, Haddenham; St Mary's, Long

Crendon; St Mary's, Thame; St Nicholas, Chearsley; St Peter & St Paul, Dinton.

PRINCES RISBOROUGH

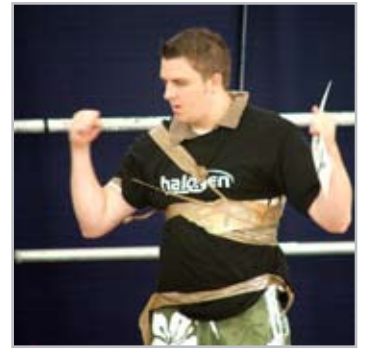
We are especially grateful to the team running Lighthouse in Princes Risborough.

Over the last couple of years they have given us a huge amount of help to get started with Lighthouse Thame.

2009 AND COUNTING...

Lighthouse 2009 dates are already in our diary 20-24 July 2009, so get them in your diary, tell your friends and visit the website in Spring 2009 for an application form. (Places will be limited by the number of volunteer helpers, so get your application in as soon as you can!) ■

>> Check out our photos, songs and information on www.lighthousehame.org.uk



Youth Pastor of Long Crendon Baptist Church, Paddy Harris, doing his escapologist bit – the copious amounts of tape representing the life issues that get us all tied up!

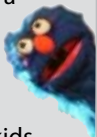


KidzKlubThame starts in October! Working closely with Lighthouse, **KidzKlub** will offer the same flavour of fun, activity and learning once a month, for an hour, on a Saturday morning.

KidzKlub is run by a partnership of churches, but – like Lighthouse – is for all kids, whether or not they normally go to church.

We expect that the limited spaces will go quickly – so book your place now!

KidzKlub starts Saturday 11 October. Information and application forms from www.kidzklubthame.org or call 01844 215331



THAME CHURCHES UNITED

thamechurchesunited.org is a new initiative to facilitate effective partnerships between churches working together in and around Thame – for the sake of the community.

'TCU' was born out of fresh relationships between church leaders involved in supporting initiatives like Lighthouse and St Georges Day Festivals.

Ian Mountford (Vicar Barley Hill Thame and St Catherine's Towersey) comments, "Our hope isn't to create a framework for *all* interchurch projects, but for those which serve the wider community. We have a heart to make a lasting and coherent impact in the community, by building a network of diverse events that

work together to show and speak of God's love for people in this area."

When asked about the choice of logo, Andy O'Connell (Leader, communitychurch Thame) said, "We hope that over time TCU will become recognised by the man-in-the-street as a label that says 'this event is good fun and good quality'."

"So, we looked for a logo that was fresh and bright, and said something about different churches working together for good. The sun brings warmth, life and light to our world – perhaps a picture of the role the church is supposed to play!"



Over the coming months, it is expected that an annual pattern of major inter-church events for the community will be come together. Into that overall framework we would encourage churches

to partner in hosting other more focused events, perhaps for older folk, kids or youth.

TCU will encourage and enable churches to work together with harmony and trust, serving the wider community beyond the church as they demonstrate and explain God's love for people! ■

>> Visit us online at www.thamechurchesunited.org

LISA'S STORY

We met Lisa at Lighthouse. She was doing an Alpha Course, and we asked her how she came to be doing Alpha and why she got involved with Lighthouse.



I consider myself a lapsed or dormant Christian. Through friends at *Alpha* I heard about Lighthouse and decided to send my kids – they had a great time!

Could you tell us a bit more about how you came to be doing Alpha?

I didn't consider myself religious, but my mum and a Christian friend in Bristol kept pestering me, so I went along to church a couple of times. They were about to start *Alpha*, and I decided to give it a go.

Tell us about Alpha: have you enjoyed it? How about the leaders?

We always start with having some food together! Then we watch a short 20-minute talk on DVD. We talk and ask any



questions we like! Nothing is off-limits! The leaders let the group talk and discuss, without giving 'pat answers'.

It's been great fun getting to know people too, and we're going to carry on together in a small discussion group.

Personally, I really struggled in the middle, but after talking it through with the leader I felt I had a real encounter with God. I came to a point where I

wanted to hand my life over to God: I'd made a complete mess of it, and I reckoned he could do a better job! ■

>> For details of Alpha and other similar courses in Thame, Haddenham, Long Crendon and surroundings please visit www.thamechurchesunited.org/alpha



COMMUNITY NEWS is published periodically by **thamechurchesunited**, a partnership of churches and initiatives working together to serve the wider community in and around Thame. To submit items please visit www.thamechurchesunited.org
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