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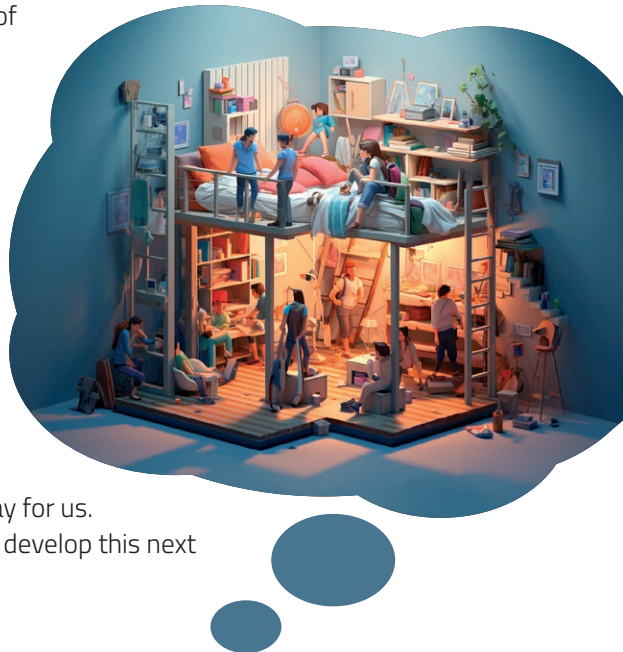
July
August
2023

Mike writes...

Currently I'm finding my thoughts reflecting on so many phenomenal times away at Felden Lodge. For those who don't know, Felden has been our residential space of choice for around 11 years, and in September it closes. I would estimate we have stayed at Felden around 30 times and taken over 850 kids, young people, and leaders away to experience a 267 residential!!

'Gathering' is at the heart of 267 life. We gather in smaller ways, in bigger ways, we gather away and at home, and we gather 'on purpose' to invest in each other's lives. I find myself looking back over photos from these trips and see so much joy and life in them. Time over meals together, starting and ending our days together, significant and intentional building of relationships; this has been where God has moved, encouraged, grown us and blessed us. The future of residential is uncertain for us as we have yet to find a space that works. Many of you will know that our big vision/dream is to build a venue ourselves to resource youth and kids ministry that could be used for a wide variety of residentials, retreats, training, gathering, support and networking. Come join us at our 'New Vision Evening' on 10th July to find out more.

I sat on a bench early Sunday morning as we were about to begin the final day of our final residential at Felden. It was quiet (it was 6.45am and most teenagers don't know that time of day!), and I have to admit I got a little emotional at the thought of not staying here again. But as I sat, I had a sense of purpose and focus, seeing the importance of our next step, our next venue. These times away are essential to our relationships, they bring us closer and give us permission to go further and deeper together. It may be the last time at Felden but I do not believe it will be the last 267 residential. Watch this space. Pray for us. Help us find a home to grow and develop this next adventurous season of ministry.



Thanks...

- The Youthwork Collective from St Albans and Harpenden are having some amazing times of fellowship, unity and collaboration. God is deeply blessing our relationships and shared ministry. We give thanks for the Illuminate events and how they are gathering, connecting and encouraging young people and their faith.
- We've also been having some amazing conversations with St Albans Cathedral and they have agreed to allow us use of the Cathedral for an Illuminate event in January 2024. This will be a phenomenal opportunity to gather young people in a space that has seen Christians gathering for 1000 years.
- We've been hugely encouraged by a growing partnership between 267, St Albans Diocese and Youthscape. This is going to develop over the coming months but we are super excited to be leading 'Youthscape Essentials' - a monthly youth leader training evening, with them from September.



Our last 678 residential at Felden!



- Our 678 residential happened in June and we had 34 young people and 12 leaders join us. Even though it was our final stay at Felden, our time was filled with laughter, conversation, water slides, games, duck hunting, chilling in the sun, random games and quality time. So thankful for this trip and it reminded us once again, of the power and benefit of time away together.
- Mike auditioned to be part of TEDx, a part of TED - 'ideas worth spreading'. He was chosen as just one of 13 individuals, out of 190 auditions, to be part of the St Albans Tedx event in October. Pray for Mike as he journeys with the rest of the group and hones his idea, builds his script and prepares for the event.
- Mike joined 70 youth leaders from 33 organisations for the Youth Prayer Summit at YWAM Harpenden. It was 24 hours together in prayer, worship and seeking God's heart for young people. It was such an amazing time and Mike got loads out of it.

Please...

- Pray also for us as we seek a new venue for our residentials, it's been hard saying goodbye to Felden and also we currently have nowhere to go for future trips, including our 2023/24 New Year's Houseparty.
- The Haven Team have been piloting 'Haven in Primary Schools' - this is an exciting new piece of ministry so we pray for wisdom and favour as it develops and grows.
- Pray for Claire, and her family, as she takes some much-deserved time off and heads away on adventures.
- Pray for 'BOOM!' - this is our new kids event, aimed at school years 3-6. This has been launched in response to a hugely successful 345 weekend away back in March. There was a real sense we needed to gather this age group, invest in them and be encouraged by their energy, joy, love of friendships and their contagious and adventurous spirit. Pray for Mike, Alison and Bella as we plan and prepare.
- Please pray for our New Vision Evening on July 10th. We are praying for great conversations with our supporters and partners as we share ideas, hear insights, discern God's voice, and pray for the coming season. If you needed another incentive, there will also be pudding!
- Finance continues to be a challenge and at times weighs heavily on us. We are trusting God for all we need and continue to sense that 267 is where God is calling us to serve and work. We are pursuing grants and other funding opportunities but we would love to pray for significant provision so that the team can keep focused on the frontline ministry of youth and kids work.
- Pray for FUEL and what it needs to look like next term and how it could link better with the growing Illuminate ministry. We give thanks for the groups that have benefited hugely from these gatherings.



15th July, 4pm-6pm
St Luke's Bricket Wood

Some scripture that is encouraging us at the moment:

I lift up my eyes to the mountains, where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip, he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. *Psalm 121*



Diary

Some important upcoming dates to pray for...

- Sunday 25th June – FUEL at St Marks Colney Heath
- Monday 26th June - 267 Fundraising Golf Day at Old Fold Manor GC
- Wednesday 28th June - 267 Tribe Breakfast at The Ancient Briton, 9.30am - 11.00am
- Wednesday 5th July - Area Youth Leader gathering at Youthscape
- Friday 7th July - Illuminate Prom at St Paul's, St Albans. **Helpers needed :)**
- Monday 10th July - 267 New Vision Evening at St Mark's Colney Heath. 7.30pm for pudding!
- Wednesday 12th July - 267 trustees meet.
- Saturday 15th July - 'BOOM!' launches at St Luke's Bricket Wood. 4pm-6pm.
- Sunday 16th July - Mike preaching at Cornerstone Church St Albans
- Tuesday 3rd August - Claire is serving for 5 days at the Satellites Youth Festival as part of the pastoral team

Upcoming Dates!

Monday 10th July - 267 New Vision Evening at St Mark's Colney Heath. 7.30pm for pudding!

Sunday 20th August - Thanksgiving and Celebration Tea at Felden Lodge. 3pm-5pm. We felt it important to spend some time at Felden giving thanks as the site closes at the end of September. If you have benefitted from a stay at Felden Lodge with 267, or just want to come for tea, then please join us :)



If you would like to volunteer with the267project then drop us an email – director@the267project.com or pa@the267project.com Thanks



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