

Diary

- Wednesday 4th May - Retreat Day Away
- Thursday 5th May - 267 Breakfast at St Paul's St Albans, 9.30am
- Friday 6th May - Sunday 8th May - 11-14's Weekend Away at Felden Lodge
- Monday 9th May - 267 Trustees Meeting
- Friday 13th May - Mike teaching at the YWAM School
- Saturday 14th May - X:site Harpenden
- Sunday 15th May - Mike preaching at St Leonard's Sandridge
- Tuesday 17th May - X:site event debrief
- Friday 20th May - Christian Resources Exhibition at Excel London
- Sunday 22nd May - FUEL Harpenden, 7.00pm-9.00pm
- Monday 23rd May - 267 Prayer Meeting at Harpenden Methodist Church, 7.00pm-9.00pm
- Tuesday 24th May - TTS, Harpenden Methodist Church, 7.45pm-9.30pm (theme: working with additional needs)
- Wednesday 1st June - Fundraising Golf Day at Porters Park
- Sunday 5th June - Mike preaching at Thirlmere Church
- Sunday 8th June - Live Event (Lock-In 2016) briefing evening
- Thursday 9th June - 267 Breakfast (venue tbc)
- Sunday 12th June - Youth Games evening at All Saints Harpenden

- Tuesday 14th June - X:site Harpenden planning
- Wednesday 15th June - 267 Trustees Meeting
- **Sunday 19th June - Youth and Children's Ministry Celebration, St Paul's St Albans, 6.30pm**
- Saturday 25th June - LOVE Harpenden
- Sunday 26th June - FUEL St Albans, 7.00pm-9.00pm
- Tuesday 28th June - 'Preparation for Uni' evening with Student Link Up, 7.00pm-9.00pm at Forest Town Church

Bible verse that is encouraging us at the moment:

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching"

Hebrews 10:25

the 2:67 PROJECT

Encouraging and equipping your youthwork

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

MAY - JUNE 2016

the 2:67 UPDATE

A story from the world of 267...

"I'm a dad with two boys, aged eleven and nine. As is the case for most children in the UK, my boys are living in a community in which they as Christians are in the minority when amongst their non-church friends.

So I ask myself, as a dad, what is my responsibility to my sons at this point in their lives? How can I equip them to be compassionate, tolerant but stand up for themselves and Jesus as their world gets bigger. As they seek more independence and look beyond or even straight through me, out to the internet, their peers and those in 'vogue' for an understanding of the world and their place in it, what can I do now to give them the best chance of staying grounded in the Lord. As well as prayer, what else?

Clearly the church family will play a significant part. We belong to a church with an active and caring family ministry but whilst it's growing there are only a few boys of the same age and only one going to the same secondary school.

For me that's where the267project has answered prayers. 267 brings together children from many Christian churches and gives them the opportunity to socialise, play sport, have fun, discuss, share and pray together with new friends. My boys look up to and are encouraged by the lively and caring leaders and older children and in turn my sons can learn something of being examples to the younger ones around them.

Recently, there was a weekend away for the seven to ten age group. Personally, I would have been to shy to do something like that at their age but they seemed keen. So it was with all my hang-ups that I reluctantly dropped them off on a dark Friday night at a venue that looked to me like something out of 'The Woman in Black' miles away from the safety of their own home. They had never been there, knew just one of the other 40 children and one of the leadership team. I am ashamed to say that I did not trust as I should have that weekend. Oh ye of little faith.

I arrived on the Sunday for the closing service hearing in my head the voice of my nine year old self proclaiming that my parents must never send me there again. I was expecting tears and frowns and complaints about all the things my boys had missed from home.

However, their reaction to seeing me left me rather confused, surely they were just putting on a display of bravado in front of their new mates, surely any second now, when alone with me, they were going to collapse with inconsolable grief. Yet, with boundless enthusiasm and new friends in tow they raced me around their new domain, the games rooms, the basket-ball court, their bedroom and then the main house (which looked a little less ghoulish in the daylight). They were full of life, joy and, dare I say it, love. I found the closing service deeply moving and the hugs from my boys that afternoon were special, profound, too short.

My ten year old was so happy that as we drove away he mentioned that he would be eleven by the time of the next weekend away which was aimed at eleven to fourteen year olds and he would like to go. I pointed out, as you would now expect me to, that he would know no other children at all and that even our children's minister would not be there. He didn't care, he wanted to go. Praise God!

Clearly the267project is doing a lot of things right. It gives my boys the opportunity to step out of their Christian home and see that there are hundreds of others who know and profess Christ, like their dad, only cool and young."

Thanks...

- In March we had a great trustee away day that really helped us to think seriously about how we are being called to grow as a project over the coming year
- X:site continues to work well and draw 7-11's in from across the area. Pray for the X:site St Albans team as we work to spread word about the event and get more kids along
- 'More?' Cafe started in its new home of Forest Town Church and we had a great time. We are still unsure about where 'More?' might be long term but for now FTC is superb environment to run our cafes
- FUEL is one of the places where we have seen the most growth but also the most excitement. At both Harpenden and St Albans events we have seen young people wanting to engage with prayer, worship, teaching and living out their faith, it is hugely encouraging
- We continue to see and experience the huge blessing to the project that Claire and Tracy are. In March Claire had her appraisal and we have changed her role slightly to reflect the growth in the project that she has been instrumental in
- Thanks to everyone who sponsored us for our 'Inflatable Assault Course-Athon', we think we raised around £350 from it
- We ran our very own Youth and Children's Ministry Conference called 'The CORE' in April. It was really successful and we had loads of encouragement and helpful feedback. Around 50 people came and we hope to build on this by running another conference later in the year
- THANK YOU for continuing to pray for us. We feel God is going ahead of us, opening doors and blessing this ministry. Please do keep praying, we really, really need it.

You can also join us at our prayer gathering on Monday 23rd May at Harpenden High St Methodist Church, 7.00pm



Completing our fundraising Inflatable Assault Course-Athon

Please...

- Over 20 youth and children's leaders will be gathering at the monthly 267 Breakfast on Thursday 5th May. Pray for great fellowship and great conversations
- From 6th-8th May we are away with a bunch of 11-14's, we have 44 young people and 14 leaders from 10 different churches. Pray for us as we look at the story of The Lost Son during the weekend. Pray also for huge amounts of fun, for safety and for great friendships to be formed and grown
- The Trustees of the 267 project meet on Monday 9th May and Wednesday 15th June, pray for wise decisions and for great energy as we discuss this exciting ministry
- Mike is teaching at the YWAM School in May and also preaching at St Leonard's Sandridge, pray for time to prepare and for real fruit from each visit
- Our 'More?' Summer Cafes start on Monday 6th June
- Wednesday 1st June is our Fundraising City Golf Day, pray for good weather and opportunities to share about 267 with some new supporters
- Pray for something new we are doing on Sunday 19th June. We want to gather as many youth and children's leaders and volunteers together as possible and simply celebrate what they do, say thanks and pray for them. Everyone is welcome to come so please consider coming to worship and celebrate with us
- On Saturday 25th June we have our LOVE Harpenden event again, come join us, pray for good weather and for this amazing event to impact those we meet

 **Harpenden**



Katherine, Charlotte and Naomi leading our FUEL event



X:site St Albans