



God is faithful!

“Hope is the anchor for the soul” – Hebrews 16:9

We had a great 4 days over October half term during our seventh Hope MK event. Huge thanks to New Life Church who again allowed us to use their excellent facility as our base. What a great time we had with fun filled morning sessions, action packed afternoons on community projects, yummy food and a cracking last night party. Huge thanks to all of the adult volunteers who gave up 4 days to come and make the event happen, some of those heroes are pictured above. We had 45 adults in various roles over the four days on our venue team, catering, team leaders, core planning team and minibus drivers. We also had 12 project hosts who arranged community projects during the afternoons for 10 teams, where young people got stuck in serving the community.

Our morning sessions featured two guest speakers, Steve Wood from Newport Pagnell Baptist Church, and Anna Dawson from Pais Movement, and were themed around Hebrews and what is faith and heroes of the faith. Our Thurs eve session before the party featured Joyce Vassell bringing a powerful message on barriers to faith and how God can overcome. Throughout the whole event we saw God being faithful, not least in helping us organise all the logistics and providing what we needed but also in the daily encounters had with God. We heard some great stories of God meeting with young people for the first time, or for the first time in a long time. Whenever we invite young people for prayer we ask them to fill out a short response form so that we know what they were responding to and what God did or was doing, those slips show us 13 young people recommitted their lives to God, 8 decided to follow God for the first time and become Christians and 2 young people got healed of pain/injuries.

On Tuesday and Thursday we delivered workshops to the young people, they could choose from several themes aimed at challenging them to think about their faith and Christian lifestyle. The workshop options were; (the Christian view of) Relationships and Sex, Big Questions (an opportunity to ask any questions about God, faith/Christianity), Christian Basics, Mental Health/Resilience, Being a Godly Guy, Being a Godly Girl, and the opportunity for a chat with a leader or to be prayed for.

88 YOUNG PEOPLE - 45 ADULT VOLUNTEERS - 10 COMMUNITY PROJECTS
3 PARISH COUNCILS - 4 LOCAL CHARITIES - 3 GUEST SPEAKERS - 34 LOCAL CHURCHES



Each afternoon young people went out in teams to projects where they had the chance to have a positive impact on communities in MK. Projects as usual focused on one of 3 areas: Spiritual & Evangelistic (of which we had two), Social (of which we had one), and Practical (of which we had had 2). We had 4 projects that were a mixture of practical and social.

In total we had 10 teams on projects this year which was a decrease from last year. Projects were organised and led by 6 local churches, 2 parish councils and 3 local charity organisations.

WILLEN SPORTS MISSION (SOCIAL)

Returning again for the 3rd year this team led by New Life Church ran sports and activities around Willen Lake to connect with local children and families who were there. Despite the cold this team managed to connect with local families and even had one child return again another day as he had so much fun!



CREATIVE EVANGELISM 1 & CREATIVE EVANGELISM 2 (SPIRITUAL)

Returning again two teams were organised from Steve Murrill (Evangelist at New Life) and others related to the School of Supernatural Life. The two teams spent an hour each day being trained and equipped to go out and engage with the public using a different theme/skill each day including offering free hugs, prophecy, offering to pray for people and prayer for healing.



MASH UP TEAM 1 - WAVENDON CHURCH YARD CLEAR UP & BROOKLANDS FAMILY FUN DAY (PRACTICAL & SOCIAL)

This team spent 3 days clearing weeds and shrubs away from graves and tidying the church yard at St Mary's Church Wavendon. This project makes a big impact each year with graves becoming visible and accessible again for locals to pay their respects and for families who are able to visit their loved ones. The team also spent one day at Brooklands Family Fun Day, which was organised by Church Without Walls for local families with children with extra special needs.



MASH UP TEAM 2 – WAVENDON CHURCH YARD CLEAR UP AND LOUGHTON FAMILY PUMPKIN SESSION (PRACTICAL & SOCIAL)

This team spent two days at St Marys Wavendon, doing the same as the team above and two days on a new project at Loughton Baptist church preparing for and helping to host a family pumpkin session. The session for local families included using World Vision's resources for alternative Halloween activities including making friendship bracelets for refugee children.



MASH UP TEAM 3 – GREAT LINFORD PARISH COMMUNITY CLEAR UP AND SCRIPTURE UNION STAFF ENCOURAGEMENT (PRACTICAL & SOCIAL)

This team spent two days at Downs Barn helping Great Linford Council to clean up the local area by litter picking, weeding and learning about the local dog poo patrol. The other two days were spent at Scripture Union's head office at Fox Milne where the team wrote encouraging notes to the staff, prayed for the workers and handed out cake.



CALDECOTTE EXPERIENCE TEAM (PRACTICAL)

Returning again for a second year this time this team were involved in building a pizza oven and seating area for the centre to improve the facilities and provide another area for local children and young people groups to use.



WATER EATON FAMILY DROP IN (SOCIAL)

Returning again this project was hosted at Water Eaton Church Centre, the home of St Frideswides and Spurgeon Baptist Church. A family fun session was open to the local community each day featuring games, toys, refreshments, and face painting. The team put on some great sessions and engaged well with the local community.



OLDBROOK COMMUNITY KINDNESS TEAM (PRACTICAL)

Returning again Milton Keynes Christian Centre ran a project that connected with Campbell Park Council to clean up a local outdoor community space. They also spent time preparing for MKCC's Christmas community project by wrapping up gifts for local families who will attend the Christmas events.



WOUGHTON COUNCIL REMEMBRANCE PROJECT (PRACTICAL & SOCIAL)

Woughton Council have run a project the last few years but this year decided to do a different activity focused around a Remembrance garden on Coffee Hall, including tidying up the garden, cleaning up the borders of the paths through it, and planting some new shrubs. They also spent two days engaging with local families to make recycled decorative poppies for the garden.



At the end of the action packed 4 days we celebrated with our usual last night party for all the young people and adult leaders who had been involved in the event. The party featured inflatable bungee run, laser tag, football darts, last man standing, as well as a silent disco, photo booth, nail bar, games consoles and yummy food!

Many young people and adults at Hope MK experienced God's presence, learnt something new about Him, or revitalised their faith. After such an exciting few days everyone is now back in their routine of school, work and family life – which can sometimes be a downer from the community experienced at Hope MK. Our prayer is that God would remain present in the lives of those who were involved in Hope MK and that they will continue to grow in faith as the days and weeks go on.



Earlier this year we held a vision morning for Hope MK to get input from many of our volunteers and local churches to find out what the future of the event looked like.

Over 7 great years Hope MK has been an awesome and amazing project that has impacted and encouraged so many people including the young people who have attended, adults who have volunteered and people in communities who have benefited from projects. Over the last three years it has been harder to sell youth tickets for the event, harder to keep churches excited about the event, harder to

recruit adult volunteers and harder to find people or organisations to run projects for us; the numbers have been declining steadily for the last three years. In order to keep as many young people as possible engaged in the event, ensure the most effective youth event and best use of funds and resources, we feel that the event in its current format has reached the end of its season.

Both us (the core team) and Bridgebuilder Trust (who have overseen and underwritten the event) feel that there is still a place for a citywide youth event but not in the current format of Hope MK. We believe God is in control and will lead and guide us in a new direction. Watch this space!

Carol as the Team Leader at Bridgebuilder will be in contact in due course. If you've got any ideas or thoughts in the meantime, or would like to be part of the planning group of this new event, please get in touch hello@hopemk.com

Thanks for all your help, support and prayers,

*Becky, Carol, Marco, Steve, Bex
and Simon*

The Hope MK Core Team

Becky Lawrence (Bridgebuilder Trust), Marco Loxley (Pulse Youth Ministries), Steve Murrill (New Life Church), Simon Barker (Scripture Union), Bex Jignasu (Scripture Union), Carol Wheatle (Bridgebuilder Trust)

Hope MK is brought to you by Bridgebuilder Trust, Scripture Union, Pulse Youth Ministry & churches across Milton Keynes



Name one thing God has done...

- He has made me feel more confident to make friends
- Given me courage
- Helped me with coping with life
- Shown me different ways to appreciate His love
- Helped me to pray for someone
- Welcomed me to become a Christian after Anna's talk
- Healed people this week!
- Given me confidence to pray and have God show up to bless random strangers
- Healed many and brought joy to others
- Helped me to step out of my comfort zone
- I prayed for a stranger and it made her day!
- Healed my sisters back
- Built up my confidence to talk to others
- Brought us all together and allowed us to get closer and become friends
- Accepted me and forgiven me this week
- Spoken to me and helped me prophesy
- God has grown my confidence and evangelistic skills
- Touched my heart
- Made my eyesight better
- Brought us food and the money for this whole event and for me to come along
- Healed my anxiety
- Shared His love through young people
- Made me confident to share about Jesus
- Helped me to realise He is the greatest
- Blessed me
- Been by my side
- I was healed when I was prayed for
- Strengthened my faith
- God has given me the courage to commit to following Him
- Helped me understand His love
- Helped me realise all the ways he has shown Himself to me
- Has been amazing!
- Healed me
- Made me feel more confident in my team and with my group
- Helped me encounter the Holy Spirit while worshipping
- Healed the pain in my legs
- Has forgiven me
- I feel closer to God now
- Put a passion in my heart for mission
- Helped me and healed me
- Introduced Himself to me
- Kept us safe
- Has helped me meet new people and grow together in fellowship
- Has given me boldness to spread the word of God
- Helped me change the community
- Shown me (again) that he is absolutely in control
- Helped me socialise
- Shown me that I am able to encourage others to better themselves
- Helped my dad with back pains
- Made me realise he cares and isn't something I've been forced to believe
- Has given me guidance and not given up on me
- Spoke to people in my group for the first time
- Has helped me gain more understanding of Him
- Opened my eyes
- Encouraged me
- Given me the chance to serve the community
- Helped me realise the points of improvement in my life
- Showed himself to me

