

2006

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR CLUBS

During our Week of Prayer last month, someone mentioned that they didn't know very much about what went on in our weekly clubs for children and young people. So this month's News Letter will help to remedy that situation! I have asked each of the main leaders to provide a couple of paragraphs on the club for which they have responsibility.

The Thursday Club

This is our Club for **7-11 year olds (School Years 3-6)**. As the name suggests(!), it meets on **Thursday evenings**, during school term times, from **6.00-7.15pm**. A minibus is available to transport those needing lifts to and from the club, free of charge, on request. A weekly 20p admission charge is levied on those attending.

Our main aim is to lead children to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. A Bible is awarded after 30 weeks attendance.

A typical club night would include following:

- an informal time as the children arrive;
- fun games, such as rag hockey, pirates treasure, dodge ball, the basher game(!);
- an interactive 'God-spot' about the Christian faith, with Bible teaching, drama, songs, prayer, small group activity sheets;
- tuck shop and free time interaction.

The average attendance between January and July this year (once the minibus run had been established) was 16. A good start has been made this term with just over a dozen attending the first two weeks.

The Club leaders are **David, Joan and Philip King; Paul Harris; Margaret Vickers; Norman Bygate; and Steve Thomson** (a 16 year old, who lives on the Chandlers estate).

David King enjoys good access to five local Primary Schools, to take their assemblies twice a term, and these always provide good opportunities to advertise the Club.

The Club has a good feel to it – the children love it and so do the leaders! Proceeds from the Tuck Shop help support a child in India through the work of IREF (The India Rural Evangelical Fellowship).

Please consult the Church website for further details. Alternatively, feel free to drop in on the Club for a firsthand taster of what takes place! If you would like to become a prayer partner, have a word with David King.

The Rock Solid Club

This is our club for **11-14 year olds (School Years 7-9)**. It meets on **Friday evenings**, during school term times, from **6.00-7.30pm**. We charge 40p admission to cover the cost of our materials and food (a second child from the same family is charged only 10p, with any further children from that family admitted free. So the maximum charge per family is 50p. The first visit to the Club is free for everyone.)

Our material is supplied by Youth for Christ, at a cost to the Church of just under £5 a week (£20 a month). Each week, we explore a particular theme. Here are a few examples from this term's programme.

- *Start Here – new beginnings*
- *Think Big – ambitions and dreams*
- *Strike a Light – light and darkness*
- *Movietime – influenced by films*

We explore the themes in various ways:

- through games, generally beginning with some very energetic ones to burn off any surplus energy (!), before moving onto some gentler ones;
- through discussion groups (a 'Chatroom' slot);
- and through a Bible-based talk. We usually give the young people a brief outline of the talk, including Bible verses, to take away with them. We believe that "God's Word will not return to him empty, but will accomplish what he desires" – the salvation of these young people [Isaiah 55.11; 2 Peter 3.9].

We always provide some tasty (and healthy) food for the young people towards the end of the evening and, if we have time, will finish with a 'wind down' activity – such as hockey, quick cricket, or football.

Over the last year, our attendance averaged 11, with a maximum of 17 on the last night and a 'low' of 5 the week before! Attendance levels are often unpredictable for no particular reason. Recruitment to the Club is largely by word of mouth – club members bringing their friends.

Our Club leaders are **Helena Simmonds, Norma Donaldson, and Elma and David Hunt**. Our biggest prayer request is for a young male leader (ideally in his 20's) who will be capable of giving talks as well as running games. This year, we have asked three of our ex-Rock Solid Club members to be Helpers: Christopher Hunt, Amy Thompson and Honorine Katengwa; Marion Rathbone also helped out the first week. It is useful to have some extra helpers on hand to help with games when we split into teams.

Please pray for those giving the talks each week: that they will communicate God's message well with the

young people; and pray that as a result, many will come to a living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Fit For Life Club

This is our club for **15+ year olds (School Years 10 upwards)**. It meets on **Friday evenings**, during school term times, from **8.00-9.30pm**. We charge 50p admission. The current leaders are **Helena Simmonds, Norma Donaldson, Maureen Melaney, Stuart Lindsay, David Hunt**, with **Philip King** as a valuable helper. Last year, we averaged an attendance of four young people per week, with a high of 10 and a low of zero!

In the early part of last year, we realised that we needed to add an extra Club to our provisions for children and young people, to cater for the growing number of 15+ year olds who were attending the Rock Solid Club. Whereas the Rock Solid Club worked well with a very structured programme, we wanted to design a programme for the older young people with more choice and challenge! We asked the older young people how they would like their new Club to differ from the Rock Solid Club, and we collected a variety of interesting responses to our questionnaire! Much to our surprise, the young people requested that we provide healthy snacks, including sliced apples, carrots and tomatoes!

Following a time of thinking, praying and planning, we started the 'Fit for Life' Club in September 2005. The name was inspired by Paul's words to Timothy.

Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. [1 Tim 4.8]

The underpinning value for the club is all-round fitness. This includes

- *encouraging physical health, through regular exercise;*
- *healthy eating, through good diets;*
- *educational progress, through offering help with*
- *school homework (yet to be taken up!); emotional wellbeing, through caring friendships;*
- *social skills, through positive interaction with other people;*
- *appropriate lifestyle choices, through topical discussions;*
- *and most importantly of all, a healthy relationship with God through Jesus Christ.*

The programme varies from week to week but usually involves some of the following: volleyball, pool/snooker, table tennis, hockey, quick cricket, badminton, ball games (other than football!), board games, and the opportunity to cook and eat healthy food. We will be re-launching our fitness activities this term with our newly acquired fitness room (upstairs, over the side entrance)! We are hoping to arrange a visit from a fitness instructor, who will be

able to point out some of the benefits of the various pieces of equipment, and also advice on their safe use. We are planning to have DJ tutoring session later in the autumn too, to develop our musical skills!

Each week we include a 15 minute Talk Time when we speak about the Christian faith and what it means to be a true follower of Jesus. Last year, we adapted some of the *START Course* and *40 Days of Purpose* materials for use with them. This term, our Talk Time is based around Russell Boulter's excellent DVD *So, who is this Jesus?* We encourage the young people to consider their own response to the Gospel and we love to hear their views and questions.

Here are some prayer pointers for the Fit for Life Club and the young people who attend:

- *Pray for the spiritual protection of the young people who attend, as they grow in their faith or explore Gospel truths for the first time.*
- *Pray for wisdom for the leaders, so that as we design the programme and make changes to it, 'Fit for Life' would continue to fulfil God's purposes for it.*

News Round Up

- **BMS Annual appeal.** Over the next 12 months, we will be raising funds for work amongst the Karen refugees of Burma, now living in northern Thailand. Our target is £250. Please see Wanda Stockdale for further details. An excellent DVD, depicting the excellent work being undertaken, is available for borrowing.
- **Building Work.** We are full of praise and thanksgiving for the £6,000 that was received last month in grants and donations for the latest phase of our building refurbishment work. The structural repairs to the front pediment and roof have now been completed, within budget, and so we have given the go-ahead to our builders to start re-roofing our Small Hall and Storage Annexe before the winter rains start to fall!
- **Annual Thank Offering.** We would like to thank all who give so generously to the Lord's work at DRBC. So far, **£4,182.15** has been contributed towards our annual Thank Offering, for which we give all the glory to God!

Dates for your diary

- **Tues 10th Oct: Fun and Food for all the Family – Grand Prix Special! 7.00-8.30pm**
- **Fri 13th Oct: Geordie Evening Outreach event, with Jane Kitson and Derek Minto, 7.00-9.15pm. Tickets: £2, adults; £1, for children under 16.**

David Hunt