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26th July 2019

Dear Friends,

Yesterday marked St James' day in the church calendar – I know that because I preached on the set passages in the Anglican lectionary yesterday morning. The gospel reading was from Matthew 20 where James and John's mother is reported to have approached Jesus for a favour. Not just any old favour – she wanted her boys to get the five star treatment in heaven – the best seats at Jesus' left and right hand. She at least showed a bit of good old fashioned respect by kneeling down at Jesus' feet to ask the question!

Jesus soon put her in her place of course, reminding her and the disciples that following him was not about striving for position and reputation, but a call that involved suffering and serving. It's an interesting passage to reflect on in a month where we've seen leadership contests in two of our political parties, with plenty of jockeying for position, seeking the plaudits and undermining of rivals. Once again we see the upside down values of the Kingdom throwing out a challenge to society and to all God's people.

At Haslemere there is no room for pride and self promotion. Leaders may have different roles, but we keep the leadership structure as flat as possible, seeking to value every person's contribution equally. Seeking to live out the challenge of 1 Peter 4:10: 'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.' That's part of what makes serving on a team at Haslemere such a great privilege and joy. At our recent leaders' weekend someone asked us all to name the best team we'd ever been a part of, and it took a nano-second for me to pick out the Haslemere team. I see such humility and self sacrifice played out across our teams, modelling Christian service and living to the teenagers who attend.

We're delighted this summer and autumn to welcome plenty of first time leaders on to our teams, as well as a few 'old hands' with the likes of Neil Lambert, Jill Carr, Asa and Laura Humphreys and Adam Davies back with us after a few years break.

You can get a feel for the make-up of our teams on the list attached, which accompanies the talks schemes. Do print these off and use them as a basis for prayer. Your prayerful support is so important to us, and we love hearing from some of you by text or email as the summer progresses.

The summer does have a rather lop-sided look – smaller ventures to start, with 17 and 36 members respectively, a sold out week C with 64 members, and 55 so far for our 4 night taster Venture over the August bank holiday. We're already thinking strategically about how we increase numbers for the early Ventures in 2020, with the Trust committing extra funds where there is need for financial support of members, and a targeting of new feeder groups. If you have links to a youth group, do get in touch. I'd love to meet up and chat further about possible links.

Marathon Update – following on from the Easter Trust letter, you may be wondering how our very own marathon man got on. Ben Carr completed the London Marathon in a remarkable 2 hours and 46

minutes and raised over £2500 for the Trust in the process. It's efforts such as this which enable us to grow the ministry and impact more young people with the good news of Christ.

A few words from Lauren.....

Thank you for all your prayers and thoughts over the last few months as we have been working towards running two extra house parties this year. It has been a blessing to connect with new groups and re-establish historic connections with churches to introduce more young people to the ministry of Haslemere Ventures. I have been travelling to the likes of Ely, Farnham, Peckham, Guildford, Luton and Southampton amongst others. Another challenge facing us for 2019 was increasing our leadership team. So it has been great to connect with and induct new leaders this year. And also to see some return to leadership through the new Summer D taster; as its shorter format has proven more accessible for many.

It has been a great year for me in terms of growing in my own leadership skills. As I have stepped further into overall leadership and taken on further responsibilities. In reaching the fourth year in this role the relationships I have built with groups feel solidly established and it is a blessing to see the fruit of member relationships as people mature into leadership with us.

And some trustee news.....

We're really grateful to Alison Murphy for her work as treasurer of the Limpsfield Trust over recent years, but she will be handing over the baton to Will Hogg later in the summer. We're delighted that Alison will continue as a trustee, as well as serving at Haslemere as a leader.

Thanks for your ongoing prayers and support.

Paul, Lauren and Carol

Extra Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks for 170 young people booked in to Haslemere across the summer Ventures. Pray for energy and insight for the team of leaders.
- Pray for Summer – lower numbers have enabled us to be really creative with the programme, linking up with 3 Counties Church in Haslemere for a social action afternoon, our own version of Ready Steady Cook, and the opportunity to camp out overnight in home made shelters. Pray for strong member engagement and fruitful relational youth work.
- Looking ahead to the autumn, we'd really value your prayers for our October half term Ventures at Cumnor House School, Danehill. For strong member and leader sign up and for our junior leaders' initiative which has been so fruitful over the past few years.
- Pray for links with new feeder groups to grow and flourish in the month ahead.

Key Dates:

29th July – Summer Ventures begin

5th October – Danehill training day – Warlingham, followed by Haslemere Bitesize.

21st – 24th and 28th – 31st October Haslemere@ Danehill

9th November - Older Leaders Day

24th November – Paul preaching Luton

28th December-1st January Haslemere New Year Reunion (with 'Roaring Twenties' party)

Have you reviewed your giving recently - do please pray and think about whether you can inflation proof your giving to The Limpsfield Trust. An extra £10 a month would enable us to subsidise a member who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. It only takes a few minutes - just go to <http://www.limpsfieldtrust.org/support/>.

*You could also sign up to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/limpsfieldtrust/>
Every time you shop online or book a holiday at some of the largest retailers, the Trust can benefit.*

*A copy of our privacy policy can be found at <http://www.limpsfieldtrust.org/limpsfield-trust-privacy-notice/>
If you no longer wish to receive our mailings, please email Carol on carol@haslemereventures.co.uk or unsubscribe through the mailchimp footer.*