

Blandford

From the 19th - 26th July, children under 15 from churches around London and Kent made their way to Blandford Forum near Poole.

Blandford 2 is a Christian camp run by our own Mark and Alison Newman for children under 15. It is a great way to make new friends and learn more about being a Christian.

A week down in Blandford, learning about Christianity, going on trips to local theme parks and bowling alleys and doing fun activities is something most children would love. The atmosphere as soon as we arrived was great. There were loads of adults and junior leaders (over 15's) around and looking like they couldn't wait for the week ahead of them.

We were staying at Knighton House School, a boarding school that had a tennis courts, a sports hall and a large field behind it. The girls stayed in dorms one side of the school and the boys on the other. Strictly no boys were allowed in the girl's dorms and no girls in the boys! Each dorm had around 6 or more kids in and were named after James Bond characters. The girl's dorms named after famous Bond girls such as Natalia, Jinx and Money Penny and the boys named after Oddjob, Q, Jaws and other such characters. Every day there was a dorm inspection and a chance to bribe the judge (a.k.a Alison!) Each dorm tried their hardest to impress her giving her slices of cake, cups of tea, decorating their dorm and drawing Christian symbols on the floor with their shoes!

Everyone was divided into groups which all were named after chocolate bars such as Daring Dreams, Wicked Whispers and Funky Flakes. This gave you a chance to mix with others than your dorm members. Every day your group had to do an activity like cleaning up, setting out the dining room, washing up or food preparation. These activities would take place after breakfast and if you were doing washing up then unfortunately for you it was after every meal!

There were times in the week for you to hang out with your friends or in your dorm but most of the time we were doing fun activities! We went swimming, bowling, to Paultons Park (like a mini Thorpe Park), and played Hunt the Leader in Blandford Forum. This involved us looking around Blandford Forum for the leaders who were dressed up. Also we stayed at Knighton House to play 'It's A Knockout' that involved a lot of water!

Every evening there was a worship session that went on for about an hour. In each session there was a drama that was themed on James Bond. Saturday night on HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE (Gods mission for Joshua), Sunday THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (Listen up, will you? Isaiah 1:15-18), Monday THE SPY WHO LOVED ME (The suffering servant. Isaiah 53:4-7), Tuesday THUNDERBALL (Come, Holy Spirit), Wednesday DR NO (He was about your age. Luke 2:41-52), Thursday NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN (Making a success out of failure) and Friday DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER (An expanding family. Acts 2:42-47). In a few of the sessions they chose volunteers and played games. At the end of each session there was a time for praying and recollection.

Every night before we went to bed we had a Dorm Meeting with our three leaders where we discussed what had happened that day and studied the Bible. Every night we filled in a page of the booklet we had received on the first night and we were given a different coloured bead