

Christian Family Holidays Ashdown House 2009

After years of celebrating Christian Family Holidays in North Devon 2009 brought us to a new and exciting venue on the fringe of Ashdown Forest; we found ourselves amidst the stunning scenery of East Sussex at Ashdown House School. It was a wonderful site for us with comfortable bedrooms, lounges for our relaxation and food that as usual exceeded our expectations!

It is always a privilege and excitement to start each new day in prayer... to be able to thank God for His provision for us and to ask His guidance for each day was especially important during our **morning prayer** times.

Our all age **morning worship** was held in the theatre, which provided a stage setting for all brave enough to venture onto it! Facebook provided some 'interesting' photographs this year both on and off stage! 😊

It was wonderful to hear Steven adding his piano playing to David's talents in **musical worship**. We were truly blessed to have such folk in our midst.

Once again we had Reverend Justin Marsh with us for our **Evening Fellowship**. The theme of **CHOSEN** was particularly poignant to every one of us as we studied together the themes of being **C**hildren of the King; **A** Holy and **O**rdained people **S**ecure and **E**ffective in Him. Our discovery culminated at the end of the week in our communion service by discovering our true identity in Christ and being **N**amed as His....

Our **Young People's group** was lead by Richard and Sarah whilst Julia and Ruth headed a team, which created a week of exciting adventures for our younger children's groups. Without these willing helpers who freely served us in such an amazing way we should have been lost.

A new venue brought with it some amazing new sites for our joint **activities** and **adventures**. We floated Pooh Sticks under the legendary bridge, built shelters from twigs in Wilderness Woods and some even discovered the joys of riding on a tandem bicycle! The 'beach' outing was to the Seven Sisters country park, some

paddled, some walked, some cycled and others just chilled as the waves lapped onto the pebbles....

Angie and her kitchen team overcame the challenges of cooking in a new kitchen and once again produced some delicious **food**. The imaginative menus delighted and 'filled' everyone each day.

The challenges of a midnight role call on the front lawn due to a faulty fire alarm sensor in the basement and the disappointment of being without a pool only seemed to unite and strengthen our holiday community spirit. Once again the overall *feel* of the week was one of great enjoyment and a truly blessed holiday spent in the company of loving and caring friends. God desires us to encourage and build up one another in our daily Christian walk and I believe His presence with us enabled us to do just that this year.

Having 'found' Ashdown House we were most disappointed to discover that they had amalgamated with a group of other schools and that the new policies would prohibit future holiday rentals to individuals or groups such as ourselves. **SO IT IS WITH EVEN MORE EXCITEMENT** that we can reveal our new location for the forthcoming year..... **Aysgarth School** In Bedale, North Yorkshire. Once again we have chosen a site for its natural beauty and the school for its comfortable and friendly ambiance. Please ensure you book early to avoid disappointment, as we do not have as many rooms as in previous years.

The **dates for your diary** are 31st July – 7th August or 7th – 14th August; this year we are running back to back at the same site with Stewart and Sarah's Christian Family Holiday.

The team will once again look forward to welcoming you and sharing together, a time of fun and fellowship in 2010.

See you soon.

Love Sandy and the team.