

Eglise Réformée Arve Mont-Blanc

August 2009

ENGLISH NOTES

The summer has passed hot and sultry for those who have stayed. For those families returning to visit family and friends in Britain the weather was very mixed. Some of us paid a visit to a very lively Christian summer camp in the South-West of England at Shepton Mallet. « New Wine » is a camp for all ages held for a week on a show ground in the middle of nowhere and apparently in a bog! However, we had a marvelous time. The kids' activities were brilliant, with meetings morning and evening, which managed to encompass good music, fun and a spiritual message. I am not sure what the spiritual message of « gunge » is for the young people's group, but I'm sure there was one!

In the afternoons, « The Fridge » provided chill-out for both parents and kids, offering everything from arts and crafts to X-box games.

The older teens had great meetings, live bands, and VERY late-night social gatherings under a marquee in the centre of the camp. I can tell you that not much sleep was had by them or their parents! But friendships were formed which we hope will be renewed at future camps.

For the adults, the morning and evening meetings were extremely challenging and thought-provoking. The morning bible-studies were led by Kenny Borthwick, a very gripping, funny, sincere and passionate Scottish Presbyterian pastor who leads a church in a very deprived community and who was able to share with us the riches of his spiritual insights into the way the kingdom of God works. The seminars on a variety of subjects, from healing to mission, from

family relationships to good organisation had something for everyone.

We also met up with friends who have left the parish of Arve Mont Blanc, but continue in our hearts and it was wonderful to see them again and share in a wonderful experience. Thankfully Barbs had quite unselfishly hired a camper van so that the bedraggled campers could find some sanctuary from the elements over aperitifs after the evening meeting! I know she would have liked to show solidarity with the « floaters in the bog », but someone had to be comfortable!



Emma Falkiner (de Chamonix), Lola et Tabitha Headington, qui habitaient à Chamonix l'année dernière, à New Wine – un camp chrétien pour tous les âges en Angleterre - et oui le soleil existe là aussi!

Cathie Gregg