



Dates for the Diary

September

22⁷th - Forest Church

21st, 28th - Kemble Pulsar

15th, 22nd, 29th -
Sapperton Lunch + Pulsar

October

5th, 12th, 19th
Kemble Pulsar

6th, 13th, 20th
Sapperton Lunch & Pulsar

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
Club Pulse & Pulse+

November

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
Kemble Pulsar

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th
Sapperton Lunch & Pulsar

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
Club Pulse & Pulse+

December

7th, 14th
Kemble Pulsar

8th, 15th
Sapperton Lunch + Pulsar

3rd, 10th, 17th
Club Pulse + Pulse+

Other events and dates TBC
Dates and events subject to
change due to COVID

Ben in the Benefice

Hello everyone once again! Firstly, I would like to take a moment, and start this terms Newsletter update, by thanking you all for your prayers over the past few months. I am so grateful and I'm pleased to say that I have fully recovered from my problematic illness that gripped me for just over four months, at the start of 2020.

What a year it has been so far, restrictions in place and the work of PSALMS having to take a different shape over previous months, as we moved our work online. It was a joy to see how our young people remained engaged and continued to interact with us, if that be through Thought for the Week videos, Sporting Challenges, or Area Wide Club Pulse and Bible Study via Zoom.

With schools returning, and year groups changing, I am so glad that we are back once more, meeting face to face again, and I can't wait to see you all soon - bring on 2020-21!



Summer Engagement

After the frustration of lockdown and no face to face activities permitted, the months of Summer brought us the news that this could resume once more, meaning we were able to reconnect with our young people in Thameshead once again!

Summer Games took place on the school playing field in Kemble, with the weather causing a few issues! Despite the rain, we had a great time together, looking at Jonah and the Whale in our first session, followed by Noah in the second. We had 8 different young people engage through this, with Will Collins also helping to lead the group, on his return between University semesters.

Take10@TRAC, explained in more detail on the other side, was a great day with a fabulous group from Thameshead. Encouragingly we had 7 young people from our area attend, with others unable to due to isolating or holiday clashes. The joy of finally catching up after months apart, all of us getting involved with the fun activities and being able to reflecting together was so special. AND... Take10@TRAC will be taking place again during October half-term (Date TBC).



What's Happening This Term?

As you can see from the Dates for the Diary, we will all be back together for our clubs once more! Pulsar at Sapperton After School has restarted, with lunchtime clubs (Also Pulsar) taking place at both Sapperton and Kemble Primary. Collective Worship is being remotely provided for our Primary Schools, via Zoom and videos. Club Pulse is starting back too, with Pulse+ joining the group as young leaders, with an additional 30 minute session afterwards. We are also looking at the potential of a Table Tennis club, but this one is still TBC! Exciting term ahead, why not get involved?



Take 10 @ TRAC

PSALMS hosted 2 x 10 hour days for a total of 63 young people from both PSALMS areas, joining us on Day 1 and also those from across the diocese, joining us on Day 2.

Normally a week long residential, this year the opportunity for a day visit, provided a space to take time out from the unclear, and to point towards the clarity of God together.



In exploring Hebrews 13:8, it gave an opportunity for the young people to process the last six months of lockdown, recognising where Jesus had been at work and reaffirming



how He is with us in each moment. The day consisted of great activities such as paddle boarding, archery, go karting, reflection trail and a campfire with many smores consumed.

Highlights shared from young people, included that they 'felt cared for' and that the sessions were 'constantly both reflective and practically fun' and many saying they're looking forward to doing something similar again soon!

COVID update from Rob

During lockdown we experimented with ways to serve and connect with our young people. We experienced varying levels of success, a story echoed nationally at this time.

One of frequently used staff team sayings is that 'people are our purpose'. When you aren't able to connect with people in the ways you can, we had to adapt to be able to fulfil that purpose we have set out in front of us.

The growing sense of momentum and joy at connecting with our young people once again over summer will be an area to build upon over this coming term. Evidently this needs to be done with the safety of all involved at heart, but we will continue to fix our eyes on Jesus as we journey through the upcoming months together.

PSALMS were thrilled to hear that youth provision is exempt from the new 'rule of 6' the Government has brought in, due to it now being classed as 'an essential provision', meaning that we can still meet with 15 young people plus leaders, indoors and outdoors. Activities will be COVID risk assessed, do join in if you are able, as we meet together!

New Team Members

We are excited to announce that we have welcomed 4 new members to our PSALMS staff team.

We have been joined by Lydia and Tim as Trainee Sports Ministers (TSM), Laura as an intern and also Jon, focusing on Health & Fitness with the Diocese. Myself, Emily, Dave, Nathan and Rob are ready to welcome our new recruits! Find out more below:

Lydia Holloway - Lydia joins the team as a Trainee Sports Minister after partnering with us last year in her previous role as Sports & Outreach worker for the Evenlode Vale Benefice. Lydia is also in her first year of Theology, Ministry & Mission, specializing in Sports Evangelism at Ridley Hall. She has a passion for football and developing Women's teams as this continues to grow nationally.



Laura Gardiner - Laura joins the team as Intern, after finishing a degree in Sports Coaching Science and Disability Sports from University of Worcester.

Inspired by Romans 16:20, Laura is passionate about wanting to hold onto the hand of God continually, to overcome any challenge that she may face as she runs the race that God has in store for her.



Tim Fletcher - Tim joins as Trainee Sports Minister after engaging with a PSALMS Sports Holiday Club last year. God called him out of his past career as a Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Engineer, and he is very excited to combine his passion for both sport and faith together. Tim loves the opportunity to spread God's word through sport, showing it is not one or the other, but that you can do the two things together.



Jon Taylor - Jon will be working for the Diocese of Gloucester, providing Health and Fitness activities for families and adults, working in PSALMS partner areas where a need for his work is best suited. He was involved in the team that set up and ran The Armoury Gym in Cheltenham, so he has a lot of great experience to share with the rest of the team!

Email Ben to be added to the Weekly Prayer Email List to receive encouragements & requests for the week, sent on Mondays.

Answers to prayer: Praise God for the open doors from our primary schools after the return from the holidays. Praise him for our Summer activities and the engagement from young people and our families. Thank God for new relationships that have been established over the past few months and those we have reconnected with.

Prayer requests: Pray for ongoing conversations with our schools about how best we can support them during this strange time. Pray for creativity, both for Ben and the LMG as a whole, as we explore how best to reach our families and young people. Pray for our young people who have left Thameshead, to go onto new pastures.



Keep up to date with all things PSALMS related via our social media pages on Facebook, Twitter Instagram and YouTube channel (All called 'PSALMS UK').