**2013/14 Report For MBC Youth**

Friday Cruisers

Led by James Wood with Philippa Rowe and Becky Papworth, plus Charlie Hogarth and Louis Saunders

7.30 – 9 pm for ages 11 – 14.

We started the year working through Youth Alpha, giving the youth opportunities to question their faith and discover more about Jesus. Sessions also included the usual messy, wet and silly games to keep them entertained!

After Christmas we had a lot of year 6s join the group. We looked at miracles, faith stories, and why we matter so much to God, which sparked a lot of good discussion times. We also had the annual sleepover which did actually involve a bit of sleep this year!

At Easter we took 3 Cruisers with us to Spring Harvest, and they had a great time with the Sparks, hanging out together and dressing up as pirates and ninjas!

As the weather improved we went over the common for den building, water fights, and capture the flag! We also had sessions on what we are “called to”. At the end of the summer term we had a fantastic swimming pool party and bbq with the Sparks to mark the beginning of the summer holidays, and all the youth had a great time together!

This coming year we are looking to make some subtle changes to the group, looking at how we transition the older ones up to Sparks, as well as appealing to the younger ones in Questers. Watch this space!

Sunday Sparks

Led by James Wood with Lorraine Lewis, Becky Papworth, and often joined by David Marson

7 – 8.30 pm for ages 14 – 18.

This year we have spent quite a lot of sessions embracing the Sparks’ most favourite thing: fancy dress. So while we looked at Superman and the many parallels the movie has with the Gospels we were dressing up as superheroes, pirates, ninjas, and even one evening arrived dressed to the nines in ball gowns and suits! Following that we looked at trusting God and shared a few of our own testimonies, allowing the youth to really come to grips with the reality of following Jesus.

After a fantastic Spring Harvest where the Sparks really embraced the Cruisers and grew as a group (as well as more fancy dress), we added in more social times – one Sunday of silliness to 2 Sundays of teaching. We followed a similar theme to the Cruisers, looking at what we are “called to” – this created lots of interesting discussion! There were more trips (and more pirate fancy dress!) and of course the big summer swim and bbq party.

Over the summer we trialled a selection of different activities for the youth to come to, with mixed results. However we did meet up with everyone during the holidays, and even managed one day at Soul Survivor for 3 lucky teens after an initial lack of interest. Thanks to this we have started this term with a new sense of momentum. Consequently we are keeping this year lively with more trips and socials, but giving them harder topics for discussion to really make them think. We also look to making a new group for those 19+ who are still searching for answers, so do pray for them and the dynamic of the Sparks group as it changes this year.