

Lock In 2010

Chris Oates

On Friday 29th October, the All Saints Youth Group with Kath Oates and Martin Bird went to the Lock In at St Albans Abbey.

The Lock In is a night full of activities and worship from 8pm to 7am and is for youth groups and their leaders from across the Diocese. We were also joined by the Bishops of Hertford and Bedford.

When we arrived we were given T shirts with the theme of the evening written on them "Challenging Darkness". In total about 350 people were there.

CHALLENGING THE DARKNESS LOCK IN 2010



8pm FRIDAY 29TH - 7am SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER 2010

There were 3 worship sessions at 8.30 in the evening, midnight and 6 in the morning on the theme of coming through the darkness into light. The speaker talked about how Jesus is the Light of the World and how we are to take His light into the world to dispel the darkness. The music was led by a band of young people and an interpretive dance group called Crown Jewels presented the concept of fighting through the darkness to God's light.

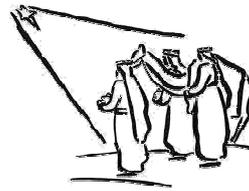
In between the worship sessions there were lots of activities to choose from, such as circus skills, movies, and a surf board machine which was fun even when you fell off. You could also make things, play your friends on the Nintendo Wii, or if you were a girl, go to the Pamper Zone (so you'll have to ask one of the girls about that!)

I particularly enjoyed the prayer labyrinth which was really eye opening.

After going through the night we all had breakfast and after the final act of worship, were sad to leave but ready to get some sleep!

Follow the Star

Festival of Cribs and Carols
St Andrews 11-12th December



After the official opening at 10.00am on Saturday 11 December, a cappella quintet The Gingham will kick-off proceedings and music will continue through the day. At 4.00pm, visitors to the church are then invited to make the short walk to Hertford Castle Grounds to take part in the Lights of Love Ceremony being held in support of Isabel Hospice, before returning to St Andrew's for the evening concert at 7.30 p.m. On Sunday 12 December the church will host the Christian Aid Big Sing at 3pm.

There are now more than 100 cribs planned to be on display during the weekend from around the world, ranging from knitted and fabric cribs, cribs of porcelain, cribs constructed by children from clothes pegs and toilet roll cores, floral representations as well as traditional wooden sets. Even jigsaw puzzles and edible cribs will be on show.

The family weekend of activities at the Festival will include a treasure hunt for children, ending with a visit to St Nicholas – the patron saint whose legend inspired the tradition of giving presents at Christmas – to claim their 'bag of gold'. There will also be the chance for the children to make their own crib and take part in a range of themed activities.

Tea, coffee, home-made cakes and light lunches will be available in the church on Saturday and Sunday. Admission to all the events at the Church will be free.