

Church Summer Camp - Some FAQs

Who is Church Summer Camp for?

Who is invited? All who are a part of the church family at St. Andrew's Buckland Monachorum and at Milton Combe, and for others in the parish who wish to be part of the church family. It is a time for the whole church of all ages to spend time together and, with a dedicated speaker for the adults as well as our youth and children's team, a time to grow in faith together.

Is camp only for those who have already made a commitment to follow Jesus? If you are interested in finding out more about following Jesus, and if you are exploring participation in church activities or becoming a member of the church family, then camp could be for you. These Qs and As will help you to find out what to expect. Everyone is encouraged to attend teaching sessions, and there is also time within the routine of camp to ask others informally about the Christian faith.

I have grown up through camp and am now 16 or over - does that mean that I have grown out of it? We hope not! Camp is for all ages of the church family together! It may be time for you to begin to discover the gifts that God has given to you to serve the church family. There are many opportunities to serve and to bless others before, during and after camp. If you'd like to explore any of the options, please do have a chat with one of the Organisation Team.

Tell me about the Campsite...

Where is it and what are the facilities? On a working farm, we have sole use of a field that has a panoramic view looking towards the sea above Blackpool Sands. It takes your breath away on arrival. There is an ample supply of men's and women's flushing loos, sinks with hot and cold running water, 4 separate shower cubicles and even mirrors! We have the use of a purpose built kitchen block (complete with ovens, fridges, freezers, food prep and storage) a larger main marquee and a smaller youth marquee with electricity. There is plenty of room for the pitching of our own tents, still leaving more than half of the field for games.

Do we need to bring our own tent? If you have one, then it would be best to bring it. If you don't, then do speak to our bookings secretary, Nicki Bovey, who can reserve one of the on-site traditional canvas ridge tents for you.

Is camp only for keen campers? No! Some of us may be, but many of us are not. If you will be camping, but are apprehensive of not sleeping well, then do talk to others about the lessons they have learned. It is possible to bring caravans and campervans on to the site, some also stay in local B&Bs or hotels, and join us after breakfast until bedtime. If you're still not convinced, then why not come along for a full day's experience on the Tuesday of camp, which is our 'Visitors Day'. (You will need to pre-book with Nicki so we know numbers for catering).

How is Summer Camp run and what about food?

Is there a host team on site? No. As a church, we run camp for each other, and serve each other in many ways...whether in the preparation before camp, the setting up of camp or doing our team duties each day we are at camp.

So, how are the jobs shared out? Everyone will be part of a camp team, with the over 10 years joining in to help with their team's duties. Each day, each team has one duty. The duties rotate between the teams;

- preparing and serving **breakfast**
- making **sandwiches** and preparing packed lunches
- preparing and serving the **evening meal**
- clearing up the **cookhouse** after the evening meal
- site **maintenance**, including toilets & showers

Times spent working in teams can often be highlights rather than chores, and many a new friendship can be struck up!

How does the catering work? A catering team, who are part of the organising team, will pre order and pre shop (and do some pre-cooking) for our camp meals. All other cooking and preparation will be done in the kitchen block on site, by the named teams each day. We all sit down together in the main marquee (or outside if the weather is nice) to eat both breakfast and the evening meal, which will be served by these two teams. The sandwich team makes sandwiches to order (placed the evening before) and prepares the rest of the packed lunch for you to have on-site or to take with you off-site.

Do we need to bring any food with us? Most of the food is provided, and included in the price you pay for camp. However, everyone will be asked to bring enough cake to share, so that everyone at camp can have at least one slice of cake each day at 'afternoon tea'. There will always be bread, jam etc. and fruit available for hungry teenagers, but you may want to bring any other snacks (crisps, biscuits etc.) if you think they may need more than this to keep them topped up between meals! We also ask that you bring your own plates, bowls, cups, mugs and cutlery. Drinks bottles and sandwich boxes are also useful for taking your packed lunch off-site.

Who does the washing up? We all do! Each day, there will be a 'Cookhouse' team responsible for washing up the cooking pots and pans after the evening meal, but we each wash up our own dishes and cutlery. Washing up bowls, drainers, washing up liquid, cloths, brushes and hot water are provided. We do ask everyone to bring their own tea towel.

Do I need to bring my own kettle? No. In the marquee there are hot water boilers, with tea, coffee, milk and fruit squash available for you to make your own drinks throughout the day. Additionally, this year there will be cake and biscuits available at 4pm for 'afternoon tea'.

What happens at Church Summer Camp?

What will the new programme for a day at camp look like?

Sunday is still arrival day, so you will see everyone helping each other to erect their tents, unhitch their caravans and level their camper vans. There will also be an 'advance team' making endless cups of tea and coffee, and handing out cake! Dinner is at 6pm and at 7:30pm we'll gather together to welcome everyone, followed by a family quiz.

Monday to Thursday all follow a similar timetable; 8am - breakfast, 9:30am - Main Meeting, Youth & Children's Groups, 11am - Team duties, from 12 - lunch/free time/optional activities, 4pm - tea and cake, 4:30pm - optional seminars, 6pm - dinner, 7:30pm - evening activities/entertainment, 9pm - drinks, cake, cheese and wine (adults and older youth), 10pm - Compline, 11pm - lights out. However, **Wednesday** is 'Outings Day', including an organised visit to Woodlands. The morning meeting and team duties will be earlier and no onsite activities from 11am-4pm.

Friday is our last day, so mostly packing up, and our final morning meeting for everyone at 11am. We leave the site after lunch and by 2pm.

What happens before breakfast? Nothing compulsory! Some will go for an early morning walk, run or swim. For many, it is a privilege to join the **7:30am prayer meeting**, to share some verses of scripture, and to pray particularly for that day at camp.

Are there times of day when everyone shares together?

Yes. In 2024 our morning sessions will be our main teaching sessions. Everyone gathers to praise God together at 09:30am, before the children and young people leave for their own groups. The over-18s stay in the main marquee to hear the speaker, who will offer a series of biblical talks.

What other activities can we all share together on site?

We spend evenings together on site. As a welcome activity, after supper on the Sunday night, we will have an all-age quiz in our Camp Teams. We will also come together at 7:30pm each following evening, for activities and/or entertainment. Then at 9pm, adults and older youth are invited to share a quieter time for chat with cheese, wine and soft drinks in the main marquee, followed by Compline at 10pm.

If you choose to stay on site in the afternoon on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, you will have the option of joining in organised activities. These may include; an obstacle race, team sports and games, table tennis, board and card games, arts and crafts activities, a scavenger hunt, making music (if you would like to play a musical instrument during the sung worship, please let us know) or discussion groups. Additionally, at 4:30pm on these days, a series of afternoon seminars will be offered.

How will I find out what is going on each day? There will be a noticeboard in the main marquee with all sorts of useful information, including a timetable for each day, sign up sheets for activities and for those going off-site to let others know of potential 'outings'. Particularly helpful for 'first-timers'.

What are the options if I decide not to join in the shared on-site activities?

Are there shared times off site? Many will make an excursion to the beach at Blackpool Sands during the week, usually congregating at a set location on the beach. It is a fairly short walk, however it is a steep road, and uphill all the way back! We are fortunate to receive several free car park passes and, if you have small children or are less able, you will have the opportunity to apply for one of these. As mentioned, **Wednesday** is 'outings day', with the opportunity to go on one of several group trips including: Woodlands Activity Park (pre-booked on your Summer Camp booking form), taking the river ferry from Dittisham to Agatha Christie's former home at Greenway above the Dart, a river cruise from Dartmouth or a led coast path walk.

Is there time for me to have by myself? Yes. After the morning session, and when you are not required for team duties, how you spend the rest of the day up until 6pm evening meal is up to you. Although, don't forget that there will be daily 'afternoon tea' served on site at 4pm! The breakfast team will have finished their duties before the morning session, sandwich making and maintenance will be done straight after the session, and the evening meal team will need to be back on site by 5pm. There are many off-site options to enjoy in the local area; coastal walks, other beaches, boat trips, a steam train ride, indoor pool and badminton courts in Kingsbridge, as well as exploring both local towns of Dartmouth (including its castle) and Kingsbridge.

Booking and Costs

What is the cost and how do I book? Camp costs £99 for an adult, which includes pitch fees and all meals from Sunday evening til Friday lunch. Children and youth are costed on a sliding scale, (from £23 for 2-4 yr olds to £78 for 16-17 yr old). £50 for those staying off-site and eating lunch and evening meals at camp. These prices include an early-bird discount for bookings being made by 31st May 2024. Bookings being made later will be charged at £110/adult. **To book; complete a booking form** (download from the church website or pick up a paper copy from the back of church) and either fill it in electronically, emailing it to nicolabovey@googlemail.com, or hand it to Nicki Bovey directly.

What would happen if everybody only came for a few days? We do encourage you to come for the whole week, so you don't miss out on anything on offer. There are shared set-up tasks, we serve each other during the week and share the clearing-up at the end. Our visiting speaker provide a series of talks that unfolds throughout the week, and our children's and young people's programme will be structured across the week.. But if other commitments make this difficult please book for the days you are able to.

May I come to camp, even though I cannot afford the cost?

We do not want anyone to miss out on camp for financial reasons. Please speak confidentially with either Nicki Bovey or Andy Bowden if you would like to come but cannot afford the cost.

I still have questions...Please do speak to one of the Organisation Team; Andy B, Tom Watson, David W, Nicki B, Angelina W, Debbie F, Tom Waine, Sam P, Jonathan and Lucy A. As a team, we cover a spectrum of age and have a broad experience of Church Summer Camp, whether as newcomers or old-hands!