

## Chairman's Newsletter February 2008-02-09

Hi everybody thought I'd share some thoughts with those of you that couldn't make the AGM.

Firstly though I hope you all had a great Christmas and in spite of all the trimmings and the razzamatazz you were able to spend some time concentrating on the reason for the season. I also pray that God will bless each of you greatly wherever you are and whatever your plans for 2008

**SUCCESS**

What makes for success? Is it just the fulfilment of a plan? That can be so easy! When everything drops into place just as planned and everything and everybody behaves as in the best predictions, success is easily achieved.

Is that Lighthouse? If you think that, you went to a different Lighthouse to the one I attended in July last year. We had a range of unplanned unforeseeable events including vandalism of a marquee, torrential rain, leaking tents and one marquee that wanted very much to fly off into the great blue yonder.

In spite of these minor setbacks in my considered opinion, **Lighthouse Hazlemere 2007 was a roaring success.**

Why do I think this way? Well, our Great God was pitching in and blessings flowed even in the worst times. Our team of Helpers rose to every challenge and overcame each one as it presented itself, whether it was flooding, flying marquees or the potential destruction of the grass and mud created in the Car Parking areas.

Was this enough to cry Success?

Consider this! The Kingdom of God was promoted, The Word of God was taught. The name of Jesus was glorified. The children in our care had a great time (as usual). Many of them made a commitment to become Friends of Jesus and all of them took away seeds of the Kingdom which may yet bear fruit in their homes and schools. Many of our wonderful band of volunteer Helpers went away tired (exhausted even?) but inspired and uplifted by the experience

**Put that little lot together and it spells SUCCESS!**

**Whether on the Site Team, in the Year Groups, in the Office, in the Mothers and Toddlers Group, Sports, Drama, Techies, whatever YOU did, YOU contributed to that success.**

I hope that you were personally blessed by your Lighthouse Experience last year and on behalf of the Management Team, I offer our grateful thanks once again for your help. Without YOU it couldn't have happened.

That brings me nicely to Lighthouse 2008.

I was determined to get all my forms back as early as I could. Application to help went back within days of receipt but my CRB was in need of renewal. I received the forms and the helpful guide to completion and then.....Guess what? I had a tidy up and managed to shred the form with some other papers that really needed shredding. ....What's that saying about good intentions?

I'll catch up but it did serve to remind me how important it is for ALL OF US TO GET THE APPLICATIONS AND OTHER PAPERWORK SENT IN AS SOON AS WE CAN. The real point is that it is so much easier for our marvellous admin people to have everything in place early even if people drop out later.

Last minute applications to help or for CRBs are an absolute pain in the proverbial so please, please, please don't leave them until the deadlines are close DO IT NOW!

Remember Lighthouse can't happen without helpers.

WE NEED MORE HELPERS THAN LAST YEAR so if you have any Christian friends of any age who don't already help tell 'em about Lighthouse. Tell 'em how much fun it is, how satisfying it is and how important it is in Kingdom terms. Also remember that if they can't stand children we have lots of important jobs which don't involve contact with the smalls.

Well that's about it for now. If YOU can't help at Lighthouse 2008 I'm sure God will bless you in whatever you do instead but if YOU can help I look forward to seeing you there.