

Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.
Number 24, 4th September 2020

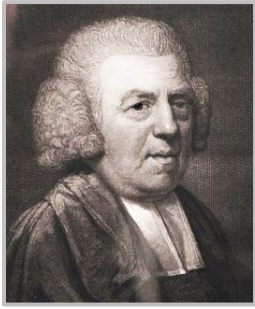
Adventure Camp Part 2

Adventure Camp is a Christian camp for children run by GCI. It started in 1974. It has also taken place in Ghana.

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Adventure Camp Theme 2017



John Newton

John Newton (4th Aug. 1725 – 21st Dec. 1807)

John Newton wrote many hymns, including *Amazing Grace* and *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*. He was born in London.

At the age of eleven, John first went to sea with his father, a shipmaster. He sailed six voyages with him before his father retired in 1742. In 1743, John Newton was captured and pressed into the naval service aboard *HMS Harwich*. Later, while *Harwich* was sailing to India, he transferred to a slave ship named *Pegasus* which carried goods to Africa and traded them for slaves to be shipped to the colonies in the Caribbean and North America. He did not get along with the *Pegasus* crew, so in 1745 they left him in West Africa with a slave dealer. Consequently, he was treated as a slave, until he was rescued by a sea captain who had been asked by John Newton's father to search for him.

During his return voyage to England in 1748 aboard the ship *Greyhound*, John Newton had a spiritual conversion. He awoke to find the ship caught in a severe storm and about to sink. In response, he began praying for God's mercy, after which the storm began to die down. This experience marked the beginning of his Christian conversion. He began to read the Bible and other religious literature, although he continued to work in the horrendous slave trade. His full conversion did not happen until sometime later.

In 1750 John Newton married his childhood sweetheart, Mary Catlett. Also, in 1750 he became captain of the slave trading ship the *Duke of Argyle* and afterwards another slave trading ship the *African*. After having a stroke in 1754 he gave up seafaring. In 1755 he began to study Greek and Hebrew and gradually became well known as an evangelical lay minister. In 1757, he applied to be ordained in the Church of England, but this did not happen until 1764. He then spent sixteen years as Rector in Olney, Buckinghamshire. His preaching was so popular that the congregation enlarged the church to accommodate the many people who flocked to hear him.

In 1779 John Newton was invited to become Rector of St Mary Church in Woolnoth, London, where he officiated until his death. Many people sought his advice, including William Wilberforce, a Member of Parliament, who was contemplating leaving politics. John Newton, encouraged William Wilberforce to stay in Parliament and 'serve God where he was'.

In 1788, 34 years after he had retired from the slave trade, John Newton broke a long silence on the subject with the publication of a forceful pamphlet: *Thoughts Upon the Slave Trade*, in which he described the dreadful slave ship conditions. He apologised and said: 'It will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me, that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders.' He had copies sent to every MP, and the pamphlet

sold so well that it swiftly required reprinting. John Newton then became an ally of William Wilberforce, leader of the parliamentary campaign to abolish the African slave trade. John Newton lived to see the British Empire's abolition of the African slave trade in 1807, just months before his death.

John Newton's wife Mary died in 1790. Reportedly John Newton said just before he died: 'My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour.' He died in 1807 and was buried beside his wife in the grave-yard of St Mary, Woolnoth. Both were reinterred at the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Olney in 1893.

In 2017 Adventure Camp staff and children visited the St Peter and St Paul Church and the Cowper and Newton Museum. They are both in Olney.



Olney Church



The Cowper and
Newton Museum



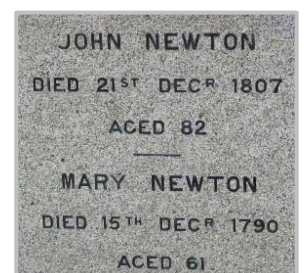
A museum model
ship cross section
shows horrendous
conditions for slaves.



John Newton and
Amazing Grace in
a Church stained
glass window

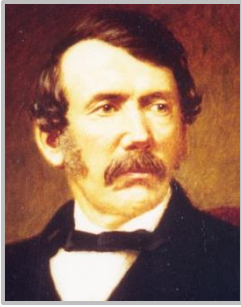


Adventure Camp in Olney Church



In Olney, Adventure
Camp went to the
tomb of John and
Mary Newton

Adventure Camp Theme 2018



David Livingstone

David Livingstone (19th March 1813 – 1st May 1873)

David Livingstone was a Scottish physician, a pioneer Christian missionary, an explorer in Africa, and one of the most popular British heroes of the late 19th-century. He believed if he could find the source of the River Nile the fame he would receive would help boost his efforts to help bring to an end the 'immense evil' of the East African slave trade.

David Livingstone was born in 1813 in Blantyre, Scotland in a building for the workers of a cotton mill. He was the second of seven children.

David was employed at the age of ten in the mill. He worked twelve-hour days tying broken cotton threads on the spinning machines. Later he trained as a doctor and then applied to join a missionary society. In 1840, he met Robert Moffat, on leave from a missionary outpost in South Africa. David Livingstone was excited by Moffat's vision of expanding missionary work to where there was 'smoke of a thousand villages, where no missionary had ever been'. So in the same year David Livingstone travelled to South Africa. Soon after he arrived, he



Chuma and Susi



The David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre, Scotland. This is where he was born and first worked.

was attacked by a lion which seriously broke his left arm. The bone healed, though it remained a source of suffering for the rest of his life and subsequently he was never able to lift the arm higher than his shoulder.

David Livingstone was the first European to see the *Mosi-o-Tunya* 'the smoke that thunders' waterfall, which he renamed *Victoria Falls* after Queen Victoria.

David Livingstone advocated the establishment of trade and religious missions in Central Africa, but the abolition of the African slave trade became his primary goal. His motto which is now inscribed on his statue at *Victoria Falls* was 'Christianity, Commerce and Civilization', a combination that he hoped would form a sound alternative to the slave trade.



David Livingstone Memorial, Victoria Falls

Livingstone died in 1873 at the age of 60 in Chief Chitambo's village in present-day Zambia. His loyal attendants James Chuma and Abdullah Susi removed his heart and buried it under a tree near the spot where he died. The rest of his remains were carried, over 1,000 miles, by Chuma and Susi to the coast where they were returned by ship to London for burial in Westminster Abbey.

David Livingstone's Christian faith is evident in one of his journals: 'I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity.'

His tomb in Westminster Abbey reads:

'BROUGHT BY FAITHFUL HANDS OVER LAND AND SEA HERE RESTS DAVID LIVINGSTONE, MISSIONARY, TRAVELLER, PHILANTHROPIST, BORN MARCH 19, 1813 AT BLANTYRE, LANARKSHIRE, DIED MAY 1, 1873 AT CHITAMBO'S VILLAGE, ULALA. FOR 30 YEARS HIS LIFE WAS SPENT IN AN UNWEARIED EFFORT TO EVANGELIZE THE NATIVE RACES, TO

EXPLORE THE UNDISCOVERED SECRETS, TO ABOLISH THE DESOLATING SLAVE TRADE OF CENTRAL AFRICA, WHERE WITH HIS LAST WORDS HE WROTE, "ALL I CAN ADD IN MY SOLITUDE, IS, MAY HEAVEN'S RICH BLESSING COME DOWN ON EVERY ONE, AMERICAN, ENGLISH, OR TURK, WHO WILL HELP TO HEAL THIS OPEN SORE OF THE WORLD." '

In 2018 the Adventure Camp staff and children visited Twywell Church. Chuma and Susi also visited Twywell as one of the Twywell ministers went to Africa as a missionary in the mid-1800s. Inside the Church there are several things connected to Chuma, Susi and David Livingstone.



David Livingstone being attacked by a lion



The picture shows a carving of slaves coming to the Cross in Twywell Church.



Twywell Church

Adventure Camp Theme 2019



Charles Spurgeon



Charles Spurgeon
'Prince of
Preachers'

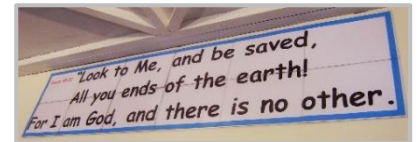
Charles Spurgeon (19th June 1834 – 31st Jan. 1892)

As a child Charles Spurgeon was asked by his grandfather how a large apple got inside a bottle with a narrow neck? Charles did not know. So his grandfather explained that the apple had grown inside the bottle, and that there was a lesson there for young people: that they should grow within the safety of the Church.



An apple in a
bottle?

Charles Spurgeon said that God 'opened his heart to the salvation message' on the 6th of January 1850. He was 15. A snow storm forced him to cut short his intended journey and to turn him into a chapel for shelter in Colchester. In the chapel a man told him he looked miserable and Charles Spurgeon knew that spiritually that was his condition. The man seeing his need told him: 'Young man, look to Jesus Christ, Look! Look! Look! You have nothing to do but to look and live', which, within moments, Charles Spurgeon did and was converted to Christianity. The key scripture in the sermon that day was Isaiah 45:22 – 'Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.'



Isaiah 45:22 was instrumental in the conversion of Charles Spurgeon.

Soon afterwards Charles Spurgeon became a Sunday school teacher. He preached his first sermon when he was 16. At 17 he became the minister in Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. When he started there the congregation was about 40 people, when he left Waterbeach, nearly two years later, the congregation had risen to more than 400!



Charles Spurgeon's Stockwell
Orphanage in 1884

In 1854, Charles Spurgeon, then only 19, was called to pastor a large congregation in London. Within a few months of his arrival his ability as a preacher drew crowds of people which soon made him famous. He consistently produced powerful sermons of penetrating thought and precise exposition. His oratory skills held his listeners spellbound. Every word of his sermons was written down in shorthand, they would then be published the following day. They were widely circulated and still remain one of the all-time best-selling series of writings published in history which leads to the fact that there are more writings and books by Charles Spurgeon than by any other Christian writer. By the time of his death, he had preached nearly 3,600 sermons and published 49 volumes of commentaries, sayings, anecdotes and devotions!

Charles Spurgeon frequently preached to congregations of more than 10,000 (and without a microphone!). His largest congregation was at Crystal Palace in London on the 7th of October 1857; records indicate about 23,654 people came to hear him! A day or two before preaching at Crystal Palace, he went to decide where the speaking platform should be fixed; and, in order to test the acoustic properties of the building, he cried in a loud voice: 'Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.' In one of the galleries, a workman, who knew nothing of what was being done, heard the words, and they came 'like a message from heaven to his soul!' He was smitten with conviction on account of sin, put down his tools, went home, and there, after a season of spiritual struggling, found peace and life by beholding the Lamb of God. Years afterwards, he told this story to Charles Spurgeon who visited him on his death-bed.



Spurgeons
Children's Charity

Charles Spurgeon founded an orphanage for 500 children, which opened for boys in 1867 and for girls in 1879. His care for children continues today by the *Spurgeon's Children's Charity*. In 2019 the Adventure Camp staff and children visited the headquarters of the

Spurgeons Children's Charity in Rushden. Over the last year, the charity has 'made a real difference to the lives of almost 3,000 children, young people and adults, and protected 1,200 from neglect, harm and abuse'. The Adventure Camp children gave the charity over £130 which they had collected themselves.



Adventure Camp visits Spurgeons Children's Charity

Adventure Camp 2020



Adventure Camp A-Z
by Lydia Williams

Archery; Balloon games; Christian Living; Dormitories; Evening-film; Fun; Games; Hymn; Ice-cream; Jesus; Kettering; Leather-work; Messy-games; Night-time; Obstacle-course; Pedal-karts; Quiz; Rusden; Sleeping-bag; Tower; Utterly exciting; Virtual; Wicksteed Park; X-ray; You; Zoom.



This doll's house was used by Lydia Williams for an Adventure Camp video.

Adventure Camp zoom meetings, hosted by Heidi Steer, took place on the 29th, 30th and 31st of August. One of the songs played included the words 'Be Happy'. We played several games including an Adventure Camp memory game (above).



Answers to who the 25 Adventure Camp staff are:

- 1) Anthony Dady. 2) Christine Templeman. 3) Alex Wisdom. 4) Daisy Dublin. 5) Jacqueline Westhorpe. 6) Nancy Silcox. 7) Geoff Sole. 8) David Gent. 9) Jason Cornish. 10) Simone Royle. 11) Jean Sole. 12) Katy Templeman. 13) Kath Sole. 14) Heidi Steer. 15) David Silcox. 16) Gemma Lewis. 17) Brian Templeman. 18) Michael MacEwan. 19) Jennifer Ozumba. 20) James Lambu. 21) Peter Goodchild. 22) Simon Williams. 23) Tim Sole. 24) Richard Fowler. 25) Sinead Henderson.

See if you can memorize some, or all, of these words: 'Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.' Isaiah 45:22, NKJV

Some Adventure Camp Staff. Who Are They?



(Answers on previous page.)

..... (Pictures not credited are believed to be all in the Public Domain.)

Pictures are courtesy of: Twywell Church; David Livingstone statue; Cowper and Newton Museum: all Wikipedia. David Livingstone Centre and David Livingstone and Lion: Wikimedia.

Any questions, etc, please contact the UK GCI Watford Church Council or Geoff Sole, 01707 880782 or geoff@geoffsole.co.uk.