

THE LATEST NEWS FROM Shallowford Farm

making the difference



“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few...”
Luke 10:2

Widcombe Fair



What a great time we had on the 9th September! We were to run the café in the Church House as in the last two previous years and also to facilitate

Archery as something new for the fair this year. We were on site early on the Monday with our friends from Heatree Activity Centre, to set up the archery range. Our team from Providence House arrived at lunchtime and helped to set up the café throughout the afternoon. The Fair day dawned, bright and beautiful, the volunteers staying at Shallowford Farm woke cheerful and ready for action. It was all hands on deck from 7am onwards, a short break to give the whole day to the Lord and from then on it was nonstop until 7pm. We were so blessed with a whole battalion of volunteers that made the

day possible, without them the café would have been impossible. Many, many thanks to you all. Altogether that day we raised £2000 – thank you.



The next day the Providence group then had the thrilling experience of weeding the cabbage plants that they had planted earlier in the year!! What a tough call after such a full day at the fair. They were great and did a good job.

Harvest – are we ready to be picked?!



We have recently enjoyed the company of a group of 13 females from Providence- plus Robert! They ranged in age from 8 to 70 something, with 7 girls, and 7 women. We had such a good time working with Paul, sorting the sheep and moving the 11 piglets that are nearly ready for market. We harvested a trailer load of swedes, throwing them into the trailer – a great game that caused so much hilarity. Everyone from the Sandels family joined in the fun – a rare event to have them all a home at once.

We explored Haytor, the quarry and tramway, learning about the past industry that once scarred the landscape in between playing with the dogs that accompanied us.

Sunday morning was spent creating wonderful displays to

decorate the chapel, autumn displays in small wellies which decorated windowsills and a beautiful straw swag full of autumn leaves and berries. The harvest service was really good with loads of people there, lots of activity and rousing hymns of thankfulness. The girls shared a beautiful song that told of how beautiful God is and everyone joined in.

Despite the huge age range everyone got on really well, shared deep thoughts, laughter and a beautiful experience.



Volunteers and visitors



Once again these few months have proved a great time to build special relationships with the volunteers that just turn up to help. They came to pull swedes and cabbages, help clear out the sheds, fill another skip, paint windows and clear gutters. Thank you all SO much and please do continue to call in. For others who have not been here recently, do come and renew your contacts with the farm and talk about our challenges ahead – you will not be expected to pick up a shovel or paintbrush! You will be made very welcome.

Half Term fun and games

This half term we were joined by a great bunch of lads. They worked hard with Paul, helping the vet with TB testing, checking the cows for growing embryos, preparing the lambs and pigs for market, pulling swedes and cabbages to feed the animals, cutting the gorse on the marsh and having a huge bonfire. We also took

them caving with our friends from Heatree Activity Centre – a thoroughly enjoyable if somewhat wet and muddy experience! The following day we set them a Letterboxing Challenge on Corndon Tor. The week was hung on the theme of Searching – what for? Please pray that the lads will have been challenged and made good choices.

Plans afoot?

We have been very busy developing an ever growing team to bring the vision for the farm to fruition. The vision is for the work of Elizabeth and Rosemary to continue and grow into other areas of deprivation through the development of residential facilities at the farm. The guests currently stay at Bellever Youth Hostel as we cannot accommodate the numbers in the farmhouse. Development plans include learning facilities, safe handling farm stock pens, clear recreational areas and efficient wet weather facilities.

To generate the income that we so desperately need there will be the opportunity to host school groups of 30 to 35 children for week long school visits during school terms, in between the visits by Providence House. The intention is to continue to develop East Shallowford as a small mixed farm suitable for such visits by children.

Our immediate available funds are finite. Therefore we are seeking to secure funding beyond our own capital resources to support the costs of development, subsidise the residential visits from south London and so make a difference to young people's lives.



Looking to Christmas

Although we do not plan to deliver a Christmas Nativity this year (probably next year!) we will be welcoming a group from Providence House over the weekend of the 12th – 14th December. We will be parcelling up gifts for the Asylum Seekers, of all ages, in Plymouth. Please come to the Carol Service at Dunstone Chapel on the 14th at 3pm and if possible bring a wrapped gift (labelled with the age group it is appropriate for!). As we plan their activities please pray that we will be able to share with them the real meaning of Christmas, about the gift that is theirs to accept and that Jesus may become a true friend of theirs this Christmas.

As we would like to use the funds that we have raised for the benefit of the groups that come to visit, we will not be sending Christmas Cards out to you all this Christmas. Therefore please accept this message as our prayer that you will have a blessed time this Christmas celebrating the gift that is Jesus and a thank you for everything that you have done to support Shallowford over the last year. May God bless you richly in 2015.

FUTURE DATES

14th - 16th Nov
Work Party
Group

25th Nov
Prayer
meeting
please do come
and join us

12th - 14th Dec
Christmas
celebration
with
Providence
group

14th December
Carol Service
at Dunstone
Chapel,
just outside
Widcombe, do
come and join us
if you can

