

WESTPOINT 2019 Feedback

Westpoint, newly renamed Connect Festival for 2020, just gets better and better every year, and 2019 was no exception - I had a truly wonderful time away with our church family.

For me, I went to Westpoint with an expectation that God would speak into my life and boy, did he!

The meetings are structured similar to a usual church service and we were blessed with worship and teaching that just had new depths. The focus for the weekend was 'the Awe and Wonder of God' and I genuinely felt like my eyes were opened to a fresh understanding of how big, how loving and how awesome our God is!

The choice of seminar topics available were positively annoying to choose between. The two on the Holy Spirit were outstanding and I can't wait to download the rest.



I really enjoy the community that being away with the church brings. The freedom to catch up over lazy afternoons or late evenings with different people, eating cake, playing games, sharing meals together, laughing together, a trip to the beach, did I mention eating cake - there was so much!- just unwinding. I loved this time with the family, feeling closer connected and energised for the season ahead.

We are really looking forward to what God is going to do over this coming year and especially to Connect Festival 2020 - I hope you can join us. TC

We had a truly wonderful time together, worshipping God and being fed by His word. The weather was just what we needed to enjoy the camping!

I'd like to add in, that I am not a fan of camping generally but I will do so only for church camp because I loved being with the church family. I loved waking up and having my first cup of tea and seeing different people to have a chat with. I even enjoyed going to the toilets together last thing at night as a gang to use the toilet and brush our teeth!

I had so many plans to do all the different activities laid on such as Pilates and Boxcercise but actually I realised how much I need and enjoy the fellowship with my church family. Especially getting to know other members of the family I haven't spent time with before.

We even made friends with the church next door to us and a few of us enjoyed a quiz night in their marquee on the last night. There was a lot of joy and laughter this weekend. I came home from the trip buzzing! What a blessing our church family is. We are already booked in for next year! LM



I loved Westpoint this year because it was good for body and soul.

Body: You can't beat the smell of bacon wafting across the campsite - or indeed a bacon sandwich in your hand for breakfast (no offence intended to the non-eating bacon eating people in our community). And somehow cake, crisps, or indeed anything tastes better sitting outside 'after hours' relaxing and laughing with friends. I even tried the park run one morning to offset the above - it was fun to laugh, run, (and in due course gasp and stagger) with other runners.

It was great to hang and out, chat and laugh with dear friends and others you don't know so well - as well as catch up with some familiar faces from our wider Commission family. I even came back with a bit of a tan this year!



Soul: The teaching was so good you get a bit spoiled by day 3. My standout memory was Andrew Wilson explaining how it's not about who we are, but who we have with us (Christ) that makes the difference in life with a brilliant illustration from the children's story the Gruffalo.

Worshipping in a big crowd and being led by an equally big band of talented and thoughtful worship leaders is always a treat.

And those moments that catch you unawares in a meeting, in a tent, on the campsite, in the shower when God quietly whispers in your ear

"Hey, it's me. What do you think about this...?" PC

There were so many highlights it's hard to choose. One of my best bits was right at the end of the weekend on the last night there was a worship party and lots of confetti came down. I loved dancing in it as it came down all over me! RC

Serving in the Ark this year was a wonderful experience, seeing God working in the lives of so many children was incredible. A particular highlight was worshipping with two brothers, who have previously not engaged in worship, singing at the top of their lungs, jumping to the music, glorifying God with enthusiasm and joy! HC

One of my highlights from Westpoint 2019 was being invited to join the church on the site next to ours for a quiz. We were so warmly welcomed by them and had such a laugh. It was great getting to know such lovely people from our wider Commission family! EC

I enjoyed the after hours activities, particularly the comedian and the barn dance. Also just being able to socialise with people who I don't often get time to talk to on Sundays. LE



At Westpoint I loved...

Being with our church family; such a feeling of love and unity. Chatting, eating, drinking, praying, laughing together. Seeing different combinations of people talking with one another and seeing people in a new light.

Bumping into new friends and 'old' from other churches - it was real Commission family!

Worshipping! Great music, great songs, great freedom! There were lots of 'WOW' moments in worship, prophesy and ministry and it was so amazing being with thousands of people all gathered for one purpose - to worship and grow in our Awesome and Wonderful God!

Learning - the teaching was quality! Each session coming away having learnt something new or thought about God in a new or deeper way.

The weather - how blessed were we! Not too cold, not too hot... and DRY!! JC



I found the experience of being in the Westpoint team really rewarding driving down in convoy, breaking for lunch at Robin's favourite cafe, setting up the marquee, problem solving the fridge, the lights etc. it all added to a great time.

I loved the sense of church family and the willingness for everyone to support each other.

The worship was great: 3000 voices worshipping God in one place adds to it. The teaching was very good: I could have listened to Andrew Wilson and Andy McCullough all day.

I felt spiritually touched by the seminar by David Bennett - Love and Witness: Loving the LGBTQI+ community. It was one of those moments when you have been seeking the Lord on something and God speaks to you very clearly and it's a "Thank you Lord I have got so much better understanding!" moment.

The quiz with our neighbours was probably one of the biggest laughter moments I've had in a long time! We had great weather, plus I had the added bonus of sharing our time with my parents. So, all in all a great time. MM

I enjoyed being able to sit under the stars with my family and friends, having fun and laughter together. Amazing times of worship, being able to worship with thousands of other Christians is a unique experience. Being able to spend quality relaxed time with our church family, building on relationships and getting to know each other better. BS



We have a loving God who cares so much about each and every one of us. Here is a testimony from one of the ladies from our church who attended and has seen God move in her life in such a few days:

The Tuesday before Westpoint a broken, hopeless, alcohol dependant and deeply sad Jules had all but given up. She lives in one of the worst areas of Newcastle for street crime, alcoholism and drug use and dealing. She's afraid to go out in her community so just sits at home drinking. Things were really bad and she even said, "if I hadn't paid for Westpoint I wouldn't be going!"



On the journey to Westpoint Jules suddenly said, "I don't know who I am anymore - I'm not allowed to be gay."

So, what did God do for this beautiful but broken soul at Westpoint?

- *Westpoint captivated Jules from the moment we arrived.*
- *Everyone on the Jubilee site loved her and made her welcome.*
- *She wanted to go to seminars and each one touched her in some way.*
- *First evening she knocked on my door and gave me a can of cider to throw away - it was a strictly cola weekend.*
- *Jules saw there was an LGBT seminar! She didn't think she should go but precious Jubilee brothers and sisters were going and invited her along and it was a turning point like no other. She realised God made her and loves her no matter what. She chooses to live a life pleasing to God but she could finally say, out loud, "I'm gay!"*
- *On the last night we prayed that Jules would sing in tongues and she began to sing - in tongues!*
- *She noticed her old flat, in a nice part of the city, was on the letting market again but more expensive. She prayed asking God if this was something she could do. Words from a song came into her mind: "I can make a way where there is no way!" She spoke to her coach at Christians Against Poverty who said they would help and now the landlord has accepted her as a tenant!*

Thank you, LORD! Thank you, Holy Spirit, for filling and mending Jules's beautiful heart!
Thank you, God that you answer prayers! RM



We would love you to join us at Connect Festival 2020!

When? 27 - 31 August 2020

Where? The Royal Bath & West Showground

How do I find out more?

www.commission-together.org/connectfestival

Or contact us: info@jubileechurchshepperton.org