



Upcott is a Christian charity committed to providing an environment where young people can experience the fullness of Jesus in their lives.



Residential Weeks

During the school holidays we run a variety of Upcott Weeks for young people between the ages of 8 and 25. During each week there will be a mixture of Bible teaching, worship and prayer as well as fun games, swimming, sports, arts, etc. The weeks are deliberately small (an average group size is 20) to enable relationships that are open, deep and long lasting. Our hope is that every young person that passes through Upcott will leave with a deeper friendship with Jesus and the people they spent time with on the week.



Gap Year

Our gap year is called eXcellent Life (XL) and it's an opportunity to live and serve with the Upcott team and other volunteers. Sharing life is costly but we believe it is an essential part of our relationship with Jesus. XL is not about opting out of normal life – we make no apologies for the work centred approach; we believe it provides a great environment for getting to know God better.

Mission Partner of the Month October 2017

50th Anniversary

You might not know but Upcott will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next year so here is a brief account of how it all began.

Eileen Bell (Nee Spiller) and Jeannie Rookley met at Romsey House Bible College in Cambridge in 1967. After only one term there, their friendship developed to the point where they were praying together for “a little cottage by the sea in the West Country where we can invite people to stay and tell them about Jesus”.

Meanwhile, a young Christian solicitor by the name of John Perowne had just bought a house in Seaton, Devon, which he wanted to be used for the Lord's work. Jeannie and Eileen met with him and he agreed they could move in. So with great excitement and faith (and very little else) they moved into Upcott on 8th September 1968 and in 1969 they hosted their first children's week.



Around the turn of the Millennium there began to be some concerns about the fact that the road in front of Upcott was dangerously close to the edge of the eroding cliff. So in 2007 the Trust relocated to The Beacon in Minehead, Somerset where Upcott continues to outwork the original vision, especially among young people.



The people who have been involved with Upcott over the years is probably well into thousands, and many of those who came as children themselves in the 1980s now send their children on Upcott Weeks.

This year we have had a wonderful time with the young people who came. It is always a privilege to partner with the Holy Spirit and watch Him transform lives.

The themes this summer were taken from the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, and provided plenty of challenge for those who were with us. One theme dominated all others and that was the reality of learning to walk with the Holy Spirit in each moment of each day. On many of the weeks the inspiration for this came from the classic "Practising the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence. We love young people and their enthusiasm for the things of God. The depth and reality of the discussions, and their openness to the Holy Spirit is always a joy to observe.

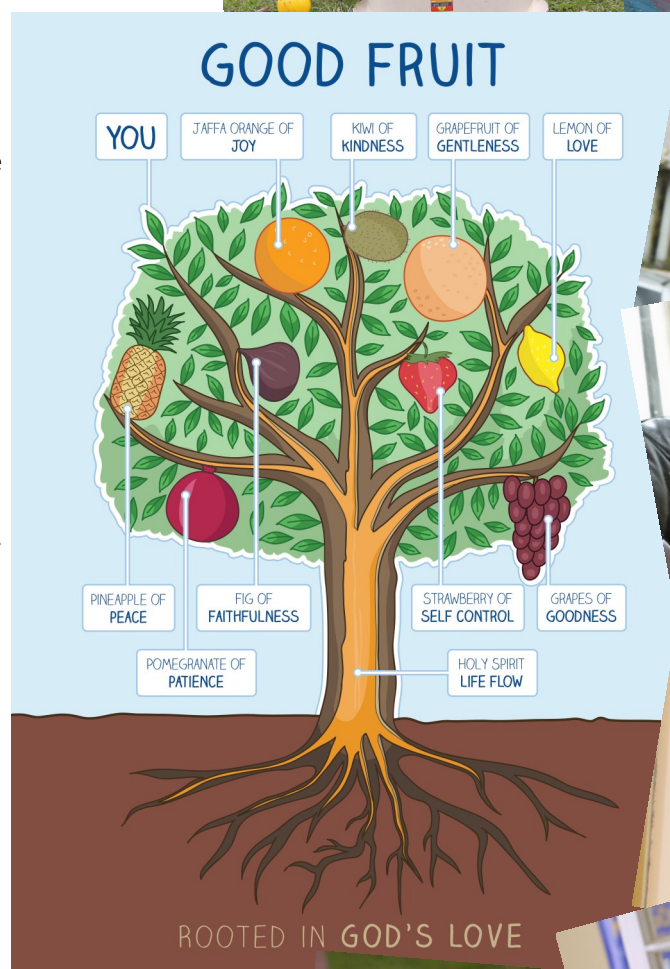
Future Plans

As we look forward we are wanting to extend our ministry beyond the weeks when people are with us. This Autumn we are hoping to trial some online discipling with some of the oldest young people (16+) and extend our use and range of online materials.

We are already receiving applications for XL (our gap year programme) for 2018/19. This is looking to be a particularly exciting time to come for a year at The Beacon, as we partner with a local church plant.

It's a time for thanks and reflection, as we celebrate fifty years of God's blessing on what He started with Jeannie and Eileen all those years ago in Romsey House, Cambridge.

It is also a time for reflecting and asking "What next"? We would love for you to be praying for us as we seek His heart for the next phase of the ministry.



Prayer Pointers

- For the young people who came in the summer, that their relationship with Jesus would continue to develop
- For God's provision during the coming year
- For the preparations for celebrating the 50th anniversary
- For wisdom as we seek God's will for the future

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