

SJK Mission Trip – Kenya 2017



Prkea salamu kutoka Kenya, this means greetings from Kenya in Kiswahili, some of the team are having fun learning some new words and phrases. The team from St Johns Knutsford arrived at St Julian's centre very early on Sunday morning, we were greeted with a very warm welcome and an excellent breakfast. After a couple of hours much needed sleep we started to familiarise ourselves with the place we will call home for the next few days. The excitement has begun, and we were now prepared for a week of teaching and learning.



Group photo of all the course delegates along with their spouses and friends as well as the team from St Johns Knutsford. Photo credit to Sarah Nixon - SJK

The week was split into two distinctive areas, there were eleven delegates on the Lay readers course and the other course was for spouses and friends of the Lay Readers. Everyone started to arrive on Monday and we have to thank God for the safe arrival of all the attendees, some of whom had very long journeys.



The Lay readers would embark on how to deliver a Christianity Explored course led by Richard Reeve, Associate minister of St Johns Knutsford (Pictured Left). The delegates took part in several studies finishing off the week by doing a practise session with their fellow Lay Readers.

As well as the CE course the delegates were taken through the book of Psalms, this was led by Day Young the associate minister of St Johns Toft. Here Dan showed us how to preach from Psalms and to look for the distinctive patterns in which Psalms points to Jesus Christ.

The spouses and friends joined together to initially look at a bible over view, then dig a little deeper into the bible by learning how to do an inductive Bible Study and then looking at Ephesians. Most of the week was led by Debbie Woods with valuable contributions from Beki, Sarah and Myles.

Bill and Elaine Tamkin took us through a course on Marriage asking the questioning why do we get married, the second part of which was a joint session with spouses joining the Lay Readers.

The week ended with Jonathon Mayer and Debbie Woods showing effective ways to teach the bible to children.



Right: Group photo of all the spouses & friends as well as the team from St Johns Knutsford.

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Every morning we start with a healthy breakfast at 07:30, this is a great time to practise Kiswahili and get to know each other a little better. After breakfast we have a joint session of Worship and devotion, this is an excellent 30 minutes of prayerful signing with devotional talks from Acts. We then split and go to our respective groups. At 10:30 each day we break for tea and snacks were once again we can enjoy each others company in the temperate Kenyan weather.



Top: Typical L'abris Lunch outdoor eating

The food at the centre has been excellent we are all eating very healthy meals everyday. We meet for food four times a day and the team have been very adventurous and have tried all the local cuisine. When we meet for food we are all together and this is a wonderful time to socialise and at lunch time we have what is known as L'abris model. This is a time when we all sit together and discuss important questions that have been raised during the course of the learning sessions. These have been very good discussions with lots of people participating.

We have a leisure time every day and the team have introduced the game 4 square to the people in Kenya. It has gone down very well with quite a number of the Lay readers and friends. We also play football everyday and have been for long walks to look at the local farming areas and vegetable plots. The fine Kenyan weather prompted an exciting game of volleyball in a nearby field, it was highly competitive and everyone was glad when it ended in a draw! Everyone had exceptional fun.



Top: The team from St Johns Knutsford showing everyone how to play 4 square.

Prayer Points

Give thanks for:

- The team arriving safe and well to St Julian's Centre.
- The welcome the team has received at St Julian's.
- The safe arrival of all the course participants and their spouses and friends.
- That all the course leaders have been well and have been able to keep going at a high pace rate.
- The wonderful awe inspiring testimonies that we have heard from our Kenyan brothers and sisters.

Prayer for:

- The course participants that they leave St Julian's and continue with their studies.
- Safe travel for all as they journey home and for the team as they journey to St Anna's.
- Continued good health and good rest for the team.
- Wanyeki and Mary as they prepare to start a new course in October.
- St Julian's centre and their staff that it can continue their good work.