

The 2019 FFWPU United Kingdom's Children's Summer Camp at Cleeve House

Richard Raineri
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This year, the motto of the camp was "Home Is Where Your Heart Is". The children learned about the true meaning of home and family, while spending time in the lovely and spacious Cleeve House. They were put into three "houses": the Brick Layers, the Glass Glaziers and the Lumberjacks. Each house had a junior and senior team, with older team leaders acting as brothers and sisters to each team. The children were encouraged to go the extra mile with a points system: the house with the most points by graduation would win!



The camp was filled with a variety of exciting daily activities. This included sports sessions after waking up, in the morning and afternoon, led by Achan Mould and assisted by Ilmi Baklanov. As well as team-based games in the garden and woods of Cleeve House, such as Capture the Flag and Four Corners, there

were house competitions, such as creating chants and building wooden dens. There were also daily study sessions in which the children learned about virtues through Bible stories and interactive activities. Chris Le Bas led the seniors and Mulumba led the juniors.

Each day's special activities were shaped by different daily themes, starting with memorable morning inspirations led by staff members. On the first day, to welcome the children to Summer Camp, they were told, "Consider Yourself at Home", and took part in Games Night, involving dancing and a special game in the forest.



The next day, the motto was "Fixing that Leaky Roof", meaning taking responsibility to solve difficulties, learning from how Joseph and David dealt with misfortune and the trials of the Prodigal Son. In the evening, they had Roots Night: a presentation from Carlo, Barbara and Miriam about the history of Cleeve House, with lots of pictures, before heading out to a campfire for songs and prayer (and marshmallows).

The third day was "A Grand Day Out", where the children left Cleeve House to visit the Avebury stones and manor house, where they were able to dress up in period costumes and get a taste of being at home in Tudor times. Upon returning, they took

part in a water fight in the pool and watched 'Wall-E' for Film Night.

On the last full day, they learned about "Making Your House a Home for God", concluding with the need for family and prayer so that they can always feel "at home". It was a day of lots of creativity: building their own little shoebox homes and performing skits within their houses for Family Night. Extra points were given for individual performances!

On the final morning, they thought about the camp motto – "Home Is Where Your Heart Is". To test how much they learned in study sessions, they had a quiz. At last, they were ready to graduate, joined by parents, at which time it was revealed that the Glass Glaziers had won the most points over the camp!



Here are some reflections from participants:

"I loved designing and creating my shoebox house. It was a chance to think about what my dream house would look like"

Summer Camp Participant

We are all very excited to see the children return, alongside any newcomers, in summer 2020!

From Richard Raineri on behalf of the Summer Camp Staff Team.

P.S. See our [FFWPU UK Childrens' Summer Camp Facebook](#) page for lots of wonderful photos of the Summer Camp taken by Alicia Le Bas and other staff members.