

Greetings!

You've noticed that the weather has changed and the British people amongst you are complaining about the heat and being caught in torrential rain whilst wearing flipflops and shorts. Of course I'm referring to the lovely British summer time. The work has been the same amount, but it gets increasingly hard when everybody is defeated by the heat. However, it means that youth work becomes easier. Twice this term we've been outside fully engaged in water fights and various running around games!

The summer term, also known as the winding down term, has been any thing but slow. My non-Youth work duties involved organising a conference, doing admin for a Holiday club (technically Children's work) and going into Schools in the area to do lessons. The conference was a massive success, and I have to spend some of this update thanking God for the amazing opportunities this year has given me. Never before have I been so calm about being so stressed! My children's work experience has inevitably increased as I took on the entire admin job for Lovely Jubbly, the summer half term Holiday Club. From that I find myself in 4 schools in the area doing lessons about bullying. In this I play a bully and my victim is a boy. Not necessarily true to life, but a teaching aid all the same. It's always amazing to be a witness in school without being overtly Christian.

Youth work has been a challenge this term. It's really hard to keep events going with hardly anyone, young people or leaders, around. The motivation has gone out of a few things. The main youth worker in Porth (a town in the Rhondda Valley) stepped down from his job to make way for a lady who is just out of a teaching degree. Relationships have to start and trust needs to be built. It'll be really sad to say goodbye to the young people there, they have been fantastic to me and Ruth. Other work has been with the young people from the church mainly. I'm now informally mentoring a young girl, pray that as I move away, my place will be filled with someone who can continue to mentor her.

I have also taken part in a weekend away. I was on the teaching team for the 11-14's. We had a great time, and one of my life time ambitions was fulfilled – I got to drive a Transit Van! Next up is a mini-bus full of actual people! God has been really great to the youth work this year and I'm looking forward to the final few weeks.

The year overall has been great. I've had some up times. One of them was graduating from the Connect course on 1st July. I've also had so down times. My Granddad and Rob Lacey dying within a month of each other caused massive struggles not only for my family, but for the church family here at Glenwood.

I'd like to thank all of you who have supported me through prayer and money. You have been a great help throughout this year, you've paid for over three quarters of my gap year! I am honestly astounded by the amount of support I've had this year. And some how I hope I've put that back into Glenwood and the people of Cardiff.

As the summer holidays begin I have been surprised and amazed to find that yet again things are falling into place. I now have a car and a house to live in for at least 6 months. I've definitely found a lot of positives in heading back to Luton for the foreseeable future. Please pray that I will have a safe and efficient move in August and that my relationships with the church and the young people will grow naturally.

I guess I'd better end with a bit from the Bible:
"GOD bless you and keep you,
GOD smile on you and gift you,
GOD look you full in the face and make you prosper"
Numbers 6v22-24

Karen
xxx