ANNUAL REPORT 2023 REATION EEST



Celebrating the good news of the God who loves us.

A note from our Event Lead Paul Worth:

It's the time of year again when we send out our annual report and here it is!

What an amazing year we've had and we're so excited to share it all with you.

Creation Fest 2023 was a celebration of music, faith, prayer, and family made possible through the tremendous generosity of churches, organisations, and individuals. Over four days, our morning teachings explored the themes of Rhythms of Faith through Creation, Scripture, Prayer, Mission, Community, Rest, and Resilience with teachings from world-class Bible communicators alongside creative worship, arts, dance, skate, and feasting.

Here's a glimpse of what to expect in this report, this year we saw:

539 volunteers join us from around the world.

366 donations from day visitors (and almost 4000 people who attended at no charge)

38 new regular, recurring givers to Creation Fest

Over 1000 significant, tangible salvation, healing, and Gospel responses

As you read through, I pray you'll be encouraged by some of the beautiful testimonies, stirred to pray as you see the areas of need and filled with joy as we celebrate the fruit of what God is doing in and through Creation Fest.



Toin as as we explore the ripples of faith in...



LEGACY BAPTISM FAMILLES LOVE PRESENCE WORSHUP 6 ENERATIONS PARTNERSHIP PRODUCTION ADVENTURE CORNWALL ART GATHERING BAPTISM FAMILY OF GOD MENTAL HEALTH



We care more about relationships than numbers and faith than facts, but it's helpful to know...

11,000+ 539

12

103

Across the Site

Volunteers

Baptised

Bands and Speakers

1000+

41

62

234

Prayers and People Prayed for in the Prayer Tent Exhibitors

Families Venue First Time Faith Decisions Skaters

676

Creation Fest Pizzas served 2586

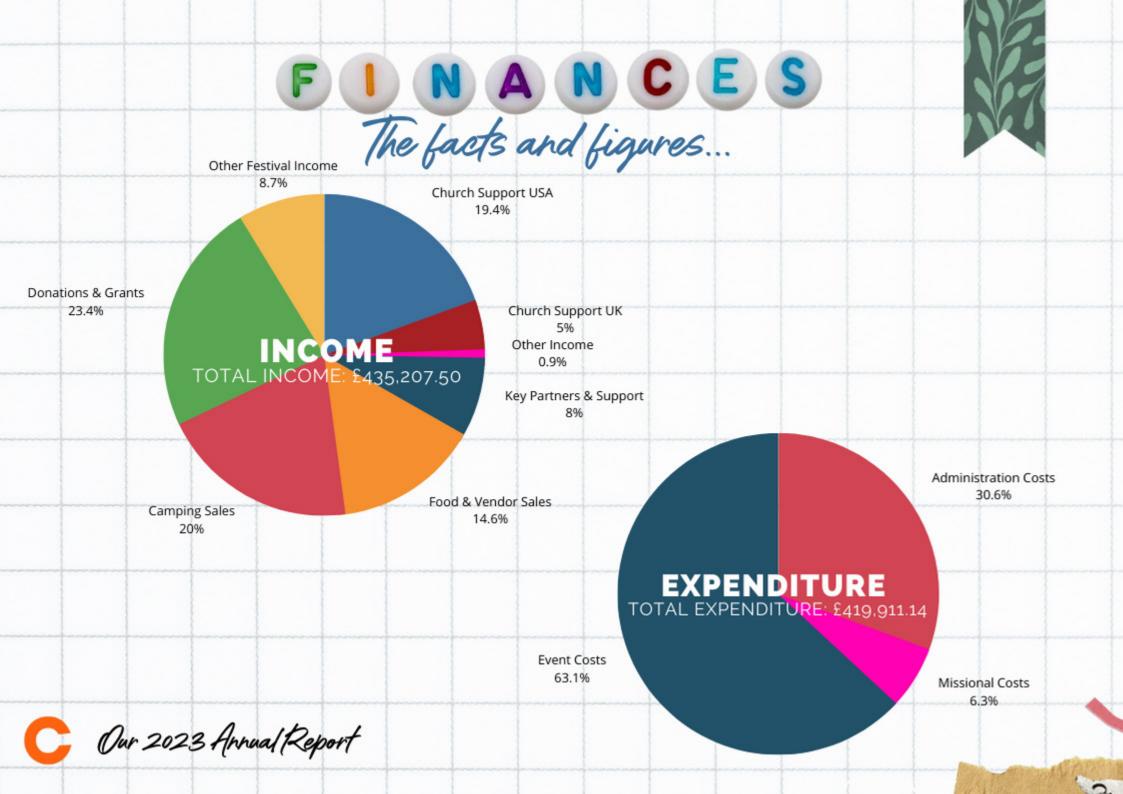
Hot drinks drunk from the Creation Fest cafe **573**

Pasties eaten

68

Faith Decisions in our Youth Village







The legacy of Creation Fest is sprinkled with stories; the teenager who met Jesus in a skate park and became a youth pastor, the university student who volunteered for a day, a week, a year, the Californian who relocated to Cornwall with a calling to the coastlines.

Between these stories, over the past 22 years, the legacy has been a long story of faith, invitation, presence, good news. I leaned back at our most recent Glow gathering, watching almost 200 young people enter into worship. One of the worship leaders was 18 years old when I first met her, leading worship with a group of four in a quiet office. Another worship leader was 13 when I first met him, a skater in Launceston, sharing faith every week with a group of his friends. Our sound engineer that night met Jesus at Creation Fest as a young person. Of our 30 volunteers, at least 10 had been part of Creation Fest gatherings since their teenage years, have grown up in faith and are now giving it away.

The beauty of our legacy is the way it has been unplanned and unforced. I am still astounded by grace. Every year, I finish the festival with a mix of emotions. I am exhausted. Joyful. Aware of all the weights and curveballs. Wondering. Again, exhausted. I find it more challenging than usual to find the words for this year. We lived through a hurricane and it stole my sentences. But summer of 2023 can be found for me in one simple, striking image of legacy:

The founder of Creation Fest was an apostolic, forceful leader named Phil Pechonis. After a terminal diagnosis of cancer, he went home to Jesus in 2014. I stayed in Cornwall unexpectedly after his passing, inherited Creation Fest in all her tangles and glory. And this summer, spontaneously, his son, Alex Pechonis, asked if I would baptise him. I battled the tears to say 'yes'. On Sunday, alongside Creation Fest co-founder (and my pastor) Brian Brodersen, I baptised Alex, who is now a man, publicly choosing faith in Christ.

It is worth it for one. It is worth it for this.



B A P T I S M Alex Pechonis

For a long time I've known I wanted to be baptised; the timing had just never felt quite right. I couldn't put my finger on what I needed it to look like, I just felt like I would know. I wasn't planning on coming to Creation Fest originally – it seems like nothing had lined up for it to work out. I had no time off work, no way of travelling there and no burning desire to go after having attended 17 different years throughout my life. That was until three days before – someone told me they felt like I needed to be there. I wasn't sure why they felt God was telling them this and why this year would be different to any other, but I felt like the least I could do was pray about it and ask God if this was how He really felt. Per usual, I was wrong. God made it abundantly clear to me I had to be there. This was the place I was going to be baptised and it would be a life-changing experience for me. Even though I still had the other issues of work and transportation, God gave

me such peace about it. I had no doubt in my mind I was going to be there for the festival.

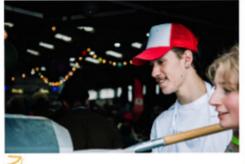
I knew that if I was going to be baptised by someone, who else would it be than Sarah Yardley, someone who has been such

a figure I love and have looked up to my entire life! And if I were to choose a location in which to be baptised, where else would I choose than a place I practically spent half my childhood, surrounded by people who live to serve God! Since I knew the who and when, all of the other earthly things were irrelevant to me; this is about a choice between me and God.

On the day of the baptism I made the choice to stop living for myself and start living for God. I decided I wanted to be unabashed with my faith. I felt guilty that I wasn't always as public as I wanted about my beliefs, and that's something I knew I needed to change. The only way I could do that is through asking God for help, so that's what I did. The feeling of coming up from the surface of the water, feeling like a new person, is unlike anything else. It was such a crucial milestone in my walk with God. I'm so blessed I was able to share it with so many people I love and care for, in an environment that holds such a special place in my heart.

Alex being baptised this summer at Creation Fest











In summer 2009, me and my husband set up our tent at the Royal Cornwall Showground for the very first time and I got ready to perform on the Creation Fest Main Stage.

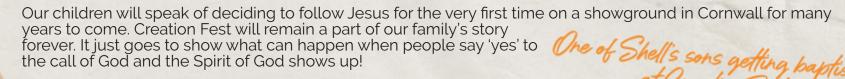
Creation Fest was somehow different to all of the other festivals we had been involved in. There was a real sense of 'family' at the core and that's what, to this day, caused us to become 'part of the Creation Fest furniture'.

Over the years, I have performed on and hosted Main Stage, been the resident artist in the kids' tent, sat on the Board of Reference and, most recently, had the privilege of leading the Families Programme. Each year presents us with moments of joy, wonder, blessing, personal revelation and untamed beauty (amongst, of course, the usual challenges and adversities of any big event!).

However, the thing that I will always be incredibly thankful for is the space and opportunity Creation Fest has provided for my family to come to know Jesus.

Tim and I have four sons. They have all attended Creation Fest since being in the womb! It has become the highlight of their year and not going is never an option for them. As a parent, seeing your children grow in faith, connect with others and encounter Jesus is an absolute joy – and then to witness them make a decision to follow Jesus and give their lives to Him is pure delight! All four of our sons have made that decision at Creation Fest over the years. We have bought them their first 'proper' bibles at Creation Fest. They have artistic pieces of Scripture hanging on their bedroom walls, bought at Creation Fest!

Team Perris have an ever-growing bank of memories and significant moments that were created at Creation Fest, not to mention the friendships we've made along the way... And the most amazing thing is that we know we are just one of many, many families whose lives and faith adventures have been impacted by God through Creation Fest.



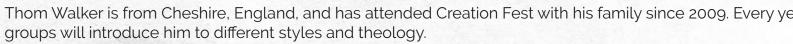
Say hi to Shell!





Say hi to the Walker Family





As a teen making the trek each summer to Cornwall from Cheshire, Thom was in awe of the festival's passic of faith wholeheartedly. He will always be grateful to Creation Fest for this. Bonus: it's where h

Thom drumming on the Nicolette Walker was born and raised in Orange County, C Main Stage in 2022 she loves the relationships she's made and continues to grow. Nicolette Walker was born and raised in Orange County, California, and has led team

As a young woman growing in her faith, Nicolette was blown away after seeing how people from

Thom and Nicolette say:

"Now married and living in the same country, we work together to bring teams over from California to serve that has meant so much to us spiritually, relationally, and personally!

Creation Fest has been a faith-builder for us in so many ways. It has rippled out from the stages at the show young, and more seasoned, -- adults who have chosen to dedicate two weeks out of their summer and tho

We have seen Creation Fest strengthen the faith of so many, including:

- The young person doubting as to whether God was real and, after hearing the thousands worshipping in one unifie
- Older couples whose marriages were strengthened after they joined the prayer team and saw miracles happen ar
- The teen who heard thought-provoking and theologically rich teaching and found themselves going back home a and feet of the God who has called them.

Eve Walker (Thom and Nicolette's seeing families, over a hot chocolate in the café, discipling kids who have never heard the r daughter) rocking the Clogo bearie. The ripples of faith are only getting stronger and broader."







ear, he can't wait to see which artists he'll see again that have formed his view of worship since he was a teenager, and which new

nate worship and applicable Bible teaching. This eventually led to his total conversion and desire to pursue Jesus and a life e met his wife!

s from America to Creation Fest since 2013, where she met her husband, Thom! It's been the highlight of her year for 10 years, and

m all walks of life, from different denominations, took time from their work and families to worship and serve Jesus in unity.

at Creation Fest. It has been our greatest joy to share this place and event with others, especially one

ground and out in personal conversations into our own lives. Still, from there, it's spilled into the

usands of dollars to serve others.

ed voice, went home with a more profound understanding of who God is.

nd others' faiths built.

and asking how they can know Jesus better and be the hands

days at the Royal Cornwall Showground each year. We on-one conversations outside the toilet blocks, and ame 'Jesus'.



PRESENCE Lacy Crimble

We came to Creation Fest not knowing what to expect. The Well is a very young ministry. 'Ministry' is perhaps even an overstatement – let's call it a group of friends who are hungry to make space for God, make space to listen, make space to use our giftings in music, preaching, poetry and art to glorify Jesus. To date, we've gathered around four times on a farm outside of Oxford and these gatherings have been small, intimate, profound and meaningful.

By the kind invitation of our dear friend Sarah Yardley, we were invited to bring The Well to Creation Fest to host four days of worship and prayer from morning to night. A huge step up for our small team but one we felt a huge 'yes' over in the Spirit.

In spite of our marquee venue literally blowing away in a storm and having to then move venues twice(!) what followed was deeply moving not only for The Well team but I believe for all of the 24 worship leaders who kindly honoured us with their time, and also for the people who came along to participate in the worship. Some people arrived from when we opened the doors in the morning, and stayed until we closed at 11pm. One man joyfully described being drowned in the ocean of God's presence at The Well. There were moments of unashamed, wild, abandoned worship, and moments of reverent silence. We tried not to have an agenda besides creating space and freedom for the Spirit to move and for us to be obedient to what we felt God was doing. I believe that hunger was birthed, and stoked, and earnestly longed for. I for one can testify to that!

And that hunger was so faithfully met by encounters with God. The ripple effects are beautiful. A pastor from America, inspired to start worship nights for young people at his church. A home church in north Devon, prompted to begin their own regular worship gathering. A worship leader who started their set with no confidence, unsure if they could make it through a full hour, who went on to move in great authority, dig in, and was still singing an hour and a half later – they left hugely encouraged and more assured in the gift God has given them.

When the Spirit moves, there are always ripple effects. And when we make space for the Spirit,

He always moves! The Well isn't particularly special, but I believe our obedience combined with God's faithfulness and desire to meet with us created something truly special. I for one found a deeper level of hunger within myself than I've experienced for years. My passion for Jesus was so stirred and my commitment to following Him felt stronger than ever after a glorious week at Creation Fest.





Some of The Well Team





Back in 2014 I was an 18 year old trying to decide where my life would go. I had a passion for music but didn't know how to develop it or how I could purposefully use my gift for the Lord.

Then one day some friends of mine who ran a youth ministry and shared an office with Creation Fest invited me to lead worship at one of their joint prayer mornings. What I didn't know was that this was the start of a ripple that would slowly get bigger and lead me on many adventures.

Over the next few years, I started to use the gift of worship I had been given more and more. I came to understand what worship was all about, and how an act so small could lead us directly into the presence of our Saviour; this thought still blows my mind every time I think about it.

Moving forward to 2022, God had opened a door for my husband and me to volunteer two days a week with Creation Fest. We didn't know what God wanted us to do when we took that step, but He opened the door and we wanted to be obedient to His calling. Since then, I have been so blessed in so many ways to be able to use my gift of music to serve people in connection to Creation Fest. One of those ways that has had a deep impact has been through a youth event that we run called Glow.

Glow is a quarterly youth event where we gather young people from around Cornwall to a church in Redruth to worship, pray, grow, and meet with the presence of God. This last Glow on 1 October, I had the privilege of leading worship with a group of friends who I'd mostly met through Creation Fest. One thing we are passionate about is leading young people into a place where they feel truly free to worship, and part of me felt a slight pressure because what if that was the night where no one wanted to worship, or I didn't have the right songs picked? But more than pressure I felt an overwhelming amount of joy and excitement to see what the Lord wanted to do.

At Glow over the last year, we have seen young people start to engage with worship, but it's usually only by the last song that we've seen them fully engage. This time, however, from the very first song they were ready to worship. Some of our volunteers even commented on how loudly they were singing. In this moment I realised that it doesn't matter if I think I am prepared enough or if the youth even want to worship, it's about what God wants to do.

Thinking back to 2014 when I lead that first prayer morning, I had no idea that God would one day bring me to a place of leading 150 young people from around Cornwall. Throughout it all God knows what He is doing. I pray that the worship from Glow and the worship

from every prayer morning we have would ripple throughout Cornwall and the UK in a way I could never imagine.



GENERATIONS Reuber Smith

When I think of reports of ripples of faith, I cannot help but think of the generational impact that Creation Fest has had on my family.

Creation Fest was actually where I committed my life to Christ. I was 4 years old and in the kids' tent. I responded to the gospel and decided that I wanted to follow Jesus for myself. Yes, I was very young and this was only the start of the journey, but I believe that decision at Creation Fest had both physical and spiritual implications!

I've been attending the festival with my family ever since (I'm now 21). To then have such an exciting moment happen this year at the festival...

When I went over to see my family, I was speaking to my 3-year-old brother and asked him what he had done today and he replied 'I

Reuben sharing this story on

I believe this is the start of an incredible journey for my little brother, yes, this decision alone won't be the thing to continue his walk for the rest of his life. But as it was for me. I believe it has significant entitled to physical implications.

Creation Fest will always have a space in my heart. It is never just a four-day summer event, for the ripples from the festival will never see an end. I am now currently a young adults pastor for a church plant we launched nine months ago in Newton Abbot. And I believe this is still only the beginning of the adventures I have ahead with God. Creation Fest has been significant in my life, both at 4 years old and every year in between, and I cannot wait to see what more things will likely ahead in the years to come.



PARTNERSHIP Tonny Lewis and Nigellangford



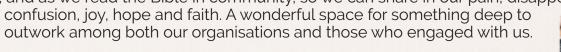
home for good

'Changing the conversation' is one of our key missional values at Bible Society, and for us, Creation Fest 23 cultivated fertile ground for fruitfulness. Launching new discipleship and Bible discovery resources is always an act of faith, hoping and praying that it inspires and equips others to grow in Bible confidence. The ripple of faith we have experienced following the showcase of The Romans Course at Creation Fest this year has reminded us of the great importance of gathering together as one, learning from God's transformational Word, and then being sent back out in mission to the corners of this land (and beyond) that God calls home for each of us.

Hearing stories of communities setting out with a renewed commitment to read God's Word and share it with a heart to transform fills us with joy, praise and thankfulness. The strength of the ripple analogy helps us see that, in fact, the great big 'ripple event' of Creation Fest is only effective when the small ripples, the faith-filled acts of humility and service, continue the waves of change all year round.

One such continuation has been Glow. It has been a delight to advance our partnership with Creation Fest to serve local young people throughout the year with 'beacon' events in Cornwall, fostering a culture of being connected to God's big family and giving young people the opportunity not only to receive, but to lead. We believe that vital mission partnership is really the only way we will seek His kingdom come and we believe wholeheartedly that revival often starts with the outrageous boldness of young people. We feel that the opportunity to support Matt, Kerri and the team all year round in this ministry is a privilege and a joy.

We had a fruitful time partnering with Home for Good and understanding the place of family in the big story of the Bible. As we navigated through Scripture, we found that our own stories were not so separate from those who have gone before us. Through it all, God's story is at work in our lives, and as we read the Bible in community, so we can share in our pain, disappointment,



PRODU Toby B

Creation Fest has been a huge part of my life for over 13 years. The first year I attended was 2010 and since then it has been home to many

I grew up in a very strict sect of the Exclusive Brethren, until my family left in 2007. I grew up believing Christianity was a list of rules and no on day one of my first year, in the kids' tent, watching The Bear Hug Band, thinking: 'Wait, being a Christian can be fun?!' My mind was blow

Fast forward to 2013 and we had been to every Creation Fest since, but I still very much felt like I was living my parents' faith. I just viewed I Kendall was performing on the main stage in the Big Shed. I remember him talking about the hope we have in Jesus Christ and I felt the before, growing up in church. I felt the love of Jesus and knew He wanted a deep intimate relationship with me. I then remember finishing

In that same year I remember attending one of Creation Fest's other events in Camborne; they used to run these roadshow events called minister to people through music. I was this little 12-year-old kid with a growing interest in sound engineering, so I went over to the and watch everything he did, he let me help wherever possible and he even introduced me to my current employ



I went on to volunteer on the production team at Creat production for events of all shapes and sizes. In the foll the actual festival. While working at TruCru I feel my mate to happen (not just Creation Fest). I would go so far to s

In 2021 TruCru took on the contract for full production of honestly say I have felt extremely blessed to be able to hours, physical work, and your efforts go un-noticed un ple who will be touched by the love of Jesus for the first

Not only can I say Creation Fest led me to Jesus, but du

The ripples of faith are only getting stronger and broad



Some of the epic staging and production by Toby and the TruCru Team

er."

milestones in both my personal and professional life.

ot a personal relationship with our creator. After we left, my parents took us to Creation Fest and I still remember

myself as Christian by default purely because my parents were. However, all that changed when one night Chip oly Spirit wash over me. I began to weep and in an instant I understood everything I had heard a million times the night dancing to 'Happy Day' with my mum, who was so filled with joy that I had committed my life to Jesus.

'Movement'. They would show up in towns around Cornwall with an old blue stage on the back of a truck, and sound guy and asked if I could shadow him. To my surprise he said 'yes'. That man was called Tim. He let me sit er (Teg at TruCru).

ion Fest every year I could, and I learned so much! A few years later I got a job at TruCru. We provide technical owing years I was still heavily involved with many of Creation Fest's events throughout the year but less so in ain professional motivation is to use my God-given experience, skill and knowledge to enable Christian events ay it's my calling.

of the whole festival and over the last three years I have project managed the festival for TruCru. I can pour back into a ministry which has poured so much into me. Working on events is never easy work: it's long less you've done something wrong! But when times do get tough I regularly find myself thinking about all those peot time, like I was many years ago.

ue to the kind, nurturing and encouraging people at Creation Fest I owe them most of my career.







DVENTURE Toara Zisku

My journey to Creation Fest 2023 was not a straightforward one – and in fact, it was a ripple of faith that brought me there, which has extended outward since. This summer, God placed me in a church body in South Florida (USA) that has deep connections to Creation Fest. This was right as I was seeking to learn about ministries in South West Éngland, having realised my naivety regarding the current state of evangelical Christianity in the nation.

In the following months, I set plans to travel to the UK for my first time in August, though this was unrelated to Creation Fest. Unfortunately, that time was also full of personal and heavy emotional challenges, which required faith and a massive travel plan overhaul. This is when the Lord planted Sarah Yardley and other spiritual leaders directly in my path, crazily and undeniably opening the door for me to not only attend Creation Fest, but to full-time volunteer!

In a book I discovered on this trip called Spiritual Lessons from Dartmoor Forest, the Reverend Hugh Breton wrote of the crosses that acted as guideposts throughout Dartmoor. These connect to the Cross of Christ marking the way in our lives in significant events or seasons, and the need to take up our cross daily (Luke 9:23-27). 'Each cross thus borne marks a new advance, an accession of fresh strength, a brighter outlook, renewed hope for the next onward stage. Each cross is God's appointment, each is placed at the right place on our road.' Though initially unplanned, being part of and serving at Creation Fest, even if that meant hand-picking rubbish off the ground, was an opportunity the Lord used to place a new cross on my road, giving me that 'renewed hope'.

My time spent at Creation Fest 2023 affected my heart greatly – forming it into a missional one where it hadn't been, especially softened for fostering community and sharing the gospel with people who are culturally unaware of the beauty of God's grace. Even though I came to serve, I left served, and I know that the people who prayed over me and welcomed me, a stranger, into their local ministry and community have become an extension of my faith family.

The adventure of starting my UK journey with Creation Fest brings to mind Isaiah 43:19: 'Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. It's God who directs life, and the wonderful truth is that He works in it through His people. This verse is a beautiful reminder for the individuals that form the greater Church, that the Lord is making now - and will continue to make - a way, just as He promised to the Israelites in the time of Isaiah. It just fills me with absolute joy that I get to be a part of it, and I'm now home, so eager to be involved San hi to Toaha

with Creation Fest for as long as

the Lord allows!





Thank you for the incredible ministry of Creation Fest!

Not only are people saved and baptised, people are fed, watered and uplifted! This year, I saw a continual stream of one-to-one personal testimonies from people I connected with while there that told of life-changing encounters at Creation Fest over the years.

As a local minister, I wanted to make public our genuine thanks on behalf of all the churches and people that benefit from Creation Fest. You are making an incredible difference to the community and, latterly, the country.

The amazing Compassion elephant in our Big Shed!

In my role within Compassion, I have seen some of the complexities that major festivals can have regarding purpose, direction and finance. It is amazing to think that because of its 'free' (I understand that someone somewhere always pays!) entrance, Creation Fest gives access to thousands who would otherwise probably not attend such an event. All

too often, because of financial constraints, a festival may inadvertently veer away from its primary purpose – to exalt Jesus and clearly explain the gospel with the invitation.

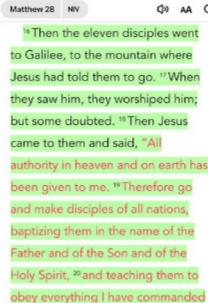
Creation Fest sticks doggedly to the Commission's purpose – may it long continue to!

I celebrate the fantastic team who make it all happen. There are too many to mention; however, Sarah's unstinting dedication and clear leadership must be highlighted. Hannah went above and beyond helping the team that I was with, and I drove a young man who voluntarily served on the media team back to the airport in tears – his life was significantly impacted.

And on top of that, another 47 children's lives have been given hope that only comes from Jesus... totalling 677 children's lives through Creation Fest – that is another brilliant Kingdom result. Having met multitudes of these children, the change that this hope and support brings is inestimable.

Heaven will record all of the results! Humbly - thank you...





you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

14:45 €



The Compassion Team





Many of those who took part in the Arts Venue workshops, Arts Team, and creative stations in experience. Jesus bought the body of Christ together to build and encourage one another the

We met some wonderful people who loved the arts, and had the joy of their shared expression community in the South West and beyond, including a workshop leader applying to become communities together from across a nation and even from across the world, with visitors from

The fabulous 'arts team' demonstrated their skills and creativity during the storm, providing a us for the kind, inclusive space to engage with the main worship. In providing a safe space for

celebrating the body of Christ at the back of a large shed, in a field, in a storm – sounds perfect! Young people on the team fully engag how the next generation will do Kingdom work and love like Jesus. We have hope! God is good. The arts help us see the beauty, care, and the storm of the

We were excited to share the ideas for interactive art with church leaders and discuss how they could use creative stations in their local

The prayer hearts beat together to tell stories of testimonies, especially of young hearts fully engaged with Jesus and understanding the

Creativity is not just a gift you have, it's a gift you give, and this was seen in abundance at Creation Fest, most especially during unplan pictures. We were given many drawings as gifts, with big smiles and happy faces. A memory to treasure.

After the event we've received letters of encouragement about the workshops that were delivered and how they have spok

In giving the arts a space to be celebrated and championed at Creation Fest, we are seeing a way of doing life like Jesus where ou ambassadors for and encouragers of creativity in all its beautiful genres, we would encourage everyone to see life through the lens of

Melleny Taylor

n the main arena gave testimony of how their experience of worshipping God through creativity enriched their prough championing creativity in worship. In reflecting on this, the words 'created a community' come to mind.

ons of worship through social media following the event. We have seen many join the Christian Creative Network (CCN) a CCN Branch leader in Wales! Such a beautiful illustration of the way Creation Fest and events such as this bring in the USA.

a creative venue and space for families during the main worship. We had a number of parents stopping us and thanking or children and families to just be, and draw, weave and fold, tell stories and give gifts of art to people, we were ed and loved it. They were helpful, kind, communicative, creative, faithful and servant-hearted; amazing examples of creativity and innovation of God's creation.

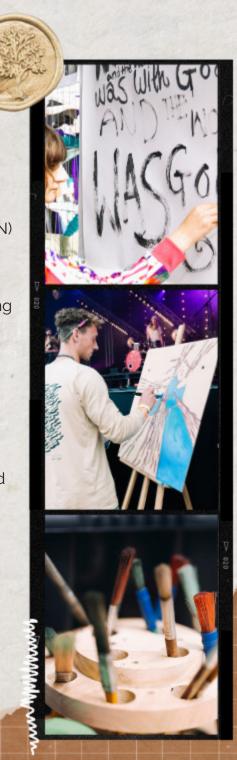
l churches and communities to reach people for Jesus.

neir salvation in a sweet, innocent way of acceptance. This was encouraging for everyone, especially the adults.

ned times of creativity, where simple paper and pencils provided spontaneous creativity and worship using words and

en into lives that have created rhythms to ripples in their faith.

r prayer, hospitality, mission, justice and learning are enriched, embodied in and celebrated through the creativity. As the creator, to be brave and have the courage to enter into individual creativity.



GATHERING Emily Lindquist

Ephesians 2 says that we are being joined together to build a place for God's presence. Time and time again, I have seen healing, comfort, and peace flood the room where God's people gather because of the Lord's tangible presence. This is exactly what I witnessed at Creation Fest this past August.

I got off the train and was excited to find that the same kind-hearted man I met the year prior would be transporting me for the weekend. We had the opportunity to catch up on the hour-long drive and he shared that he had walked through an extremely difficult year, from physical illness to the loss of a dear family member.

We arrived and continued on into the weekend. Saturday evening during a set, I shared a song called 'God of All Comfort' and proceeded to watch it come to life before my eyes that night. Philip Yancey talks about the body of Christ as the front-line response to pain. When we cannot see God's face clearly or we feel that His presence has left, we can look around and see it in His hands and feet, through His people. On the way back to my host's home that evening, he shared that during my set, he got a call that another close family member passed away. What struck me was his defiant joy to join in and continue to be with the family of God through this pain.

On the following and final day, I sat down randomly next to a man who turned and shared how his wife had felt seen by God from

that song. Their family had experienced an unthinkable tragedy just a few days before. In spite of this, they chose to attend the festival for their children to take part. I felt a bit nervous about sharing the solemn song 'God of All Comfort' in the middle of a 'regular worship set', if there is such a thing, but proceeded in faith, trusting that God would use it.

This week I was discussing the beauty and necessity of

corporate worship with a friend. We marvelled at how we could tangibly carry one another's burdens in these spaces by simply showing up. Our faith ripples when we gather. Our praise and worship do not just go up, they go out to lift others up. I am encouraged and assured by this past year that when we step out in faith and faithfully gather, we get to participate in strengthening and building up the family of God.



Emily leading us in worship on the Main Stage

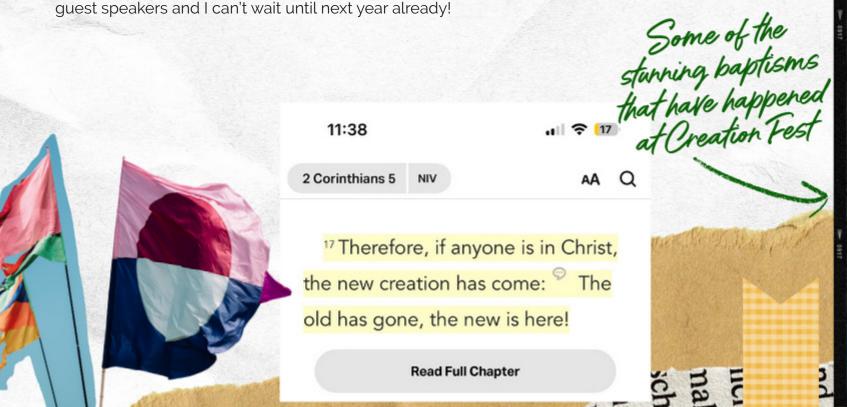




My name is Kayte. I attended Creation Fest this year for the first time and had a really brilliant time. I would first of all like to thank you for all of your efforts into making it a really welcoming experience.

I am part of the Light and Life New Methodist Church in Bodmin – our pastor is Jon Langford – and I helped volunteer at the Skillshare tent.

My journey to faith has been a little difficult because I am an LGBTQ+ Christian. I am a transgender female and I would like to say that throughout the whole event I was never subjected to anything other than love by all of your volunteers and everyone else who wished me well with my baptism. It was refreshing to see Christian love in action, which is often not talked about in the media. I want to go on record as saying that Creation Fest really is a great event. I learnt a lot from the quest speakers and I can't wait until next year already!







we went in faith. We had done catering before but catering for over 400 people was a bit out of our experience. We felt we were following (

Sometimes, when we give our time and effort to help others, when we follow God's calling, we receive unexpected blessings in return. The blessings beyond what we could imagine.

The first time we attended Creation Fest we were amazed by the diversity and expressions of faith. This diversity is often seen as a testame uncomfortable about how other people express their faith. We tend to make ourselves distinct from others rather than embrace the similar

It was a very powerful moment to realise that living in tight and narrow surroundings was secure but also that our experiences, perspective volunteers and attendees lead to seeking out new experiences and expanding our perspectives. We wanted to grow, and we had this lon

Forever grateful to our Volunteers months were a journey of difficulty and challenges, and were filled with obstacles (all 539 of you this year!) It was not only the Covid pandemic but also the parting with our old church, the challenges of your true identity in the challenges. He was not only the Covid pandemic but also the parting with our old church, the challenges of your true identity in the challenges. This new awareness led to many challenges, such as uncertainty, discomfort, and the need to confront existing beliefs or routines. Ho

Fast forward to 2023, we find ourselves now in a use our giftings in home education, our workplant our gifts in hospitality each year for a couple volunteers to enable them to serve well and





nd I, together with some friends, were approached to see if we could help out. As timings were right and God confirmed for us to go, God's calling but we were not aware yet that God would use this time to shape our faith and our future.

se blessings can come in many forms but for us it is a deep sense of fulfilment that enriches our lives. Walking in God's calling brings

nt to the beauty and complexity of creation, yet, far too often in churches these days, differences in faith lead to fear or feeling ities we have and celebrate the same Jesus we know.

s, and pursuits have been quite limited. Experiencing the wideness and openness of Creation Fest and its ging in our hearts that 'there is more out there' than what we were allowing ourselves to experience.

wever, it was a crucial step towards personal growth, self-discovery, and a more fulfilling life. The following

nange of employment and finding a new home – Jesus used these rocky times to help us learn to cling on to

a place where we know where we belong. We are in a place where we ace and our new church. Not to mention that we continue to exercise of weeks in a field in beautiful Cornwall, by cooking for wonderful make Jesus known. It is a joy to be in the place God called us to be.

Some of our amazing kitchen team volunteers peeling potatoes

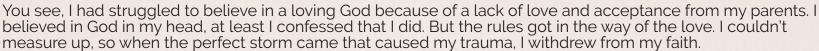


MENTAL HEALTH Bo Young

I came to Creation Fest last year in a bit of a mess. I was having panic attacks and suffering from depression. I'd lost my faith, but there was still a small glimmer of hope.

I sat for a long time in the prayer tent, not having enough courage to ask for help. Then someone came and spoke to me. I explained what was happening, and he picked up that I had been suffering from trauma, something the NHS had not picked up in the four years I had been ill. He was reluctant to pray for a healing because of the complexity of my situation, but he did pray, then provided me with prayer resources to use in my 'lost faith' state.

I suffered from a panic attack and went home, but I came back another day. I hadn't felt anything in worship for 10 years, but that day, a connection was made – not huge, but it was there. Not all was lost.



After the festival, I quickly contacted a therapist to confirm what my prayer leader had said. I was worried about what they might say, what their view on the Christian faith might be, but I was blessed to get a Christian counsellor. She suggested I listen to a book by a Christian writer about meditative prayer.

So on a Thursday afternoon in November, I did the meditation prayer; there was a click, like a light bulb going on. I finally got the heart love of Christ – it was the most beautiful moment, and I now understand His love and grace.

Since then, I've experienced that beautiful love personally. I was confessing a sin and felt Jesus with me, saying 'It is done', meaning He has already died for my sins, and I'm still loved. Very powerful.

My life before that day compared to my life now are a million miles apart. I've gradually realised that things which were a challenge before have disappeared. I can go shopping, read a book, and socialise.

Old habits I had to help me cope have fallen away, and I no longer need them.

Something happened a couple of weeks ago that hit all my triggers. I could feel the old me in the background. I am certain God has healed me, so I prayed and read confirmation from the Bible. The old me would have not been able to sleep that night, but I slept soundly and had no worries because God has healed me.

Why God healed my mental illness I don't know. It's not like I deserved it. But I do know Creation Fest played a huge part in my healing.





Our gatherings are focused on prayer and presence. Our 2024 calendar is anchored in deep community with Christ and local churches. Find out more at:

creationfest.org.uk/all-year-round

Deep Relationships

Our local investment in Cornwall is built around creative engagement with the Gospel with youth and wider community. We have open doors with local teens, schools, and weekly sessions to speak life over our teens. We run quarterly youth events called Glow which is designed to help young people know God and know each other better, all whilst having fun, worshipping God and learning how to practically apply their faith to their everyday life.

Youth & Creativity

Many of our wider relationships are fuelled by prayer, presence, coffee, meals, and conversations. We are always looking to tell the

beautiful story of the love of Jesus with friends.





ANNUAL REPORT CREATION FEST

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