



Connected

cpas

Summer 26

A Summer of Transformation

Welcome to the latest edition of Connected, our Supporter Update.

As we enter the summer months, we are preparing for one of the busiest and most exciting seasons in the life of CPAS. Across the country, thousands of children and young people will very soon be embarking on Venture and Falcon holidays.

For many, these holidays are far more than a week away. They are places where lifelong memories are made, confidence grows, questions of faith are explored, and lives are changed. Each year we hear stories of young people hearing the gospel for the first time, taking next steps in faith, and discovering the love of God in powerful ways.

None of this would be possible without your generosity and prayers. Thank you to everyone who supported our recent appeals. Together, the Falcon Appeal raised an incredible £19,500 (plus Gift Aid), and our Spring Appeal raised £15,000 (plus Gift Aid) to support the mission and ministry of CPAS.

Thank you, too, to the ten brave skydivers who took to the skies in June to raise funds for Ventures — a wonderful reminder of the creativity and commitment of our supporters!

Please do continue praying for all our holidays, leaders, volunteers, and young people over the coming weeks. Our prayer calendar is a great way to join us in praying that many would encounter Jesus this summer.

Thank you for partnering with us in this vital mission.



Jon Scamman,
Chief Executive Officer



News

Team Development

Please join us in praying for those stepping into crucial new roles that will serve the wider ministry of CPAS:

Rachael Bunting has joined as our Finance Administrator.

Catherine Stephenson, previously Fundraising and Communications Administrator, has stepped into the Trust and Fundraising Officer role.

We also held our annual Staff Prayer Day in March. It was a joyful occasion and, as ever, a privilege to stand in prayer with our supporters and volunteers as we lifted up the holidays, churches and leaders we support across the country.

Investing in Falcons

As part of our ongoing Falcon holiday review, we are deeply committed to this transformational ministry and are exploring different ways to invest in it further. These holidays are specifically designed for children facing challenging circumstances. Because of your support, cost is much less of a barrier to those wanting to take part.

One way we're further resourcing this ministry is by launching a new pilot Falcon holiday with a church in Stoke - Dovedale. The team of leaders will receive training this summer from a well-established Falcon and be ready to welcome children from four local Stoke schools this Autumn.

If you would like to find out more about Falcon holidays, please get in touch with the team at falcons@cpas.org.uk.



New School Ministry Resources

We're delighted to have launched our new, ready-to-use resources for primary school residentials and reflection days. These materials help leaders enrich shared experiences by bringing meaningful Christian themes to life for both children and school staff.

Do you have a heart to reach your local primary school? Explore the full range of our school resources, training and residential grants on our website: cpas.org.uk/schools



The Next Generation of Leaders

Written by Jo McKee,
CPAS Head of Leadership Development.
Article first published in Premier Christianity.

As a teenager, I attended a CPAS holiday before serving as a volunteer leader. God used those formative experiences to open doors, grow my confidence and help me step into my first leadership positions.

Two decades later, I was invited to teach on the CPAS Danehill Young Leaders Development holiday, where 16–20-year-olds gathered to explore Christ-like leadership.

Arriving at Danehill last year, my expectations of the weekend were quickly exceeded. The stereotype of disengaged teenagers didn't hold at all. Many were already leading in churches, universities, or workplaces. They weren't just there for fun (though there was plenty of it!). They came hungry and eager to learn.

Through teaching, mentoring and group discussions, they wrestled with the difference between worldly models of power and the servant-hearted way of Christ. Their questions were thoughtful, their engagement wholehearted. This wasn't just about preparing them to serve on future holiday teams, though many will. It was about leadership and discipleship for life.

My time at Danehill reminded me once again that we must recognise young people's leadership potential and nurture it. Their passion, creativity, and courage are vital for the Church – both today and for the future.

Leadership development through CPAS holidays isn't just about running games or leading small groups. It's about shaping lives for the long haul and creating intentional spaces where young people can grow alongside experienced leaders.

This isn't just a holiday, a Venture or a programme. It's a family. A journey. And one that continues to bear fruit. Please join us in praying for this year's Danehill Young Leaders Venture, which runs 26–28 July 2026.



‘It’s helped me see where I can grow and it’s given me motivation - not for my own sake, but because I want to help others connect with God’

Leading With Love

Silvio is in his early twenties and already a Lay Worship Leader in his local Anglican church. However, his journey into leadership didn’t begin with a particular plan - it started with a simple ‘yes’.

Thinking back to his first Venture holiday in 2023, he admits, ‘I didn’t really know what I was signing up for. Someone told me about it, and I just said yes.’ For Silvio, these holidays have been more than just a chance to serve.

‘They’ve shaped me,’ he says. ‘They’ve taught me patience, especially with younger people, and helped me grow in how I care for others. Some of the most profound things I’ve ever heard about the Bible have come from the young people I’ve led. It’s inspired me in my own faith.’

Although Silvio has been involved in church leadership for a few years, leading in the Venture context has stretched him in new ways. ‘It’s helped me see where I can grow and given me motivation - not for my own sake, but because I want to help others connect with God. If I’m managing a team one day, I want to lead in a way that puts people first. If someone’s struggling, I want my first question to be, “Are you okay?” not “Why aren’t you performing?”. Leadership should elevate people, not diminish them.’

And what would he say to someone thinking about joining the Young Leaders Development programme? ‘You’re coming to learn how to lead like Jesus,’ he says. ‘It’s not just about gaining leadership skills - it’s about learning to lead with compassion, humility, and purpose. You’ll grow in faith and in your ability to serve others well.’

Let the Children Lead

Leadership Insights

Written by Anna Shaw,
CPAS School Ministry Development Officer

One of my children's great frustrations with both school and church is how often adults claim that young people's voices and agency matter, while the opportunities they offer are little more than token gestures.

Recently, my son was asked to join a panel of pupils who would 'interview' prospective headteacher candidates. He took this seriously, spending his weekend crafting a thoughtful question, yet when the moment came, pupils were merely instructed to read a prescribed question from a list written by governors. He was furious, not least because his carefully prepared question would have been far more insightful than what he was given!

The church context can mirror the same dynamic. I was once asked a challenging question: 'Who gave you leadership as a young person?' As a teenager, I had been entrusted with the church credit card to organise an outreach event, accompanied only by a quietly supportive adult mentor. It was profoundly formational.

The follow-up question struck even more deeply: 'Which children and young people are you releasing?' I realised that my youth work had become adult-designed, adult-controlled, and adult-led. The young people had very little genuine agency.



Agency is not just about participation; it is about access.

Releasing our Young People

In response, 'Pudding and Pondering' began: a fortnightly gathering where the young people brought both the pudding (delighting in the responsibility) and their big questions. We simply sat and talked. The young people answered one another's questions, wrestled together, and grew curious about what Scripture might say into their conversations. The group expanded and discipleship deepened, teaching me that young people flourish when given real, independent agency.

Jesus offers a similar model of spiritual formation. He walked with his disciples, using meals, roadside encounters, and life's messiness as opportunities for learning. He sent them out in pairs to practise his way of life. He often left them to puzzle through challenges (the hungry crowd, the storm at sea), creating experiences that led them to deeper understanding. Jesus trusted his followers with responsibility long before they fully understood him.

In one school, this principle was embodied when a self-selecting group of Year 6 pupils were given genuine agency to design and lead prayer stations ahead of their Leavers' Service. Families were invited to arrive early and participate alongside their children, creating a rare moment of shared spiritual engagement across a community made up of all faiths and none.

The Headteacher observed that participation was far deeper than at adult-led prayer events. Led by pupils, there were moments of tears, laughter, and honest prayer. The Rector noted that the openness fostered much deeper engagement with the church service that followed.

The children's leadership did not diminish anything. Instead, it softened the adults around them. When children lead, adults pay attention. When children pray, families listen. When children ask big questions, schools and churches become braver and engage more deeply.

Giving Agency Benefits the Whole Community

Agency is not just about participation; it is about access. Children need access to the wider Christian community, diverse and rooted practices, biblical narratives that make sense as a coherent story, and communities that can hold them steady through transitions.

This is where intentional collaboration between schools, churches, and households becomes essential as none of these spaces can nurture spiritual growth alone. Children's agency is strongest when these spheres overlap. Such collaboration requires humility, the willingness to relinquish control, and trust that God is at work beyond our expectations.

In a culture that often over-scaffolds children, granting genuine spiritual agency is countercultural. It is deeply Christlike. When we let children lead, we often discover they lead us too: into deeper faith, greater honesty, and renewed wonder.

A Golden Legacy of Faith and Friendship

Celebrating 50 Years of Sizewell Venture

For fifty summers, Sizewell Venture has welcomed young people aged 16-22 to the stunning Suffolk coast for a week of fun, faith and friendship. As one of CPAS' longest-running holidays, it is proudly celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

It all began with a vision from Tony and Dorothy Mason. They longed to create a space for teenagers to grow in their Christian faith before heading off to university or work. In the summer of 1975, that vision became a reality.

Fifty years later, that same spirit of discovery and faith continues under two Overall Leaders Rachael and Lora, who are both nursery teachers and lifelong friends.

For Rachael, the greatest joy lies in seeing young people come full circle: 'It feels like home when you go back to Sizewell Hall. Seeing young people grow in their faith and then return as leaders is such a privilege.'



Lora adds, 'It's more than just a holiday. It's a place of belonging, where 16-22s can be nurtured through times of change. They need to hear every day that they are loved by Jesus.'

As conversations unfold over shared meals, friendships grow quickly and deeply. 'We sit around the dinner table and talk like family,' says Lora. 'You see 22-year-olds having meaningful conversations with 16-year-olds, and incredible bonds form.'

A Place of Belonging

This summer's golden celebrations included a 1970s-themed banquet, worship under the stars and a commemorative bench and plaque. For one teenage boy attending for the first time, the banquet was especially significant. Having missed his school prom, he said Sizewell's celebration would be his.

'That was even better than my prom would have been. Thank you for doing that for me.' His joy reminded leaders how powerful moments of inclusion can be.

Summing up her experience this summer, Jemima (21) says: 'I learned that you need to really put your trust in God because he can work in ways we can't even imagine.'

Seeds of Faith That Last a Lifetime

Looking back over the years, Tony particularly remembers a young boy named Martin, 16, who was found playing the grand piano at Sizewell Hall. 'We encouraged him to join our music group,' Tony reflects. 'Martin Smith went on to become the lead singer of Christian band Delirious?.'

Tony also recalls a young man who had attended Sizewell and later found himself serving in the 1982 Falklands War. Amid the turmoil, he began going to a church in Port Stanley and asked the Garrison Chaplain to send a message back to Tony: 'Let him know I'm going to church.' Months later, the message reached Tony - a powerful reminder that the seeds planted at Sizewell can flourish anywhere, even in the most unexpected places. God was at work.

Looking to the Future

Rachael shares, 'We're custodians of an enormous legacy. Our hope is to keep reaching more young people and help them grow into leaders who share the gospel.'

Here's to the next 50 years of Sizewell Venture - a place where faith flourishes, friendships endure, and God's work continues to shine on the Suffolk shore.



Running with Purpose

My Coach is Jesus

When Jo Fowler and Andy Wooding Jones lined up at the start of the London Marathon on Sunday 26 April, they weren't just taking on 26.2 miles - they were running with a deep sense of purpose shaped by their connection with CPAS.

Jo first encountered CPAS through the CPAS Venture Woolie 3 in 2024. 'It's exhausting but so rewarding. Seeing the kids really engaging, building friendships and wanting to know more about Jesus - it's definitely worth it. There were a couple of children who gave their life to Christ, which was awesome.'

Andy is a Patronage Development Officer at CPAS, supporting almost 700 churches across the country as they appoint new vicars and encourage those in periods of vacancy. Andy has had connections with CPAS since he was a teenager in a CPAS Patronage church. He has been a Venture leader, used CPAS training materials and attended a 'You and Ministry' weekend when preparing for ordination.

That passion led regular runners Jo and Andy to take on a challenge - completing the London Marathon.



For Jo, choosing CPAS as her charity was an easy decision: 'I wanted to fundraise for a charity that I had a personal connection to... Falcons are also about sharing Jesus with kids who wouldn't have a chance to have a holiday at all.'

Andy shared similar reflections on his choice to run for CPAS: 'As a young teenager, my own Christian journey began on a Christian residential holiday... I was delighted to raise sponsorship for this amazing ministry and particularly to help provide bursaries for those who cannot afford the cost of these holidays.'



Race day brought both joy and challenge. The first half went well, but the heat made the final miles tougher. With support from family, friends and the cheering crowds, Jo finished in 5 hours 12 minutes. Andy finished in 6 hours 39 minutes, more than an hour slower than planned, but relieved to have 'run the race!'

Together, Jo and Andy have raised £2,500 for CPAS.

Andy and Jo's stories are powerfully encouraging. Through faithful service, willingness to step out of their comfort zone and determination to go the distance, they are helping more young people encounter Jesus.

'As a young teenager, my own Christian journey began on a Christian residential holiday'

Read the full article on cpas.org.uk

The Joy of Volunteering

Finding Purpose and Community Through Serving

There is something quietly transformative about giving your time to serve others. For those involved in CPAS, that transformation is not just something they bring, it's something they experience.

Year after year, volunteers return, drawn by a deep sense of purpose, community, and joy that's hard to find elsewhere. For many, the journey begins attending a holiday. Over time, something shifts. Confidence grows, faith deepens, and a desire emerges, to give back. As Rachael, an Overall Leader at Sizewell, reflects:

'Some come back as leaders and repeat the whole process for the next generation. Having journeyed through those stages myself, it's a real privilege to watch others do the same.'

This cycle of growth and giving lies at the heart of CPAS. It's not just about a one week holiday, it's about a lifetime of encouragement, discipleship, and shared faith.

Volunteers often speak of the transformation they witness, not only in young people, but in themselves. One leader from Oakwood Falcon describes it simply:

'Seeing the transformation in the youth and leaders during camp and being there to witness it makes it easier to say yes to come again. It's as much a time of ministry to others as myself.'

In a world where many feel stretched, CPAS Holidays offer something different: a space where giving and receiving go hand in hand. Leaders pour into young people while finding themselves encouraged, refreshed, and renewed. The sense of community is one of the most striking aspects. Teams are built not on perfection, but on authenticity, support, and a willingness to serve together. One leader from Danehill shared:

'It felt like this camp was a model of how to be a team. Everyone's strengths were really genuinely valued, and I so appreciated how everyone supported and loved each other. After a year with a difficult line manager at work, this was very restorative, and I feel very built up by the camp. Thank you so much to the Overall Leaders who set such a great tone for the whole team!'

In a culture that can feel competitive or isolating, this dynamic stands out. It creates space for people to be themselves, contribute what they can, and be supported in return.

For many volunteers, CPAS Holidays become a high point of the year. As one Oakwood 2 leader puts it:

‘The youth camp has become one of the special highlights of my year. I learn so much about God, the teens, the leaders and myself.’

It’s a reminder that volunteering isn’t just about what you give, but what you discover, about faith, others and yourself. Encouragingly, there is space for new leaders to step in without pressure. Instead of perfection, there is grace and room to grow. One first-time leader captured this:

‘There’s space to make mistakes, ask questions, and learn. It’s not about being perfect - it’s about being willing to grow, surrounded by people who want to see you thrive. It’s honestly one of the best things I’ve done, and it has helped me feel more secure in who I am, who Jesus is, and what I believe about him.’

That culture of encouragement builds confidence and clarity, helping young leaders understand who they are and how they can serve. In the end, the joy of volunteering with CPAS is found in people, in relationships, shared faith, and changed lives. It’s found in watching others take their next step, just as others once made space for yours.

And perhaps that’s why so many keep coming back: not out of obligation, but out of joy



Coming Up



Fruitfulness Without Burnout

Date: 17/09/26 (8.30am-11.30am)

Price: £25

Location: Online

Church leadership can feel like an endless list of demands, with blurred boundaries and competing priorities. This session explores how to bring order and clarity to your vocation, helping you discern what really matters, set healthy boundaries, and sustain productivity over the long haul.

Designed to be practical and applicable, this online training session will provide you with tools to strengthen your focus and ensure your 'yes' carries real weight.



School Pathway course

Course Begins: 13/10/26

Price: £150 per Headteacher/Clergy partnership

Location: Online

School and church leaders are very busy. They want to work well together and sense how fruitful partnership could be, but this is hard to prioritise amidst more immediate tasks.

The Pathways Course enables schools and churches to have termly opportunities to review and plan for the spiritual development of their community. The year-long course content supports leaders to work smarter not harder and to be more aware of how spiritual development opportunities are being received across all parts of their community, enabling them to better focus their collaboration.



Leading Well: A Five Session Online Leadership Course

Date: 08/10/26

Price: £315

Location: Online

Are you looking to develop in your leadership? Leading well as a Christian, lay or ordained, is both stimulating and demanding, particularly during the early years of a leadership post.

Meeting once a month from October to March, this course will enable you to invest in two areas: your 'outer life' (the leadership skills to lead a church and team well) and your 'inner life' (leading in a way that is life-giving and sustainable).



PCC Day in Chesham

Date: 05/11/26 (10am-4pm)

Price: £45

Location: Hope Church, Upper Belmont Road, Chesham, HP5 2DB

Fun, faith-filled and fruitful PCCs make such a difference to the life of a church. But they aren't always like this. We're on a mission to make PCC meetings the best meetings people attend. We believe this is possible due to our already proven track record in helping church leaders make the most of their PCCs.

So, whether you oversee one PCC or ten, and whether they are struggling or simply in need of a refresh, join us for an informative and uplifting day designed to help you make the most of your PCC(s).

Help Prepare the Way

One child, one life, one summer that could change everything

All year round, 2,000 incredible volunteers work tirelessly to prepare the way for God to move mightily and personally in the hearts of children and young people - just as he has done each year for more than a century.

A gift of

£45

covers the cost of one day per place on a holiday.

£150

provides a bursary for a child to attend and grow in faith.

£300

covers the average shortfall per place on a holiday.

Donate

To make an online donation to our summer appeal, please scan or visit cpas.org.uk



'Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.'

Isaiah 40:3

