

## **Two Rivers Mission at Acton and Great Waldingfield**

We began the week with supper and a welcome service for the Team so we could meet them and get to know them a bit.

On Sunday we had services in the morning at both churches at which team members spoke, and in the evening a well-attended Songs of Praise during which several members of our congregations introduced their choice of hymns by speaking about their own Christian experience. People enjoyed the service and would like it repeated!

On Monday we were blessed with excellent weather for our Family Fun Day at Acton Village Hall; and we were grateful for the help given by so many. The treasure hunt, and of course, the BBQ and cream teas were firm favourites, but for some the highlight was throwing sponges at their parents and various 'friends' who they'd put in the stocks! Meanwhile the Mission Team chatted to people and carried out some of their surveys.

We moved the Great Waldingfield weekly 'Pop-in' from Monday to Tuesday so people could meet the Mission Team, and some found the conversations helpful. From Tuesday to Friday several people invited friends, neighbours and members of the Mission Team to meals, or for tea or coffee, and again there were some interesting conversations.

Other special events included a ladies Pamper Evening with the lady members of the Team and invited guests, a men's Snooker Night with some men from the Team, and a visit to the WI where we provided afternoon tea for about 30 people.

In both schools the team took assemblies. In one some Team members were quizzed by the children, and in the other we did some Learning Together about values and choices with parents and children. The team also joined the N:Vision clubs and our weekly Rock Solid club for 8-15 year olds, answering questions about who they were and why they'd come to this area.

On Saturday Evening 50 people came to the 'Hot Potato Evening' and asked John Hibberd a very wide variety of questions – all of which, needless to say, he handled expertly! We had a job bring it to a close – it seemed that people could have gone on asking questions all night!

In between the events, the Team spent a good deal of time visiting door to door, chatting to people and conducting their survey. Of the people who answered the question: Do you believe in God? 61% answered 'Yes', 17% said 'Not Sure', and 22% said 'No'. Of those who answered 'Yes', 42% thought that God is 'Personal'. Of course that may not be a representative sample of the people in Acton and Great Waldingfield, but it was interesting all the same.

The Mission ended with a Family Celebration Service on Sunday morning followed by lunch together. It was an exciting and interesting week; there was a lot of chatting and discussing, some very gently and some a bit more heated! But we all learnt something and are very grateful to God for being at work amongst us.