

# Plus *Points*

Good news & developments from Adventure Plus

## A bright future as we complete Phase One

Celebrating God's faithfulness over the course of the last year, read all about the highlights of 2023 and the plans for 2024!

As I write 'Welcome to Plus Points 2024', we have just wrapped up this year's Adventures in Worship Event (AWE), and I am still hearing echoes of our shared celebration with parents from the final evening. Amongst our arrangements of well-known worship songs and a community choir approach to a 16<sup>th</sup> century Jubilate Deo, we also learned the Total Adventure song, which aims to capture the spirit of TA holidays:

"You are Lord of all,  
and I've been told that you love me,  
Sun, moon and stars were made  
at your command,  
And yet you love me,  
and there's nothing on earth,  
Can shake me out of your hand."

What a privilege to share with so many young people each year that such an awesome Heavenly Father greatly loves them and that this love continues today, even 2000 years after Jesus walked this earth, through the Holy Spirit...

**Wow!** What a game changer, especially for many we work with who feel alone and lacking in confidence and self-esteem, often in very challenging circumstances. One of the biggest encouragements for many of the young people is the friendships they make, realising they are not alone with the issues they struggle with, and a supportive peer group can make a huge difference. So the singing continued:

"You gave me friends who've helped me  
see you more clearly,  
Through them, I've seen your light  
and had such fun,  
I thank you that your love  
has shone through their lives,  
To point the way to the Son."

It was such an encouragement to hear from one of our campers on that same evening:

*"I was chatting with my mum (who was a camper 20 years ago) on the way home, and*



*TA Peak volunteer conquers the wall*

*I started humming the Total Adventure song. She recognised it immediately and was so nostalgic about it! I was wondering if you wouldn't mind sending me the song. I'd love to learn it properly and be blessed to carry it with me everywhere I go!"*

It has always been our prayer that any encouragement received during a visit to A+ would continue long after campers have gone home... it is even more exciting to hear that those encouragements endure into the next generation! His ways, after all, are timeless!

Of course, one way of securing that legacy into the future is to create a centre that will be here for decades to come.

It is fantastic to be able to report that **we have now completed Phase One of the Adventure Base:** Affordable, Accessible Accommodation for over 100 children and



## Continued from front page...

youth on our site in our Cosy Timber Yurts and Cabins, complete with accessible WCs, showers, drying room and camping wash-up. We could not have done this without the generosity of our supporters.

It is exciting that we can now turn our attention to a suite of brand-new adventure facilities on site, with more on that in the coming months.



*New fully accessible WC facilities*

We are delighted to be able to extend our reach geographically, too, as A+ is privileged to have been invited to pick up the work of Dynamis in Herefordshire, which aligns

closely with the focus of our Adventure *Impact* provision.

As our teams continue to extend the hand of friendship to children and young people, many of whom need extra support, we realise that the profound truth that they are greatly loved is such an important message to share. As the TA song concludes:

“You are Lord of all,  
and yet you’ll love me forever,  
though I may never know  
how much you care,  
Wherever I may be, whatever I face,  
I know you’ll always be there.”

When we get that message of assurance across, especially to those returning to challenging situations at home or school, we hope it will sustain them until we can welcome them back again and pick up the story of encouragement into following

years - right through their teen years into adulthood... and beyond!

What exciting work to be engaged in. Thank you for supporting us in the next chapter!

*Jon Cox*



*AWE rehearsals in progress*

# Adventure *Impact*

Our specialist Youthwork and SEN team

Alda came to lead our Adventure Impact team in September and arrived full of enthusiasm and ideas. I wanted to sit down with her to find out how she came to be at A+ and her plans for the team’s future.



*Alda learning safe belaying with Josh*

**“How did you become a Christian?”** Alda smiles. “That feels like a long story! My mum is from Belize and is Catholic, so I was raised going to church, but as a child, I recall struggling in church with its formal routines and clothing. But I always knew that God was a place of safety. Whilst I have had long periods away from church as an adult, I can see that I have always experienced God’s hand in my life. I have now found a church community that I

feel comfortable in. This community enabled me to meet with Jesus and overcome negative experiences in my past.

Coming to Adventure *Plus* was a real “God moment” for me. My last work role was as the library manager at Bullingdon Prison. One day, I was leaving the library; it was free flow, so many men were walking towards me. As I walked along the middle of the corridor, the men were all flowing on either side of me. The Holy Spirit clarified that I needed to move upstream to reach people at the source before they got further down the river to this point in their lives.

At that time, I was content in my role, though I felt frustrated at how difficult it was to implement ideas within institutions. A few days later, I saw a Facebook advert for the AIM role on my feed, and I thought, “That has got me all over it!”. I had heard of the work A+ did through previous roles in foster care. I had several connections to A+, so although it was a leap of faith, I also had a deep sense that I could trust God for the longer-term picture.”

**“What are you most excited about?”**

“Oh, so many things! I’ve never been in a role where I could use the ideas or possibilities that excited me. But A+ has the mission and vision to take this care and provide it wherever needed.

I am enjoying getting to know Josh Jones. He has such evident expertise in the outdoors combined with a gentle and caring approach, and when working with the AIM students, it feels like he is co-exploring with them.



*The Aim Team - Josh, Alda and Dan*

He models what it is like to have a relationship with Jesus by coming alongside with gentle guidance and acceptance.

I am still getting to know Dan, but he has a calm and thoughtful presence, which will help to balance our team. He is gentle, and I can see he invites others towards Jesus with his faith.

I’m excited to be in a space where I can be myself because many of the young people I will work with will also be neurodivergent. They need to see that there are jobs and roles where they can thrive and use their gifts whilst still being true to who God made them to be.”

# Conservation with A Rocha



Safeguarding habitats and protecting our local wildlife in our development of the Adventure Base.

Over the past year, we have made significant conservation progress, with over 1,000 hedging plants and trees planted on-site. This engaging activity brought together people of all ages to improve local biodiversity and increase our carbon sink, helping remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



*Conservation volunteer, team building day*

During the last year, we have encountered wide range of wildlife, including a beautiful grass snake and a kingfisher, and we increasingly see green woodpeckers in the gardens. These observations highlight the positive impact our efforts are having, attracting and supporting a diverse range of wildlife.



*A Eurasian Kingfisher was spotted on site*

In November, Rhoda and Matt enjoyed attending the Partners in Action retreat with A Rocha in Scargill House in Yorkshire. It was an informative and helpful event, encouraging us to continue putting our best efforts into this valuable site.

We are thrilled to announce that Adventure Plus will soon offer Environmental Education as part of our residential experiences and group bookings. This exciting addition aims to educate young people about the wonders of God's Creation and foster a deeper appreciation for the environment. Through activities such as animal tracking, plant identification, and exploring the diverse range of insects on-site, participants can engage with nature in a hands-on, educational way. Our experienced instructors will guide them through these activities, providing valuable knowledge and insights into the natural world.

Adventure Plus is always looking for volunteers to get involved in conservation activities. If you want to learn more please contact [conservation@adventureplus.uk](mailto:conservation@adventureplus.uk)



*Rhoda and Matt laying hedgerows*

## Training the Team

Graham is taking on the challenge of ensuring that our GAP team is qualified for all our adventures and that some of our training courses are open to the public. This is a difficult task, considering our packed calendar of events.

Each year, we run training in fencing, archery, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, Lowland Expedition Leadership, climbing, safe belaying, circus skills, team building, low ropes, safeguarding, and first aid! Previously, these were only for our GAP team. Now, we are keen to open them up to volunteers and others.

We will host a Paddlesport Instructor course, in the spring, for anyone interested in exploring the paddling world. This course will provide comprehensive training on essential skills and rescue techniques for stand up paddleboards, kayaks, canoes, and sit-on-top kayaks.

Trainees will have the opportunity to choose the main craft in which they would like to be assessed. This course equips participants with the necessary knowledge and abilities to become proficient Paddlesport Instructors.



*"A+ meet young people where they are at, inspire them and build their confidence through adventure youth work and outdoor education. This work transforms lives for the long term". Jo Gambi, Record Breaking Mountaineer and A+ Patron*

# The Gap Year

Exciting developments in the Gap and Internship team.

After two successful years of growth with us, Thomas has left us to study Environmental Geography at Cardiff University. Wayne is staying with A+ for a second year, continuing his AIM Internship and developing a Marketing focus.

Matthew has graduated from his Conservation and Outdoor Activities Internship and we were delighted when he applied to join the team as our first Site Ranger. Our new Conservation Intern, Rhoda, will follow similar training to Matt, working alongside him. Before she joined us, Rhoda had a role as a Seasonal Ecologist, which will be valuable in her new position at A+. She also helped lead worship at TA Peak and was blessed by seeing the delegates engage in worship.

Joining Rhoda in the new 23/24 intake for the Gap Year instructor training program are Karen, Emily, and Finin, fresh from their A-levels. Emily

and Karen attended Adventures in Worship; they enjoyed the final worship evening, where they experienced God's presence and saw people from diverse backgrounds enjoying worshipping together.



Left to Right: Finin, Emily, Rhoda and Karen

Finin is an avid boulderer and mountain biker with a background in video editing, which will benefit our marketing team.

**‘TA peak was great; it allowed me to get stuck into a wide range of activities and see the young people progress in their confidence and faith throughout the week.’**

These individuals bring unique skills and experiences to our team, and we are excited to have them on board as they contribute to our mission at Adventure Plus.

To enquire about the Adventure Plus GAP year contact Siôn at [gaplead@adventureplus.uk](mailto:gaplead@adventureplus.uk)

## A+ Hospitality

Whether you're looking for a relaxing week away in a stunning stone farmhouse or a professional setting for a business meeting with 20 to 100 attendees, we have you covered. Our venue is perfect for school residentials, leadership retreats, and more.

Here's what sets us apart:

- Our beautiful rural location offers a serene and picturesque setting.
- A wide variety of accommodation styles to suit your preferences.
- Multiple event spaces, including a sports hall, lounge, conference hall, and 15<sup>th</sup> century stone barn.
- Our venue can comfortably accommodate groups of up to 200 people in our rooms, yurt village, cabins, and camping field.

**‘The weekend was just the best thing! You guys have nailed it. Our youth asked if we could come back again this weekend!’**

Our dedicated team is here to assist you in planning your stay. Feel free to reach out to us on 01367 810258 or via email. We look forward to helping you create a memorable experience.



*“What a great charity A+ is. Some people dream of changing the world - this lot actually do it!” Jeremy Vine, Patron*

Join us and raise vital funds for  
*Adventure Plus* on our six day  
journey

29<sup>th</sup> April - 4<sup>th</sup> May

*Witney to Westminster*



Challenge 2024

Is 2024 your year for personal growth? Why not join us for six days of challenge and character development? Get away from your screens, schedule, and 70 mph life to slow to the flow of the Thames. Enjoy the natural beauty of God's creation along the riverside and spend time in fellowship, developing bonds and friendships.

Additionally, by supporting us through this event, you'll contribute to our mission of empowering young people through outdoor adventure and promoting positive change in their lives. Your involvement will help provide transformative experiences for young people, fostering character development, leadership skills, and a deeper connection with nature and God.

## Introducing A+ Herefordshire

God moves in such unexpected and unpredictable ways.

A+ has been privileged to journey alongside Dynamis Adventures, another UK adventure charity, since their inception in 2019.

In 2022, tragedy struck when Andrew Wilkinson, their CEO and founder was killed in a climbing accident whilst adventuring on Mont Blanc. For a while, it looked like Dynamis would not be able to continue its fantastic work with young people and that their local partners would lose the services they had provided.

The Dynamis trustees approached A+ to discuss whether we could collaborate with them to continue providing adventure for young people in Herefordshire. A+ were already sending a team of our instructors

twice each week to a regular booking in the area, so we prayed hard into the situation to see if there was a way we could make this work.

Meanwhile, God had been speaking to Dan and Abi Scott, who felt a specific calling to Herefordshire as their studies at Moorland Bible college were coming to an end. Dan's previous training and experience as an outdoor expedition leader at Christian Mountain Centre had equipped him perfectly to step in to the role of AIM instructor and to enable A+ to continue the work of Dynamis Adventures in Herefordshire.

We are now employing Dan as a full time member of staff. He is working in attachment to the AIM team and will be building relationships with Dynamis partners in Herefordshire. Dynamis has

provided funds and a building for Dan to use as he establishes contacts and connections there.

Extending our provision to other areas has always been the plan for A+ going forward but this is one of those occasions where God's timing was a step ahead of ours. We are trusting in God for his continued provision in this fresh adventure of faith.



*Andrew Wilkinson: Founder of Dynamis*



# Total Adventure Holidays 2024

**Book now**  
[www.adventureplus.uk](http://www.adventureplus.uk)

*“Adventures in Worship was awesome as it allowed me to experience worshipping God in a new way and explore my spiritual gifts of worship with other young believers”*

Ski A+	Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> - Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Easter (8-11 years)	Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr
One 2 One	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> May
Beacon (8-12 years)	Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> Jul - Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug
Peak (12-17 years)	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Aug - Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Aug
One 2 One	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Adventures in Worship	Weds 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov

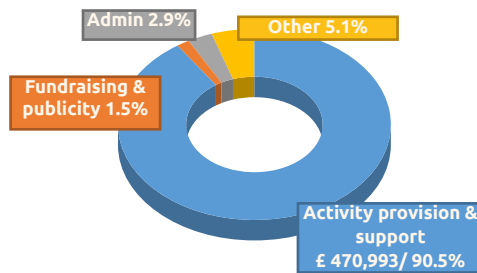
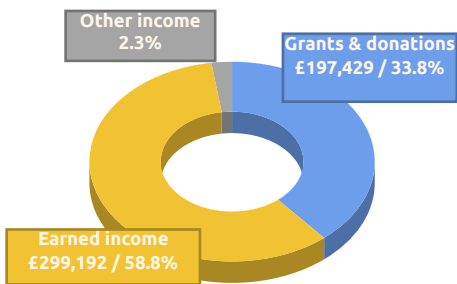


## Finance 2022

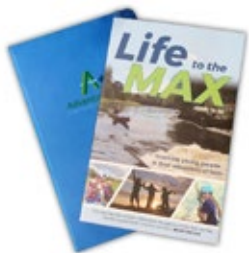
The charts below show the income and expenditure for 2022, excluding the Adventure Base development, as during 2022, we had a lot of additional funding arrive in preparation for future works.

**Income**  
**£ 508,425**

**Expenditure**  
**£ 520,690**



**Donate now**



If you want to know more about what is at the heart of our work here at A+, and a testimony to God's amazing faithfulness since he called us into this work, you should pick up a copy of "Life to the Max" by Jon Cox, available on-site or from Amazon.co.uk

## New CFO

Welcome to the team, our new Chief Financial Officer, Tim de Borde. Tim is married to Nikki, a doctor, and they have four children aged 15-22. They returned to the UK last year after spending nine years in Malawi.

"I am delighted to be part of the team at A+, together with some of my colleagues at Numbers Limited, who support me. A+ does amazing work in the lives of young people and is a fantastic support to the Church. It is a privilege to assist in a small way with this work and to be a part of the next phase of A+'s growth."

