

***KATE OUR NEW, PART TIME ,TEMPORARY SCHOOLS WORKER***



Hi, my name is Kate Davidson, and I'm very excited to be working for Niscu a few hours a week for the rest of the school year!

I'm a local girl from Denton Holme and when I'm not doing Niscu things I can be found at St James Church where I'm the family and children worker or running after my 14 week old puppy Ollie!

Until recently I also worked part time at Carlisle library in the Young Peoples Team, so some people may know me from singing the wheels on the bus etc very out of tune at baby bounce! I've been amazed at God's leading and timing which has led here and thank God for this time to support Kim and Michael in their work!

***"GPS"! - THE STAFF TEAM MEETING***

The staff team meet each week to pray and plan. Under Kim's imaginative ideas it is called the "GPS" meeting. We trust it is more "God positioning system" than "global positioning system"! These are times when we share something of what the Lord has been challenging or encouraging us with, usually anchored in scripture. We plan the week ahead and pray for the work. We are always reminded of his willingness to answer our prayers.

Just a couple of weeks ago these were three of our prayers:

**"Please Lord bring the boys to the club?"**

Kim sent us a message after her lunch time club: "30 lads joined in at the club today!"

**"Please Lord provide a male leader to help with the Richard Rose Clubs"**

We received a message from Neal Andrews the next day saying he was willing to help!

**"Please Lord let me find the person who can arrange assemblies."**

Michael sent a message: "The person we were talking about just turned up at the lunch club today."

**Praise God for His faithfulness!**



A Roman helmet and shield. Several packages of loo roll. A Lady Gaga wig. Everybody requires tools for the journey and as a schools worker, these are mine. Currently, my car boot functions as my roving office and in a single day I can go from an infant school assembly to a ladies fellowship with a lunch club with teenagers sandwiched

in the middle. But of all the tools I carry with me the most important one is my bible.

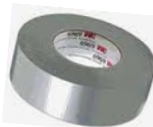
Believe me, it's not pretty. The binding is held together with the same silver duct tape we used to make a kitchen repair. The pages are underlined and wrinkled from twenty years of use. It is full of Post It notes, church notices and even a photo of my children as babies. My bible is my soul sat nav and I can only hope every student I encounter knows it. 'It's my favourite adventure story,' I tell them. 'It's a love story and a comedy and a thriller. It changed my life.'

One of the goals of NISCU is to give children of all ages an opportunity to not only learn the bible stories but to interact with them on a personal level, in line with the RE attainment targets outlined in the national curriculum. Our partnership with local churches and Christians allows this to happen. But this year, I will have the privilege of meeting Wilf Counce with the Gideons to help pass out bibles to all the Year Seven students of Richard Rose Central Academy

in perfect time for Christmas. The Gideons' goal is to distribute bibles to all incoming secondary students and it is a privilege to partner with them this winter.

So what does loo roll have to do with the Gospel? When we visited Richard Rose Central and Richard Rose Morton Academies for the lunch clubs, one of the activities that the students loved this month was the mummy wrap game. In groups of three or more Year Seven students were frantically wrapping each other up, shreds of paper flying like snow, and kids laughter in the school hall. We connected it to how we all have a God-shaped hole in our hearts and that we fill it with wrong things and insulate our hearts because we are afraid of being hurt. Somehow I think Jesus would have loved the children's laughter as much as their insights during the talk. He is a God of joy, too.

The Jesus who turned water into wine, who opened arms wide and said, 'Let the children come to me,' who breathed Life from death. The Jesus who, once upon a time about twenty years ago, took a life that felt like it was held together with duct tape (mine) and gave me Good News that would hold strong and safe and steady. Good News that wouldn't fall apart. Good news stronger than duct tape, more exciting than a Roman shield, and more relevant than Lady Gaga. The best story you'll ever read and the sharpest tool of the lot.



## **LEARNING UNDERSTANDING AND TEACHING!** Michael Fox

Newsletter time again - DON'T PANIC! DON'T PANIC! When the time to write a newsletter comes around, I find myself struggling to know what to write, wondering what you would enjoy reading about. Generally, I end up writing something about what's been going on at NISCU - a good job really as it's for the NISCU newsletter!

Recently, I have been attending a theology course run by the North West Partnership. Every Thursday I get to travel to Leyland in order to attend the training day. We have been studying 1Thessalonians and have been given the task of preparing short talks on the passages assigned to us.

We have also been going through a bible overview, as well as receiving input on topics such as "What is the Church?", "1 to 1 ministry", "How to prepare a talk", and so on.

We spent a few hours just learning to read the bible (34 years old and learning to read?!) and how to follow the flow of the text. For me, this has been the biggest challenge, as I had never before even heard of a conjunctive! (for example words like - then, therefore, but, nevertheless!!)

How does this training help the everyday work of NISCU? I've seen it filter into my assemblies, lessons, lunch clubs and so on. Training has increased my confidence and assists in the delivery of the bible's message.

Recently a young lady, who attends one of the lunch clubs, commented that during the session I sounded a lot like the vicar of the church she attends - she assures me that this was a compliment!

We have been studying 1 Thessalonians, where Paul tells us opposition is natural as we spread the Gospel, but whenever it is shared then it has not been in vain, therefore it came as no surprise that after one of the clubs one of the youth who regularly hangs around in the corridor during lunch break (and is well aware that the Christian Union meets in that room) began to shout abuse as we left. Thankfully a teacher was at hand to deal with the issue.

Thank you for all your prayers and support; they are, as always, greatly appreciated.



### ***"IT LOOKS GOOD."***

*Barbara Gardner (chair)*

I have just received this message from Ruth Gay, our treasurer. *"I just finished October's summary. It looks good."* A message we always like to receive!

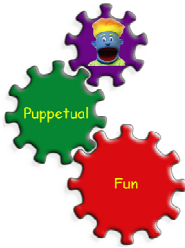
through them carrying the good news of Jesus. So I really want to express my gratitude to the Lord and to you all for your faithfulness.

I am very aware that times are hard financially for many in these days, but I also believe passionately, especially in this generation when numbers of children in churches are falling, that work in schools is vital. The doors are still wide open and we need to walk

We dare not be complacent. Please continue to pray that we rely on the Lord for His provision. (Donations can be sent to our treasurer or given through our web site. Standing order and Gift Aid forms are also available.)

# “Puppetual Fun, the continual story....”

Ruth Evans



This term has seen the puppet ministry really take off. Following rehearsals in September the team undertook assemblies in local primary schools throughout October and received

nothing but praise from staff and pupils. The theme was that God cares for each child, following the idea of ‘The Lost Sheep’. Fluffy (the sheep puppet) has certainly been a big hit, with the team as well as the children!

After that, and a desperate plea for more volunteers (which was successful thanks to your support/prayers), rehearsals started for the Christmas assembly. Currently (mid November) we have 14 assemblies booked between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December; the team are certainly going to be busy! We are already thinking about the next term when the plan will probably be to take

‘The Lost Sheep’ routine into schools that it hasn’t been to yet, hopefully using some of the contacts we will make during the Christmas run.



The puppet choir!!

## Prayer points

Thanks for:

- a growing team
- open-ness from schools
- successful assemblies
- increasing contacts
- continued financial support.

Requests for:

- continued enthusiasm
- opening hearts of children (and staff) that see the assembly
- next term’s assemblies.

## Prayer Meetings

7.30—8.30 pm

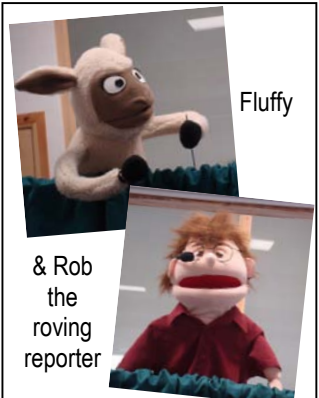
at St Peter’s Church, Kingstown Road, Carlisle.  
CA3 0BB

*On the 3rd Monday each month*

2011 19<sup>th</sup> December- led by the schools worker team

2012: 16th January, 20th February, 19th March

New team members are welcome. For details please contact Ruth Evans on 01228558773 or bjreevans@gmail.com



Fluffy

& Rob  
the  
roving  
reporter

## Contact Details

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