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“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ”

Ephesians 1 : 3

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SECONDARY SCHOOLS REPORT

Happy New Year to all our lovely prayer letter readers!!

One of the projects we are currently running is a Student Leadership Programme (SLP) in collaboration with NISCU North Cumbria and NISCU Eden. This is a training programme for young people aged 17-18 (sixth formers) in which they learn, practise and develop their leadership skills. We currently have 6 SLP-ers from West Cumbria and wanted you to hear first-hand from our young people so that you can gain a better idea of all the good things God is doing in their lives. So we have asked one of our sixth formers to tell us about how she is finding our Student Leadership Programme (SLP) Over to you Rhiannon!

'After being involved in the N:Joy team, Joelle chatted with me about joining SLP. So this school year I decided to go forward and join as I felt I would really benefit from it. SLP is really enjoyable and it is allowing me to grow more in my faith and also encouraging me to help others to grow in theirs. Since being part of SLP I am becoming more involved in things such as QM lunch club at Cockermouth School with Joelle. I really enjoy helping out at QM, sharing what I believe and listening to others.

I also went to the Contact weekend away as an SLP which was great as I got to know so many people and learned more about leadership.... And I can't wait for what the rest of SLP has to bring! ☺'

God is doing so many great things in West Cumbria and he has a plan to do much, much more. But I am very aware that the school environment is a tough place to stand up and be counted as a Christian. So as we begin this new year please join with us in praying for those young people (like Rhiannon) who we work with in school...

I hope you have had a good holiday season and that the New Year brings you many blessings! Remember if you ever want to meet me in person I am always available for a cuppa and a chat!!!

Emma

Prayer Mornings Request

One thing God has laid on my heart during my quiet times is being called to have a burden of prayer. This might sound odd and perhaps it is a strange concept but I feel that God is calling me to take up the challenge of praying for each individual young person that I come into contact with; and through this passionate, persistent, powerful prayer lives WILL be changed and the work of NISCU will be transformed.

On the basis of this, one thing which Joelle and I would like to initiate is having a monthly prayer morning in our NISCU offices at Christ Church Rooms, South Street, Cockermouth, CA13 9RU. This will take place on the first Tuesday of the month from 10 to 11am. We would like to extend this invitation to anyone who is able to attend and if you cannot make it then perhaps you could pray with us from your work place, home, car, wherever!!

The first prayer meetings will be on 3rd January, 7th February and 6th March; we will give you details of later prayer meetings during the course of the year but for now we just wanted to make sure you could put the first few dates in your diary!!

The book of James tells us that 'the prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective' (James 5:16). Joelle and I want to witness God's POWER and EFFECT within NISCU and to see the awesome effect of praying expectantly.

Please join us in praying at these times

Secondary Schools Workers

Joelle Raby (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) 07789992264 joelle.raby@niscu.org.uk
Emma Bater 07712806593 emma.bater@niscu.org.uk

Events Diary

January

Tues 3rd NISCU Prayer morning - 10:00am to 11:00am,
Christ Church Rooms, Cockermouth

Tues 10th Copeland PPT practice for Easter Assembly

Wed 11th Allerdale PPT practice for Easter Assembly

Mon 16th SS St Joseph's Assembly (The world)- Y11

Tues 17th Copeland PPT prayer and practice
SS St Joseph's Assembly (The world)- Y9

Wed 18th Allerdale PPT prayer and practice
SS St Joseph's Assembly (The world)- Y8

Fri 20th SS St Joseph's Assembly (The world)- Y7
Student leadership training session

Tues 24th Copeland PPT prayer and practice

Wed 25th Allerdale PPT prayer and practice

Tues 31st Copeland PPT prayer and practice

Key to Abbreviations

PPT - Primary Puppet Team

SS - Secondary School Team

February

Wed 1st Allerdale PPT prayer and practice

Sun 5th N:Joy youth event- 7:15 to 8:30pm, Christ Church, Cockermouth

Tues 7th NISCU Prayer morning - (see 3rd of January)
Copeland PPT prayer and practice

Wed 8th Allerdale PPT prayer and practice

Sat 11th NISCU commissioning service 6:00pm-7:30pm at Christ Church,
Cockermouth (with refreshments afterwards)

Mon 20th SS St Joseph's Assembly (Lent)- Y10

Tues 21st Copeland PPT at St Joseph's, Frizington
SS St Joseph's Assembly (Lent)- Y9

Wed 22nd Allerdale PPT prayer and practice
SS St Joseph's Assembly (Lent)- Y8

Fri 24th SS St Joseph's Assembly (Lent)- Y7
Student Leadership training session

Mon 27th Allerdale PPT prayer and practice

Tues 28th Copeland PPT at Ashfield Juniors, Workington

Wed 29th Allerdale PPT at St. Bridget's CE School, Brigham and Broughton
Primary School.

Weekly Clubs in Secondary Schools

Tuesday Lunchtime - Captiv8 Club, F06, Keswick School (CW: Mark)

Wednesday Break - QM Club, International Centre, St. Bees School (CW: Ian)

Wednesday Lunchtime - QM Club, RE.1, Whitehaven School (CW: Ian)

Thursday Lunchtime - QM Club, G17, Cockermouth School

Friday Lunchtime - Friday Club, Music Room, Beacon Hill School (CW: Clive)

CW : Co-Worker. CT : Christian Teacher

Primary Puppets Prayer Points

- Please thank God for His amazing love and faithfulness! Thank Him for His blessing on our last Mayfield assembly and our recent Christmas assemblies.
- Please keep praying for God's guidance and blessing on those involved in the production of our new Easter Assembly drapes.
- Please keep praying for the health and safety of our team members and their families, and for safe travel on our roads.
- Please pray for our new Easter Assembly practices.
- Please pray that God will enable both of our existing puppet teams to keep growing.
- Please keep praying that God will raise up a new leader/leaders for a third West Cumbrian puppet team, and that He will enable us to get ready for expansion.

Secondary Prayer Points

- Please pray for the SLP (Student Leadership Programme) and the 11 SLPs involved.
- This term we are covering the topic of 'What does God think about...' and answering the young people's questions about God and helping them to understand God's heart for them, their lives and the world. Please pray that God would speak through the clubs which we run and that the young people would be keen to learn more about God.
- January is a stressful time for our young people as many have exams looming and are in the process of applying to University. Please pray that God would bless the young people with his peace and joy.
- Please pray for safety for our workers and co-workers as we travel to and from the different schools. The roads can be very icy and dangerous so prayers of protection would be much appreciated!!

Hello from Primary Puppets!

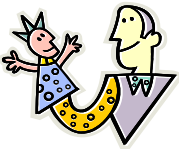
'This is to my Father's Glory, that you bear much fruit.....' [John 15:8]

It's brilliant.....I love it!! Such a great team....very supportive and "good crack!" Each assembly is different. We never assume anything even though the outline is well planned. In every situation, we pray first and put everything before the Lord – from transport to technology, props to puppeteers. Sometimes there are hiccups, but it always works out, and the glory goes to the Lord!

But weekly Wednesday performances are only the up-front part of our work. There's no time to tell you of all the work that goes on behind the scenes – the script-writing, sound recordings, the detail in the back-drops, making and/or resourcing props, contact with schools, practising the puppets' 'lip-synch', fundraising, paperwork.....!!! There's something for everyone! Come and join us!

I never take for granted the freedom we have to proclaim and spread the word of God. I do believe the time is coming, when the persecution suffered by Christians in other parts of the world, will become more of a reality here. We need to take a stand!

The vision of the Puppet ministry is to have a third team in West Cumbria. Let it be! Let's see this long awaited revival begin with the children in West Cumbria!



Pauline

Primary Team Leaders

Allerdale Team Maggie Cowles, 12 Harrot Hill,

Cockermouth CA13 0BL Tel: 01900 824466

Copeland Team Angela Scotchbrook, 39 Carlton Drive,
Whitehaven CA28 6XB Tel: 01946 67298

More puppeteers for **Primary Puppets**

The Allerdale and Copeland **Primary Puppets'** Teams are hoping to recruit a new member or two, to join their team. If you, or someone you know, is interested, we'd really love to hear from you!

To find out more, please contact:-

Maggie Cowles [Tel: 01900 824466]

Angela Scotchbrook [Tel: 01946 67298]

The Support Group is always pleased to welcome new members. The Group meets every six weeks or so in locations around West Cumbria. It exists to "support" the work of NISCU, be that its workers, volunteers or through contacts with local churches. If you are not sure it's for you find out more about what the Group does from a current member (see bottom of page 7). You could also come to a Group meeting as a "taster" before making a decision.

West Cumbria Chairman

Simon Astill

Tel: 01697 321679 or simona@sdeng.co.uk

West Cumbria Secretary

Suzanne Cooper, 5 Beech Grove, Whitehaven

Tel:01946 67697

West Cumbria Treasurer

Paul Cooper, details as above.

**Please advertise the notices
below in your church**

Njoy Celebrations

Christ Church, Cockermouth

5th February 2012

6th May 2012

1st July 2012

The Njoy celebration runs from 7.15pm to 8.30pm
followed by refreshments.

Enquiries email: Emma.bater@niscu.org.uk

NISCU Commissioning Service

Saturday 11th February 2012

The Commissioning Service for Emma Bater, our new
Secondary Worker, and the rededication of Joelle Raby
following her maternity leave, will be held at Christ
Church, South Street, Cockermouth, CA13 9RU.

The service will start at 6.00 pm and will last until
approximately 7.30 pm, followed by refreshments.

All supporters are invited and we look forward to seeing
you there.

If you would like to receive the NISCU Prayer Diary electronically,
please send your email address to **Emma.Bater@niscu.org.uk**
This would help to save distribution postage costs.

NISCU Office

Christ Church Rooms, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9RU

Tel: 07789992264

Web page: **www.niscu.org.uk**

Northern Inter Schools Christian Union

NISCU West Cumbria is part of the Northern Inter-Schools
Christian Union. Charity No. 1135880. Company No. 7203313