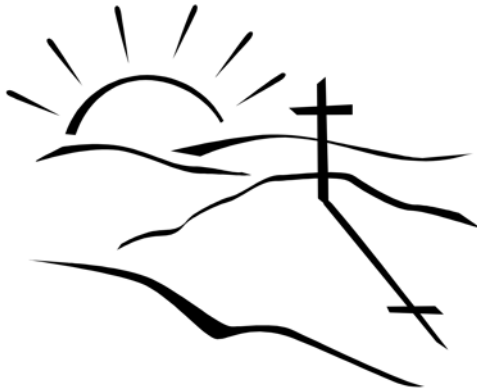


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'And everyone who calls on the name of
the Lord will be saved'
Acts 2:21

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SECONDARY SCHOOLS REPORT

I thought this would be a good time to look over the last academic year of the secondary schools work in West Cumbria.

It has been a good year where I have been able to add in a weekly break-time club at St. Bees and attend the Keswick lunch club which was run by local volunteers for a year and run clubs at Whitehaven, Cockermouth and Beacon Hill schools with the help of co-workers.

Over the last year in clubs, we have looked at the following themes:
Autumn Term: We looked at some of the teachings the Bible gives about how to live and then discussed if and how we could apply these to our everyday lives. This was a great introduction to the club for those who hadn't been before and opened up a lot of conversation amongst the students.

Spring/Summer Terms: We explored who God is and what the Bible says about him, comparing this to what the young people thought. We then discussed who Jesus is, what he said and did when he lived on earth and how this applies to the lives we lead.

In all these sessions the students also played games, watched DVD clips, took part in quizzes and activities which helped them to understand the theme of the club.

In the last few weeks before half term I asked the young people to tell me what they thought about clubs, what they had learnt over the year and why they come. Some of these quotes were shown in a presentation at the AGM and I thought I would share some with you:

"I like the question of the day, the food and the games we play."

"I learnt other people's opinions about God and considered them."

"Don't judge others and treat others as you'd like to be treated."

"I like being able to have fun while learning about God."

"I like meeting new people, it's a great group."

"I learnt there is loads of quotes about God and Jesus in the Bible."

"I've enjoyed answering questions and debating things about God."

"I've enjoyed answering questions and debating things about God."

"The club makes you feel a part of something."

"The hand game is awesome."

"I liked looking at the miracles."

These were just a selection of what the students had to say about clubs. From the answers they gave, you can see the difference in what they know about God and Jesus.

It has been a good year with some great discussions. I have watched some young people learn the basics of Christianity who knew nothing when they first appeared in club and seen others grow in their faith and relationship with God.

This coming academic year, I plan to look at the Old Testament in the autumn term clubs and discuss some of the stories where we see God's power, glory and love of his people.

Please be praying as I begin to write this material through August and September, that it would be God-centred and that the students would learn about God's character through it.

Thanks for your support throughout the last year; your prayers, emails, phone calls and financial giving. They have all been a great blessing to the work of NISCU,

Joelle

Weekly Clubs in Secondary Schools

Tuesday Lunchtime - Captiv8 Club, F08, Keswick School (CW: Simon)

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

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

Secondary Schools Worker

Joelle Raby joelle.raby@niscu.org.uk

Tel: 07789992264

Diary for Primary and Secondary Schools

September

6th NISCU Team Day

7th Copeland PPT practice

8th Allerdale PPT practice

9th NISCU Prayer Day at Cockermouth

14th Copeland PPT practice

15th Allerdale PPT practice

17th -19th NISCU Conference for workers, committees
and trustees.

20th Allerdale PPT practice

21st Copeland PPT at Lorton School

22nd Allerdale PPT at Grasslot and Flimby Schools

28th Copeland PPT at St Bees Prep School

29th Allerdale PPT at Blennerhasset and
St. Matthew's CE in Westnewton.

Key to Abbreviations

PP - Primary Puppet Team

SS - Secondary School Team

A Special Prayer Request

Some of you may know the exciting and happy news that Joelle is expecting a baby in December. This is great but will mean that during 2011 she will be away from work on maternity leave. Obviously we want to keep the secondary work in the area going and keep serving the schools and honouring God. To allow us to do this we will need to find somebody to cover Joelle whilst she is on leave. Please therefore will you pray, with us, for the following:

1. That even now God is preparing the right person for the work and is equipping them for this task.
2. That Joelle will have a wonderful few months until the birth and that everything goes well with her.
3. That the committee have wisdom at this time to look at all ways open to us to fill Joelle's shoes.

Primary Puppets Prayer Points

- Praise and give thanks to God for the open doors into our schools, and for His provision of eight new team members this year.
- Please keep praying for new team members.
- Please pray for health and safety of team members and their families and for a time of refreshing during the summer holidays.
- Please pray that God will prosper the new Assembly Writing Group and the new Props Group being formed.
- Please pray for our next assembly entitled, 'Whose World?' with its aim of presenting Christian beliefs about Creation.

Secondary Prayer Points

- Thank God for Cumbria Christian Youth Camp where many young people will have heard the Gospel and been challenged in their walk with God. Please pray for them as they go home, that they would be able to put what they've learnt into action in their lives and stay close to God.
- Thank God for the young people who have attended the school activities in the last academic year, please pray that they would return in September to the clubs.
- Please pray that Joelle and the co-workers would plan, prepare and present material with God's wisdom and guidance at the start of this new term.
- Thank God for all the opportunities the secondary schools team had in the last academic year. Please pray for these opportunities to continue through this new term and that God would prepare Joelle and the co-workers for this term.

Hello from Primary Puppets!

'Sing to the Lord all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvellous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.' [1 Chron.16: 23-25a]

As I look back over this last school year, my overriding feeling is one of huge thankfulness to God and to you our loyal prayer supporters! God has answered our prayers for new team members in a quite dramatic way! Last September, *Margaret* and *Nancy* came into the Copeland Team, and during this school year, God has brought 6 new team members into the Allerdale Team. They are *Alison, Debbie, Jackii, Mark, Pauline* and *Steve*.

We're so encouraged by God's amazing provision, and excited to see what God will do in the future! We still need new members though, as not all of our team can be available every week.

Looking back to our last term's assembly based around the story of 'The Good Samaritan', we thought you might like to read some of the children's comments sent to us after our visit:-

Kate (Y.2): "I liked the play when it showed me we should be nice to other people".

Dexter (Y.3): "I noticed that the play when the lady fell and nobody helped her, was like the story of the Good Samaritan".

Jenny (Y.6): "I loved the song – I liked the tune, and the words went well with the assembly: Love with actions, not just words."

Our vision for the future of this work remains one of expansion. I believe that God gave us this word in July 2009:-

'You need to put structures in place to accommodate the expansion'.

So we are now doing that. We've formed an Assembly Writing Group, and are in the process of setting up a Props Group, both to be headed up by *Jane Bebbington* from September. Please pray for these exciting developments! Thank you once again to all of you, for being such a vital part of this work!

Maggie

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

Primary Puppets Teams

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, are interested, we'd love to hear from you!

To find out more, please contact:-

Maggie Cowles Tel: 01900 824466

Angela Scotchbrook Tel: 01946 67298

News from the SUPPORT GROUP

As a Support Group we would like to THANK YOU for your prayer and giving that enables the work to go forth into our schools. Two things we would like to bring to YOUR attention:

- **NEW TREASURER:** Just a REMINDER that time is moving on in relation to the requirement for a New Treasurer. Could you continue to pray that the 'right person' may come forward to carry out this important role.

PERHAPS you know someone who could help in this way or IS that person is YOU???

- **NEW MEMBERS** on the Support Group. We are still looking for new people to join us to help in various ways. From experience it is a great privilege to be part of the group and see the work grow.

If you are interested and would like more information on either of the above then contact Simon or any of the names within the Prayer Letter.

Chairman

Simon Astill

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

Secretary

Suzanne Cooper, 5 Beech Grove, Whitehaven

Tel:01946 67697

Treasurer

Beth Brook, Forgeside, Parsonby,Aspatria CA7 2DE

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

NISCU Prayer Day

***Thursday 9th September
(10.00am-3.00pm in hourly sessions)***

***NISCU Office, Christ Church, Cockermouth
Please come and pray with us for the work over the
next year - everyone welcome***

N:Joy

**Bi-monthly Christian Youth Celebration held
at 7.15 - 8.30pm In christ Church Cockermouth**

**For future Celebrations dates please email Joelle and
these will be sent when available.**

Enquiries email: joelle.raby@niscu.org.uk

If you would like to receive the Niscu Prayer Diary electronically.
please send your email address to **Joelle.raby@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