**All-Age AGM Celebration 2016 - ‘Songs and Stories’**

1. **Welcome and Opening Prayer** **Simon Astill.**
2. **Apologies**

Julie Bater, Gillian Buchan, Irene Callow, Ron & Mildred Forward and Norma Hughes.

1. **Attendance**

There were 70 supporters, staff and volunteers in attendance representing 20 churches; details are on file.

1. **Reports**
2. Summary Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2015 were circulated on the night;
3. Annual Report 2015-16 had been prepared and was circulated on the night containing the following reports:
   1. Chair’s report – Simon Astill;
   2. Lynn Graham’s Report;
   3. Alice Stopczynski’s Report;
   4. Primary Puppets’ Report.
4. **Elections to the Support Group**

Dave Grime, Trustee conducted the Election to the Support Group where nominations for Simon Astill, Lorna Casson and Sheila Harvie were formally approved.

1. **A Trustee word! Dave Grime**

The Support Group was thanked for all their work. Prayers were also asked for the five trustees, for new people to join and for anyone who may be interested to find out more. Dave wished Deborah Smith former Chief Officer all the best in her new role within Carlisle Diocese and introduced Nick Klein recently appointed as new Chief Officer.

1. **The New Boss! Nick Klein**

Nick gave a history of how he came to Lancashire, as a teacher, outdoor instructor, consultant in education, worked for Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in Lancaster for four years. He then worked in Craven for Niscu and now appointed as Chief Officer. Nick felt it was clear that we have a great opportunity in schools with children wanting to hear the gospel. Psalm 121 says help comes from the Lord, do pray for us that we would have real wisdom in how to engage children in our communities to find Jesus. Nick closed by praying for the community.

1. **Treasurer’s Report Paul Cooper**

Summary Accounts for Year Ended 31 December 2015 were circulated. Paul said it was a pleasure and a responsibility to explain the accounts.

Thanks were expressed to all supporters and churches for continuing to give and for God in continuing to provide. As the accounts are now being managed by Niscu centrally it does give more time for the Support Group to come out to the churches and tell you about what is happening in Niscu.

1. **Songs and Stories from the Schools -** Alice Stopczynski introduced the theme for the evening.

Live band was Joe Pearson, Andy Kelly, Darryl Boustead, Gordon Pickering and Rob Mayhew helping with the I.T.

Each song was accompanied with a captivating story from one of the Workers or Puppet Teams to explain its impact on children, staff and the team themselves:

* **My Lighthouse** –Alice was accompanied with actions by students from Whitehaven School QM Club;
* **Come on Everybody Sing Praises** – Primary Puppet Team, Flags & Ribbons;
* **My God is So Big** – Lynn & Andy with video and actions;
* **God Loves us So Much** – Primary Puppet Team and actions;
* **Wonderful Lord** – Lynn and Change Club and actions;
* **Mary Did You Know** – Lynn - Alice singing a solo with piano accompaniment;
* **Jesus You’re My Superhero** – Lynn with video and actions;
* **Wonderful World** – Primary Puppet Team.

1. **Chair’s Closing Remarks Simon Astill**

* Thanks were expressed to:
  + Everyone for supporting and attending this event; and to the
  + Primary Puppet Teams, Lynn, Alice, The Band, Technician, students and their parents.
* There are a number of ways to keep in touch with the work:
  + Monthly Prayer letter;
  + Weekly Butterflies Email; and
  + Visits to supporting churches.
* The Workers would also like to thank all the many volunteers that help in whatever capacity and if anyone would like to get involved please see us.
* Thanks were again expressed to all workers and volunteers and to Dave & Nick.
* The evening finished with a recording of “Thank you for the Music” by Abba followed by refreshments.