



WHAT'S EVERYONE TALKING ABOUT?

"...MY WORD THAT GOES OUT FROM MY MOUTH...WILL NOT RETURN TO ME EMPTY, BUT WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT I DESIRE AND ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH I SENT IT."

WHAT'S TALKING?

For a generation for whom face-to-face conversation is far from compulsory and all the risks of human interaction - tension, argument, heartbreak - are taken away, the option of digital communication seems an easy and obvious choice. It even seems possible that talking could become a thing of the past. Yet, conversation has always been at the centre of community, and given the opportunity the current generation of young people are as keen as ever to question life, faith and where they fit in. What is less clear, is how and when they can do it without breaking social boundaries. Increasingly I'm seeing my role in High Schools as one to provide opportunities for young people to talk, whether that is in a club, or in the Alpha taster sessions that Lou and I led at LGS this term, or in the Listening Service we offer at Heysham, where we can just listen, 1:1, with young people, who might feel that they never have a chance to talk anywhere else. These moments can have a huge impact on their development and understanding, as well as revealing something of the character of Jesus, who listened to, talked to and challenged individuals and empires all without the aid of a mobile phone.

Jonny Bayes

TALKING ABOUT JESUS

Just recently, Torrisholme Community Primary School held a Christianity Day and the NISCU North Lancs team went along in support and took lessons*.

The classes I was with were focusing on learning about Jesus and I spent a wonderful morning with them visiting two of the local churches where they looked for evidence of Jesus and heard from both Church leaders. The children were so excited after their visit and really enjoyed finding out more about Jesus changing lives, after which they had the opportunity to ask me questions and talk about their own beliefs.

Diana

*Debbie took the theme of **Hope** with Year 2, Diana looked at how **Jesus Changes Lives** with Year 3, Sarah used her **Jesus Calms the Storm** lesson with Year 4, Lou took **The Big Bible** to Year 5 and Jonny explored **Paul's Journeys** with Year 6. Steven Hewitt (committee member, minister at Stanley Rd Baptist) took questions from the Year 6s too.

The RE Day, with a focus on Christianity, was a resounding success. The visitors from NISCU were brilliant - they got their messages over to the children in an exciting way- and I feel that some of them even learned something new from the churches visits. All of the children really enjoyed it and I have had some very positive feedback from both staff and children alike.

Regards, Marcus (RE Co-ordinator, Torrisholme Community Primary School)

SAYING
THANK YOU

We did it! We moved to our bigger North Lancs office. It has room for dancing - I tried it! We have so many people to thank:-Friends at St Thomas's for nearly 20 years of banter, new friends at Torrisholme Methodist including Bernard Vause, Peter Normington, Eddie Sykes, Barbara, John, Ryan and Frank (some very tricky furniture removal with donations from Central Methodist); decorators - Dave Hargreaves and Steven Hewitt from Stanley Rd and Amy; electrician Tom Carling; a beautiful sign made by Phil, odd jobs by Steve; printer search by Jane; general mucking in by the North Lancs team and all our supporters who give financially (our new place has similar generous rates to our old one). So come and see us - there's a chair for you! Go past McDonalds and turn right before the Shrimp roundabout (the church is on the right). Give me a ring if you are passing 07794414353. Debbie

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Road, Carnforth, LA5 9LE (NISCU on
front, North Lancs written onto back of
cheque)

SURPRISING CONVERSATIONS

"That wasn't what we expected!" said one teacher recently, after her class of thirty children had spent their RE lesson absorbed in experiments and games with mirrors. Children love science activities, investigating and exploring. It fires their imaginations, so why not use science to explain some principles of Christianity? This term we have used torches, mirrors and crazy backwards writing to discover why Jesus described himself and his followers as 'the light of the world'. We have used dominoes, party poppers and lemons to look at Bible truths about creation and how all its wonders and complexities point to a glorious designer. In a world where science and religion are increasingly seen as entirely separate things, praise God for opportunities to show that "from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever!" (Romans 11:36)

Sarah Dodd



MIRACLE MONDAYS

Sign up for your weekly term time emails. Please email Jonny to add your name to our growing list.
jonny.bayes@niscu.org.uk



CHECK OUT THE NEW
FACEBOOK
PAGE FOR PARENTS.

REGULAR CUS

Mon	Skerton (Diana) Wray (Margaret) Torrisholme (Hannah) Halton (Amy, Paula, Rachel) LRGS (Jonny & Stuart) St Tees Pre-School (Lauren, Jessica) Caton Community KS1 (Suzanne)
Tues	LGGS (Lou & Rachel) Hornby (Jane) West End (Ruth) Dallas Rd (Mary, Annabelle, Mrs Scott) Grosvenor Park (Diana & John) Ripley Yr9-11 (Jonny & Adam)
Wed	Lancaster Rd (Diana & Karen) Christ Church L/C (Lauren & Sallie)
Thu	Caton Community (Suzanne & Julie) Ripley Yr7-8 (Adrian & Jonny) Ridge (LBC & Diana)
Fri	Trumacar (Diana & Rebecca) Caton St Paul's (Julie)

ROOM FOR A CHAT

Our last Encouragement Evening for staff and volunteers from schools was worth talking about. With around 50 booked, scrummy food by Bev Carling, worship led by Ben and a wonderful talk by Dan Cronin. Please get in touch if you know of teachers or those who work in schools and we'll make sure they get an invite next term.

SEASONAL TALK

Has anyone told you how many weeks it is til Christmas? It's that time of year when everyone's talking about Christmas and we love to join in with that, because NISCU get so many opportunities at this time of year to help children figure out what Christmas is all about. The theme of this year's puppet roadshow is giving and our puppet Christmas wrap (I mean rap!) really gets across the precious message of John 3:16...

*'God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, from above,
And that's why Christmas is all about love.'*

Lou Mosey



SOME "W" WORDS FROM OUR CEO

Wow!...We live in exciting times. This term has seen a new office and a new member of staff in North Lancs (albeit Rachel who interned with us last year!), and with a similar level of excitement, the whole NISCU area has also enlarged, with us employing more staff in North Cumbria and South Lakes areas as well as the re-introduction of our work supporting local volunteers in the Furness area.

Why?...because there are great opportunities for us to meaningfully support our schools and church communities...and this opens more doors to tell children, youth and adults about this incredible God that we know who really cares for them. And as I hear the stories from all over our NISCU areas about how children, young people and even teachers are responding to this hope I am amazed by His goodness and care for us. My only frustration is that even with all of our increases in capacity, there are still needs in schools and children that we cannot meet. But I leave this in His hands of compassion, and in our hands of prayers.

What next?...I am so appreciative of all of the prayer that NISCU receives from supporters all over our areas and beyond. The main reason for my appreciation is that I can see the difference that prayer makes, and it really makes a difference. But I still meet lots of Christians who don't know that they can pray for their local school, don't know about how they can make a difference in their children/grandchildren's schools simply by praying. So my request again is 'Please join us in prayer', and also a new one ...'Please ask a friend to join us in prayer'

If you want to know more about how you can get information from the North Lancs area then just get in touch with the worker you know, or email Jonny.bayes@niscu.org.uk and together we will see an even bigger difference in our communities, and that is really, really exciting!
God bless, **Nick**