



niscu

Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union

Autumn Term 2016

north cumbria

ALL THINGS NEW!

Contents

As the **New** school year gets underway surely **ALL THINGS NEW** is the recurring topic in this newsletter.

Read about the many changes since our last newsletter

- 24 Mar - Michael, Sally and Gabriel welcomed "Ethan Josiah" to their family.
- 16 May - at our Annual meeting four new committee members were elected: Geoffrey Pearson, treasurer, Andy Graham, Joe Pattinson and Kerry Stephens.
- June - Nick Klein was appointed as the NISCU chief officer.
- July - Ruth Evans was appointed to cover some of Michael's Paternity leave, starting in September.
- September - Tisha West joins the staff as a trainee with her church & NISCU. (...there are many other new staff across the different areas.)

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*His mercies are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22,23



Advance Notice

New event: NISCU will hold a supper for Christian teachers and other school staff on 26 January 2017. If that is YOU please keep the date free!

A New Chief Officer

Nick Klein

Hi.

My name is Nick and I live near Lancaster with my wife, and 2 teenage kids.

I've lived there since being a student at the university which seems a really long time ago now! I've done various things in that time including teaching, running an outdoor centre for schools, developing teaching materials, working for Christians Against Poverty and with young adults in the New Wine Discipleship Year.

I have two passions in my current walk with God: to show God's love to those that don't know him through practical care and to see local churches working together to make an impact on their community.

Firstly, having worked for Christians Against Poverty in the area for the last 3 and a half years, it has been an immense pleasure to see how the church can have a significant impact on people who currently don't know God, by showing them practically that we care. Secondly, I have also had the privilege of being a part of other inter church initiatives, such as the Landmark conference in Lancaster last year, and have seen how strong God's church is when people work together across denominational boundaries.

I now find myself in a position to bring these two passions together in the context of supporting the outreach work into schools with NISCU. I am sure that many of you who have been a part of NISCU for longer than me will appreciate my dual emotions of being very excited about being a part of this work, but also feeling very nervous due to the weight of accountability for reaching as many of our children and young people as possible with the resources and opportunities that God has given us.

I'm also guessing that you are receiving this letter because you are a supporter of NISCU and I just want say right from the start that I thoroughly appreciate all that you have done, and continue to do, in making NISCU happen. So may God bless you, and also continue to bless this work we are involved in together.

We are pleased to welcome Nick to this important role. Please pray for him as he seeks to lead us to maximize the opportunities God gives to reach this generation with the good news of Jesus.

A New Position..after 20 years

Ruth Evans

Hello there!

My name is Ruth Evans and for the next few months I am taking on most of (although not quite ALL) of Michael's work whilst he is on paternity leave.



Many of you may recognise my name from newsletters past when I was telling you about the work of Puppertual Fun, before Ailsa so ably took on that role. I have had involvement with NISCU, of some sort or other, for over 22 years and have felt called to the work since I was 16. Michael's cover has come up 'at just the right time' (only taken 20 years!) as my youngest child has just started in Reception and my other 2 are in years 3 & 2. Before the arrival of my eldest I was a secondary school teacher and now have primary experience from volunteering in my children's school.

I am thoroughly chuffed to be taking on a role where I am wonderfully and prayerfully upheld by such an amazing group of supporters – yes, I mean you – and one where it is my job to take the message of God's amazing Gift into schools and to be salt and light in so many places. Exciting times! In addition to covering Michael's work I have been temporarily employed to cover a few hours of NISCU work in the Penrith area as Emma (the Eden worker) left at about the same time, so I'm going to cheekily ask for your prayer support with that too. Thanks in advance.

I'd like to end with some words from a song I used to sing as a lullaby to my little ones when they were fretful, a song I grew up listening to. It is based on Ecclesiastes 3:11 and just seems to fit:

'In His time, in His time.

He makes all things beautiful in His time.
Lord please show me every day,
as You're teaching me Your way,
that You do just what You say in Your time.'

When Ruth wrote this she didn't expect to end up in hospital having a spinal operation. However as she says 'all things are in His time'. She has come through surgery and is at home convalescing. Although it is frustrating for her, she can look forward to more mobility when she returns to work. Please pray for her to make a full speedy recovery.

A New NISCU Trainee

Letitia West



Hello my name is Letitia, or Tisha for short, and I am a trainee working for NISCU this academic year. Alongside this, I am also doing an apprenticeship with a local church in Brampton town called Bethesda.

I currently live in Brampton but have not always done so. I originally come from down south in a town called Chippenham, which is in Wiltshire and not that far from Bristol. I am a recent graduate from Swansea University where I did an undergraduate degree in History and Ancient History.

Even a few months ago, I never imagined that I would be living this far north or even that I would be moving back in with my parents. I had intended to go back to university to do further study but I guess God had other plans for me. I first heard about this opportunity at the beginning of the summer holidays and I was intrigued. However, I did not do anything about it as I was still quite uncertain about the future, and what God wanted me to do. At that point I was still considering going on to do more study.

Many people were praying for me and asking God to guide me which was much appreciated, as prayer is such an important part of life. God kept shutting doors as I was applying for many jobs and I was not getting responses back. It became clear to me that I would have to stay with my parents for a while, and so, I decided that I would be involved in the North West Gospel Partnership training course, which is being run in Carlisle this year. When I had decided to be a part of this training course the trainee position with NISCU was mentioned again to me. I decided that this was what God was calling me to do, and so I applied for the position.

The North West Partnership are running a training course in Carlisle. This is a new venue for them.

A New NISCU Trainee Scheme

This year NISCU has begun a scheme where we encourage young people to volunteer as trainees in their local church, take part in Bible and leadership training and work for 16 hours a week for NISCU.

This is really exciting, as it allows me to be a link for young people in the local area between school and church, in order that young people have the chance to hear and respond to the gospel message.

Doors of Opportunity

Michael Fox

Jesus said “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved” John 10:9

Forest Gump, in the film by the same name, tells us that “Life is like a box of chocolates: you never know what you’re gonna get unless you open it”. As true as that may be, boxes of chocolates are usually clearly marked and you generally have a fairly good idea of what’s inside before you open the box, however, you still need to open the box and taste the contents to truly know what you’re getting. But I get your point Forest.



Recently I have been showing the young people pictures of famous doors, 10 Downing Street, Bagend, The T.A.R.D.I.S etc. and asking I them if they would like to go through and if so what would they expect to find. I’ve also been showing them pictures of anonymous doors and asking what they think could be on the other side. “What’s the point?” I hear you ask; the point is to liken the doors to the opportunities that are presented to each of us throughout our lives, some of them we may recognise others we may not and that often the only way find out what’s on the other side is to step through the door (or opportunity) to find out. I also show a prison cell door in order to highlight that not all doors/opportunities are necessarily ones that we may wish enter.

It is often difficult to know which doors we should open and which should remain closed and that we will all make mistakes along the way, but by asking for help from other people we can make better choices and hopefully avoid many mistakes. Jesus said “I am the door...” is this door a door that you know of? Is it a door you have been through? As someone that’s been through that door I can honestly say that it’s a door worth thinking about, a door worth investigating and door that’s worth seeing the other side of.

Writing material for the young people, I am often amazed how much the message I had intended for them has a meaning for me. As my paternity leave draws closer I am attempting to embrace what opportunities may come along with it. I will miss the day to day mechanics that are part of being a NISCU schools worker: working with many young people and visiting different schools each day. Instead I will look after my two little boys, Gabriel and Ethan and try to remain open to whatever opportunity God sends my way.



Be Part of the Team

Rachel Gleave

I don't know about you but I love the Olympic games. I get totally sucked into all the different events and can find myself engrossed! I just love that the team for each country is made up of all sorts of different people with a wide range of different skills and abilities, from being able to run 10,000m to being able to do a gold medal winning floor routine. They train for years and as a spectator you see some amazing achievements and world records. However, I find the Paralympic even more interesting when people with a disability achieve beyond their wildest dreams despite the obstacles in their way. Even though they have cerebral palsy or missing limbs or something else they can still run faster / swim farther / cycle faster than I can.



Team GB team almost doubled in size from 2008, with an amazing 541 members (not including all the support staff). This is similar to NISCU - September 2016 has started with great excitement with many new additions to the NISCU team. Here in North Cumbria we have doubled in size with the addition of both a paternity leave cover (Ruth Evans) and a trainee (Letitia West), but the wider niscu team has also dramatically grown in size with many new starters and trainees (8 in total I think). The reason I find this so exciting is that each of us are different and are bringing our God given skills together for his service. For example even though I don't particularly know one end of a puppet to the other, God has that covered with the skills that Ruth brings.

There are 2 things from the Olympics that have really jumped out at me this time. The first is how much winning means to the athletes. There was one guy who won a gold medal in the Paralympic table tennis and he jumped on the table with excitement then burst into tears when interviewed, another was a Paralympic swimmer who had won her race in world record time and had a look of total shock on her face. The thing with Christianity though is that Jesus has already won and we can share in his victory – amazing. I don't know about you but I think that is something worth getting excited about. The other thing that has really stood out for me was how much the



athletes say that they couldn't have achieved whatever they did without the support staff, physios, coaches, family and friends etc. Here in NISCU - North Cumbria we are so blessed and privileged to have an amazing support team, prayer partners, encouragers, people who join us in clubs and assemblies and **really**, we couldn't do it without you.

The London 2012 Olympic games legacy was 'Inspire a generation'. The Olympians do amazing things, but God can do infinitely more than any of us can ever imagine. In Philippians 4:13 it says 'I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me'. It staggers me that God uses even me to achieve his purposes but each of us can play our part in the team – by praying, giving, volunteering, whatever we are called to do and together we can reach more young people with the good news of Jesus. Together, with all our different God given skills, talents and efforts, let us all play our part to inspire this generation to find and know more about the ultimate treasure – Jesus Christ.

Puppetual Fun

Ailsa Taylor

This year we have had two teams, who have been into many primary schools, each taking a different assembly. "The Promise" is based on God's promise to Abraham and Sarah and "Jesus is no fairy tale" uses a song by that title, and is based on the feeding of the 5000. We are always pleased when we get bookings into new schools and doors reopen into ones where we haven't been for a while and recently there have been a few of these.

In November we will rehearse for the Christmas assembly and then go into schools everyday for 2 to 3 weeks in December. This would be a good time to come and see if this is something you would like to do. Please contact Ailsa if you are interested. We really do need a few more members.

Please pray children and staff will hear the Bible message the presentation gives.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Prayer Diary

Regular events

SUNDAY

Pray for our staff, their family and churches.

Rachel & Paul Gleave, Isaac, Lauren, Reuben. (Members of St Peter's Church.)

Michael & Sally Fox, Gabriel, Ethan (Members of C.C.F.)

Ruth & Bryn Evans, John, Jemima, Mark (Members of King's church, Penrith)

Letitia West

(Member of Bethesda Church Brampton)

MONDAY

Collective Worship (usually monthly)

Shankhill (Rachel) 13.00

Lanercost (Rachel) 14.50

Crosby on Eden (Michael) 09.00

St Michael's Dalston (Michael) 13.00

Quest Clubs (weekly)

Pennine Way (Diane, Susannah) 15.30

Houghton (Neal, Andrew, Trudi, Anne) 15.20

Puppet assemblies (weekly)

Prayer Meeting (3rd Monday of month) 19.30

St Peter's, Kingstown Rd, Carlisle CA3 0BB

TUESDAY

Collective Worship (usually monthly)

Longtown (Rachel) 10.00

Hallbankgate (Rachel) 09.00

Quest Club Kingmoor (weekly) 15.30

(Barbara, Robert, Bruce, Helen, Trudi, Ruth, Margaret)

Secondary Clubs (weekly)

Caldew (Michael, Ruth) 12.20

Lime House (Michael, Ruth) 13.30

Richard Rose Morton

(Rachel Kristian Graham) 13.00

WEDNESDAY

Collective Worship (usually monthly)

Belle Vue (Rachel) 10.15

Stoneraise (Michael/Ruth) 09.00

Secondary Club

Nelson Thomlinson (weekly) 12.20

(Michael/ Ruth, Alan Rainford)

NW partnership Course (weekly) 19.00
at St John's Houghton (Rachel, Tisha)

THURSDAY

Collective Worship (usually monthly)

James Rennie (Rachel)

09.30

Secondary club (weekly)

William Howard (Rachel, Tim, Tisha) 12.25

Puppet Assemblies (weekly)

FRIDAY

Secondary clubs (weekly)

Trinity (Michael, Ben, Kristian, Trudi) 12.30

Richard Rose Central (Rachel, Brian) 13.05

Other Events

RAF Cadets (monthly) (note: Michael intends to keep this up in his own time) 20.00

SATURDAY

- Pray for a new committee in Penrith to be formed and good support for Ruth there.
- Pray for management team: Nick Klein (chief officer), Pam Jones (operations manager), Ruth Robinson (admin)
- Pray for Trustees to be wise in their oversight
- Pray for Committee to support the staff well and have vision to see where the Lord is leading in the work in this area.

Prayer meetings: 3rd Monday each month

Oct 17th, Nov 21st, Dec 19th (Christmas Special with refreshments)

7.30 -8.30 pm at St Peter's Church, Kingstown Road, Carlisle, CA3 0BB

****After each prayer meeting we send out the prayer update by email. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the list. (We only send an email once a month unless there is something special or an emergency, so you won't be bombarded with extra messages.)** Contact north.cumbria@niscu.org.uk**