

PRAYER LETTER

February - March 2017

Welcome to the NISCU schoolworkers' prayer letter.
Come and hear news from the teams and find out how you
can be involved and support your local schoolwork.
We hope that you enjoy the read.



“Now Jesus gathered around him some friends and
followers, and they soon began to see that Jesus was
sent from God”

(Excerpt from story by Rev Fergus Pearson)

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Northern Inter Schools Christian Union

NISCU West Cumbria is part of the Northern Inter-Schools
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News from the NISCU West Cumbria Team

News from **Alice**

Last term the Christmas assemblies were a very special time, and for me, one of the highlights of 2016. I thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of being able to share God's gift to the world in schools. This New Year 2017 brings not just a new school term for me, but also many new changes in my life altogether. As from the 17th February, I will be saying goodbye to what has been one of the best opportunities I have ever been given. I am excited, but also sad, to say that I will be leaving the work of NISCU in West Cumbria to embrace a new adventure, starting in Fulwood near Preston, as the new youth and children's worker for Fulwood Free Methodist Church.

As I begin to say my goodbyes to students and staff, I can't help but praise God for all that He has shown me, all that He has done for me, and all that He has done through me. I have made some of the best friendships and I have witnessed some of the most special moments in schools and churches, as I have shared God's love where He has sent me in this area.

It feels daunting to move – yes ... It feels sad – yes ... I will miss a lot of people – yes ... but I know that God doesn't move His children unless He has a reason for doing so. Now I must be ready to listen once again as He sends me to a new area. I must be ready to be challenged in new ways, as He continues to grow His love in me and as I continue to share His love with new people.

So I would like to finish by saying thank you! Thank you for the love that I have received and for the friendships I have made. Thank you for the children, young people and staff with whom I have had the pleasure and privilege of being able to share God's love and work with. Thank you to everyone who has prayed for me in this work. Thank you for my support group who have guided me and supported me. NISCU wouldn't work in this area without you. I would like to say a special thank you to Lynn. I have loved working with you and my prayer as I leave is that God would continue to shine in you, and through you, as you move forwards with His work. Thank you for being more than a colleague, but also a true friend. Finally, and most importantly, thank you to Jesus for being the reason we share His love in West Cumbria.

God bless you all,

Alice X

News from Lynn

As you are reading this prayer letter you will now know that Alice will be leaving us mid-February to start her new job in Preston. I have known her now for over 4 years and I have appreciated her friendship very much. She has brought her lively and warm approach to everything we have done and everyone she has worked with. We are sorry to see her go but pray for her move and new life a little further south, may God bless her richly.

And so, we now reflect and look ahead to the shape the schoolwork will take in the coming weeks and months ahead. We value your prayers very much at this time. We have started the Spring Term with clubs and collective worship assemblies as usual and we are planning to invite visitors who will continue to inspire the students following on from our visit from Helen Faulds last term. We have a full programme ahead including reflection stations and a visit from Emma Bater, now working for Foodbank.

What an adventure it has been to visit Mayfield Special Educational Needs School recently to help them with their RE lessons. Along with the church team: Jenny, Michael, Fergus, Darryl, Alice and Itzel, it has been a real blessing. We have been acting out bible stories and everyone has taken part, including dressing up as various characters along the way. One poignant moment was when I was acting the part of Jesus and as Jenny narrated how Jesus came to live with us on the earth, I shook hands with each child in the room and said hello to each of them. And, further in the story Jesus went to heaven, and then sending the Holy Spirit, who was played by Alice, she also continued the gesture of greeting every child in the room. These were special moments as we realise how personal Jesus is to us and somehow it made it even more real in that classroom.

And so to the mission ahead, and thanks to all our church partners, prayer warriors and financial givers as the work of NISCU would not continue without you.

Lynn

Contact the Team

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Prayer Diary

Allerdale and Copeland PPT's practices for new Easter Assembly.

Workington team with 'We need each other' assemblies.

February

Wed 1: QM Clubs at lunchtime in Whitehaven Academy and Keswick School

Wed 1: Allerdale PPT practice

Thu 2: Thursday Club at lunchtime in Beacon Hill School

Thu 2: Workington PPT at St Michael's Infants &

Nursery School, Workington

Tue 7: QM Club at lunchtime in Cockermouth School

Tue 7: Copeland PPT final practice

Wed 8: QM Clubs at lunchtime in Whitehaven Academy and

Keswick School, visit from Foodbank

Wed 8: Allerdale PPT final practice

Thu 9: Thursday Club at lunchtime in Beacon Hill School,

visit from Foodbank

Thu 9: Workington PPT at Lowca Community School

Sat 11: CCYC (Cumbria Christian Youth Camp) Reunion

Mon 13: Allerdale PPT at Braithwaite CofE School and Bassenthwaite School

Tue 14: QM Club at lunchtime in Cockermouth School, visit from Foodbank

Tue 14: Copeland PPT at St Begh's Catholic Junoir School

Wed 15: QM Clubs at lunchtime in Whitehaven Academy

and Keswick School, visit from Foodbank

Thu 16: Thursday Club at lunchtime in Beacon Hill School

Thu 16: Prayer at Crosthwaite Church Sunday School Room

2.15pm, all welcome

Thu 16: Workington PPT at Westfield Primary School

Tue 28: QM Club at lunchtime in Cockermouth School

Tue 28: Copeland PPT at St Gregory's & St Patrick's Infants Whitehaven

March

Wed 1: QM Clubs at lunchtime in Whitehaven Academy and Keswick School

Wed 1: Allerdale PPT at Oughterside Primary School

Thu 2: Mayfield School - Session planning

Thu 2: Thursday Club at lunchtime in Beacon Hill School

Thu 2: Workington PPT practice

QM (Question Mark) Club:

"What is life about? Who am I? QM is a club for life's big questions and a place to have fun, with games, video clips and space to think.

Allerdale and Copeland PPT's practices for new Easter Assembly.
Workington team with 'We need each other' assemblies.

March cont

Mon 6: Team Day
Tue 7: QM Club at lunchtime in Cockermouth School
Tue 7: Copeland PPT at Thornhill Primary School
Wed 8: Collective Worship Assembly at Beacon Hill School 8.45am
Wed 8: QM Clubs at lunchtime in Whitehaven Academy
and Keswick School
Wed 8: Allerdale PPT at St Michael's CofE Primary, Bothel
and Plumbland CofE School
Thu 9: Mayfield School RE Session 1 with Key stage 2 at 10.45am
Thu 9: Thursday Club at lunchtime in Beacon Hill School
Thu 9: Workington PPT practice
Tue 14: QM Club at lunchtime in Cockermouth School
Tue 14: Copeland PPT at Montreal CofE Primary, Cleator Moor
Wed 15: QM Clubs at lunchtime in Whitehaven Academy
and Keswick School
Wed 15: Allerdale PPT at St Joseph's Catholic, Cockermouth
and Dean CofE School
Thu 16: Mayfield School RE Session 2 with Key stage 2 at 10.45am
Thu 16: Thursday Club at lunchtime in Beacon Hill School
Thu 16: Workington PPT venue -TBC
Fri 17-Sun 19: Solway Network Youth Church Weekend Away
Mon 20-Fri 7 April : Easter Roadshow (12-15 Primary Schools)
Tues 21: Copeland PPT at Moor Row School
Wed 22: Allerdale PPT at Ireby CofE School and Bolton CofE School
Thu 23: Mayfield School RE Session 3 with Key stage 2 at 10.45am
Thu 23: Easter Roadshow at Richmond Hill School 3pm
Thu 23: Workington PPT venue -TBC
Tue 28: Easter Roadshow Threlkeld Primary School 9am
Tue 28: Copeland PPT at St Bega's Eskdale
Wed 29: Allerdale PPT at Blennerhasset School
and St Matthew's CofE School
Thu 30: Mayfield School RE Session 4 with Key stage 2 at 10.45am
Thu 30: Workington PPT venue -TBC

**Please pray for all our church partners in the weekly and
monthly secondary clubs**

Margaret Laycock, Mim Rainford, Rachel Philips, Alan Rainford,
Itzel Herrera, Ian Harvie, Alison Riley, Adrian Thompson, Jenny Sloan,
Fergus Pearson, Michael Sloan, Sudharshan Sarvananthan,
Darryl Boustead

Hello from Primary Puppets

As you read this Christmas 2016 is a distant memory! All 3 teams had a very busy term with lots of extra events on top of our school visits! I would personally like to thank everyone in each of the teams for their hard work and dedication throughout the Christmas term [and for each school term for that matter!]. Copeland team are very grateful to Isabel, who agreed to help us out whilst Gillian was recovering from further surgery on her foot. Also for Nancy coming back on board at very short notice to cover for me, when I was unexpectedly out of action!

As ever, we never have time to stand still and are now preparing and practising for "What does Easter mean to you?" our new assembly. Well, that is what two of our teams - Allerdale and Copeland - are doing. In this Easter assembly, we explain that when Christians think about Easter, we remember that there is both good and bad news. Through our puppet play we get the puppets [Grandpa, Susie and Max] to tell the Easter story for us. We have chosen a puppet song called "I'm Special" to follow on from the play and the questions. We finish with a second puppet song called "Jesus said I am the living one." It's a song we have used before. It is catchy and explains the Easter message clearly to a wide age range.

Up until mid-February Workington team are visiting schools with the "We need each other" assembly. It was new to the team in the Autumn Term. It has a very involved puppet play using non-verbal puppetry which has taken time to learn, so before moving on to the Easter assembly the team wanted to get this assembly off the ground and out in a few schools. At last there are just enough team members to be able to do so. Then they too will be practising and finally joining us in schools with the Easter assembly.

As always there are challenges with team numbers, availability etc. There is never a dull moment! With God's guidance and provision we manage to visit a variety of schools each term. We would love to be able to achieve even more! Once again I challenge you to think and pray about our work. What, how, where do we go from here? How do we encourage others to come on board? At the moment the schools are mostly open to us. We need to continue to build a relationship with our schools, but being a large area with both large and small schools this can have its challenges too.

Thank you for your faithful prayers. Please remember there are also the butterfly emails which arrives once a week and give the most up-to-date information on what's going on in all the schools' work of West Cumbria. So do sign up if you haven't already!

Angela

Prayer Points

- Please pray for the 3 teams as they take their various assemblies into schools this term.
- Please ask God's guidance for the future of the puppet teams and the need to find new volunteers to bolster their numbers to help 'man' their teams from week to week.
- Give thanks for all those involved in the puppet work in the past, present and for those He leads into the work in the future.
- Please keep praying for God's protection on the health of the team members and their families, and for safe travel on our roads.

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

Workington Team

Julie Bater, The Old Vicarage, Park End Road, Workington. CA14 4DG
Tel: 01900 68056





Prayer

Breakfast

*You are invited to come and pray
for local children, young people,
leaders and schools*

8 - 9am

On Tuesday 25th April 2017 at

**Christ Church Rooms South Street
Cockermouth CA13 9RU**

Please RSVP to lynn.graham@niscu.org.uk
to book your breaky.

Hosted by NISCU West Cumbria



The NISCU West Cumbria schoolwork team would like to invite you to receive a brief weekly email for prayer and updates on the work as it happens. We are calling them "Butterfly emails" and we would love you to be a part of it.

Just click the link <http://eepurl.com/bw1smz> and follow the easy sign-up instructions.

Many thanks to you all for your valued prayers and partnership in God's wonderful work in our area from Lynn, the Primary Puppet Teams and NISCU West Cumbria Support Group.