

Prayer Diary - Regular Events

SUNDAY Pray for the Staff, their families and churches.

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

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

Hayley & Matt Wisbey, Georgia, Dylan, Brandon, Caitlyn (Wigton Methodist Church)

Trudi Newgarth (St John's Houghton)

Pray for all local churches to be welcoming to children and to value and teach them well. Pray for all who lead and teach in children and young people's work in churches.

MONDAY

Weekly Clubs

Trinity School 12.00
(Kristian, Trudi, Donna)

Pennine Way 15.30
(Diane, Susannah)

Other events - Weekly puppet assemblies

Monthly Prayer meeting 19.30
3rd Mon each month
at St Peter's, Carlisle CA3 0BB

TUESDAY

Weekly Clubs

Richard Rose Morton 13.05
(Hayley, Kristian, Sophie)

Kingmoor Juniors 15.30
(Barbara, Robert, Bruce, Helen,
Trudi, Ruth, Margaret)

WEDNESDAY

Weekly Clubs

Nelson Thomlinson (Alan, Hayley) 12.20

Caldew (Ruth, Trudi, Mel) 12.20

Lime House (Trudi) 13.15

Houghton 15.20
(Andrew, Miriam, Anne)

THURSDAY

Weekly Clubs

William Howard 12.25
(Rachel, James)

Other events - Weekly
Puppet rehearsals / assemblies

FRIDAY

Weekly Clubs

Richard Rose Central 12.25
(Rachel, Brian)

Other events - Monthly
Youth leaders Prayer meeting 11.15

SATURDAY

Half Termly

X:site Carlisle, 18.00 – 20.00
Hebron Evangelical Church (yrs 4,5 &6)

Head office staff:

Nick Klein, Pam Jones, Ruth Robinson

Committee: for wisdom in all decisions and planning.

Each month we produce a more detailed prayer diary, which we send out by email. If you would like a copy, please send your email address to north.cumbria@niscu.org.uk

To receive Ruth's weekly prayer & praise points for the Eden area, email your address to ruth.evans@niscu.org.uk



niscu

Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union

Spring term 2018

north cumbria

Be a Blessing

Prayer Meetings

19 March, 16 April, 21 May

Usually 3rd Monday of each month
7.30 - 8.30 pm at St Peter's Church,
Kingstown Road, Carlisle, CA3 0BB

All Welcome

NISCU North Cumbria AGM

Monday 18th June at 7.30 pm
at St Peter's Church, Carlisle, CA3 0BB

Join us to

- Give thanks for the many new openings in schools.
- Ask questions. Make suggestions!
- Enjoy a puppet presentation
- Hear reports of what has happened in the last year and elect the committee.

Please make a note of the date and plan to come!!

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Open doors

Rachel Gleave



Here in North Cumbria we often pray for open doors and have seen some amazing answers to prayer! We are so thankful for the huge number of opportunities we have to go into so many of our local schools and share the good news of Jesus with them. When teachers move from one school to another, we sometimes find ourselves trying to establish a new relationship with a school, as the new staff get to know us. Often they have

not heard of NISCU before, so it is a privilege to talk about how NISCU can support them. Aware that first impressions are important I find Romans 8:28 a real encouragement - *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (NLT)* Even if we can't always see it at the time, as things change, it is a huge comfort to know that God is working out His perfect plan, and so encouraging when relationships continue to grow and more opportunities happen despite changes in staff.

But what about those teachers who move on? This term God has shown me that His plan is bigger, better and more exciting than I could ever imagine. For a while now we have been praying for an opportunity to deliver lessons and support to Thursby school. Hayley had been praying about it and sent an email to the new Head teacher who started at the beginning of the year. She replied straight away and was keen for NISCU's input. Having been at Bishop Harvey Goodwin, she had seen me there and knew what we could offer. It is extremely exciting to see this new door open with new opportunities. As I type this Hayley and Trudi are there delivering our Easter lesson, which I think is our first there in a very long time, if ever.

If that wasn't exciting enough, a couple of weeks later I was chatting with a South Lakes area worker. She was saying they had been praying for a while for an open door and opportunities in one of their schools. The school had recently employed a new member of staff, who'd previously taught in Carlisle. As soon as she heard NISCU mentioned she recommended the school get them in - another open door and new relationships. Seeing the work grow beyond our north Cumbria area is so exciting. I was literally jumping up and down with joy! God's works are perfect and we give Him the glory.

From the CEO

Nick Klein

I will save you, and you will be a blessing.

Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong Zechariah 8:13 (NIV)

Thanks to God!

He has saved us, and so we can be a blessing! As last year, we find that more and more schools are asking us to do more and more. God continues to open doors. This year, we have continued clubs, lessons and assemblies across our areas. We have also been asked by schools for more support with their pastoral teams and specialist RE teaching. So, we are now delivering listening services and 'Understanding Christianity' training for teachers in a few schools. Pray that we may be able to meet the demand as more schools ask for these services.

These are doors that are being opened to us, and thanks to God we are in a position to help in this way, let us be a blessing.

Thanks to you!

The reason we can be a blessing, is simply because of your support through 'giving of your time to pray', 'giving of your time to be in school' and 'giving of your finance'. This means we can reach more children and young people with the hope of the gospel of Jesus. Praise God, and a sincere thank you, to you.

Let your hands be strong.

I am regularly humbled by how much you, our supporters give. But, the cry of my heart this spring, is that we would 'not be afraid', but that we would 'let our hands be strong'. In speaking with school leaders across our areas, the urgency for help in schools is reaching a breaking point. We know that we live in a climate where budgets are being cut. Talk to a head teacher and you will quickly see the reality of this pressure on them, and their staff. This is a huge burden and can be easily supported by people who care for their children and schools' communities. As we see the size of the task at hand, God reminds us that we need to do our little bit and together we can make a big difference. So please pray. 'Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong'.

What can you do to help?

We really value your support. If you are not already on your local NISCU prayer list, then that is a really great place to start. Also, we are working with Prayforschools.org to try and support local people who pray specifically for their school. If you would like to join this, see the information on our website. www.niscu.org.uk/pray4schools/. Finally, if you know somebody who doesn't know about our work, please share with them what we do.

God bless you all, *NISCU Management team*

Teachers' Supper

Karen Wilson

On the evening of Thursday 8th of February NISCU had the privilege of welcoming a number of local teaching staff to our Teachers' Supper. We aimed to provide an evening where Christian teachers could meet together for mutual support, fellowship and friendship, and to provide an opportunity to encourage them as they show the light and love of Christ in our local schools, in their classrooms. As always the food provided was lovely, and we extend our thanks to all those who cooked, baked and served it all with a smile.

Ruth, one of our trustees, gave an uplifting talk, reminding us that even when we feel imperfect, we have the assurance that God can use these cracks to create something beautiful if we offer them up to him. Ruth gave us all a picture to take away, a visual reminder of how precious and wonderful we are in God's eyes.

Feed back from the evening has been very positive and encouraging and we'd like to thank all those who joined us for a lovely evening.

"It was just what we needed and much appreciated. It truly was a good night and lovely to meet new faces."

"Once more you did us proud and made us all feel really valued."

"...appreciated having time to stop and catch up with colleagues, some new some old."

"...delicious food ...timely message."

Secondary School Lunch Clubs

Trinity	Monday lunchtime in HU4
Morton Academy	Tuesday lunchtime in S19
Caldew	Wednesday lunchtime in D16
Lime house	Wednesday lunchtime in the common room
Nelson Thomlinson	Wednesday lunchtime in J9
William Howard	Thursday lunchtime in R2
Central Academy	Friday lunchtime in 116

Please encourage any children you know at these schools to join!

New opportunities

Hayley Wisbey



Well what to say? At the end of the autumn term I felt as if I was finding my feet within the NISCU role: discovering which schools God wanted me to be in and learning things about myself that I didn't know before. Now we are over halfway through the spring term and I very much feel all things are new. I am blown away by the openness of the Wigton area schools and the warm reception I am given.

I am buzzing with warmth inside as I write this, after Trudi and I taught an Easter lesson to a class of year 5 & 6's. This school is one I have been praying for since I joined NISCU. With the new head feeling frustrated at how little the school knew about Christianity, Trudi and I were invited to come in and take assemblies half termly as well as this Easter lesson. Now the school is asking if we can come and do more lessons, possibly on a half termly basis! What a way to share the gospel! And to be asked too! God's amazing answers to prayer. *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7.*

I am so excited about the next few weeks with (at last count) 6 different schools having Easter lessons and 2 schools having Easter experiences! On top of this being asked to help redesign a permanent prayer space for Wigtonby C of E school. It is a real privilege to work for NISCU and to be a part of sharing the gospel with so many young people, and yet I think still of all those that have not yet heard and remember the work is not yet done.

All things new

Trudi Newgarth



Well it's been an exciting time with NISCU thus far. God has been so faithful and answered so many prayers. Relationships with schools are growing and my own personal relationships too! My most exciting time has actually been the fortnight with all the snow, seemingly grinding everything to a halt. That week started with a stream of positive meetings with teachers. Trinity, with all its changes, have invited us to be part of setting up a more

permanent prayer space in the next year and helped us find a way to keep club running with all the new lunch arrangements from September. Praise God! I had a really positive meeting where the door flung wide open to High Heskett

School, booking lessons and assemblies in my first meeting and when the snow came down I was really thankful because it gave me the time to plan a full day of lessons in Houghton School, getting children to explore *Why Christians tell people about Jesus?* Thursby School have asked for half termly topic lessonsAND I got engaged!

With so much excitement the last fortnight has been a lovely whirlwind of new things and I'm still on a sparkly cloud, but through all these things, I've really felt God paving the way for me as I've been stepping out of my comfort zone. So I've been dwelling on this verse, and I'll leave it with you:

Psalm 7:17 I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High.

Young leaders

Ruth Evans



What a joy it is working with Hayley, Rachel and Trudi! You may realise though that this means my time in North Cumbria is significantly, and rightly, reduced. Trudi has taken over many of the schools I was working in and is making new links with others. Sadly, since Christmas, there has been no sign of the 'Caldew 9' – 9 Year 11 girls from Caldew School who came to lunch

club for almost all of the Autumn term. Please continue to pray for those young ladies, that whatever seeds were sown will be watered by others and grow.

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

I had the joy of being asked to do assemblies at Trinity School at the end of January. The theme given was Young Leaders and this verse from 1 Timothy fits so beautifully. We love to encourage our Christian youth in taking a lead role, but with the expectation of respect comes a massive responsibility. I am very aware I need to be an example too. Having written and prepared the assembly I then saw the story of Megan Holmes from Preston, on Songs of Praise, the day before. Her testimony and honest faith in action as a 13-year-old is such a great story and the timing was perfect – one might even say, Inspired! I added her story to the assembly and it certainly resonated with some of the students. I received some very positive feedback from staff too. Future assemblies are being booked and I am hopeful that Trudi will be able to join me for some of them too.

Puppetual Fun

Ailsa Taylor

“Grow in grace and understanding of our Master and Saviour, Jesus Christ”
2 Peter 3:18 . Let us remember that we are already “in grace” and are called to grow in grace and understanding. Understanding God's grace means we can experience the joy of the Lord, so daily we can choose to be joyful.

So it is with great Joy that we are taking the two assemblies entitled “Heroes of the bible” and “Talking to God”, into schools this year. We praise the Lord that we have the freedom to show that there are heroes in the bible like Joseph, Gideon and Elisha, who were all obedient to God's calling; but the real super hero is Jesus. His ultimate obedience to death on the cross conquered our sins and restored us to a new and full relationship with our heavenly father.

Here on earth we live in difficult times and sometimes awful things happen, but when we are living in God's grace we always have someone to talk to who loves us unconditionally. Jesus took something bad and made it into something awesome, so when his friend Lazarus died he brought him back to life again, or when the disciples were scared in the boat in the storm, Jesus spoke and calmed the storm. We know that no matter what we face, Jesus has already faced it and knows just how we feel. He even cried when his friend died. Sometimes it is okay to be sad, but just talking to Jesus will make us feel better.

Please continue to pray for our teams on Mondays and Thursdays as they take these amazing messages into our schools. We are so grateful that so many of you uphold us in your prayers and we see God moving in so many different ways as we seek to serve him.

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