

# PRAYER LETTER

June - July 2018

**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.



"So I tell you, you are Peter. On this rock I will build my church and the power of death will not be able to defeat it"

*Matthew 16:18*

**West Cumbria Chairman**

Simon Astill

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**West Cumbria Secretary**

**SITUATION VACANT**

**West Cumbria Treasurer**

Paul Cooper, 5 Beech Grove,

Whitehaven CA28 6LG Tel:01946 67697

**Northern Inter Schools Christian Union**

NISCU West Cumbria is part of the Northern Inter-Schools

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## **A scene of love and hope for a young person**

A couple of years ago a year 7 girl started coming along to one of our QM Clubs in school. I noticed that every time we began exploring a story about Jesus it was like a light was turned on in her, to the point where on one occasion she got up from where she was sitting and went over to where the story-teller was sat so she could get a good look at the text. She went along to CCYC (Cumbria Christian Youth Camp) last summer where she was always joyful and happily enjoying everything she did, learning more about Jesus, making friends and growing closer to God.

Very recently she became confirmed in the Anglican Church and I was delighted to be there as she made her declaration of faith in the Lord Jesus and she was prayed for to receive the Holy Spirit. As I took part in the service, recognising the very small part I play in her life, I became even more aware of all those who play a vital part and I was overjoyed that God had placed so many that care for her within her own family, church and community. What a blessing to see Jesus building his church. Do pray for this young Christian as she is transformed by the power of God, pray for those surrounding her as they nurture and disciple her, love her and release her into the giftings that God has given her for his church and the world around her.

We thank you for your prayers, financial support and partnership in the schoolwork and invite you to come and celebrate with us at our **AGM Celebration on Thursday 14th June at St John's Church, Hensingham, Whitehaven 7.30pm**. In this evening we want to give time to thank God for all He is doing in the lives of the children and young people, through a time of worship songs led by young people, stories being shared by teachers and all enjoying the presence of God together. Do come along, we look forward to seeing you there.

**Lynn, on behalf of the NISCU team**

**Transition Lessons** are lessons with year 6 children on the theme of Identity where they can explore the story of Joseph and discover the plans God had for him and the relevance for their own lives. We also let them know where they can find us in their secondary school and what we do there.

### **Contact the Team**

NISCU Office: Christ Church Rooms, South Street,  
Cockermouth. CA13 9RU [www.niscu.co.uk](http://www.niscu.co.uk)

Lynn: [lynn.graham@niscu.org.uk](mailto:lynn.graham@niscu.org.uk) 07568567539

Alexandria: [alex.armstrongsquires@niscu.org.uk](mailto:alex.armstrongsquires@niscu.org.uk)  
07909920506

## **Interview with a NISCU supporter**

Name: Neil Baxter

Town: Whitehaven

Church: St John's, Hensingham

- **What is the best thing about being part of the support team?**

It is great to be part of a team supporting this work: working with people with different gifts, talents and experiences in partnership in bringing the Christian faith into the schools.

- **How did you get involved with NISCU?**

When the work began in West Cumbria in the "80s", I got involved as a church representative, as well as being part of youth work which supported and attended some of the events that were run (eg trying to link up with the Isle of Man from St Bees Head by lighting fires at the two sites and by supporting NJOY). In 1998, while washing dishes in Lorton Street Methodist Church, I was asked to join the support group and the rest is history.

- **Why did you get involved with NISCU?**

I have used the word 'partner' as it is good to be able to link the work in the schools with that in the local church: the importance of working together, building the bridges to enable young people to be part of the local church (as well as having two sons who have benefitted from the work in their growth in their faith: David taking a gap year working in the schools with NISCU)

- **What else are you involved in for children/young people?**

Alongside this I am also involved in CCYC and it is good to be able to partner with the work amongst young people in this area: providing the young people with a week to spend time in fun together as well as being challenged by the claims of the Christian faith and nurturing this within them.

- **What is your prayer for the children and young people in West Cumbria?**

A verse from 3 John vs 4: 'I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth' As a parent and someone interested in youth work, there is no greater joy than to see young people walking and growing in the truth, of which NISCU and each one of you can be a part of.



# Prayer Diary

## June

- Mon 4: Allerdale PPT at Crosscanonby St John's CofE School and Allonby Primary School
- Tue 5: Lunchtime QM Club at Cockermouth School
- Tue 5: Copeland PPT at Seaton Junior School
- Wed 6: Lunchtime QM Club at Keswick School
- Thu 7: Lunchtime Thursday Clubs at Beacon Hill School and Whitehaven Academy KS4
- Thu 7: Workington PPT at Lamplugh School
- Fri 8: Lunchtime QM Club at Whitehaven Academy KS3
- Mon 11: Transition Lesson - All Saints School, Cockermouth
- Tue 12: Transition Lesson - St Bridget's School, Brigham
- Tue 12: Copeland PPT at Hensingham Primary School
- Wed 13: Transition Lesson - Dean School, Cockermouth
- Wed 13: Lunchtime QM Club at Keswick School with a visit from the children of Belarus  
(Friends of Chernobyl's Children)
- Wed 13: Allerdale PPT at Blennerhasset School and St Matthew's CofE School, Westnewton
- Thu 14: Lunchtime Thursday Clubs at Beacon Hill School and Whitehaven School KS4
- Thu 14: Workington PPT at Maryport Infants School
- Thu 14: NISCU AGM St John's Church, Hensingham  
7.30pm. All welcome!
- Fri 15: Lunchtime QM Club at Whitehaven Academy KS3
- Tue 19: Lunchtime QM Club at Cockermouth School
- Tue 19: Copeland PPT at St Patrick's School, Cleator Moor
- Wed 20: Transition Lesson - Fairfield School, Cockermouth
- Wed 20: Allerdale PPT at Borrowdale CofE Primary School
- Fri 22: Transition Lesson - Hensingham School, Whitehaven
- Sat 23: CCYC Leaders Day
- Tue 26: Reflection Rooms at Beacon Hill School, Aspatria
- Tue 26: Copeland PPT at Bransty Primary School, Whitehaven

## **June**

Wed 27: Collective Worship Assembly at Beacon Hill School

Wed 27: Allerdale PPT at St Michael's CofE Primary School,  
Bothel and Plumbland CofE School, Parsonby

Thu 28: Transition Lesson - Seaton Junior School, Workington

Thu 28: Workington PPT at Lorton School

Fri 29: Transition Lesson - St Herbert's School, Keswick

## **July**

Tue 3: Transition Lesson - Paddle School, Cockermouth

Wed 4: Allerdale PPT at St Herbert's CofE Primary School,  
Keswick

Thu 5: Transition lesson - Flimby School

Thu 5: Workington PPT at - venue TBC

Mon 9: Connect Evening for teachers

Tue 10: Support Group Meeting

Thu 12: Primary Puppet team and NISCU team meeting

Fri 13: Transition Lesson - Derwent Vale School, Great Clifton

Mon 16: NISCU team day

Thu 26: CCYC – camp building day - come and help if you can

Sat 28-Sat 4 August: Cumbria Christian Youth Camp

### **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.

**Please pray for all our church partners in the weekly clubs  
and RE sessions**

Alan Rainford, Rachel Philips, Ian Harvie, Alison Riley,  
Jenny Sloan, Michael Sloan, Darryl Boustead  
Fergus Pearson, Sudharshan Sarvananthan and Ruth Smith.

## Hello from Primary Puppets

Hello, my name is Dave. I spend much of my life in a pillowcase, in a plastic box, in a wardrobe in Maggie Cowles' back bedroom! However, don't feel sorry for me, because once a week, I have the most wonderful time! Let me explain! Before a new assembly, each week on a Wednesday morning at about 9.15 am, six or seven humans arrive at my 'owner', Maggie's house. They can be quite noisy when they first arrive! They are sometimes telling each other funny stories about what they have been up to! Like this week, for example, one of them turned up with a scratch on his nose and told the others how he'd been distracted by a bird singing on his way to Maggie's house. He'd not been looking where he was going and had walked into a hedge!

Once the humans arrive, they get us out of our boxes, and all of us puppets - we breathe in a big lungful of fresh air. Sometimes it can get a bit stuffy in those boxes, especially if you share one with Grandpa for a whole week! The humans then attach arm-controlling rods to us, and they hang each of us on our own stand. It is great to sit hanging on the stand because then I can see all my puppet friends! There is Susie for example - she is having a bit of hair trouble this week! It keeps getting in her mouth and in front of her eyes when she is trying to perform! (I don't have that problem with my short hair!) Susie has a new swanky waterproof jacket from Oxfam. She is very pleased with the jacket as it is size 12-18 months instead of her usual 18-24 months. (That diet must have worked Susie!) Once we have been sorted out and our clothes straightened, and the occasional pin stuck into our heads to keep our hats on, we get down to work!

Sometimes we run through the whole assembly from start to finish. On other occasions we need to keep doing the same song repeatedly. We puppets can get quite tired as the humans keep getting it wrong, and they have to practise again. However, we do really enjoy the practice times, and it is so great when we all get it right and it comes together!

We were a bit nervous this week, as it is our last practice before we start going into primary schools. Next Wednesday is an early start, as we have to be at the school by 8.30 am. But I don't mind

because I love meeting all the children. My favourite bit is seeing all the children's faces as I perform and share some of the messages about God and Jesus. This term's assembly is all about the Good Samaritan and is called, 'Who Cares?' I play the part of Billy in the modern retelling of the story. I get beaten up by two of the other puppets, but we are only acting, so I don't get hurt. It is great! I end up being friends with Joe who I was mean to and made fun of at the start of the play.

I hope we perform well and the children smile at me when I am on stage. It is all about them and I hope that we can show them some small measure of how much God loves them!

**Love from Dave and all the Allerdale puppets.**

### **Prayer Points**

- Please thank God for His enabling in our team practices for the assembly entitled, 'Who Cares?'
- Please pray for God's blessing on these summer term assemblies; for His continued provision of sufficient team members week by week, and for His presence to be powerfully with us.
- Please pray that the assembly follow-up materials which have been prepared by Ruth Smith, will be really welcomed by the schools we visit this term.
- Do keep praying for God's protection on the health of team members and their families, and for safe travel on our roads.
- Let's all keep crying out to God for new team members for our Copeland and Workington teams!
- Please keep praying for Maggie, Julie and Angie in their leadership of our puppet teams, for God's wisdom day-to-day, and for the way ahead.

### **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



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

**8 - 9am**

On Thursday 6th September 2018 at  
Christ Church Rooms, South Street,  
Cockermouth CA13 9RU

Please RSVP to [lynn.graham@niscu.org.uk](mailto:lynn.graham@niscu.org.uk)  
to book your breaky.  
Hosted by NISCU West Cumbria

You are invited to a **Celebration and AGM** with a  
Difference - come and celebrate the work God is doing in  
our school communities now.....and looking to the future.

**Thursday 14th June 2018 at 7.30pm**

**St John's Church Hall, Hensingham,  
Whitehaven. CA28 8QW**

"The most un-AGM AGM" It won't be boring!

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