

Annual Report 2018

niscu north cumbria
Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union



Rachel Gleave



Ruth Evans



Trudi Newgarth



Hayley Wisbey

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Staff Team Report

It has been a very exciting 12 months for NISCU North Cumbria. As you may remember Michael left at the end of the summer term, leaving Rachel and Ruth a little short handed for a couple of months. However... in October we were happily joined by Hayley and Trudi who settled in as part of the team remarkably quickly. Trudi took on the work with Caldew and Trinity (and their feeder schools) as well as Lime House School and Hayley has grown the work more into Wigton and the surrounding area as well as taking responsibility for Morton Academy.

Highlights of the team's year:

- **Rachel** – after many years of faithful prayer it was exciting to see the door opening at Stanwix School. It was brilliant to be able to go in and do the 'Who rolled the stone?' lesson and it was very well received. There have also been several opportunities to encourage and enable local churches to connect in with their local schools by doing NISCU Sunday events.
- **Trudi** – Prayer Spaces at Kirkbampton. The day was glorious, God was faithful in keeping away the rain and it was so exciting seeing the children engage with the Big Questions station – asking some tough, real and heartfelt questions.
- **Hayley** – Easter lessons in Wigton. It has been very exciting to see the schools in the Wigton area open up to NISCU and children being excited to welcome me back to tell them more about the story of Jesus.
- **Ruth** – Caldew Club in the autumn term had an unexpected group of year 11 girls, just for the term, who came and engaged with discussions. Having assemblies and being invited back at Trinity has also been great.

Exciting things ahead:

- **Rachel** – Understanding Christianity. Having been on the 'Trainers Training' it is great to see the Understanding Christianity resource (an excellent, new, very comprehensive resource for teaching Christianity in schools from age 4 – 14) beginning to be used to improve and encourage Biblical literacy among the children of our area. Although training for C of E schools was provided by the Diocese it is exciting that we have

community schools signed up for me to start training them with a view to it beginning to be implemented from September onwards.

- *Trudi* – Transition lessons across the area (and my wedding in November!)
- *Hayley* – telling children in the Wigton area MORE about the story of Jesus! More linking of churches with the schools in the area.
- *Ruth* – supporting the wider team in as yet unknown ways!

To summarise, your prayers and support have worked in more ways than we could have imagined 12 months ago.

As it says in **Acts 28 vs 31** '*boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ.*' doors have been opened, relationships grown and God's Kingdom is being presented to more and more children across the North Cumbria area. We are excited to see how He surprises us in the next 12 months... stay tuned!

Secondary Schools with feeder schools we are working in.

Caldew

Burgh-by-Sands
Cumwhinton
Great Orton
High Hesket
Ivegill
Kirkbampton
Raughton Head,
St Michael's, Dalston
Stoneraise
Thursby
Wreay

Central Academy

Bishop Harvey
Goodwin
Inglewood Juniors
Pennine Way
Petteril Bank
Scotby
Upperby

Morton Academy

Belle Vue
Caldew Lea
Newlathes Juniors
Newtown
Yewdale

Nelson Thomlinson

Abbeytown
Bolton Low Houses
Bowness-on-Solway
Fell View
Holm Cultram Abbey
Kirkbampton
St Cuthbert's
Thomlinson Juniors
Wiggonby
Wigton Infants

Lime House

Special Needs School

James Rennie

Trinity

Houghton
Kingmoor Juniors
Robert Ferguson
Rockcliffe
Stanwix

William Howard

Brampton Primary
Castle Carrock
Crosby-on-Eden
Fir Ends
Gilsland
Hallbankgate
Hayton
Lanercost
Lees Hill
Longtown
Shankhill
Warwick Bridge

Puppetual Fun report

Ailsa Taylor



Isaiah 43v19 says "See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in wasteland." We have learnt this year that God creates new opportunities everyday however as we pray for new opportunities, we must not overlook those right in front of us; those that he has already given us. Our teams of puppeteers are grasping both full on as we serve God in both the schools with which we have an existing relationship and in the new schools where doors have been opened. Times are changing though and as we venture into yet another year sharing Jesus' love with future leaders, politicians, doctors, teachers, beauticians, etc we are reminded that He is relevant just as much in their lives today as He will be in their futures. Please continue to pray that we will be able to carry on serving our local schools now and in the future as government policy, social acceptance and tolerance change. Please pray that we remain bold and reflect His love and faithfulness in the schools we visit.

Schools visited in last year

Bishop Harvey Goodwin
Blackford
Brampton Juniors
Crosby on Eden
Cumwhinton
Fellview
Hayton
High Hesket
Houghton
Inglewood Juniors
Kingmoor Juniors

Kirkbampton
Leeshill
Longtown
Newlathes Infants
Pennine Way
Petteril Bank
Robert Ferguson
Rockliffe
Scotby
Shankhill
St Bede's

St Cuthbert's
St Margaret Mary's
St Michael's
Stoneraise
Thomlinson Juniors
Upperby
Warwick Bridge
Wreay

A BIG thank you

For use of Church Premises

- **St John's London Rd** (office)
- **St Peter's Kingmoor** (monthly prayer meeting and other events)
- **Hebron** (puppet rehearsals.)

The many volunteers in clubs, assemblies, prayer space, lessons and the Puppetual Fun teams.

Chief Executive Officer:

Mr Nick Klein

Operations manager:

Dr Pam Jones

Administrator:

Mrs Ruth Robinson

Trustees:

Mr David Grime (chairman)

Mr Ian Harvie, Mrs Ruth Houston

Mr Alistair Richards,

Mr William Towers,

Rev Rachel Stavert

Secretary's report *Margaret Hughes*

The Committee has met on six occasions to hear staff reports, financial updates, share current needs and problems and pray together as we plan for the future.

A NISCU Day was held at Newton Rigg on 24 June 2017 when Nick, our CEO, set out his vision, based on Matthew 10: 5-8. Jesus chose normal people, which includes us all. He sent his disciples into their own community, which is what we do in our local schools. Jesus tells the disciples to share the message in a variety of ways and we use many different ways (assemblies, clubs, lessons, listening, baking cakes, sharpening pencils....) And the reason is God's kingdom is near and God cares. This is what NISCU tells children today.

At the **Summer Supper** we said goodbye and thanked Michael who had served NISCU for many years.

In the autumn we made **two new appointments**. Trudi Newgarth for 24 hours a week and Hayley Wisbey for 16 hours.

The **Church Leader's Lunch** and **Teachers' Supper** were held in January and February and the **Commissioning Service** for Hayley and Trudi was held on 14 January at Wigton Methodist Church.

There was a **week of prayer** over all the NISCU areas from 26 February.

Our staff team are involved with X:Site, Living Word and Church Holiday Clubs.

This year one of our aims was to encourage churches to pray for their local schools. During our committee business we often pause to pray together for immediate needs.

The committee is grateful to various churches for the use of their premises and to all our prayerful, generous friends and local churches who share in this vital work of showing God's love to young people in our schools. *God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ, is faithful. 1 Corinthians 1:9.*

Committee

Until 2018

Margaret Hughes (Sec) *St Peter's*
Barbara Gardner (Chair) *St Peter's*

Until 2019

Robert Cox (Prayer Sec) *Stanwix & Belah*

Andy Graham *Hebron*

Joe Pattinson *Thurstonfield Methodist*

Geoffrey Pearson (Treasurer)
Elim Community Church

Until 2020

Karen Wilson *St John's London Rd*

Co-opted

Jo Boddam-Whetham *Burgh by Sands*

Prayer Secretary's Report

Robert Cox

Five times the Bible tells us that "God ...does not change" (Psalm 55:19), his character is always the same. In His Grace, however, He allows us to pray into situations so that they will change. Prayer changes things.



Photo ©Lee Abbey

We have come to expect that in NISCU. A prayer request goes in one month, the answer is often seen within weeks. Some take longer, but we've learnt to trust. We expect it -- but we're still surprised and often taken aback. Why? Because we see ourselves as so small, hesitant and maybe a tad inadequate. Yet our sufficiency, our adequacy, is in God. He has answered us so amazingly this year and every year. That is due first-and-last because of who He is, yet He has chosen to partner with us all as we pray at home, in church and, for many, in our monthly prayer meetings.

Participants at these meetings have reached over thirty people...and the impact of our prayers have reached hundreds of children and youngsters, school staff and parents every month. That's a healthy return on our input! This year we also joined with supporters throughout NISCU's work in Lancashire and all of Cumbria for a week of prayer across the whole area.

Thank you so much for being part of this privileged task, whenever and wherever you have praised and prayed. God hears, answers and changes situations.

Treasurer's report

Geoffrey Pearson

We are grateful to all our supporters for their prayers and gifts which enabled the work of NISCU in this area to continue and expand.

2017 Review

The salaries and related HO overheads were less than were budgeted for as we had less staff for some months after Michael's resignation. We were then able to increase our staff in October by using last year's surplus. We are very grateful to all our supporters for their generous gifts during the year.

2018 Outlook

With the new schools workers we are looking forward to the work continuing to expand during 2018 with schools opening up to our involvement in the Wigton, Solway and Brampton areas. The basis of allocation of HO overheads has now been revised to the increased amount.

NISCU

Registered charity number 1135880

Company number 7203313

Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union - North Cumbria

Year ended 31 December 2017

Local income & expenditure statement - AGM

INCOME	Actual 2017	%	Actual 2016	%	Budget 2018	%
Tax-efficient gifts	10558	20.20%	9692	18.60%	10500	20.10%
Reclaimed Gift Aid tax	2647	5.60%	2492	4.80%	2700	5.30%
Other gifts - supporters	2985	6.40%	1878	3.60%	2000	3.90%
Other gifts - churches	6145	13.10%	10506	20.10%	8875	17.40%
Other gifts - trusts	23400	49.90%	25400	48.70%	23400	45.80%
Designated Gifts	957	2.00%	50	0.10%	0	0.00%
Bank Interest	30	0.10%	91	0.20%	40	0.10%
Other	150	0.30%	2039	3.90%	3600	7.00%
Total	46872	100.00%	52148	100.00%	51115	100.00%
Expenditure						
Salary costs	37720	80.50%	36933	70.80%	40170	78.60%
Vehicle costs	3564	7.60%	2759	5.30%	3000	5.90%
Telephone	404	0.90%	454	0.90%	500	1.00%
H/O Niscu overheads	4787	10.20%	4987	9.60%	6600	12.90%
Equipment / capital exp	1137	2.40%	350	0.70%	400	0.80%
Training & Conferences	1126	2.40%	303	0.60%	480	0.90%
School Resources	385	0.80%	477	0.90%	480	0.90%
Entertainment	4	0.00%	27	0.10%	110	0.20%
Residuals	166	0.40%	140	0.30%	200	0.40%
Special events	1020	2.20%	27	0.10%	0	0.00%
Promotion / Puppets	76	0.20%	0	0.00%	350	0.70%
Administration	915	2.00%	673	1.30%	830	1.60%
Sundries	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	100	0.20%
Total	51306	109.50%	47130	90.40%	53220	104.10%
Surplus (Deficit)	-4434	-9.50%	5018	9.60%	-2105	-4.10%

Chair's report *Barbara Gardner*

"God's plans are superior to your plans!" *Isaiah 55:9*

In NISCU we think we have great plans, but we need to remember God's plans are superior to ours! Reading Acts 23 I was struck by the amazing scale of God's plan to protect Paul so he could proclaim the gospel in Rome. The Roman tribune said *"Get ready 200 soldiers, with 70 horsemen and 200 spearmen to go as far as Caesarea"*. We are not promised that everything will be easy or instant, but God's plans are very good and are never derailed.

Looking back we give thanks for many good things that have happened, some of which are shared in this annual report. Looking ahead we face various challenges. We rejoice with Trudi on her forthcoming marriage, but sadly we will lose her very valuable input as she moves away. This means that we again need to appoint the right person to take the work forward. There are many new opportunities including: developing the "Understanding Christianity" course (see p2), responding to an invitation to develop work in a secondary school which we are not presently working in, more involvement with parents in prayer spaces or lessons as head teachers invite parents to take part. We need wisdom to know how to respond and how to be proactive.

On my heart is the desire that we don't just run "nice" clubs and take "comfortable" assemblies. We want to share the amazing truths of the gospel which will be in *God's superior plans* to lead young people to trust Jesus.

Notices

***Supporters, families and friends
are all invited to our***

Summer Buffet

**On Monday 16th July 6.30 - 8.30 pm
at St Peter's Church, Carlisle CA3 0BB**

To help us cater, please let
Rachel Gleave or
Barbara Gardner
know if you are coming.
(contact details page 1)



"It's your move"

We hope to be able to give every year 6 child a copy of "It's your move" which is a great book full of tips, strategies and encouragement for children as they change from Primary to Secondary school. We invite people to sponsor a school. £12 would buy 10 books.

Data Protection Regulations

Please make sure you are kept on our list in order to receive newsletters, prayer updates and invitations to special events. (Contact us for more details)