



Jonny setting the stake
‘Ebenezer’



Dave setting the stake
'Ebenezer'

Has there ever been a more important and privileged task as taking the Good News to young people?

The answer has got to be no!

In Lancaster alone there are well over seven thousand children attending school across both primary and secondary levels. Of those it is estimated that only 200 are church connected. No doubt there are similar proportions elsewhere.

How do the rest hear about Christianity?

This is where NISCU fits in. For several decades now, our workers have served schools delivering lessons, assemblies, clubs and the like in an effective and professional way. This has all been made possible by the tremendous generosity of individuals, churches and businesses in funding the work, including our central office. The Trustees are extremely grateful for this past, present and ongoing support.

“Thus far the Lord has helped”

As an organisation we are extremely anxious that youngsters hear about Jesus and who he is.

We are saddened by the low numbers that know very little or nothing about him at all. In our small way, we endeavour to change that and are keen for the Church to benefit from young people coming to knowledge of God and Jesus Christ.

Schools across the NISCU area are asking more and more for our assistance. Opportunities to expand are coming along. We have a great team of staff and for them to continue what they do it is vital that they have the back up of an efficient central office and an effective CEO.

We are very thankful to God...

...that we already have this and we are working with you to maintain it, and thus provide the service schools are asking for.

This is where businesses, in particular, can help tremendously in supporting central office costs. The ‘message from the CEO’, later in this bulletin, outlines how Business Class can be such a useful tool in maintaining NISCU.

Our grateful thanks to all NISCU supporters for your prayers (precious!) and/or financial support, but we are even more grateful to God for His continuing faithfulness.

Dave Grime
Chair of Trustees

The Trustees



Thus for the Lord has helped us

NISCU has six Trustees on the board that meet five or six times a year, to support the work of the CEO and the strategic oversight of NISCU.

They also have an additional annual ‘get together’ to focus on prayer and the way ahead.

The NISCU trustee board is looking to expand its membership by adding a new trustee with experience interacting with businesses at a director level.

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In brief around the areas

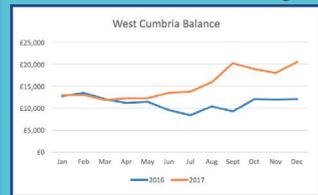
A good AGM season

This year's AGM season went really well. Despite having world cup matches to contend with, there remain a steadfast core of supporters that are keen to hear about our work. It was really great to hear teachers, and Headteachers tell us how we support them, and what they really value about our work. Very encouraging!

Let's thank God for a great year, and pray for another year of God's blessing in our schools.

West Cumbria

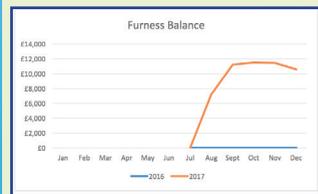
Alice left in April, and we employed Alex in September with a focus on working in Whitehaven and the immediate area.



Already we have seen a great response to this work, so let's keep praying for more resource that we can do more across our area.

Furness

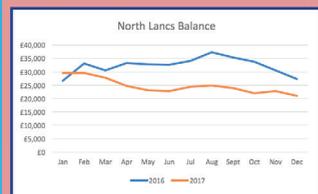
We restarted the work in the Furness area in September 2017, and employed Charlie to oversee the work. This was largely due to supporters from other areas donating considerable sums to give this work a 3-year start up.



The challenge now is to make this work financially sustainable for the future.

North Lancs

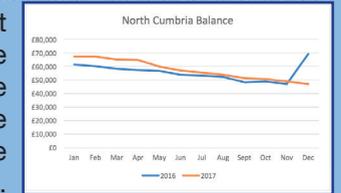
North Lancs continues to deliver really good work across the schools in the area.



The recent development has been to extend our support to schools in Garstang. As most areas, schools are requesting more and more support from us. We continue to pray for further funding to meet the needs of our schools, churches, teachers and parents in our area. Lots to thank God and pray for.

North Cumbria

Trudi and Hayley were employed in November 2017, and brought a freshness to our existing work, but also allowed us to further our support in Brampton, and extend out to Wigton. As with other areas, the challenge now is to ensure that the financial aspects of this growth become sustainable. Thank God for the opportunities we have in our schools.



Eden

Eden's financial support has continued to grow, enabling us to increase the work to 12 per week sustainably.

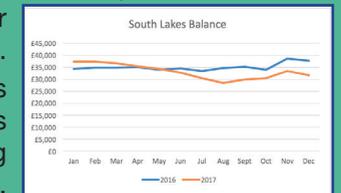
The main thrust now is to build support for prayer, and then consider how we work with the schools and churches in Upper Eden better.



South Lakes

With the work in Sedbergh established, we are now looking to make the area financially sustainable, and then develop in other localities across the area.

Also please pray for us as we support in-class teaching more.

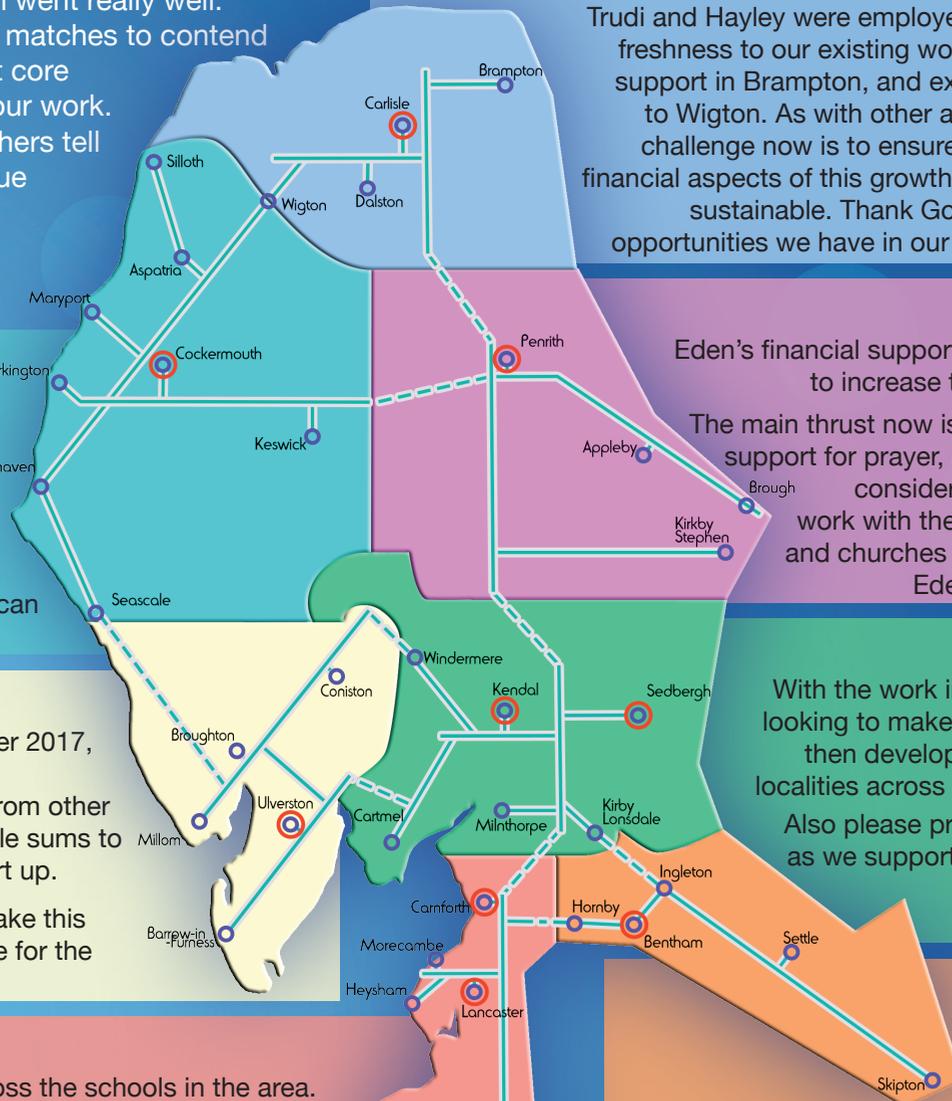


Craven

As you can see from the graph below, 16 hours per week were unsustainable, so we made the

decision to reduce these to ensure that we remain viable in the area.

The prayer for this area is simply for more funding. There is a huge opportunity to work more in more schools, we simply lack the funds.



A message from the CEO

As I'm sure you are aware, we have had to really look at how we fund the central core of our business in recent months. In doing this, we have identified new aspects of our financial support that are incredibly important to us.

The most important aspect is this - we want to provide a high level of certainty for our donors in knowing where their donations will be spent. Due to our historical context, any money given in any area is allocated by our central team to that area, unless it is specifically designated elsewhere. We want this to continue, so money given to an area primarily supports the direct contact with children and young people in that area.

However, this then leaves us with the problem of funding our core central roles. Hence we have launched our 'Business Class'. This now enables us to be crystal clear in allocating funding for the business aspects of the organisation.

The dream is that all of our central costs come from businesses, and business minded individuals who appreciate that behind the school facing staff sits a team of people providing a foundation of support enabling them to do so.

...wow, what a dream, so if you are business minded, why not join our 'Business Class', and let's see this thing take off.

All 'go' for Business Class



- Initiated May 2018
- Aim: all organisational costs to be covered by Business Class, allowing area funding to stay within the area.
- Set up to cover the costs of core central functions:
 - CEO role
 - Finance Administrator
 - Operations Manager
 - Area Managers
 - Media Intern
 - Key Leadership roles
- Function: people who appreciate the need for funding for business aspects can support directly the business and organisation of NISCU
- Open to businesses as well as individuals
- Enables more area funding to be directed to client facing schools' work



Nick Klein
CEO

www.niscu.org.uk/business-class

A message from Operations

It's been a busy time for Operations, with our five-yearly audit of all things operational courtesy of our insurers, plus the beloved GDPR. The latter has been relatively straightforward for NISCU, given that we do not routinely collect sensitive data. It has given an opportunity for some housekeeping of our data bases in each of our Areas and thanks are due to each of the Support Groups for their co-operation. The operations audit concluded with praise for our client-facing operations i.e. our safeguarding of children, and some minor health and safety things to sharpen up on. You will be delighted to know that we have a fully tested evacuation procedure in case of fire in the central office - all three of us now know where the two exits are. Seriously. In all fairness, the audit is a helpful way to be sure that we are on top of current legislative requirements, provided by our insurers.



On a more productive note... this term I have been trialling some materials for bible study use - 'The Bible Course', an eight week overview of the bible, care of the Bible Society. The South Lakes team have completed it and came away full of enthusiasm and ideas for their schools work, with potential both for school clubs and teacher training in conjunction with Understanding Christianity. We plan on introducing this course for all new staff. In addition, we are producing some discipleship material for young people in Years 12/13 to work through with a church-based mentor. This is accessed online and is designed to be read easily on a mobile phone or tablet, the device of choice for young people. Early trials have been well received and we have plans to produce something similar for parents and primary children.



Watch this space!

Pam Jones
Operations Manager

A message from the CEO

"The dream would be that all of our central costs come from businesses, and business-minded individuals"



Staffing

West Cumbria - We welcome Ruth Smith onto the team. Ruth will support work in Cockermouth for 8 hours per week, releasing Lynn to develop something new in Marport.

North Cumbria - Sadly we will be saying 'Goodbye' to Trudi at the end of October, as she moves south to be married, she will be replaced, by Fiona, who joins the team in November.

Craven - Sue has also left us (moved to the Isle of Man in August) and she has been replaced by Bev Scott (already working in South Lakes). Bev's East M6 corridor 'patch' will now extend into the top of Craven.



NISCU - Schools' workers
'Get together' - July 2018

New Projects

Listening Services - working with Acorn Training, we are have now trained 5 of our staff team to deliver Listening Service training. This will enable us to develop new listening services in schools more effectively. The training enables volunteers to help pastoral teams in their local schools, by simply listening to pupils talk.



Understanding Christianity - we now have 3 members of staff trained to deliver 'in-school' training for teachers on a new resource called 'Understanding Christianity'. This resource is focussed on the teachings of the Bible, and considers the impact of this on Christians in the past and present.



@ team day



RIPLEY ST THOMAS
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



On July 16th we met up with schools' workers from York, Blackpool, Clitheroe and the Ripley school Chaplaincy team to hear what school and church leaders had to tell us about supporting them better moving forwards.

In all there was 32 of us praising God, sharing stories and trading ideas about how to develop our work in schools, and schools' work teams. It was an absolutely brilliant day, and we will definitely look to organising something similar again in the future, discussions of it being an annual event were mooted!

Contact us
niscu

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