

# North Lancashire Annual Report

2018-19

niscu  
Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union



# North Lancs Area Report

## Support Group Report

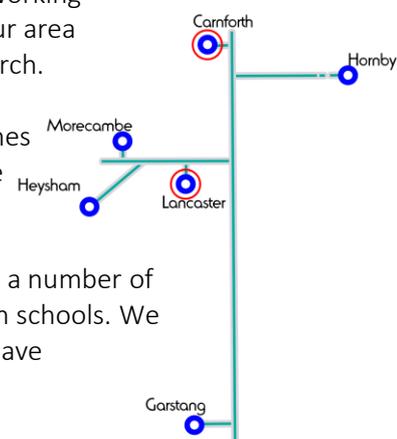
The NL Area Support Group have been privileged to support an outstanding staff team, working together with local churches, embracing the idea that every child and young person in our area should be offered a hope in Jesus through our work in schools, and a home in a local church.

Our staff have been busy maintaining long-standing connections and establishing new ones with 64 schools visited in 2018/19! As opportunities have increased in Garstang, we have also been delighted this year to have Sarah Moeller as an intern.

Listening service training has taken place throughout the year; this has been delivered to a number of local Christians with many undertaking further training to be able to deliver this service in schools. We recognise the importance of this and other ways of partnering with local churches, and have identified this as an area for growth in the coming year.

We are immensely grateful to all those who have faithfully and prayerfully contributed to NISCU NL. It is because of your partnership with us that children and young people are being offered opportunities to hear the good news of Jesus. Thank you, God bless.

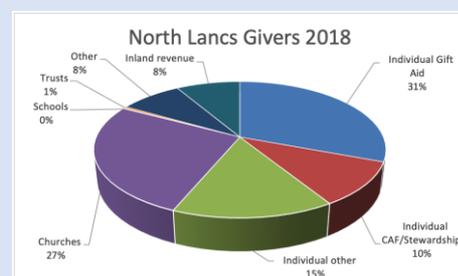
(North Lancs Support Group)



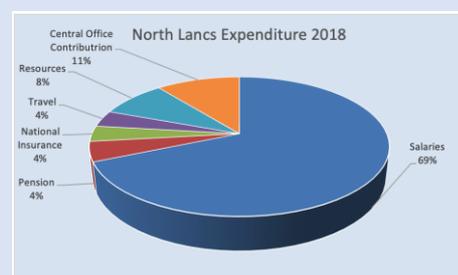
## Finances

Income and Expenditure - For the Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Income	2018	2017
Church Pledged Gifts	£18,489	£18,082
Individual Pledged Gifts	£39,227	£41,738
Tax Recovery	£5,876	£5,851
Miscellaneous Gifts	£6,116	£1,404
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£69,709</b>	<b>£67,075</b>

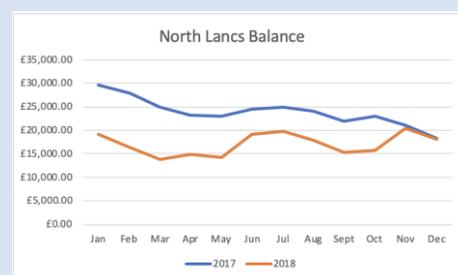


Expenditure	2018	2017
Worker Salaries, Pension and National Insurance	£53,764	£57,306
Travel	£2,661	£2,606
Resources	£6,023	£8,791
Central office contribution	£7,529	£7,438
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£69,977</b>	<b>£76,141</b>



Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Capital Account	2018	2017
Accumulated Fund	£18,333	£27,399
Net Surplus for the year	£-268	£-9,066
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£18,065</b>	<b>£18,333</b>



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## Work in Schools

This year we...	Primary work	Secondary work
visited schools	57 ( <i>direct contact with 7,500+ children</i> )	7 ( <i>direct contact with 3,500+ yp</i> )
Delivered assemblies (collective worship)	107	16
<i>of which were delivered by our puppet teams</i>	31	
Taught lessons	229	52
Supported lunchtime/after school clubs	6 (weekly)	4 (weekly)
Independent school clubs	9	2
other stuff ...	Walk though Easter, Head teacher's conference, Venture holiday, Refugee project, Bishop's Bible Treasure Challenge,	2 Crème Egg Quest lunchtimes, Spirituality Days, Listening Services,

### Area Support Group:

Mark Johnstone (Chair),  
Jane Callow,  
Graham Pollitt,  
Alex Fearnhead,

### Area Staff:

Debbie Green  
Primary  
debbie.green@niscu.org.uk



Diana Stopczynski  
Primary  
diana.stop@niscu.org.uk



Jonny Bayes  
Secondary  
jonny.bayes@niscu.org.uk



Sarah Möller  
sarahmoeller305@googlemail.com

Sarah Dodd  
sarahjdodd@talktalk.net

## Our Story

It has been another busy year for the North Lancs team, as collectively we have visited more schools than ever before! God has answered prayers and opened doors and continually supported us as we have gone about his work, bringing the good news of Jesus to young people through assemblies, RE lessons, clubs and other activities and events.

We have been made ever more aware of the needs of children, staff and schools as a whole, and we have found ourselves increasingly talking about and showing how God cares for each one of us in whatever situation we're going through. From Listening Services and drop-in clubs, to assemblies about refugees and God's unfailing love, and the annual Year 6 lessons helping them as they move from primary to secondary schools, so much of our time has been focused on revealing God's heart for young people and celebrating his goodness!

## Further information

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer bulletins or periodical newsletters, please email [jonny.bayes@niscu.org.uk](mailto:jonny.bayes@niscu.org.uk)  
If you would like to see what we do each week, then visit our website [www.niscu.org.uk/nlancs](http://www.niscu.org.uk/nlancs) and you will see our diary.  
If you would like to support us financially, either go to <https://niscu.org.uk/home/giving/>, or email [ruth.robinson@niscu.org.uk](mailto:ruth.robinson@niscu.org.uk).

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## Debbie Green

This academic year I have personally visited 50 schools! It's what you might call a bumper year! This has included 20 assemblies on the Good Shepherd, 15 about Jesus as a Refugee, 5 about Easter and 24 about God being slow to get angry and filled with love. That also includes 31 schools visited with our puppet roadshow at Christmas when Sheldon the snail (me!) was taught about the reason for celebrating Christmas. It has also included teaching 75 classes about the bible on themes such as Miracles, Parables, Jesus, Pentecost, Prayer and what it means to be a Christian. By the end of the year I will also have taken 15 Jump lessons for Year 6's, considering their big Jump into high school and particularly looking at advice from Paul to Timothy.

Still to come this year, some schools need visiting to congratulate their children for completing the Bishop's Bible Treasure Challenge (commissioned by the Bishop of Blackburn, written mostly by NISCU and completed by 2,500 children across the diocese). The children explored the treasures of the new testament and learned how to write a Bible journal. This year it also included an exhibition and treasure hunt at Blackburn Cathedral!

It's been a year with many meetings with vicars, head teachers and R.E. co-ordinators, as well as other organisations – Teach Beyond, Blackburn Diocese Board of Education, CAP, SU, Light Church youth leaders, the New Wine interns and the new Bishop of Lancaster.

As usual we have fitted into this year our termly Encouragement Evenings, a NISCU Get Together in Penrith, a much needed Retreat, Prayer Breakfasts with other like-minded leaders and our lectures and seminars for the Capernwray students as they get to grips with the incredible opportunities in our UK schools whilst respecting the boundaries.

NISCU even tried to teach me to listen this year – please feel free to come and test me! I'm more known for talking so it's a steep learning curve. Honestly, it's been a privilege to listen to Headteachers who are heavily laden and need our prayers, to children as they witness to their peers, to staff as they ask about what we believe and to churches as they share their passion and prayers for the next generation.

Praise God for a bumper year. Pray to the God who does immeasurably more and whose love is unending.

## Diana Stopczynski

I have enjoyed another year with NISCU in North Lancs and South Lakes and I continue to enjoy the variety of work in each area.

My focus in North Lancs continues to be taking Christianity lessons in to the primary schools and also leading 4 weekly Jam Clubs in various schools. This past year I have visited 27 schools, taught 134 lessons (which I really enjoy), led 75 Jam Club sessions (my passion) and narrated at 19 of the 31 Christmas Puppet shows. Being part of the Christmas Puppet Roadshow in the area

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provided a wonderful opportunity to share the 'true' meaning of Christmas with hundreds of children. It was particularly encouraging to add a new school to our Roadshow this year which had not previously had a visit from the puppets.

The Jam Clubs at St Luke's Skerton, Grosvenor Park, Ridge and Trumacar have been well attended since September and I will be sad to say Goodbye to 9 Year 6 children this year from 2 of these schools who have been coming to Jam Club for 4 years. I pray that they will continue their faith journey at High School. Please pray for new volunteers to join us so that we can start some new clubs next year.

I have attended various training sessions this year; Understanding Christianity, Listening Service and First Aid to advance my knowledge in these areas.

I look forward to seeing where God will use me next year and continue to look for ways that the work of niscu can grow in the local schools and where we can support the local churches with their outreach into schools too.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

## Jonny Bayes

This academic year has been my busiest so far with niscu and has involved several new opportunities. There have been wonderful moments and also some sad times, but through all of it God has reminded me of his love and grace, and of the urgency of bringing hope and the good news of Jesus to young people now.



*Listening Service Training has been run across our area this year*

A huge answer to many prayers came in the autumn as the door to Garstang Academy finally opened and since then I have taught lessons with all of Year 7 & 8, which have been wonderfully received, and will hopefully lead to more opportunities to bless the school in the years to come. I have also built on the strong relationship with Our Lady's Catholic College, by supporting their work with Year 7s and running a drop-in club throughout the year. This is a model I hope to extend to other schools from September, including Garstang, as niscu look to support both student wellbeing and share God's love with young people.

I have taught lessons to all of the Year 7 & 9 classes at Morecambe, and all of the Year 9s at Ripley. These have included new and challenging subjects like the Incarnation and the Trinity. I have also taken lessons at Bay Leadership Academy, including taking a class on a church visit, another new venture for me as a niscu worker!

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It has, at times, been a year of tragedy for the high schools in North Lancs. Five of the nine schools have experienced bereavement during the year, although this has shown how NISCU and the local church can play a big part in supporting schools and young people through difficult times.

At the same time I have seen increasing opportunities for NISCU, and churches, to share openly the good news of the Bible and give space for young people to consider it for themselves. I have also seen Christian young people take big steps forward in sharing their faith, praying for their friends and being passionate about declaring Jesus where they are. This excites me for what God has in store as we continue to pray and commit our time and efforts to him. Please give thanks to God for all that has happened this year and pray I will have the wisdom and strength for the year to come!

## Sarah Dodd

Since September 2018:

- Managed to get a response from Quernmore school, and will be going in this term.
- Written eight new lessons in this school year (five KS2, three Reception/KS1).
- Taught 30 lessons since Sept 2018
- Did several Christmas puppet shows as narrator
- Helped to write Bishop's Bible Treasure Challenge with Diocesan Board of Education and set up Easter exhibition in Blackburn Cathedral
- Attended NISCU residential retreat
- On planning committee for *Imagine* resource for Year 8s – tasked to write the script, have currently written the first three 'chapters'
- Liaised with Winmarleigh church to deliver lunchtime Explorers' Club in school
- Met to pray with community/school groups Forton, Moorside and Winmarleigh/Cockerham/Glasson
- 40 minute presentation on the work of NISCU to Hollins Lane Fellowship, Forton
- Led Hope Church prayer meeting for the work of NISCU

Coming up this term and into September

- 'Jump' lessons with Jonny to help with the transition from primary school to High School
- Helping Diana in S Lakes with a science-based lesson comparing Creation and Evolution
- Other lessons on prayer and why Christians follow Christ as leader
- New lesson for KS2: 'What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?' for a class at Dolphinholme who want to know more about the Christian life, including testimony from Jamie Haxby, elder at Hope Church and parent at the school
- Delivering assemblies and certificates to Lancashire schools who completed the Bishop's Bible Treasure Challenge.
- Writing the remaining twelve 'chapters' of the *Imagine* programme
- From September: weekly wellbeing session with LGGS Year 12 girls, taking the form of a creative writing group.

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## **Pray:**

Especially for the LGGS work, that I will be able to share my faith in a natural way and be able to listen to and support the girls as they express themselves; that it might open further doors into the school as God directs.

## **Sarah Möller**

The best experience for me this year has to have been the Christmas puppet roadshow. We had great fun together as a team, we shared the amazing news of Jesus' birth with hundreds of children, and I had the opportunity to visit many schools I had never been to before.

Additionally, I have really enjoyed the variety of experiences this year has offered me- below is a list of everything I have done. Looking back, most of what I did this year was new to me, and therefore slightly challenging, although I enjoyed all of it! However, I think the most challenging was the Bible study group at St Michael's-on-Wyre, as it was my first experience of planning and running a club on my own. God has used me in many different ways this year, it has been a real pleasure working with NISCU!

- Watching Debbie do assemblies at the start of the year
- Helping in reception class at Garstang St Thomas'
- The Christmas puppet roadshow
- Helping in reception class at Garstang Community
- Helping in Year 4 at Garstang St Thomas' (and hearing readers)
- Setting up and running a Bible study group at St Michael's-on-Wyre
- 'God is slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love' assemblies with Debbie and Jonny
- Jump lessons with Debbie and Jonny
- Many other one-off experiences!



*Young People, praying*