

Summer Term Newsletter

with summary of
Annual Report 2018



niscu

 north cumbria

Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union

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

Summer Supper

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 below)



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Highlights & Exciting things ahead


Staff Team


It has been a very exciting 12 months for NISCU North Cumbria. 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 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

Special Needs School

James Rennie

Lime House

Morton Academy

Belle Vue
 Caldew Lea
 Newlaithes Infants
Puppets only
 Newlaithes 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

RC Carlisle schools

Puppets only
 St Bede's
 St Cuthbert's
 St Margaret Mary's

Trinity

Houghton
 Kingmoor Juniors
 Robert Ferguson
 Rockcliffe
 Stanwix
 Blackford *Puppets only*

William Howard

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

Update: We have a puppet assembly booked at Inglewood Infants in October

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.

Committee report

Margaret Hughes

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

At the Summer Supper we said goodbye and thanked **Michael Fox** 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 2018. There was a **week of prayer** over all the NISCU areas from 26 February.

This year one of our aims was to encourage churches to pray for their local schools. (*see Management Team letter p7*) During our committee business we often pause to pray together for immediate needs.

Committee members

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*

Elected this year - until 2018

Margaret Hughes (Sec) *St Peter's*

Barbara Gardner (Chair) *St Peter's*

Johanna Boddham-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 Management Team *Nick Klein*

Jesus Said: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." Rev 3:20 (NIV)

A message of Hope Again, we have had a busy and wonderful term, seeing lots of children and young people get involved with our Easter programmes, and now building on that to help year 6 pupils prepare themselves for Transition to their next school. Through all of this I am reminded of the Hope that we take to children and young people, in what is an increasingly 'hopeless' world and culture that we live. That Hope that Revelation talks about is for anyone...Praise God!! So, let us (with this Hope) continue to pray for our children and young people, that they would not only see this Hope, but engage with it, and accept it into their lives.

A message of rebuke We often use this verse to help non-Christians understand that Jesus longs to come into their lives, which is true. But, looking at the context of the passage, it is addressing a church that has become lukewarm, and forgotten how much they/we need Jesus to be a part of our lives, our church and our community. I thank God that NISCU has a huge number of supporters that do not think like this, people who remind us that the best programmes that we can ever have for our children and young people are not based on what our culture wants, but on who Jesus is. Please continue to pray for our churches, that we may never lock Jesus out of our buildings, meetings or hearts.

A message of sustenance I love the fact that Jesus spends a lot of time eating with people. He takes time to appreciate the daily sustenance that our body needs. I love the fact that this is also personal, how He will come and 'eat with that person'. At NISCU we are again remembering the personal touch of caring and helping children, young people, teachers, heads and others. But all of this takes time. Please pray for the team, that they will be able to invest their time wisely. Also pray for more volunteers, willing and able to help listen to children, young people and adults in your schools' communities, being with them as a help in their times of need.

What can you do to help? We really value your support, and if you are not already on your local prayer list, then that is a really great place to start. We are aiming to work with Prayforschools.org to support local people praying specifically for their school. Also, new for this term is 'Smile Amazon' ...if you don't already know about this, Amazon will give NISCU 0.5% of what you spend on Amazon.com ...so please sign up if you do your shopping this way. For more info on pray for schools, and smile amazon look on our website, or chat to your worker.

God bless you all, NISCU Management team

NISCU Management Team**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

GDPR - General Data Protection regulation

You have probably been inundated with requests to give permission for organisations to hold your personal data. We are required by the new data protection laws to ensure that we have your permission to keep your details on our data base. We are updating our records to ensure that you are still happy to receive information, and that you are receiving it in the form that is best for you.

We send out

- A newsletter each term, this can be either in printed form or by email.
- An email copy of the monthly prayer update and detailed prayer diary (paper copies are available at the prayer meeting.)
- An email copy of the Annual Report (paper copies available at AGM)
- Very occasional we send out details of any special NISCU events e.g. Teachers Supper, Summer Supper.

Our local data base has: name, address, and when given - telephone number, email and church. We have church reps in many of our supporting churches and they have extra copies of the newsletter to hand out to anyone interested. But it helps us to ensure they have sufficient numbers of copies if you let us know you would like to receive one.

You have the right to request to see the data we hold to ensure it is correct and also request that we remove your name or choices at any time. We keep your data secure and do not pass it on to anyone for any other purpose.

Those who receive updates by email will already have had notice of this with details of how to respond by email. Thank you to those who have replied. You will have received email confirmation that we received your preferences.

A response form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please let us know your preferences by returning the completed form.

or by phoning Barbara on 01228 521673

or email (north.cumbria.niscu@gmail.com)

JOB OPPORTUNITY:

COULD YOU BE A CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS WORKER?

WHY?

We believe every child and young person should have the opportunity to hear good news about Jesus.

HOW?

As a Christian Schools Worker in North Cumbria, you will deliver a variety of work to support the teaching of Christianity in Primary and Secondary Schools. Hours: 16 hours per week. Start date Mon 29 Oct, fixed term to 31 July 2019 in the first instance.

WHO?

You are an enthusiastic and passionate evangelical Christian with great communication skills and the professionalism to succeed in the school environment.

INTERESTED?

Download a job pack from our website niscu.org.uk/vacancies. Completed applications should reach us, by email or post, by the closing date of: Mon 6 Aug 2018 to 57 Lancaster Road, Carnforth, LA5 9LE or admin@niscu.org.uk Interviews will be on Thur 6 Sept.

Contact CEO Nick Klein if you would like an informal discussion about this role at 01524 732764

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

We rejoice with Trudi on her forthcoming marriage, but sadly we will lose her very valuable input as she moves away. There will be an opportunity on 15 October to thank her and wish her and Alistair much happiness in their future.

With Trudi moving we need to appoint a new schools' worker. Please pray the right person will apply and we will be guided to make the right appointment. Please pass on details to anyone you think might be suitable.

Reading Acts 23, I was struck by the amazing scale of God's plan to bring the good news to Rome. *"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.

May we be part of **God's superior plans** to lead young people to trust Jesus.

Barbara Gardner (Chair)