

Hopes and ...

Rachel

Have you seen the TV programme ***This time next year....?***

A variety of guests have a chat on the sofa with Davina McCall about what they want to have seen happen in the next year. They get invited back 12 months later to see if what they hoped for actually took place.



The guests say they want to have learnt to read, or to lose 12st in weight etc. with often startling results at the end. During this interview they show you just how much work and commitment it has taken to achieve what they hoped for. One particular lady had hoped to be able to read a story to her grandchildren and sure enough after 12 months of dedication, commitment and persevering, at the end you saw her reading the bedtime story to her grandchildren.

... certainty

Christian hope though is not the wishful thinking – ‘I hope it doesn’t rain on Saturday’, but a confident expectation - a future certainty. This confidence is based on all the evidence of God keeping his promises even when that looked seriously unlikely. We see that so many times in the Bible – Moses crossing the Red Sea, Daniel in the lion’s den to name just a couple.

Therefore, as all these precious promises have been kept we then can have a confident expectation that all the things Jesus promised will be kept too – Eternal life (1 John 2:25), Peace (John 16:33), the Holy Spirit to help and to guide (John 14:26), the hope of glory (Col 1:27) and there are so many more. A real hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What I really hope for

- Every child and young person to have the opportunity to find for themselves a real hope in the gospel (and a home in the church where they can be nurtured).
- Each child to understand the significance of Easter better with more schools taking up our variety of Easter lessons.

Questions and answers

A couple of weeks ago I was invited into a year 6 class to answer questions that the children had. It was a Friday afternoon (everyone is usually a bit tired and restless by Friday), I hadn't been given a list of questions in advance and it was the day after a family bereavement. I prayed really hard that the Holy Spirit would guide in the right words to say.

Well, what an hour we had

- ***What is the evidence for the resurrection?***
- ***Why did Jesus have to go to heaven and not stay?***
- ***What God is like?***
- ***Where do we go when we die?***
- ***Does everyone go to heaven?***

Children who struggle to engage, engaged! What an amazing privilege and opportunity to share my hope with them all.

The hour spent with them just didn't feel enough somehow and so possibilities of more regular question answering sessions are being looked at.

Book these

Thanksgiving & AGM

***Monday 17th June at
7.30 pm
St Peter's Carlisle***

Prayer Meetings

***Third Monday of the
month at 7.30 pm
St Peter's Carlisle***

Wigton Area Prayer

Contact Hayley for details



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

The prospect of lighter nights and warmer weather is always a great thing for me, it lifts my spirits and renews my vigour. Just now in the earth the plants have begun to burst forth, blossom and grow so I pray that once again the word of God will continue to spread and flourish, filling our nation with a love for Him.



In order to achieve this wonderful garden of a God-loving people, the people need to be told of God's love and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and how through Him we can be reconciled with God. Isn't that a marvellous message we need to spread? I am very privileged that I am able to share this Good News with young people who have questions that many adults have grown weary of; who, what, where, when, how and perhaps most often why. The answer of course is because God loves you, what a precious verse John 3:16 is for it tells us that

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

His love is for everybody and so is eternal life if only we believe.

- I would love for every child to hear those words and claim them for themselves.

... Happenings

I have had some amazing opportunities to go into schools and conduct assemblies. Assemblies are special to me because there are adults there too and so they can also participate and hopefully take something away from them.

Recently I had a week of assemblies in **Trinity School**; praise God for the opportunity to go into a large secondary. I have also been in **Lime House**, the primaries and **Stone Eden Nursery**.

.... Hopes

It is my prayer, and I hope that you will join with me in this:

- That God will continue to open the doors for us.

I cannot tell you enough just how much we feel the effects of your prayers as we go about our daily appointments; the peace of God transcends upon us and with confidence we can step up to the mark knowing it is in His strength not ours that we speak.

I must also ask that at this time that you will join me in

- praying for **Caldew** School following the tragic accident that happened in February half term.

The initial shock is over but the loss and sadness will be felt for some time by the students and staff; please also pray for the family, some of whom were also involved in the accident as they return to school, work and life. Ingrid Messenger will be missed by many and gave much in her short life.

It has been very busy (and busier is yet to come) and with the unusual Easter vacation we get longer than usual to tell the Easter story.

- I am really looking forward to the lessons, clubs and prayer spaces that are booked in for this next term alongside assemblies.
- I pray that I will radiate God's love and in the words of one of my favourite songs, 'I'll go in the strength of the Lord to work He appoints me to do'.

The General Data Protection Regulation has made us work on how we let you know what is happening. One thing we see is the need to have a **NISCU Church Rep in all churches. *Could this be you?*** Let us know. It is important for those who don't have or don't want to have email contact. We have also increased the number of Newsletters we get printed, at very little extra cost.

Happenings Hayley



This term has gone so quickly, it's hard to believe we are over halfway through the school year already! This term's excitement has been lunch clubs in both Nelson Thomlinson and Richard Rose Morton Academy.

At **Nelson Thomlinson** lunch club we regularly have about 15 young people, all with a desire to explore whichever activity we are bringing that week.

One example of this club is where we took whiteboards and asked them to write down things that had been said to them that hurt and/or things they have said to other people that hurt. One young person counted up 46 things that they had been called, things they had been carrying for a long time. As we wiped the boards away and made it as if it had never happened, their surprise at the relief of letting go was absolutely incredible.



At **Richard Rose** we have had a few weeks of incredible numbers – one week we had almost 40 young people turn up! We have been blown away by the openness of both the young people and the school, and willingness to change. With more young people more changes are afoot, so watch this space!

A lot of the young people that come to club are from non-church backgrounds! How amazing would it be for them to find a Hope in Jesus and a Home in a local church!

.... Hopes

Looking forward to the exciting things coming up...

- I have 15 different schools booked for Easter lessons this year.
- Some of these having multiple classes - this means over 500 young people will hear about what it was Jesus did for us at Easter!

What a privilege it is to be able to share the gospel with that many young people!



Personally it has been a challenging year, but throughout the entire time I have been reminded of God's wonderful grace. Matthew 6:34 says "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes." [Message]

The message of the two puppet assemblies this year is just that. No matter how tough our situation can feel, no matter how difficult the decisions we face, we can be brave in the knowledge of the hope that we have. God will help us deal with it all.

We are telling the exciting stories of Daniel in the fiery furnace and David facing Goliath. They illustrate for the children what it is to trust God in the worst of times.

These are new assemblies. The teams have been getting to grips with them and finding imaginative ways to get the message of God's love over to a new generation. Please continue to pray for both

teams as we present the assemblies in schools. They do a fantastic job but are getting tired and we desperately need new members to help.

Could that be you?



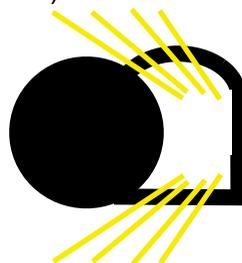
Easter in the Primary Schools

- Years 5 and 6 - a **crime scene investigation** into who rolled the stone,



- Years 3 and 4- a lesson on the **roller coaster of emotions** in Holy week.

- (Hayley is writing a lesson for KS1 - Infants).



The statistics - Currently we have

- **50 lessons** booked in
- **25 different schools** over
- the next **2 months**

to share the good news of the resurrection and the difference it makes in our lives today.

Contact Details

Office: St John's Centre, Close St, Carlisle. CA1 2HA

Staff: Rachel Gleave 07557987474 rachel.gleave@niscu.org.uk
Hayley Wisbey 07824635654 hayley.wisbey@niscu.org.uk
Fiona Crouch 07914578945 fiona.crouch@niscu.org.uk

Puppets: Ailsa Taylor 07786160163 puppetualfun@gmail.com

Chair: Barbara Gardner, north.cumbria@niscu.org.uk

01228 521673 83 Lowry Hill Rd, Carlisle, CA3 0DJ

Treasurer: Geoffrey Pearson granpapearson@gmail.com

01228 493429 7 Chapel Brow, Carlisle, CA1 2PP

Prayer - Regular Events

SUNDAY Staff, their families and churches.

Rachel & Paul Gleave, Isaac, Lauren, Reuben. (St Peter's)

Hayley & Matt Wisbey, Georgia, Dylan, Brandon, Caitlyn
(Cornerstone Methodist, Wigton)

Fiona & Grant Crouch, Zoë, Ombretta (Dalston Methodist)

Pray for all local churches to be welcoming to children and to value and teach them well. Pray for all who lead and teach in children and young people's work in churches.

MONDAY

Trinity School club 1200
(Hayley, Kristian, Donna)

Pennine Way Quest Club 1510
(Diane, Susannah)

Abbeytown Kids Club 1500
(Hayley)

Puppet assemblies Times vary

Monthly Prayer meeting 1930
3rd Mon each month at St
Peter's, Carlisle CA3 0BB

TUESDAY

Richard Rose Morton club 1300
(Hayley, Kristian, Sophie)

Kingmoor Jnr. Quest Club 1530
*(Andrina, Fiona, Bruce, Ruth,
Kathryn)*

WEDNESDAY

Caldew club 1220
(Fiona, Hayley)

Lime House club 1315
(Fiona, Hayley)

Houghton Quest Club 1520
(Andrew, Miriam, Anne)

THURSDAY

William Howard club 1100 / 1230
(Rachel)

Puppet assemblies Times vary

FRIDAY

Richard Rose Central club 1225
(Rachel, Brian)

Nelson Thomlinson club 1230
(Hayley)

SATURDAY

Half Termly

X:site Carlisle, 1800
Hebron Evangelical Church
(Yrs 4,5 &6)

Head office staff:

Nick Klein (CEO), Pam Jones, Ruth
Robinson

Committee:

For wisdom in all decisions and
planning.

*We send a more detailed monthly
Prayer Diary by email. If you
would like to receive it; send us
the email address that you want
us to use.*

*If you want to stop receiving
communications from NISCU, let
us know. Contact us at
north.cumbria@niscu.org.uk*