

### Summer Buffet

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 6.30 - 8.30 pm  
at St Peter's Church, Carlisle

***For all our supporters, families and friends.  
Please invite others to join us! You will hear  
up to date information about the work.***

It would help us cater if you  
let Rachel, Hayley or Barbara  
know if you are coming.

Contact details on page 5



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### Listening Effective listening

A one day course teaching  
how to be an effective  
listener in a variety of  
situations. This course  
requires no previous  
experience, but can lead to  
an applied listening course for listening in  
schools. Cost £30.



(See Rachel's article on page 2 for more details)

*"Rejoice always, pray  
continually, give  
thanks in all  
circumstances"*

*1 Thess 5:16-18*

### Fiona Crouch

**Thank-you** to Fiona for all she did with Niscu last year. She left us in July and begins a new job this September. Please pray for her as she starts work as the Children's & Church Outreach Worker in the Methodist churches in the Keswick and Cockermouth area.

### Prayer meetings

7.30 -8.30 pm St Peter's  
Church, Carlisle CA3 0BB

3rd Monday of Month

21<sup>st</sup> October

18<sup>th</sup> November

16<sup>th</sup> December

## Ears to Hear Rachel



Proverbs 20:12.

**Ears to hear, eyes to see**

**– both are a gift from the Lord (NLT).**

Have you ever thought what the best gift you could give someone could be? We can spend hours trying to find the perfect gift for someone – something that they will like, that will be useful and be within budget.

Some people even say the greatest gift you can give someone is your presence (and not your presents!).

Years ago, even before I was a schools' worker – one of the first assemblies I ever led was based on the verse quoted above. How precious are those gifts that have been given to us? A good friend of mine has just had a cochlea implant fitted and is having to teach herself how to hear, something I imagine many of us take for granted but the amazing thing about those gifts is that not only can they hugely benefit us but we can also use them to benefit others.

Having recently led a prayer space in a local school it became really apparent to me just how much we all value being listened to, especially our young people. How good is it when we feel we are being listened to? I know I really appreciate it! In one of the sessions I noticed a young lady looking a bit sad so I sat on the floor with her and started talking about her hopes and dreams for the future. It was an immense privilege for me to hear her tell me about her life. I did notice myself using the listening tool we had learned as part of our listening service and training, to allow her to talk and to listen to many others who were wanting to talk as well.

There is a well-known saying "we have two ears and one mouth so we should listen twice as much as we speak" ..... okay, maybe something I am not particularly good at!! But several times recently I have really seen the benefit of actively listening to others. Not just in our schools but in every area of our lives. So many of our young people (and others too) in our communities just simply don't have someone to listen to them.

## **So what is the 121 listening service?**

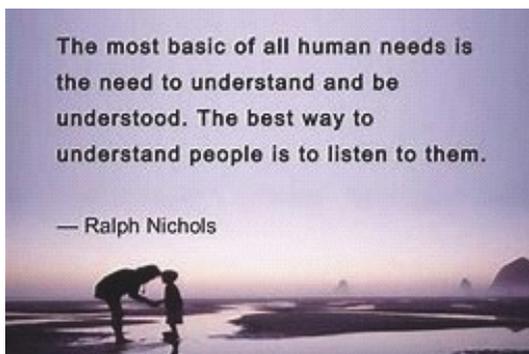
**121 Listening** is a service that NISCU oversees in providing volunteers to schools for the simple task of listening to pupils in a school context. We work alongside school pastoral teams to support the ongoing work within the school. We train local volunteers to listen using "The Acorn Listening services" model of effective listening, and then apply it specifically to a school's context. Whilst it is NISCU's desire that this training will support those wishing to listen to children and young people in a school setting, it is acknowledged that this course is relevant for any person who is involved in pastoral support of others, whether in a church, community or school.

## **What training is needed?**

The effective listening course (module 1) is a one-day course (costing £30). The training provides an opportunity for people and churches to be enabled to listen more effectively. The listening involves listening to ourselves, listening to others and listening to God using a particular reflective listening model developed by Acorn. Module 2 is much more specifically tailored for those interested in supporting their local schools in this way and is run a little while later.

We are hoping to run the effective listening training in Carlisle soon and would love it if you joined us. Please let me know if you would be interested in supporting your local school community and offering them the gift of listening in this way or if you just want to come to improve your listening skills. What an amazing privilege we have to share this gift of ears to hear with people who don't usually get listened to.

I will let you know the date as soon as we set it.



# Prayer Spaces *Hayley*



The summer term seemed to be a time when schools like prayer spaces. Prayer spaces are a set of activities designed to get people thinking about prayer, God, and things that are bigger than themselves. There are normally about 11 or 12 activities and the young people are given the opportunity to do the activities that speak to them as individuals, or all of them if they choose.

Some examples of activities include:

- holding a stone, thinking of things we are sorry for, then dropping it in the water to wash it away
- giving thanks for things in our lives
- cutting a snowflake and thinking about how unique we all are
- watching bubbles, writing down any worries we may have and picture them going away
- looking at a map and asking what we would ask God to change



Some young people have loved exploring the activities and thinking of different things and different ways of connecting with God. Some need encouraging to engage and we are sometimes able to initiate helpful conversations. Most of the teachers have engaged with the activities too! At one prayer space this term, it was opened up for parents to come and about 30 parents came with their children and took part in the activities too. These prayer spaces have highlighted the need for young people to just be listened to, they have so many worries and thoughts in their heads and often do not have anyone to share them with, as parents and family members have their own things to deal with.

As I write this I am sat looking at the plans for next year. I am really excited at how many opportunities there are to share the gospel in schools right now! I thank God for the freedom we have to do this! But at the same time I'm a little overwhelmed by how many young people there are to reach. This term has really shown me the value of people working together to share the gospel and I am so grateful for all the people who have helped do that this year!

Looking forward, I would love to see schools really connected with their local churches in any way possible, and whilst I know not everyone can go and run a prayer space or lead a lesson, there are so many other things that could be done and gifts that can be used, for example, cutting out circles of paper, making biscuits/cake for lunch clubs, dressing up as a roman soldier...

Why not pray about what you could do, and if you feel led to, get into contact with us and come and see what we can do together?

## AGM update

### From the Treasurer's A G M report

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

During the last year we received a legacy of £4,660, and an exceptional gift from a supporting Trust on winding up their affairs of £21,500.

*Since the AGM we have received a gift of £1000 from the Mother's union to support the Puppet work.*

### Committee

Barbara Gardner (Chair)  
*St Peter's*

Margaret Hughes (Sec)  
*St Peter's*

Geoffrey Pearson (Treasurer)  
*Elim Community Church*

Jo Boddam-Whetham  
*Burgh by Sands*

Robert Cox  
*Stanwix & Belah*

Joe Pattinson  
*Thurstonfield Methodist*

Karen Wilson  
*St John's London Rd*

## Contact details

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*north.cumbria @niscu.org.uk*

**Treasurer:** Geoffrey Pearson  
01228 493429 7 Chapel Brow, Carlisle, CA1 2PP  
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I love the line in Acts 2 v 26 (Msg) **"I've pitched my tent in the land of hope!"** We take the message of our hope in Jesus into schools, sharing our joy in his wonderful love for us - it's a privilege that never gets old.

We have nearly completed a year of assemblies with the stories of **David and Goliath** for the Thursday team and **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego** for the Monday team. Both assemblies have a message about being brave with God's help: that when we do stand up for him he honours that; we are never alone no matter what our circumstances may be and He is always faithful.

At the end of term, during the fortnight 2nd - 13th December, we bring the story of the **"Greatest Christmas gift"**, which contains the greatest hope as we welcome Jesus who came as a baby to be the Saviour of the World.

We have had a challenging time with illnesses this year for both team members and family members. We praise God that we have not had to cancel any bookings and would value your prayers as we continue each week. We do however, desperately need new members to take the pressure off some of our team. Our teams are getting older and although the spirit is always willing the flesh is weak. Our oldest team member, June Dixon, was interviewed for an article in "The Way" magazine in March. Also BBC Radio Cumbria interviewed us, in a bid to raise awareness of the work NISCU and in particular the puppets.

We are "pitching our tent in the land of Hope" and pray that God will prompt new folk to join us in this very rewarding work. If you would like to find out more please contact Ailsa on 07786 160163 or talk to a team member. We would love to have you!

## STRATEGY

Every so often it is right to take a good look at the work; to see how things have changed; to see what new opportunities there are and decide what steps we should take. In September the staff and support group are giving time to pray and seek the Lord about how we should proceed. We are in a fast changing world. Opportunities to share Christian truth are different, but doors are still wide open in Cumbria. What door should we push? What door should we go through? What approach should we take in this generation?

When the children of Israel were on the point of entering the promised land God said

**“See, the Lord your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the Lord told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”** *Deuteronomy 1:21*

Please will you pray with us that we will stop, look and listen to God, and then follow his leading with courage and confidence.



### Covering Fiona's work:

As Rachel and Hayley considered Fiona's workload, they realised that the schools involved had several NISCU staff changes in the last few years. So we decided to take a long term view rather than hastily fill her post, hoping for a more longer term solution. This fits in well with our strategy review.

Fiona worked together with Hayley in Lime House and Caldew schools and some feeder primary schools. This will help Hayley cover some of the work. However both Rachel and Hayley will have a more pressured timetable, so please pray for strength for them and that they will make time to keep a close walk with the Lord.

## 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)

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  
(*Rachel, Kristian, Donna*)  
Pennine Way Quest 1510  
(*Diane, Susannah*)  
Abbeytown Kids Club 1500  
(*Hayley and local church*)

Puppet assemblies *Times vary*  
**Monthly** Prayer meeting 1930  
3rd Mon each month  
at St Peter's, Carlisle CA30BB

### TUESDAY

Richard Rose Morton club 1300  
(*Hayley, Kristian, Sophie*)  
Kingmoor Jnr. Quest Club 1530  
(*Rachel, Helen, Bruce, Ruth, Kathryn*)

### WEDNESDAY

Caldew club (*Hayley*) 1220  
Lime House club (*Hayley*) 1315  
Houghton Quest Club 1520  
(*Andrew, Miriam, Anne, Neal, David*)

### 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](mailto:north.cumbria@niscu.org.uk)