



○ Millom

○ Broughton

○ Dalton in Furness

○ Ulverston

○ Coniston



"I bet Charlie runs between his lunch groups", Ruth Evans quipped at one of our NISCU team days last autumn. Nick's ears pricked up, his head turned like an owl and he chortled, "that's not a bad idea for a fundraiser!" And thus, the Fun Run was born.

As many of you will know the funding for the Furness area was secured in 2017 for a three-year period which is now coming to an end. Nick and I have been having frequent discussions about how we can raise the profile of the work in the Furness area but also ensure the financial sustainability for the long term. Here in the Furness area we have had several opportunities within our secondary schools which has been hugely encouraging in terms of serving our schools and introducing young people to Jesus.

Our aim with the Fun Run was to raise the profile of the work by having events in different towns coinciding with the times that I was to run through. In Millom we had a coffee morning on the Friday where there were representatives from the churches in Millom and hosted by Millom Community Church. Pastor Fred encouraged representatives from all the churches to come and pray for me before starting the run the next day.

Sadly because of the Covid-19 pandemic a lot of our plans had to change at short notice. That being said we still held a coffee morning in Broughton, a prayer meeting in Dalton, a cake sale in Ulverston and a games evening and gathering in John Ruskin School in Coniston.

The aim was to run between the four secondary schools in the Furness area. We would start in Millom at Millom School and run through Broughton to Dowdales in Dalton. From there we would go to Ulverston Victoria High School before finishing at John Ruskin School in Coniston. The route would be roughly 40 miles. As a runner I was confident of my ability, but anything beyond a marathon distance is never a guarantee. That put together with the first few months of 2020 being hampered by falls and colds I wasn't exactly feeling confident at the start.

Nevertheless at 9am on Saturday 14th March I touched the gate at Millom School and set off with Geoff Brunskill and Rachel and Jonathan Street. After a short while the others left and I was off on my own heading to Broughton. Progress was good across the fast, flat land of the Duddon Estuary and I arrived into Broughton ahead of schedule. There was a fantastic gathering in Broughton where members of the local community and church came out to



Millom School



hear a bit more about the work of NISCU. Rev Stephen Tudway prayed for myself and the work before sending me on my way in the company of Andy Connor. Andy and I made good progress through to Kirkby-In-Furness before being hampered by some slow muddy ground around Ireleth. Andy did a sterling job on the navigation, despite running for a rival club which we joked about, and we made it to Dalton slightly behind schedule. Dalton was probably the toughest section for me.

I knew we were behind and I was around 18 miles in, I sunk into a bit of a mental low but after some food and stopping by on the end of the prayer meeting at St. Mary's, Joanna Barker, Katy Hall and I left for Dowdales School.



Dowdales School

After a quick photo at the sign of Dowdales we headed for Dalton zoo where we would encounter a bit of a problem. The route had us running through the zoo but when we got to the zoo, there was no path!

Quick thinking from Joanna got us onto a new route down the A590 and heading for Swarthmoor where we would pick up the route again. Around Lindal we were joined by fellow Ambleside AC runner, Matt Beresford. Matt picked up on the vibes that I was feeling good and the two of us decided to

progress onto UVHS and let Joanna and Katy take a more direct route to our next stop at Ulverston Parish Church. Matt quickly snapped the photo outside UVHS and it wasn't long before we met the others at Ulverston Parish Church.

There was a lovely welcoming committee at Ulverston Parish Church where they had hosted a cake sale. I was in good spirits having just reached the marathon distance and having 16 miles ahead of me. The folk in Ulverston didn't get much chat off me but their warm welcome and help were greatly received. Matt said that he would be continuing to the end and we picked up our new runners and good friends Chris Ingham and Ami Finnamore. After being prayed for by trustee, Mat Inneson, the four of us ventured out into the rain and headed up the Cumbria Way to Coniston. After a few cramps, which were eased by a salted caramel energy gel I was feeling in fine form. The four of us made good progress regularly bumping into the support team of Nick and Ruth.



UVHS School

Credit to my good friend Rob Hayes for coming out and lurking under a tree in the rain by Beacon Tarn, after a swig of his Lucozade we were on our way.

We flew down to Sunny Bank where we would meet Ruth one last time and then headed along the lake shore path towards Coniston. My legs were feeling really good and the spirits were high, we bumped into Norman Beech just outside of the village and he jogged with the four of us on our approach to John Ruskin School.



The lovely welcoming committee at John Ruskin School were out in Lake Road beckoning us in and it was fantastic to have reached the end.

I was blown away by the amount of support that we had throughout the day whether that was for the run itself or whether that was local church communities putting on the various events it was fantastic.

We have managed to raise over £1000 for the work of NISCU in the Furness area which is fantastic. More than that we have had people come forward to volunteer for a support group and also be on the front line in schools.

God's hand was over the whole event, through the various separate venues and the conversations to the run itself, God was working miracles throughout the day. This was always far more than a run, it was about ensuring the Christian Secondary Schools work continues in the long term so that schools are served by their local church community and staff and students can come to know Jesus for themselves.

Thank you again for your continued support! We really value you and all you do for us and the schools we serve. Please do continue to pray for the schools work in the Furness area and for the sustainability long term. If you would like to find out more then please do get in touch with either myself or Nick.

Every blessing,

Charlie Day
NISCU Secondary Schools Worker
for the Furness Area

John Ruskin School

