

Your phone can be a channel for God's blessing...



May we encourage you to go out of your way (phone, email etc) to ask any families, children and teachers you are in touch with, how they are getting on; what would they like prayer for, anything they are praising God for?

Our staff whilst on furlough can't do this but the rest of us can.

If you wish us to join in with any praise or prayer points, email them to north.cumbria@niscu.org.uk.

Children during this time

- Pray for children in homes where there is fear and anxiety which can cause mental trauma
- Pray for all children and young people everywhere who are desperately missing their friends and do not know when they might get to see them again. Younger children don't necessarily understand the concept of time so seven weeks can feel like eternity
- Those missing exams; it is exam season at the moment. Pray that they will know they get their value from God and not grades
- Year 6s who may or may not finish primary school. Pray that schools come up with a good way to help them to celebrate the end of primary education and that NISCU know how best to pick up these relationships in secondary schools when we can.
- Child protection issues during the lockdown

Teachers during this time

- Pray for teachers; how best they can support home learning and balance home schooling themselves. May they know God's peace, *"which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*
- Wisdom for the government and head teachers making decisions about opening schools again. Government announcements are sudden; wisdom is needed at all levels. How can requirements be met in a practical way, e.g. social distancing
- Angry and confused teachers not knowing whether or not schools will reopen
- For peace for teachers who – in the absence of exams and formal assessments – are having to grade and rank pupils, so that each pupil ends up with the grade they deserve
- Wisdom for government and local authorities

Pray for our staff

- **Rachel & Paul Gleave**, Isaac, Lauren, Ruben (*St Peter's*)
 She thanks God that Isaac is doing really well with his diabetes in spite of routines being 'out of the window' with home schooling
- **Hayley & Matt Wisbey**, Georgia, Dylan, Brandon, Caitlyn (*Wigton Methodist*)
 Home schooling – as in many households – has its challenge for all generations
 Husband Matt has finally had an MRI scan; hoping to find the source of his balance problems. Let's pray for wisdom for consultants as they seek to understand – and decide on a way forward
- for **Ailsa and the puppet teams**, thanking God for safety and health, praying for fresh bookings when the schools re-open
- Praise Father God that through rough times and smooth, He has brought our staff through this virus so far
- for CEO Nick Klein and head office staff
- for ongoing financial income

VISION AND PRAYER WEEK

Postponed until 12th—18th July

Keep an eye out for details

Dave Grimes, chair of trustees, writes *"Even if we cannot be physically together we can be together in prayer."*

Confused!!

Barbara Gardner, chair of our support group, writes:

Plans for getting out of lockdown are far from clear. Plans for opening schools are tentative. And really us humans don't cope well with the unknown. But that is the position we are in today.

We know the government is planning a cautious opening of primary schools at the beginning of June. We know many teachers are unsure of how that will work. We know many parents are fearful of their children's safety in returning to school. Can we encourage you to come, with us, to the only really safe place, where there is no confusion?

Psalm 18:2 says *"The Lord is my rock and my refuge and my deliverer"*.

The Lord truly is a rock and refuge. He does have a sure plan and we can trust him completely. Wonderfully he invites us to bring our requests to him. There are

many suggestions of practical things we can be praying for in this update.

If our NISCU staff were working, they would be asking teachers, parents and children what they would like prayer for. It would be great if we could be doing that too. We could ask those we know what we can pray for them.

It would be really good if we can encourage children to pray too. The natural response to understanding the promises of the Bible is to talk to God about our fears, our frustrations, our confusions and find he really is the rock, the refuge the deliverer we need.

CONTACT: Barbara Gardner • 01228 521673 • north.cumbria@niscu.org.uk
 • 83, Lowry Hill Road, Carlisle, CA3 0DJ

TREASURER: Geoffrey Pearson • 01228 493429 • granpearson@gmail.com
 • 7, Chapel Brow, Carlisle, CA1 2PP