

A massive thank you for partnering with us in praying for our schools. What a privilege it is to be able to carry everything to the Lord in prayer, to the one who hears us and has the power to do immeasurably more than we could think or imagine.



Over the years here in North Cumbria we have seen so many answers to prayer. Often items put on our prayer sheet one month have been answered before we write our prayer points for the next month.

Please join us and be part of helping us share Christian truth,

which can make a difference in many more lives.

I would like to offer you 3 invitations

1) Online team day (Mon 13th July 10.30-11.30 am).

A get together across all the niscu areas with an inspirational talk from Bishop Emma Ineson about prayer, to inspire us to start our week. I hope you can join me, follow this link: <https://niscu.online.church/>

2) Daily prayer walks. (Mon to Sat)



Come Rain or shine...at 2 pm each day - A prayer walk near the secondary school we are focusing on that day. It won't be particularly far or arduous, but it will be an opportunity to pray. Numbers are strictly limited in line with current guidelines. If you would like to join me, send an email, and I'll send details of where to meet..

rachel.gleave@niscu.org.uk

3) A daily mini prayer meeting.

7.30 - 8.00 pm on Zoom.

It is great to gather together to pray. Jesus said where 2 or 3 are gathered he is right there in the midst (Matt 18:20). If you would like to join with us just let me know, via email, and I can send you the meeting details. rachel.gleave@niscu.org.uk

To cover the area, we are focusing on different secondary schools and their feeder primary schools, aiming to ensure every child, young person and school is prayed for at some point during the week.

In North Cumbria we have over **70** schools

Suggested prayer topics for the week

Sun 12th July *no prayer walk, no zoom meeting, but pray for:*

- NISCU staff and their families
Rachel, Paul, Isaac, Lauren & Reuben Gleave.
Hayley, Matt, Georgia, Dylan, Brandon & Caitlyn Wisbey
- Puppet teams, support group members and volunteers.

If you want to receive updates by email and do not already receive them, email us at north.cumbria@niscu.org.uk

School focus for prayer meeting and prayer walk

- Mon 13th July William Howard School, Brampton & feeder schools.
- Tue 14th July Trinity School, Carlisle & feeder schools.
- Wed 15th July Caldew School, Dalston & feeder schools
Lime House School.
- Thur 16th July Nelson Thomlinson School, Wigton & feeder schools.
- Fri 17th July Richard Rose Central Academy & Morton Academy & feeder schools
- Sat 18th July Newman Catholic School, Austin Friars, James Rennie Special School.



Please let me know if you are praying for a specific school. I would love it if every child and young person (there are about 17500 in the North Cumbria area) were being prayed for.

ALL CHANGE in unusual times!

At this time of year Rachel & Hayley would usually be busy with "It's your move" lessons, helping to prepare year 6 pupils for moving to secondary schools and to invite children to



Christian clubs in their new school. But like so many, they are having to change how they work. Hayley is on furlough, looking after her family. Rachel is preparing video lessons, supporting schools with phone calls and emails, and booking live video link lessons with schools.

So how is this going?

Here are just a few responses from primary schools:

- **"Thank you so much Rachel - the resources look great and I'm so glad you can help us."**
- **"The direct link worked fine - thank you. I'm sure we will use the leavers' assembly too."**
- **"Many thanks Rachel for all your lovely support."**

It is good to know their resources are being used and valued. This includes the "moving on lesson" which was produced by the whole NISCU team (available on YouTube) Rachel has already booked 2 live video lessons with year 6 children (Warwick Bridge and Hayton) Many schools have copies of the booklet "It's your move" to give out. Please pray for all these resources to help equip children for the move ahead and also point them to Jesus.

Children moving on to college and university are also anxious and have had little support to face the changes ahead. So please pray for them too.

There are various video presentations which are available to schools on the NISCU website. www.niscu.org.uk

You can join us on our Facebook pages:
NISCU North Cumbria
NISCU North Cumbria Puppet Team

Please use the list of schools on the front as a guide to prayer, but here are some other suggestions.

NISCU staff, volunteers and partners

- for all to support and serve schools, sharing the good news of Jesus in new and effective ways.
- for health and strength for staff and families.
- both Rachel's & Hayley's families have had health issues to deal with. Please pray for healing for Matt (Hayley's husband). He has hospital tests soon for an ear problem, which effects his balance.

Puppet teams

for health and safety, for new members and for preparation of on-line presentations

Churches' children and youth work

Give thanks many churches keeping in touch with their children and young people. Pray for imaginative ways of teaching and fruit from their work.

Support group (committee)

- for wisdom as they guide and support the work.
- for Jo as she takes on being chair of this group.

Senior Management Team

Give thanks for their godly leadership and pray for wisdom. (Nick Klein, CEO, Pam Jones, operations manager, Amanda Conner, administration.)

Children & Young People

- Health and well-being of children and young people.
- For year 6 students, moving to secondary school and those moving to university or college.
- for those expecting exam results to know how precious they are to God, whatever their results.
- for safety and protection of vulnerable children and young people where family life is hard. Pray they will know where to find hope and safety.

Parents

- Give thanks for parents who have worked hard to keep their children engaged in school work.
- Pray for those who have found home schooling difficult, needing to juggle this with other responsibilities.
- For many who are anxious about children returning to school next term.

Teachers and all school staff.

- for those who are anxious about returning to school, especially if vulnerable.
- for head teachers, who are unsure how to keep their school communities safe
- for head teachers with governors, planning for schools to be fully open in September, dealing with the logistical implications and for peace in the decisions being made.

For all these things, we can do nothing, on our own. Give thanks we can talk to someone who can! Pray many pupils and staff will turn to the one who has all the answers.

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Searching Questions?

One thing we have been praying for over the past few months is that children and young people would ask searching questions and find the answers they are searching for.

During one question and answer session Hayley was asked 'how do you become a Christian?' Having been put on the spot in the middle of a lesson she answered by inviting them to church to find out more. A few days later they took up her invitation and attended the youth group meeting. After a good discussion with Hayley, the child prayed and became a Christian. There was a great deal of rejoicing in heaven that night but also in NISCU too. What a difference all of us praying for our school communities, children and young people can make!

How do you become a Christian?

Welcome to Jo, our new support group chair.

Hi everyone, I'm Jo Boddam-Whetham and am the new chair of the NISCU support group in our area. I have been on the committee for two years, but it is with great trepidation that I take over from Barbara Gardner who has fulfilled this role faithfully for so long. No one can replace Barbara, no one can fill those shoes, and so I am not going to try! Instead I'll bring what I can to the role - which in some ways will be much less - less time (I have four children ranging in age from 1-15 years old and my husband is the vicar of 6 rural churches) and less experience, but I deeply believe that the less I can bring is just the right fit for right now and that God has got the measurements correct!



A long time ago in a galaxy far away (well 20 ish years ago in London!) I worked as a church youth and children's worker and communicating the good news of Jesus to children has been my passion for my whole adult life. While it is now my husband who tends to be the one going into schools - he has four primary schools that he is connected to - I do get to hear of the hunger there is from children to find out more - a hunger that is pretty rare more widely in the society we live in.

The year ahead is going to be an odd one, but in some ways this seems to fit well with this time of transition for the support group. Physical time in schools may be limited, but perhaps that is just the space we need in order to focus on recruiting new support group members, sharing the practical load amongst us and building on our links with churches.

As is now a new norm in our household, my husband and I have just been recording ourselves singing the hymn 'Jesus the Name High Over All' ready for Sunday morning and this verse in particular struck me:

*Oh, that the world might taste and see,
The riches of His grace!
The arms of love that compass me,
Would all mankind embrace.*

Oh that the school children and school staff of our area would taste and see the riches of his grace!

While I feel daunted and inadequate I also feel excited. I might be small, but **"Our God is a great big God!"**