

General points

Praise and thanks

- For NISCU staff returning to work after being furloughed and making contact with schools
- For growing skills in use of technology to provide assemblies on-line
- For new support group members willing to share the responsibility of overseeing NISCU N Cumbria
- For continuing partnership with supporters

Pleas please

- For schools to know they have prayer support
- For safety for pupils and staff
- For wisdom for the support group to lead NISCU N Cumbria well
- For easy internet access to the AGM for our supporters



"IN YOUR HOME" AGM on Monday 5th October

You will have noticed that our AGM in June was postponed, but we still have lots of exciting things we want to share with you and celebrate all that God has done and is doing in our schools. Here are the details...

When	Monday 5th October.
Time	7.30pm
Place	Your house – join us at niscu.online.church followed by a zoom meeting for you to ask any questions.

Action Required: You will need to email rachel.gleave@niscu.org for an invitation to join the interactive section of the evening via Zoom, but the AGM presentation simply needs you to click the link on the night.

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FIND OUR RESOURCES FOR YOUR CHILDREN ON YouTube: NISCU North Cumbria
AND ON Facebook pages: NISCU North Cumbria • NISCU North Cumbria Puppet Team

niscu

prayer pointers
sept—oct 2020 coronavirus period
Northern Inter Schools Christian Union | north cumbria

Introducing our new chair person Jo Boddam-Whetham



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 six 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!"



Schools worker Rachel

Praise and thanks

- Thanks for the open doors we still have into our schools even at this time! We are still managing to visit some of our schools both physically and virtually and schools are still valuing what we can offer, even if different.
- For schools openness. Most schools have been contacted and many have expressed appreciation for our prayer and given us specific things we can be praying for.
- For chance meetings with different members of school communities. It was a real blessing to have the opportunity to see them and know they are doing well.
- Son Isaac's continued healing after breaking his arm. He no longer needs to visit the hospital for that... and is very happy that he can now go out on his bike again!!

Pleas please

- Wisdom on how best to support our schools during this very unusual time. We are keen to be a blessing to our schools and praying that God will make it clear.
- For the pupils to settle back well into school and any that are anxious or overwhelmed will know Phil 4:6. Many are pleased to be back seeing their friends again but also exhausted already!!
- For teachers and leadership teams. It has been a very difficult time for everyone but they have done an amazing job getting the schools re-open to all.
- We are working with the diocese to offer listening training to school staff, to equip them to be able to listen well in their own schools. Please pray that they, and their school communities benefit greatly from this.



Puppet team

Praise and thanks

- For the puppet teams who have worked hard over the summer to produce a set of on-line assemblies
- That the Puppets are still able to serve schools

Pleas please

- For the health and energy of the puppeteers
- For new opportunities and new puppeteers
- For take up of our on-line assemblies

Each time [the Lord] said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. 2 Corinthians 12:9 NLT

These are new circumstances in which we find ourselves, most especially for our schools, nurseries and universities. So we have to take our weakness and hand them to Him for His strength to shape and transform these situations to His glory.



Schools worker Hayley

Praise and thanks

- **God's creation** – so recently whilst I've been feeling under the weather or just over-whelmed by everything at the moment... I was scrolling through facebook and the UCB facebook page popped up. There was a quote that said '**God is not a duplicator, he is a creator and you are an original**'. It made me go back and look at the creation story and then look at some 'new beginnings' Bible stories... and I want to thank God for a new year, a new beginning, a new start, and a thank you for creation!
- **Thank God for technology!** Without technology we couldn't contact schools right now! We wouldn't be able to pick up the phone and just drop the school an encouraging message, or send an email to remind them how awesome they are... or even to ask if there is anything they would like help with or for us to pray about. So thank God for the technology that is available.
- **Thank God for school responses...** even in the confusion of today, the uncertainty, so many schools are sending an email back and getting in touch.

Pleas please

- **school staff:** so many have staff off sick with colds or flu that schools struggle to stay open. Pray for protection from bugs for staff – especially when testing can be tricky to come by.
- **pupils:** some have been extremely anxious going back to school. Let there be a peace that transcends all understanding come upon school pupils! Let them know they are safe, cared for, and valued! But most of all that God is with them!
- **Husband Matt and family:** without God's miraculous healing power, Matt is never going to be 'normal' again. We currently face a scary operation and six months of rehabilitation afterwards to help us transition to what a new normal looks like. We know that where doctors don't have the knowledge, actually God does! **God has healed our family before and we know He can again.**