



“Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people.” Luke 2:10

Many people are fearful in these difficult days. In Max Lucado’s book “Fearless” he says,

“Destructive anxiety subtracts God from the future, faces uncertainties with no faith, tallies up the challenges of the day without entering God into the equation. Worry is the darkroom where negatives become glossy prints.”

As Christians we have chosen to place our lives in the hands of our Heavenly Father. Our God can bring peace that passes understanding, comfort those who mourn, heal, restore, resurrect, forgive.

This is a wonderful message to share in our schools. Every week we have sent out our YouTube disassemblies (assemblies when you can’t assemble) so that children can reflect on Christian belief in their classrooms at the start of the school day. A good number of schools are making use of these as well as our high school and primary school online lessons and worksheets.

Have a look at our webpage:

<https://niscu.org.uk/areas/north-lancs/>

It’s so important to support our schools and teachers in these extra-ordinary days. There is so much more expected of them and we hope that our resources bring some relief and practical help.

Your prayers are extremely important, and your giving has enabled us to continue to serve remotely. Thank you so much. **Debbie Green**

‘When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you,
Jesus, who calmed the wind and sea.
When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.
Psalm fifty-six verse three.’

We may not be allowed to sing, but what a delight it was to lead the children at Winmarleigh in sign language as we thought about Jesus and his power, and how he demonstrated it to his disciples when they were afraid in a storm. Being able to see the children face to face in an outdoor assembly was a great blessing, even though we were interrupted by three noisy tractors and about 500 hundred honking geese all flying over at once! In these turbulent times, it’s good to remind each other that our God has power and authority over everything, and that we can trust him with our fears. **Sarah Dodd**

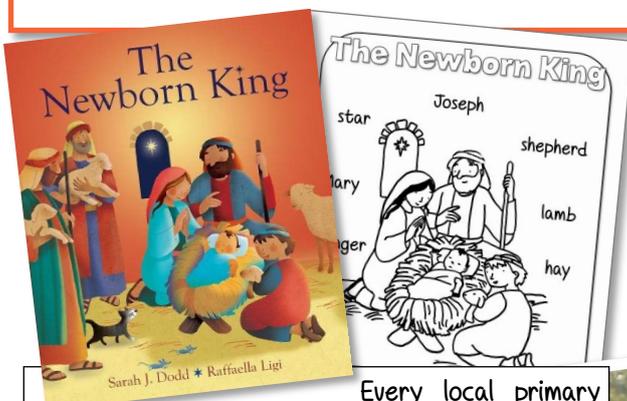
“Please can I thank you for your continued support. We are watching and enjoying the assemblies that you make. It is great to have that kind of background support. Looking forward to seeing you all in person!”

“Thanks, we really appreciate all that you are doing and especially your prayers!”

“Thank you also for your disassemblies. The children have been thoroughly enjoying them and it has really helped us to continue to worship in these odd times whilst we cannot join together in the hall.”

“...and thank you so much for the Bible box which I’ve finally seen...it’s amazing! You’re all so fab at your jobs :-)”

“Thank you so much. We really do appreciate your hard work!”



Every local primary school is receiving this beautiful book (written by our own Sarah and published by Lion Hudson) along with a video and NISCU worksheets. We have asked churches to donate to cover these costs and are putting the churches’ names inside the cover to acknowledge their gift. If your church hasn’t given yet, be quick! They go out next week! (See giving for more information on page 2)



Our NISCU NL team: Jonny, Sarah, Sheldon, Diana and Debbie

Psalms 16:7-9

I will bless the Lord who guides me
even at night my heart instructs me
I know the Lord is always with me.
I will not be shaken, for He is right beside me.
No wonder my heart is glad and I rejoice.

Finding Joy despite your circumstances

Life has been especially difficult this last year, for some more than others. I myself have been very challenged by circumstances in my life as some of you may know. I have found that true peace and joy comes from knowing that God is in control. It is difficult not to let things get us down but I have learned that He gives me the strength to go on and I have joy in Him. Believe in Him, trust in Him and give Him your challenges. **Diana Stopczynski**

High school video lessons with testimonies on themes like Communion, Incarnation and Worship. See NISCU website - "Media" or North Lancs area page for links.

This year there has been a greater awareness than ever before of ensuring that people are supported as much mentally as physically.

Mental Health issues are growing in prevalence, especially among young people and it might not be surprising when they have been forced to spend much less time with their friends, in person, than usual. For me, though, it is so good to know that we are never alone and that whatever we're going through, Jesus is there helping us.

In my one week of in-person schools work this term so far (four Year 7 transition days) a girl managed to dislocate her knee. She was filled with fear and wouldn't let anyone help her (even her mum who turned up).

However, with gentle encouragement she eventually fixed the problem herself. All she needed was to know that she wasn't alone.

With God we are never alone. He doesn't need to keep socially distant. Isaiah 41 v 10 tells us, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

Jonny Bayes

Pray for our daily mini-Advent disassemblies during December and fun activity booklets to match the nativity themes covered each day. May God use these to uncover the miracle of that first Christmas to children and staff.



For the past 11 years, the NISCU North Lancs support group has been chaired by Rev Mark Johnstone. Mark set such an example of caring, praying faithfully, encouraging and offering practical wisdom. Thank you Mark! Earlier this year, he indicated that he felt it was time to step down, and as of September, I have now taken on this role. My personal involvement with NISCU is mainly centred on the Garstang area, where I am a parent, governor, primary school volunteer and organise our local schools prayer meeting. As a member of the support group, I have loved getting to know other NISCU supporters from different parts of our area, and together we hope to continue loving, supporting and encouraging our wonderful schools' workers and assisting them to grow both the depth and reach of NISCU's ministry in North Lancs.

Alex Fearnhead (new chair of NISCU NL Support Group)

I appreciate we may not have met properly yet, but I just wanted to send you an e-mail to acknowledge my gratitude for your organisation and for the beginnings of my contact (as fairly new Chaplain at Ripley) with Jonny Bayes.

He was willing to produce a week's worth of worship content for me coming up and I am so impressed and thankful for what he has created - it's brilliant!

It's wonderful to have external voices speaking God's love into the school. I look forward to ongoing partnership and relationship with NISCU and am so grateful.

God bless and hopefully meet you soon too,
Michael Reynolds (school chaplain, Ripley St Thomas C of E Academy)
(Extracts from an email to NISCU this week, used with Michael's permission)

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Any cheques sent for North Lancs need to say "NISCU" on the front and "North Lancs" on the back. If you are donating to cover the costs of Christmas books or pre-ordered cards, please include a note so that Amanda knows where to allocate funds. Thank you very much.