



Journey of Hope *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the*

messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!
Isaiah 52:7 (NLT)

Welcome to our Spring 2022 newsletter. We are so excited to share our news about what God is doing in our schools and to tell you about our plans for the months ahead. We are embarking on the 'Journey of Hope' Project and there are lots of ways that you can get involved. Read on to find out more...

Journeying with hope... Our schools workers are busy connecting with schools in all sorts of ways. They are rejoicing in the opportunities that are opening up again for in-person school visits as well as providing online resources for assemblies.



Katy says:

A sense of renewed hope is welling up for me as I have had the opportunity to teach lessons and lead collective worship in some of our Primary schools this term. It has been inspiring to see how children are engaging with us on topics such as 'Jesus as a good leader', 'Jesus inspires' and 'Overcoming fear' as they encounter stories from the bible, and are given the space to ask and answer questions. I am also encouraged that schools are asking for support with projects this year, such as 'Walk Through Easter' in their local church, a whole school Christianity Overview Day, and 'Prayer' themed INSET training. As we explore ways to work more creatively with Primary and Secondary schools, alongside local churches and supporters, I want to encourage you to get on board the work through our 'Journey of Hope' in 2022 through prayer and practical ways. We have heard encouraging stories from two local churches of Primary age children turning up seeking Jesus' hope, as they have asked to be taken to church.

Diana says:

It has been wonderful to be back in Primary schools since September 2021 reconnecting with the children and teaching staff in the South Lakes' schools. Although we had a slow start, it is encouraging that we have quite a few lessons and assemblies booked in the diary for the next few weeks enabling us to take in the good news of the Easter story. I am looking forward to our 'Journey of Hope' project and connecting with schools asking them to make footprints for our Journey of Hope Banner. I hope this enables us to reconnect with many more schools next term and make some visits to schools we have not heard from for a while. I also hope to offer some schools 'pop up' lunch clubs where I can share the Hope we as Christians have in Jesus.

Bee says:

I am grateful for the opportunities there have been to renew connections with QES, Casterton and St Mary's schools. I particularly enjoyed speaking at the Chapel Service at Casterton on the theme of Kindness and looking at the fruits of the spirit. I am looking forward to meeting with local church leaders and planning work in Kirkby Lonsdale for the Spring and Summer.



The giant Emmaus Road banner is ready to go into primary schools...

Please pray... Thank you so much for supporting us in prayer. Here are some prayer pointers from the team and from one of our schools.

- For schools to respond to the offer of the Emmaus Road Collective Worship and for a positive response to the Journey of Hope in the summer term.
- For doors to open and volunteers come forward so that it is possible to resume work in the secondary schools.
- For strength, wisdom and protection for the schools workers.

Have you signed up for Miracle Mondays?

- Join our Miracle Monday virtual prayer group
- Receive weekly emails every Monday in term time
- Points for prayer and praise - celebrate the good things happening in our schools
- Contact Katy for details katy.hall@niscu.org.uk

Pete Barfoot, Head of St Mark's Natland

- shared his prayer requests:
- Celebrate the incredible opportunities in CE schools to share God's story and bring a biblical Christian perspective to all aspects of learning and school life.
 - Please pray for wisdom and sensitivity for school staff in responding to children's concerns and questions about the conflict in Ukraine.



Find out more about the Journey of Hope...

The overall theme is 'Journey of Hope', with the Luke 24:13-35 'Road to Emmaus' as a scripture. Let us use our week of vision and prayer to pray for hope for our children and young people's communities, as well as getting a vision of how we can support them on their 'Journey of Hope'

Here's some information about what we have planned:

- **The Banner:** We have invited every school to write their own prayer of hope on a giant footprint. We will attach these to a giant banner that we will take into schools and churches.
- **Prayer Walk 3rd-6th May:** NISCU (and friends!) will be completing a giant prayer walk between schools at opposite ends of our region, passing schools and churches along the way and inviting them to join us for prayer.
- **Roadshow:** NISCU workers and volunteers will take the giant banner into schools as part of a Collective Worship Roadshow. The theme will be Jesus' journey and how Christians have hope through their walk with Christ. There's even a special song written by Rob McLellan!

What can you do? There are so many ways for individuals or whole churches to join in...

- **Support the Prayer Walk:** You could help coordinate a section of the walk; walk with us for part of it; pray; serve drinks; collect walkers and drive them back home; be a meet and greet party outside a local school, church or central point. Please get in touch if you'd like to volunteer!
- **Come to the NISCU AGM on 14th June:** Please put this date in your diary and come along to St Mark's CE Primary School, Natland to find out more about the project and what's planned next.
- **Book a NISCU Sunday:** We would love to reconnect with our local churches and spread the news about NISCU's work. Why not book the team to come and visit your church?

Support Group:

Alison Hughes (Chair), Pete Barfoot, Chris Norris, Mike Hattersley, Rachael Sutherland (Secretary) rachaelsutherland@icloud.com

Would you like to know more about NISCU's 1-2-1 Listening Service?

Click on this link <https://niscu.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Listen-Up-Spring-2022.pdf> to read this term's 121 - listening service newsletter.

Included in this issue:

- Current overview from Jane- Listening Services Manager
- What is happening next
- 'Meet the Listener' an interview with one of our listeners
- Prayer points for the Listening service
- Information on how you could get involved

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