

There are quite a few things I am required to do when entering the school. I need to have my temperature taken, use the hand gel and wear a facemask until I am seated and listening! There is also a questionnaire to fill out and information about whom I met whilst I am in the school, plus time in and out for tracing. I can honestly say that I feel perfectly safe as I keep the required two metres distance apart, we are in our own room and the door is always open. The teaching staff are lovely and make me feel very welcome.

I am hoping to continue with both of these children as I feel it is benefiting them to talk and have someone to listen when they have so much going on in their lives at home and at school. I am praying that the Head will spread the word to other schools and we can continue to provide this service to other children in the area. Please pray for God's blessings on this work.

Sue

An urgent prayer request for you ...

NISCU West Cumbria is hoping to appoint a **Youth Evangelist/Christian Schools Worker** to start in September.

Are you or do you know someone who is an enthusiastic and passionate Christian, who could work alongside both schools and churches to support young people and help them become life-long disciples of Jesus?

A job pack is available on the NISCU web site with further details.

**** Please pray that this post is filled by September, when we hope staff will be back physically in schools. ****

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PRAYER LETTER

April - May 2021

To all our NISCU Friends

A big "thank you" to all those of you who support NISCU in any way - be it financial, by prayer or as a volunteer. We really appreciate your continuing care for sharing the good news of Jesus with the children and young people of West Cumbria.



*"I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness."
John 10:10 (GNT)*

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Northern Inter Schools Christian Union

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As we have recently celebrated Easter, it seems like a good time to reflect back on the past term and look ahead to the next. The majority of children and young people in our local schools spent January and February learning from home, but were all able to return to the classroom in March. Meanwhile, NISCU staff and volunteers across all areas had been busy producing resources that could be used by teachers in the run up to Easter. These included two video assemblies from our

Primary Puppets Teams on the themes of '**What does Easter mean to you?**' and '**Forgiveness**'. We also created a '**Countdown to Easter**' in the style of an online advent calendar with short videos that explored five significant events in the Easter story – Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, The Cross, The Empty Tomb and the Road to Emmaus. A selection of other videos and activity sheets were also available via the NISCU website. Although we have all missed the live interaction with children in school, it has been encouraging to receive feedback from head teachers and other members of staff who have found ways to use these resources within their 'class bubbles'. Here are some of their comments

"Many thanks for the Easter resources you have shared with us - I am excited to use the Easter Countdown videos with my class this week".

"Thank you so much for these fantastic resources! We usually do a Journey to Easter during Holy Week, but can't do that while we are in 'bubbles' so we're planning a daily event on zoom using your resources in the hope that we can bring the story to life through the week".

"Many thanks – this is very helpful to us as a school and means the children get quality input from somebody different".

"Thank you so much - the staff will certainly be pleased to use these with their classes. We really miss seeing you and the teams in school, so hopefully when things settle down, we can welcome you all back!"

At the moment it is not clear when NISCU teams will be able to visit schools in person again, so as we look ahead to next term we will still be aiming to produce videos and other online resources.

Here are some of the things we will be focussing on in the weeks ahead.

- We continue to create regular **collective worship videos** for our Cumbrian schools.
- The Primary Puppet Teams are planning **two new video assemblies** based around the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Good Samaritan.
- NISCU staff across all areas are working together to produce our '**Church Party Bag**', a collection of resources that can be used by schools to support their lessons on Christian celebrations – they will focus on Baptism, Communion and Pentecost.
- '**Moving Up**' **video lesson and resources** to help support Year 6 pupils as they prepare for their move to secondary school.
- '**Unique**' – a 30 minute online presentation created for young people by young people from across our NISCU areas which is aimed at helping us all appreciate that God has made us just as we are, to be shining lights for His glory.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support, especially during these uncertain times. Please continue to pray for our school communities and for the work of NISCU within them.

Ruth

Contact the Team

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Listening Service – Sue's experience

I was contacted by the Head of one of our local primary schools, and asked if I would go in and use my "listening service" skills with two of their children, after she herself had completed the listening service training online with NISCU. This was a huge privilege and I met with the two children each week from the 10th December until the second lockdown. I managed to continue with this service with one of the children as he continued to be in school during lockdown.