



Welcome to the South Lakes summer newsletter and annual report. This edition is packed full of information about all that has been going on in our area in the past year and you can find out even more through the website.

It was wonderful to meet face to face with 32 of our supporters at the Annual celebration on 14th June. If you missed that evening, don't worry – you can watch a video presentation instead. Just click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ar6N4XLpfZ0> or via the NICU website: <https://niscu.org.uk/areas/>

A word from Alison, Chair of the Support Group



At our recent NISCU celebration night we looked briefly at chapter 4 of Mark's gospel. In this chapter, the parables that Jesus taught pointed almost shockingly to a lack of human involvement in growing the kingdom.

Our human nature and our understanding is naturally turned away from God. It takes a miracle, it takes God to open our ears to understand God's word.

Even the disciples supposedly on the inside – 'in the know' are chastised for their lack of understanding. And in the miracle narrative at the end of the chapter they are shown to be sadly lacking – they show great fear. The storm rages and they are frightened.

But the storm is calmed - despite the disciples' weakness, their lack of understanding and lack of faith.

And this should bring us great hope. That despite the spiritual battles that rage around us, we simply have to cling in the midst of the storm to Jesus.

It is his word that penetrates the hearts of men, God that grows the seed. It is God's Holy Spirit who opens minds to understanding.

Despite our fears, our trials and our failings, God overcomes. The storm is calmed, the kingdom grows.

Let's praise God that he chooses to work through us, demonstrating his strength through our weakness.

And let's pray for our workers, that God will equip them and give them strength through his Holy Spirit to continue to take the gospel message into schools in our South Lakes area.

And that God will grow the seed that is faithfully sown.

Thank you for your continued support of NISCU.

Finance

Our work is wholly funded by the generosity of our supporters – individuals and churches. We are so grateful for the regular giving that has put us in a secure financial position this year. However, we really need sustained giving and to find new donors. If we had a higher income we could pay for more schools workers' hours.

You can click on this link to see a more detailed breakdown of the finances for NISCU South Lakes: <https://niscu.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/AGM-Finance-2022-SL.pdf>

Our Schools Workers reflect on another year of schools work...

Diana says: I have really enjoyed being back in schools since September 2021 mainly teaching lessons and covering a few assemblies. It has been so good to reconnect with the children and the teachers in schools face to face. I think that the weekly online video assemblies from North Lancs (which I am part of) helped so much in keeping our connection in some schools and it almost feels like many children think they know us so much better than before.

One of my highlights was when I had been teaching a class lesson on 'Who is Jesus?' A young child said to me "How do you know so much about Jesus? You must read your Bible a lot to know so much!" It made me smile!



Bee says: I have really enjoyed returning to speak at Sedbergh Prep School in Casterton, the children (and staff) are always so enthusiastic and keen to take part in my interactive termly talks. This comment came after I'd led the service the day the school was being inspected: "Thank you for taking yesterday's chapel service. I've had so many positive comments." Dick Gorst, Sedbergh Prep School.



Katy says: It's a season of 'one step at a time' as we journey forward more with the work, especially in Secondary schools. In our recent meeting with Mr Harris, Headteacher at KKS, he said the same thing "Let's take one step at a time.". It is an amazing privilege to walk alongside children and young people in the schools, alongside local church, and amazing to be in the situation with one young person this term in a Christian union exploring their faith with so many big questions, and saying "What do I do next?"

Thank you...

We are so grateful for all the opportunities to connect with churches, church leaders and supporters during the year. Thank you for hosting prayer meetings, inviting us to take part in services, life groups and prayer groups. Thank you to church leaders for meeting with schools workers to plan and pray together.

Thank you so much to the churches that supported us financially with extra gifts to fund the Christmas and Easter packs.

Keep on connecting!

We love to connect with churches. Please contact Katy if you would like to book a NISCU Sunday or for a visit to a home group or prayer meeting. The Journey of Hope banner could be displayed in your church as a focus for praying for local schools.

A snapshot of this year's work in numbers and lists:

13 Collective worship events

God never changes: Staveley

Courage and overcoming fear: Staveley, Crosthwaite, St Oswald's

Emmaus Road and Journey of hope: Staveley, Heron Hill, St Martin's and St Mary's, Crosthwaite

Compassion, Anna and Simeon and Journey with hope, Perseverance, Friendship: Burton Morewood

Listening: Staveley

Casterton chapel service

38 Lessons in primary schools

St Martin's and St Mary's: EYFS *Why is Jesus special?* (x2), *Baptism* Y1, *Jesus as a good leader*, *Easter* Y3 (x2) (Cathy Ellis work shadowing)

Heron Hill: *Easter* (x2)

Ambleside: Y3/4 *Prayer*, Y5/6 *Church*

St Thomas': Y3 *Prayer*

Crosthwaite, St Thomas' and St Mark's : *Justice*

St Mark's: *Stories Jesus told, Forgiveness, Stories about Jesus, Church* Y1 *Prayer, Women of the Bible*

Holme: *Advent, Nativity and Christmas*

Selside: *Nativity, Arrival of Jesus changed the world, Why do Christians celebrate Christmas?*

Levens: *Creation*

Arnside: *Prayer, Creation, Church, Pentecost*

Old Hutton: Y1/2 *Prayer*, Y3/4 *Prayer*, Y5/6 *Women of the Bible*

8 Y6 Moving on Lessons

St Mark's CE, Old Hutton CE, Arnside CE, St Thomas' CE, Burton Morewood CE, Milnthorpe, Goodlydale, Grayrigg

4 Y6 'It's your move' Workshops with local Churches and NYC involving 12 schools

Staveley CE: outdoor workshop in school grounds

Cartmel Peninsula: Grange CE, Flookburgh CE, Lindale CE, Cartmel CE, Allithwaite CE and Leven Valley CE in St Mary's church, Allithwaite

Ambleside, Langdales and Hawkshead: morning in St Mary's church

Heron Hill and Vicarage Park CE :morning in Kendal Parish church

2 Christian Unions during the summer term

QES: Bee with Dan Huddleston, Dylan Coe

QKS: Katy and James Locke

7 other school projects and connections

Multi faith day 'courage' workshops: Old Hutton

Walk through Easter: Staveley CE whole school with St James' church/NYC

Christianity Overview Day: Ambleside CE

Meetings with Headteachers: St Oswald's CE, Heron Hill, St Martin's and St Mary's, KKS.

Week of Vision and Prayer: Journey of Hope

Thank you to the many churches and supporters who helped carry the giant footprint banner from the southern-most school to the northern-most school in South Lakes, prayed for the schools and the workers. It was a great opportunity to renew our connections and unite in prayer. We connected with so many churches along the way including those in Holme and Burton, Milnthorpe, Heversham, Natland, Kendal, Staveley and Windermere. We experienced such a sense of welcome and generosity – demonstrated in peoples’ time, delicious food and even complimentary tickets for Windermere Cruises to take us across the lake. Thank you to everyone!



Please pray...

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers over the past year. Here are some pointers to keep you praying over the summer:

- For all those attending the NISCU School Connect Conference to be newly inspired in their work and ministry to children and young people
- For all the children and young people facing big changes as they embark on the next stage of their school lives
- For Katy and the team as they meet over the summer to pray and plan the strategy in primary and secondary schools
- For new accessible office space for the South Lakes team
- For the development of the 1-2-1 Listening service in our area
- For sustained giving and new donors so that the work can expand in the future

Support Group:

Alison Hughes (Chair), Pete Barfoot, Chris Norris, , Rachael Sutherland (Secretary)

rachaelsutherland@icloud.com

We are so grateful to Mike Hattersley for being part of the support group for several years. If you would like to find out more about serving as part of the group, please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

No longer want to receive information from NISCU? Please let us know by writing to **South Lakes Unsubscribe, 57 Lancaster Road, Carnforth, Lancashire, LA5 9LE** or emailing south.lakes@niscu.org.uk, saying you wish to “Unsubscribe”.