



ADVANCE NOTICE

Prayer Breakfast



You are invited to come and pray for local children, young people, leaders and schools

Wednesday 14 September 2022

at Christ Church Rooms, South Street, Cockermouth, CA13 9RU
From 7.30 am–9.00 am. Hosted by NISCU West Cumbria

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West Cumbria
Working with schools and churches

PRAYER LETTER

Summer 2022

Welcome. We hope you enjoy reading about and praying for NISCU activities in West Cumbria. Thank you for your continuing support in prayer, finance and as volunteers.



Jesus spoke these words to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. You, then, are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.”
(Matthew 28:18-19)

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Northern Inter Schools Christian Union

NISCU West Cumbria is part of the Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union. Charity No. 1135880. Company No. 7203313



Journey of Hope

'Journey of Hope' was the theme for our NISCU Week of Vision and Prayer in early May, where the focus was on Luke 24 and the account of events following Jesus' death and resurrection.

We read that two of his followers were walking the stony road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, weary and confused, talking all the while about what had happened. Then Jesus joins them, and as they tell him about their hopes and disappointments, he explains the scriptures and eventually reveals himself to them. With the knowledge that Jesus really is alive, these followers are filled with joy and hope, and they hurry back to Jerusalem to spread the word – meeting Jesus has changed everything!

The vision for our West Cumbria 'Journey of Hope' was to make a pathway from the West Coast through our schools and young peoples' groups, into our churches and up onto a mountain. The journey had actually started several weeks before, when a number of us gathered on a hill near the beach at Workington and each symbolically held a stone as we looked out to the north, east and south and prayed for the children and young people across our area. We then gathered stones (from Honister Slate mine and other ethical sources) and throughout the rest of April and early May, Dave, Nathan and I took them to school and church groups including the



Emmanuel Church Holiday Club, Christ Church Messy Church, and lunchtime QM clubs at Cockermouth School and Whitehaven Academy. Here we encouraged the children and young people to think about their hopes - for their families and friends, their schools, the wider world and for the future.

They expressed many different things and wrote or drew pictures on the stones. We also

had opportunities to explain that as Christians we believe that God hears and cares about the things that are important to us, and that he promises to give peace and joy to those who bring their hopes to him. In some places we were able to share a song (with sign language) based on Romans 15:13

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8IjpiTK9CM>)

Then while the animals disembark, we hear Mr and Mrs Noah singing the chorus of 'Remember God loves you', before they also exit.

Our theme is then summed up in another conversation between Dave and his Grandpa ... how the Ark was God's rescue plan and provided a safe place for Noah and his family and all those animals ... and how the rainbow in the clouds is a reminder of God's promise to usthat God loves us so much, and that He can be trusted – completely!

After a time of reflection and a prayer, we end with a lovely puppet song called: 'Colours of Creation' where the children are encouraged to sing and sign the chorus each time.

Once again, we thank you massively for your prayerful partnership with us in this work to which He has called us!
God bless you all!

Maggie

PRAYER DATES FOR JUNE/JULY

- Wed 8 June: Allerdale PPT team assembly practice
- Fri 10 June: Puppet assembly at Mayfield School
- Wed 22 June: Allerdale PPT assembly (Venue TBC)
- Wed 6 July: Allerdale PPT assembly at St Bridget's CofE School, Brigham
- Wed 13 July: Allerdale PPT assembly Lorton School

Primary Puppet Team Leaders

Allerdale Team

Maggie Cowles, 12 Harrot Hill, Cockermouth, CA13 0BL Tel: 01900 824466

Copeland Team

Angela Scotchbrook, 39 Carlton Drive, Whitehaven, CA28 6XB
Tel: 01946 67298

Workington Team

Julie Bater, The Old Vicarage, Park End Road, Workington, CA14 4DG
Tel: 01900 68056

Hello from Primary Puppets

'God Loves us so much'



This term's assembly is about **Noah** and is entitled '**God Loves us so much**'. We hope to once again, lead a live version of this assembly in a few schools, and to be able to send out a video recording to the many other schools in this area.

Some of the material used in this assembly has been drawn from previous Noah assemblies, presented in 2013.

Many excellent props were made at that

time which have since been carefully stored. Once again, we will use a fairly large Ark which can be mounted onto the front theatre; plus pairs of animals for a few children to take onto the Ark during the assembly. I can still remember how much the Y1 children LOVED that part of the assembly in 2013 – taking the animals on board the Ark, accompanied by the song '*The animals came in two by two.*'

Looking back to our recent Easter assemblies, you may remember that we featured our new **Dave the donkey puppet** for the first time! He was a huge success, and the children LOVED the conversation he had with his Grandpa! So in our Noah assembly, we've decided to feature our two donkeys again, this time as a way of introducing our theme, where Dave asks his Grandpa if he knows the story about the Ark and Mr and Mrs Noah

Once the Ark is built with Mr and Mrs Noah and the animals all on board, we hear the sound of God closing the Ark door, and our Mr Noah puppet singing the song called '*Raindrops keep falling on my boat.*' Some time later as the Ark comes to a stop, we hear the voice of God saying: '*Go now and be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. For I promise that I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done. This rainbow in the clouds is a sign between Me and everything on the earth.*'



During the Week of Vision and Prayer, we invited NISCU Supporters to join us for a Prayer Breakfast where we laid out the stones on tables and walked between them, as if we were walking on a pathway. Each of us had the opportunity to see what had been drawn on these 'Stones of Hope' and to reflect and pray about hopes the children and young people were expressing.

Later that week, the journey continued as Dave and his family took some of the stones up a mountain (see later), where they prayed for the young people's hopes, and built a cairn - cairns sign-post the way and offer hope to those on a journey through the hills. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-oExgDULI> Google "David Cheeseman – NISCU Journey of Hope").

Please continue to pray that just as this 'cairn of hope' looked over West Cumbria, our Lord Jesus will give hope to all our children and young people as they journey through their lives and pray for the work of NISCU as we play our part in sharing God's love and hope with them. There will also be opportunities for more 'Stones of Hope' to be gathered over the coming weeks, as this is a longer- term project which we will continue to take to schools and churches.

Ruth

NISCU Prayer Breakfast

The Week of Vision and Prayer saw the return of the NISCU Prayer Breakfast, which was welcomed by those who attended, especially by one supporter who had been hoping for bacon sandwiches – he wasn't disappointed! Prior to Covid, we held a Prayer Breakfast near the beginning of each term which allowed us to pray for our local schools, children, young people and families, and for any specific NISCU activities that were planned for the coming weeks. We feel it is really important and helpful to meet together and to bring these things to God in prayer, so we will now be returning to regular Prayer Breakfasts at Christ Church Rooms, South Street, Cockermouth (and maybe at other venues in the future). Everyone is welcome to join us!

(See back page)

Contact the Team

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Update from Dave

Hi everyone, it's Dave Cheeseman here. It's been an exciting time as I've started to get involved in a few different things.

Why is Jesus Christ important to billions? Why is He important to me?

These were the questions presented to the year 7 classes in West Lakes Academy, Egremont. I was part of a multi-denominational team who gave answers through personal testimony and stories. It was exciting to share and hear the questions from the young people.



QM Club Cockermouth School

QM stands for 'Question Mark'. Young people have so many good questions. This club aims to answer a few of them. I've started helping Lucy Thompson, from Christ Church Cockermouth, with this thriving club of up to 25, year 7 students.

Week of Vision and Prayer – A Journey of Hope

This has been an exciting journey, starting on Workington Beach and finishing on top of Grassmoor Fell (or mountain for us southerners!). It has been amazing watching young people from Cockermouth School, also from Mobilise and Jump youth groups, paint their hopes on stones. I took as many as I could carry to the top of Grassmoor, with my family. We built a 'cairn of hope' to stand over West Cumbria



(Weblink to the video: <https://youtu.be/F-oExgDULI>).

Our prayer is that the children and young people of West Cumbria will encounter the hope that Jesus offers them.

Dave

News from Nathan

Last term I started running a **table tennis club** at St John's Church, Hensingham. We started back after the Easter break, and as well as playing table tennis we are now beginning to look at some discussion questions such as 'What is a Christian?' 'What is the best thing about heaven?' 'Are humans any different from animals?'

So please pray that all the youth coming would engage in the discussions and that the truth of God's word would work in the hearts of the young people attending, so that they might all trust in Jesus either for the 1st time or for the 500th time.

Also pray that I'd be able to invite some of the young people that I interact with in schools, and they would be interested in the club and decide to come along.

Nathan

More Prayer topics from Ruth

- For **Year 11 and Year 13** students taking, GCSE, A Level and other exams over the next few weeks, and for their teachers and families who will be supporting them through this potentially stressful time.
- For **Year 6 students** looking ahead to their transition to secondary school, and for all those who will be working to ensure that it is a positive experience for them.
- For our NISCU "**Moving Up**" lesson in which we help Year 6s explore the feelings they have at this time, and offer reassurance that however they are feeling, they're not alone. We use the Bible Story of Joseph to help them learn how they can be resilient through the changes and challenges ahead, and to look forward to their new adventure.
- For **local youth workers and other church partners who are planning summer activities** i.e. holiday clubs, outreach events and camps, that plans would come together and that lots of children and young people would want to come. Also that God would be preparing their hearts for what they will see and hear.