

Working with schools and churches

## **AUTUMN PRAYER LETTER 2022**

Welcome to our Prayer Letter which we hope you enjoy reading. Initially, looking back to the first half of the term ... and then looking forward to Christmas activities.



*When they saw the star, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place the child was. They went into the house and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him.*

*(Matthew 2: 10-11 GNB)*

### **West Cumbria Chairman**

Simon Astill

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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

## **News from Ruth**



**A look back ...** During September and October I have continued with my ongoing regular commitments for Collective Worship at All Saints, Flimby, Broughton and Crosscanonby Primary Schools and am actively involved in finding other ways I can support and resource them. Additionally, I have also supported the monthly Messy Church at Christ Church Cockermouth and the Family Service at Flimby, both of which are good for building relationships with the children and local church folk. These contacts have led to conversations which have opened up new opportunities for me to work with churches as they connect with their local schools, including 'Experience Harvest' at Paddle School and at Dean Church. I have worked with the Workington Puppet Team on a Harvest/Thankfulness themed assembly which we took to Moor Row Primary School and St Michael's Infants' School in Workington. This assembly was also used as the focus for the October Messy Church

(Christ Church), working alongside the church team. At Crosscanonby Primary School I have also continued to develop classroom Prayer Space activities.



*Messy Church at Christ Church, Cocker-mouth on the theme “Harvest & Thankfulness”.*

**A look forward ...** The next half term will be busy. As well as my regular Collective Worship sessions and Prayer Spaces, there will be a focus on preparing for Christmas. Activities in the planning so far –

- ‘Christmas Journey’ at Bassenfell Manor (21 school groups over 7 days)
- ‘Experience Christmas’ at All Saints Church, and others to be confirmed.
- ‘Christmas in a Box’ at Crosscanonby Primary School.
- A Christmas Assembly, working with the Workington/Copeland Puppet Team, for Mayfield, Westfield, Flimby, Moor Row, St Michael’s, Lowca and Parton Schools.
- Filming the Allerdale Puppet Team and making a video version of their Christmas Assembly to circulate to schools.
- Outreach events at Cocker-mouth and Workington Christmas Lights Switch-Ons and Emmanuel Church, Moor Row.

What is “**Christmas in a Box**”? It is a small scale version of “Experience Christmas”, which can be used with groups of children in their classroom. They unpack 6 boxes which each contain a collection of props that relate different parts of the Christmas Story. There is space to pause and wonder, plus a creative activity which facilitates reflection and discussion. As children explore the boxes they are able to learn more about the significance of the birth of Jesus both to the people who were there, and to Christians who follow him today.

**Ruth**

#### **Contact details**

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#### **Goodbye**

The Support Group are sorry to have to let you know that Dave Cheeseman, who was appointed as a staff member in the Spring, has had to resign through ill health. The Group send Dave & his family their best wishes for the future.

## Hello from Primary Puppets

We praise and thank God for all the opportunities He has already given us this term, to serve Him through the NISCU puppet ministry! It has been such a pleasure to be back in schools - just a real joy!

Having already taken our **Noah assembly** into three schools last term, Allerdale PPT held just one practice at the start of September, before taking their live Noah assemblies into six other schools. In addition, they were able to send out a video version of this assembly to all other schools on their list.

Once again we are very grateful indeed to *Ruth* for filming us and then editing the video for us along with her son *Ben*.

In our live assemblies, one of the highlights I think occurs when the four Year 1 children proudly bring their pairs of animals onto the Ark, all to the music of 'The animals went in two by two'!

Last half-term, Workington team (with the help of some of Copeland team and *Ruth*) presented two live school assemblies on the theme of '**Harvest and Thankfulness**', which were well received! In addition, they were able to perform at Christ Church Cocker-mouth Messy Church in October. (See photos above).

And we are now looking forward expectantly to Christmas!



These presentations will be entitled: '**A Starry Night**'. Workington team with the help of *Yvette* and *Ruth* will take live assemblies to Mayfield School plus three other schools.

In addition, Copeland team, along with some of Workington team and *Ruth* are taking four live assemblies into schools.

Allerdale will be presenting five live assemblies in three schools, and hopefully be able to send out a video version to our other schools.

Members from all three teams will be involved in outreach over the Christmas period: The Christmas Lights Switch-on at the URC Church in Cocker-mouth; the Christmas Lights Switch-on in Workington; and Christmas Messy Church at Cocker-mouth Christian Centre held at the Ark.

So – very exciting times ahead - and much to pray for!

Please keep us in your prayers! Thank you so much for your faithful support!

**Maggie**

### Primary Puppet Team Leaders

#### Allerdale Team

Maggie Cowles, 12 Harrot Hill, Cocker-mouth, 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

### Job Advert

NISCU West Cumbria have a vacancy for a Schools' worker employed for up to 32 hours per week. Interested? For more information, please see the advert on the Niscu website ([Niscu.org.uk/vacancies](http://Niscu.org.uk/vacancies)) or contact The Administrator, 57 Lancaster Road, Carnforth, LA5 9LE.

## Prayer Diary

### November

- Mon 7 Nov: Collective Worship at Broughton School (Ruth)  
Tue 8 Nov: Collective Worship at Flimby School (Ruth)  
Tue 8 Nov: Copeland PPT practice  
Wed 9 Nov: Allerdale PPT practice  
Fri 11 Nov: Workington PPT practice  
Mon 14 Nov: Collective Worship at Crosscanonby School (Ruth)  
Tue 15 Nov: Collective Worship at All Saint's School, Cockermouth (Ruth)  
Tue 15 Nov: Copeland PPT practice  
Wed 16 Nov: Allerdale PPT practice  
Fri 18 Nov: Workington PPT practice  
Sun 20 Nov: Allerdale PPT - Christmas presentation at the URC Church for Cockermouth Christmas Lights Switch-on. (3.45pm start)  
Tue 22 Nov: Workington/Copeland PPT Assembly at Mayfield School  
Wed 23 Nov: Allerdale PPT – filming for video version of Christmas Assembly  
Fri 25 Nov: Workington PPT practice for Christmas Lights Switch on.  
Sat 26 Nov: Workington Christmas Lights Switch-On event (2.30pm start; 3.30pm start)



Tue 29 Nov – Wed 7 Dec: "Christmas Journey" at Bassenfell Manor  
(21 school groups over 7 days)

Wed 30 Nov: Allerdale PPT at Bridekirk Dovenby School ( 2 assemblies)

### December

- Fri 2 Dec: Workington/Copeland PPT assembly at Westfield School  
Tue 6 Dec: Workington/Copeland PPT Assembly at Flimby School  
Wed 7 Dec: Allerdale PPT Assemblies (2) at St Pat's Catholic Primary, Maryport  
Thu 8 Dec: "Experience Christmas" at All Saints Church, Cockermouth  
Fri 9 Dec: "Christmas in a Box" at Crosscanonby School  
Sat 10 Dec: Some of Allerdale PPT at Cockermouth Christian Centre for Christmas presentation at Messy Church.  
Mon 12 Dec: NISCU Team Day  
Tue 13 Dec: Copeland/Workington PPT Assembly at Parton School (am)  
Wed 14 Dec: Allerdale PPT Assembly at Ireby School  
Fri 16 Dec: Copeland/Workington PPT Assembly at Lowca School (am)  
Fri 16 Dec: Workington/Copeland PPT Assembly at Moor Row School (pm)  
Sun 18 Dec: Christmas Family Celebration at Emmanuel Church,  
Moor Row: 'A Starry Night' with the help of JAM CLUB children and families.

No longer want to receive information from NISCU? Please let us know by writing or emailing, saying you wish to "unsubscribe", to NISCU, c/o 119 Balmoral Road, Whitehaven, CA28 6XA or [IHarvie@aol.com](mailto:IHarvie@aol.com).

Would you prefer your printed prayer letter as an email copy? To change your current choice let us know by email or writing, at the above address.