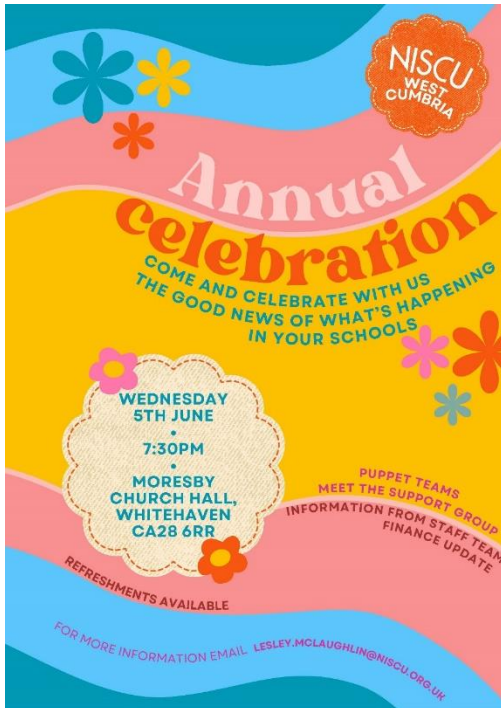


# niscu West Cumbria

Working with schools and churches

## SUMMER PRAYER LETTER 2024

**Welcome to our Summer Prayer Letter.**



Enjoy reading about all the various NISCU activities and pray for the clubs and assemblies, for those who run them and the young people who attend them and learn more about Jesus's love for them.

and ....

Please join us for our **Annual Celebration** on **Wednesday 5 June** – see adjoining invitation. Be encouraged and inspired by what you see and hear!

### **Northern Inter Schools Christian Union**

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

*If you don't already, could you receive the Prayer Letter by email? This would save NISCU printing and postage costs. For how to change to an email copy please see the back page.*

### ***Hello from Lesley***

Thank you for your prayers over the last term. The work in schools this term has been fun, enjoyable and encouraging in lots of ways.

As well as the usual general prayers for the children and staff of the schools visited to hear and respond to the gospel, here are the 8 prayer points that we have used as a basis for the **"8 for 8" (8 minutes of prayer at 8 o'clock) during the NISCU week of Vision and Prayer (6-10<sup>th</sup> May)**. We'd love it if you could continue to pray for these things:



1. Pray for the young people that attend the **secondary school lunch clubs** at Cockermonth School, Keswick School and Whitehaven Academy.
2. Pray for **the gospel to be heard** by both children and staff through assemblies/collective worship.
3. Pray that the **work of the puppet teams** will be blessed and that the teams are encouraged as they go into schools with this term's new assembly
4. Pray that existing **relationships with schools** will develop further, yielding new opportunities.
5. Pray that the **seeds sown** in the hearts of the children and young people will take root and flourish.
6. Pray for the **right person to apply** for the new schools' worker position to start in September.
7. Pray for the **teachers, support staff and governors** as they seek to do their best for the children.
8. Pray for **open doors in schools** which seem to be closed off to engaging with NISCU support.

Here's a bit more detail ....

### Secondary Schools

**Cockermonth School:** *Wednesday lunchtime (12.50-13.35)*

The lunchtime QM Games club has continued to be very well attended with 30-40 young people each week. Can you please pray that invitations to come along to King's Church's Friday night drop in would be well received.

**Keswick School:** *Friday lunchtime (12.30-13.20)*

We now have a regular little group of boys that come each week. Please pray for wisdom as to how to take this forward after the summer.

### Primary Clubs

**The Ark, Brigham (St Bridget's Primary school):**

*Thursday lunchtime (12.00-13.00)*

Club is going well, still have the 20 children we started with this academic year and they engage well and enjoy the club. Please pray the school will want us back next year.

**Big Questions, Eaglesfield, Paddle school:** *Tuesday after school (15.15-16.30)*

Regularly get 8-14 kids (changes half termly) – children enjoy it and the school have asked if we want to continue next year. The Club was also mentioned in a positive light in their recent OFSTED report – praise God! Please give thanks for this and prayers please for planning the next academic year.

**Journey to... St Herbert's School, Keswick:**

*Thursday after school (15.15-16.30)*

So far this year we have done Journey to Christmas, Easter and after half term we will be journeying to The Olympics. Pray for wisdom as I plan this please, and that the children come along and enjoy learning about the stories of Paul and the early church..

### Primary Collective worship and assemblies.

Give thanks for the free reign I have in **Bassenthwaite** (non-C of E) to teach straight from the Bible. Similarly for the other non-church schools I visit – **Oughterside, Richmond Hill, Flimby** and **Holme St Cuthberts**. **Arlecdon School** (fairly new to NISCU) has asked for a sort of Christianity/Bible 101 so again free scope to present the gospel.

The church schools I visit (**Braithwaite, Dean, Bridekirk Dovenby, All Saints and St Herbert's**) tend to follow a theme or a value, so again there is a lot of scope for

bringing Bible teaching and the Gospel. Please pray for new ideas and inspiration as a lot of these children have heard the stories many times, so I really would like to approach these in a fresh way.

Recently I've had contact with a governor at **Derwent Vale Primary School, Great Broughton**. I have outlined what can be done in schools for them so am waiting to see if this will be of any interest to them. Please pray for wisdom in approaching new schools with offers of support.

Thank you!!

**Lesley**

#### Contact the Team

NISCU Office: Christ Church Rooms, South Street, Cockermouth,  
CA13 9RU [www.niscu.org.uk](http://www.niscu.org.uk)

Lesley: [lesley.mclaughlin@niscu.org.uk](mailto:lesley.mclaughlin@niscu.org.uk) Tel: 077 7249 4894

Tom: [tom.vynerbrooks@niscu.org.uk](mailto:tom.vynerbrooks@niscu.org.uk)

### Hello from Primary Puppets

The title of our new assembly is '**Kindness Counts**'!

Much prayer and preparation has already gone into bringing this assembly together, and both teams are excitedly looking forward to taking it into schools!



We begin our assembly with a Kindness game, which introduces the children to the assembly theme. Each team has a bare(leafless) Kindness Tree which will be displayed at the front of the theatre. As the children respond to various questions about kindness, heart-shaped leaves (each representing a single act of kindness) will be attached to the tree, demonstrating that every single act of kindness, can make a huge difference!

We tell the children about Jesus – how He taught his friends and crowds of people, the importance of being kind and caring. Our puppets then act out the story from the Bible about the man called Zaccheaus who had no friends ..... until he met Jesus!

For this play, a tall tree has been created and attached to the theatre, so that Zac (the puppet) can climb up it to see Jesus! A large 'crowd scene' has also been made for the front of the theatre and looks really effective!

After the play, the children are reminded how friendship with Jesus, completely changed Zaccheaus' life. Jesus' kindness towards him, meant that he became a completely different person! He became a kind person!

The message of this bible story is later reinforced through a puppet song called, '**Zaccheaus was a wee little man**', which features a variety of puppets - Monohan solo singer, dancing funzil and flower puppets, and other puppets playing various musical instruments.

After a short reflection and prayer, two of our puppets will perform a non-verbal puppet play called '**Love Reaches**' which provides another example of when love and kindness are shown!



The assembly finally ends with a puppet song called '**BuildUp**', in which four children at each school will be invited to perform with a puppet alongside the team.

This song reminds us all how in a variety of ways, we can choose to either build people up or tear them down!

Thank you SO much again for all your support in prayer!

**Maggie, Julie and Angie**

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, **kindness**, humility, gentleness and patience."*

*(Colossians 3:12 NIV)*

### **Primary Puppets' Prayer Diary**

- Wed 5 June: Allerdale PPT – Final assembly practice
- Fri 7 June: Workington/Copeland PPTs' assembly at Kirkland School, TBC.
- Wed 12 June: Allerdale PPT assembly at Ireby CofE School
- Wed 19 June: Allerdale PPT assembly at St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Wigton
- Fri 21 June: Workington/Copeland PPTs' assembly at St James' Infant School, Whitehaven.
- Wed 26 June: Allerdale PPT assembly at Bassenthwaite School
- Fri 28 June: Workington/Copeland PPTs' assembly at Hensingham Primary
- Wed 3 July: Allerdale PPT assembly at Blennerhasset School
- Wed 10 July: Allerdale PPT assembly at Lorton School.
- Fri 12 July: Workington/Copeland PPTs' assembly at Westfield Primary, Workington.

### **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

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