

Schools Work

The work in schools continues to progress and this new school year has brought contact with a group of new schools (see below) and a wonderful opportunity to take a small team into Knightridge Primary the week before Easter to provide a Christian Focus Day for their infant department. I would ask for your prayers as folks consider their involvement in this and as I prepare the material for the event early in the New Year.

List of schools with SU groups

Greenrigg PS	Linlithgow Bridge PS	Kirkhill PS
Harrysmuir PS	Linlithgow PS	Uphall PS
Knightsridge PS	Lowport PS	Springfield PS
Windyknowe PS	Balbardie PS	
Linlithgow Academy	Broxburn Academy	West Calder High

List of schools with SU input (either holiday presentations, assemblies or class lessons)

Armadale PS	Balbardie PS	Blackburn PS	Blackridge PS
Broxburn PS	Carmondean PS	Deans PS	Dedridge PS
East Calder PS	Eastertoun PS	Fallahill PS	Greenrigg PS
Harrysmuir PS	Knightsridge PS	Linlithgow Bridge PS	Linlithgow PS
Livingston Village PS	Lowport PS	Murrayfield PS	Seafield PS
Springfield PS	Toronto PS	Torphichen PS	Westfield PS
Williamston PS	Winchburgh PS	Windyknowe PS	Bathgate Academy

A few of the things to give thanks for:

- Safety over the summer
- New folks in the Action group
- The new SU group at West Calder High and Linlithgow Bridge
- Contact with new schools - Balbardie PS Bathgate, Dedridge PS Livingston, Linlithgow Bridge PS, Fallahill PS Fauldhouse & Deans PS in Livingston

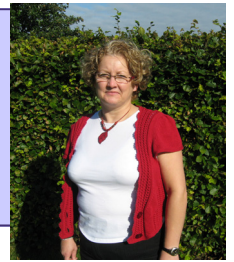
A few things to pray for:

- Craig Cunningham as he initiates an SU group at West Calder High
- Volunteers throughout West Lothian leading SU groups in schools
- The way forward for the Action Group and Gillian Reid who faithfully coordinates prayer in West Lothian
- Christian Focus Day at Knightsridge Primary in Livingston

If there is any way I can serve you, your church or school in my role as Regional Worker for West Lothian please feel free to contact me through the office at Oxgangs or by email.



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Prayer

Newsletter

October 2009-February 2010

Hello,

A friend recently asked how the work was going in West Lothian and I found myself saying that I believed God was on the move and that he seemed to be driving the car quite fast!!

I am sure as you read through some of the things folks are doing around the area, along with the places I find myself, you will agree that God is indeed busy here.

Give thanks to God for all those volunteers involved in SU throughout West Lothian.

Annette



Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support. Since the beginning of the year there has been an encouraging increase in regular financial giving for the work here in West Lothian. However, we still face an annual shortfall of around £15,000 and we continue to seek ways to reduce this amount by encouraging more people to become regular supporters. Please prayerfully consider this situation and use the enclosed slip if you would like to join the support team.

Action Team Talk

This is a great source of encouragement and evidence that God is moving in our area. At our first West Lothian Action Group meeting for this year, we welcomed 3 new folks to the group with the possibility of an additional 3 joining us at our next meeting. On the team from last year there are - Anne Colqhoun, Sandra Black, Christine Turnbull and Pat Chapman. Hoping to join us this year are - Val Davidson, Sandra Martin, Sarah Finnegan, Sally Bell,

Hillary Latto and Alleyn Wilson. Jackie (Ringan) continues to help steer us as we grow and move into a new phase. I am looking forward to getting to know each person better and seeing how God is going to use our gifts together to develop the work in the region. Please pray for all these folks as they add this commitment into diaries - which are probably already busy.

Camp/Holiday Club Chat

Over the summer, I was involved in a residential camp at Lendrick Muir, on the team at Holiday Club at Blackburn and Seafield Parish Church and at Holiday Club in Linlithgow delivering the teaching/storytelling - a well established joint venture with St John's and St Michael's. All three events provided opportunities for the children to have fun and learn more about God's love for them in sending His son Jesus.

The theme for the week camp at Lendrick Muir was 'Survival.' As the week progressed it seemed to be an appropriate theme as the week brought a few unexpected challenges with 40 youngsters. For example one young male camper in my small group had to be encouraged to wash!! He tested the rest of the group to see if we could 'survive' his closeness as the week went on. Obviously for him, being away from home meant being on holiday from everything, even washing! It's not all spiritual development, taking personal responsibility - even of your hygiene - is all part of being a camper.

The young people had a very full week of both activities and Bible teaching and I was particularly encouraged when a young lad whom I had decided wasn't engaging in the small group offered a super comment having reflected on the story of the woman at the well.

'That would be just like standing outside Asda and someone coming up to you and telling you all the things you had ever done!'

Not only had he been engaged in the teaching but he had also put it into a context he was familiar with to help his understanding.

More recently I was part of the team at the Go MAD Conference over the October break with 5th and 6th years. This was a very full programme of teaching, workshops and seminars for around 40 young people, from all over Scotland, to explore and deepen their faith.

How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring
good news
who proclaim peace
who bring glad tidings,
who proclaim salvation.
Who say in Zion
"Your God reigns"

Listen! Your watchmen lift up
your voices
together they shout for joy
When the Lord returns to Zion,
They will see it with their own
eyes.
Burst into song of joy together,
You ruins of Jerusalem,

For the Lord has comforted his
people
He has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord will lay bare his holy
arm in the sight of the nations,
And all the ends of the earth
will see the salvation of God.

Isaiah 52:7-10

'Goings on' at Greenrigg

Very early into the new school term the leaders at Greenrigg Primary SU held an event to promote their school SU group. They invited the children from the school to two evenings in the local church hall at St Andrew's Parish Church, Harthill to give the children a taste of the Going Bananas Holiday programme.

I was delighted to help them out when the response was so encouraging - they had around 50 children registered.

The evenings were very busy and the children all had a great time. Well done to Morag, Alexandra and friends for being so creative and using an innovative way of getting their SU year off to a good start.

Thanks to local supporters Eleanor Sterrick and Linda Graham for coming from local communities, Blackburn and Bathgate to help out in the evenings.



Church Conversations

I have had one or two opportunities to visit churches on Sunday mornings and speak about all that's happening through SU in the local area. St John's Parish Church in Bathgate were very welcoming when I joined them in June and was delighted to receive a generous donation from their children's Sunday School for the work of Scripture Union in West Lothian.

More recently in September I found myself in St Ninian's Craigmullen Parish Church in Linlithgow where the minister Richard Houston interviewed me about what I get up to during a week and asking how the work can be supported.

Many of you may be in churches and know of folks in your fellowships who have a heart for the children and local schools in your communities. I would be delighted to partner with your church and connect with local schools. I have included in this newsletter a list of schools that either have an SU group running or have had SU in to lead assemblies and classes. I have invitations to speak at a variety of groups over the coming months and would value prayer to ensure I communicate clearly to folks helping them to catch SU Scotland's vision, 'To help all young people and children of Scotland explore and respond to the significance of Jesus Christ for their lives.'