

Calum's Prayer Letter



Gap Year Team. From left top: Kirsty, Jonny, Kendra, Calum M, Callum B

It's now January and much has changed since my last prayer letter. I'm now in the Northeast and Shetland region, based in Aberdeen working alongside the regional worker Andrew Thompson. The work we do varies quite a lot but in a typical week we will do 3 or 4 assemblies, occasionally meet with a youth worker or SU group leader, and help out in 1 or 2 SU groups or clubs. I am currently involved in running

Kittybrewster Primary and Harlaw Academy SU groups as well as helping out at a lunchtime drop in club called The Step run by a local church. As well as

this we spent a lot of time in November and December preparing for a Christian Focus week in Peterhead Academy 17th- 22nd of January. The week involves bringing a band and drama team up to Peterhead to take RMS and PSE classes along with people from local churches and with some SU workers who get involved. The team do a couple of concerts in and outside of the school timetable. The week long event is meant to reach the young people of Peterhead with the gospel, but even more than this, it is meant to give local churches a jump start to work more closely together for the youth of Peterhead, bringing them the good news of the gospel. For those of you who enjoyed seeing my puppet performances in churches in Shetland you will be glad to know that my skills will be in use here too. We are planning a workshop for P4 and P5s to tell the Easter story using puppetry, songs, crafts, and games. While this is the main setting we are planning for, puppetry may also possibly be used in holiday advertising and an assembly or two.

The move to Aberdeen has been a big challenge. I moved out of the close Christian environment of Lendrick Muir to Aberdeen, where I would have to get used to staying in someone else's house, find a church and make friends without the usual school and family contacts, all this while getting used to a new job that was very different to what I've done before. It has been a big challenge but I am glad that I am here and have had to face this



Lendrick Muir

challenge. God has been amazingly good to me giving me a good home to stay in with people I can get on with well. They go to Gilcomston South Church of Scotland, the church I now attend with my brother. This church has very good Bible teaching that I'm benefiting from as well as a large number of students among whom I'm finding friends. My time at Lendrick Muir has been a great help in my job here, the leadership training giving me much more confidence to lead SU groups, and stand up and lead songs in assemblies.



The most recent big event that I've been at was a Christian Focus week at Peterhead Academy. This was a week packed with activity from the "Check It Out" band and drama team taking assemblies and doing concerts, to classroom work with Andrew Thompson, Gordon Roy, and members of local churches, to an evening concert and a night spent at the local youth club. We were very busy but it was well worth it to see the kids in Peterhead start to ask what Jesus is all about and for Christian kids in the school to start to tell their friends that they are Christians too.

God has done lots for me in this year so far, from a great time at Lendrick Muir leading activities, and going mountain biking, to finding my feet in Aberdeen. It has been hard at times but something really worth doing. God has taught me so much about Him and about myself and then showed me so much more that need working on. I've learned to rely on Him more for the strength and inspiration to do things. He is teaching me to find His strength when I am weak though I still have a very long way to go on that. God has been showing me the importance of spending personal time with Him each day and that any situation can be brought to Him no matter how small. God has only just started on these issues and it seems as I have a long way to go on them but already I see the benefit of them increasing my confidence, making me more aware of when I am weak, and showing me what I am capable of if I put my mind to it in His strength whether its giving talks, doing drama, or answering questions on my faith.



Please continue to pray for me this year. All prayers are very much appreciated. Here are some more things that need prayer.

- Please pray that I would learn well the lessons that God has for me this year.
- Please pray that I would continue to find and learn to rely on God's strength more and more in everything that I do this year.
- Please pray that all that I do here will be used to further His kingdom and bring others into a better relationship with Him.
- Please pray that I will be able to show a little of Jesus to everyone that I meet whether they be children or adults.
- Please thank God for the work He has started in Peterhead and pray for the churches of Peterhead who must now decide where to go from here.
- Please pray for the two SU groups that I'm involved in. For Kittybewster primary that some boys would come along to the group. For Harlaw Academy, where there was a large group of between 10 and 20 before the summer holidays that has disappeared. Pray that the young people would come back to the group.
- Pray as we work in planning the Easter workshops that we would be prepared for them and God would use them for His purpose.

Again I would like to thank all of you for your prayers. It is great to know that people are praying for me and amazing to see God's answers to prayer here working for SU.

Calum