DUNBAR AREA CHRISTIAN YOUTH PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT

DACYP
Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project

2026



OSCR Scottish Charity Regulator www.oscr.org.uk
Registered Charity SC036138

DACYP
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Background

The Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project was created in 2005 by a cross denominational group of Christians with the aim of bridging the gap between the local church and young people in the Dunbar Community.

Richard Taylor was appointed as a full-time Youth Worker who successfully established work in schools, the local community and alongside local churches. More than 40 volunteers support DACYP through face to face youth work, or behind the scenes as a Management Committee, Trustees and fundraisers. We also employ Alison Murray as a part-time Administrator.

Our aims

Through the use of an employed Youth Worker and with the help of volunteers from the local Christian community, the aims of Dunbar Area Christian Youth Project include;

- Responding to the identified needs of young people in the schools and community by demonstrating Christian love and compassion in practical ways and offering pastoral support where needed
- Enabling young people to explore the good news of the Christian faith, supporting them in the development of their personal beliefs, nurturing the faith of young Christians, and encouraging the acquisition of positive life skills.

VISIT OUR NEW LOOK WEBSITE





Alison Murray is DACYP's Administrator, and does a wonderful job keeping Richard organised, communicating with volunteers and supporters and generally keeping us all right! She has also been revamping our website.

Over the last two years the DACYP website has been redesigned and further improvements are being made as needed. The website includes photos and stories of recent events; Prayer Breakfast Newsletters and Annual Reports; volunteering opportunities and the new volunteer application form; upcoming events; publicly available policies; local churches and an introduction to organisations we partner with. The latest new improvement is that donations can now be made by card on our 'donations' page.

We hope this will be a helpful resource for parents, volunteers and other supporters of our project. Take a look for yourself at dacyp.org.uk

Photo front cover: Life Walks through Lochend Woods

OUR MOST CHALLENGING YEAR YET?

Having joyfully celebrated DACYP's 20th birthday at the end of 2025, our celebrations came to an abrupt end in February when East Lothian Council enforced its policy to require a service level agreement (SLA) from all Third Party Providers working in schools. Until this was in place, DACYP was temporarily suspended from working in schools. The suspension lasted 3 months, therefore this report reflects the gaps this created and the reduction in some of our statistics.

It has been one of our most challenging years yet. But it has also been one with many wonderful achievements and moments. As we head toward the end of 2026 the doors to the schools are once again open to us, with so many possibilities on the horizon of how our work might develop.

KEY EVENTS IN 2025/26

September - DACYP's 20th birthday

November - The multi-faith room opens at Dunbar Primary School

December - All the local primary schools attend a church Christmas service

February - DACYP is temporarily suspended from working in ELC schools

May - ELC suspension lifted & DACYP returns to schools

June - DACYP supports DGS Battlefields trip, and the Primary 7 transition

July and August - Life Bites & Life Walks run for 4 weeks. 7 young people attend the SU Holiday at Scoughall.



ANNE HARVEY
DACYP CHAIR

VIEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Resilience and commitment have been the evident characteristics of DACYP staff, donors, supporters and volunteers in the past year. The shock of our temporary suspension from schools based work, along with financial challenges over the past year could have led to discouragement. But our foundation is strong, our faithfulness deep and our prayers are answered. No person or organisation is offered an easy ride in Jesus' name but to paraphrase Julian of Norwich " God did not say you shall not be troubled, you shall not be tormented, you shall not be grieved, but God said you shall not be overcome."

For everyone who has shown commitment, resilience and trust in our Lord Jesus in the last year , the boards and staff of DACYP are deeply grateful. Please continue to pray that the coming year might be just a bit less of a challenge



DACYP
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YOUTH WORKER'S REPORT



The forced absence DACYP faced created space to consider what sort of presence we have in schools.

Well 2026 didn't quite go as planned when I became the first member of the Taylor household ever to be excluded from school! Thankfully things were sorted and all is well.

I personally want to thank everyone who fought our corner and supported us with messages, kind words and plenty of coffee! Your patience and grace was noted. Throughout the process I felt cared for and supported through a time where I was feeling pretty fed up and uncertain of the future.

All of us at DACYP thank God that we are back in school. The process has encouraged both, DACYP and the schools to strengthen their partnership. Our volunteers have now added ELC to their PVG status, and we are on track to having them all complete ELC's safeguarding training. A robust referral processes is now in place for pastoral care. Parents and carers have been given accurate information about who we are, including the part our faith plays in our work, There is a higher level of transparency and accountability than ever before.

The episode has raised the question of why DACYP is in our local schools. The Christian faith talks a lot about God bringing light into darkness, and it challenges us to be that light too. To bring hope, love, peace and joy to those we encounter, and the situations we find ourselves in. I think that is what DACYP is doing. Every time a volunteer walks into a classroom to offer support. Every time lads get things off their chests at the Lad's Group, or when they find peace and calm at Harbour Lights, that is the light. Light comes through volunteers serving teas, coffees and home baking to weary teachers at parents night, or when someone takes time to listen to a child and remember their name. It shone when we could be there when a school community dealt with the collective grief of losing a member of staff. And sometimes, when the time is right, we see these things connect directly with our faith. The deep conversations we have on Life Walks or in RME are precious and never forced. All of these things bring light and it is a real privilege to be able to be part of it.

Richard

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
(John 1:5)







Using the Advent themes of love, hope, peace and joy, the Primary 6's developed a multifaith prayer room

SCHOOLS

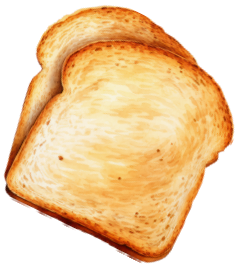
Schools work remains the main focus of our work. Richard is based in Dunbar Primary School and spends some of his week at Dunbar Grammar School. The work spans both pastoral care and support, and contributing to the RME Curriculum. We also have a team of volunteers who support classes and assist around the school in various practical ways.

During the last year we have worked with Dunbar Grammar, Dunbar Primary, East Linton Primary and West Barns Primary Schools.

Some of the weekly and occasional school activities we have been involved with are:

- **Accompanying classes on outside visits**
- **Primary 7 Camp**
- **Primary 7 Transition**
- **Classroom & curriculum support**
- **DGS Battlefields Trip**
- **School picnic**
- **Parents Night refreshments for staff**
- **Grab and Go Breakfast Club**
- **Lad's Mental Health Group**
- **Check-in Groups**
- **Seasons for Growth**





Fionna is one of our volunteers running the Grab 'n Go Breakfast Club

NEW HEAD AT DUNBAR PRIMARY SCHOOL



We are delighted to welcome and work with Mr Grant Gillies as the new Headteacher at Dunbar Primary School. He shares his thoughts on DACYP's work.

"I am the new Headteacher at Dunbar Primary and I am absolutely amazed at the level of support offered by DACYP and can see the clear correlation with this and impact on our community of learners. Everything from the work Richard does in integrating our pupils and enveloping support around our young learners to each of the many volunteers that ensure Swimming can happen or trips between sites. It has been nothing short of astounding seeing so many people in our Dunbar community working together. The intergenerational nature of support from DACYP is one of the things I am most proud of. All benefit and, as a wise person once said, it takes a village to rasie a child....."

- **Almost every class at the Lochend Campus has now got a volunteer**

Primary 7's at Dunbar and East Linton had their Big Questions sessions that explored what their own beliefs are, and what faith is. The Christmas sessions were a great success, and were complemented by holding for the first time, their own Christmas service at St Anne's Church, followed by a fun morning of quizzes, games and their own nativity play. The Easter lessons were delivered by teachers during our suspension.

Another first since COVID, was that the whole of Dunbar Primary School attended a Christmas service at a church. This was only possible with the practical service of our volunteers walking with the children, and the cooperation of local Ministers.

- **A total of *35 RME lessons were facilitated by DACYP**

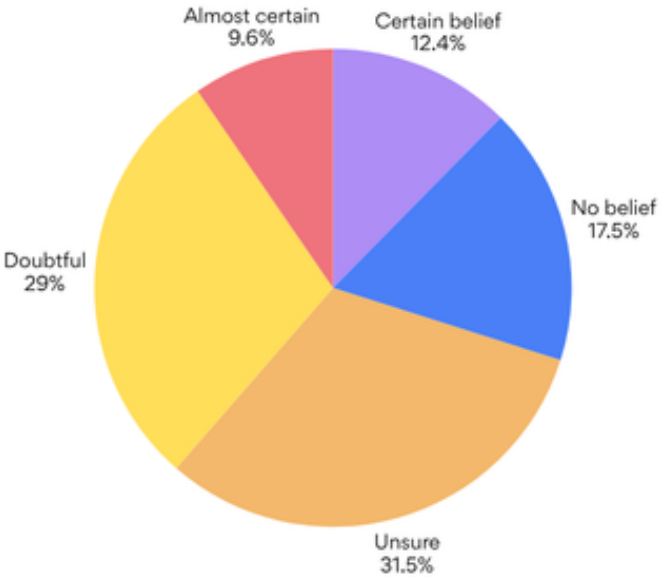
- **There were less classes in Primary 7 in 2025/6 which accounts for the reduction of lessons*

RME LESSONS

The input DACYP has to RME comes at the invitation of the school and is in response to the needs of the RME Curriculum.

- New for 2026 was our contribution to the Primary 4 RME. It built on the success of their involvement in the Knitted Bible and saw the children visit St Anne's Church for a combined Christmas service, and an RME session on church buildings and features.
- At Easter, DACYP volunteers were ready to deliver a new, interactive day of Easter lessons to the P4's. However, the temporary suspension of DACYP prevented us from delivering it. Thankfully, the teachers were able to adapt and use the material themselves, which included the impressive 3.6m long cross and other handling artefacts.
- RME lessons included Christmas, Easter, fears, church buildings, morality and slavery
- The annual Big Questions survey (below) gives an overview of the differences in beliefs across the year stage, perhaps highlighting why children should learn to understand their differences.

HOW MUCH DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD?



WHO OR WHAT IS GOD?

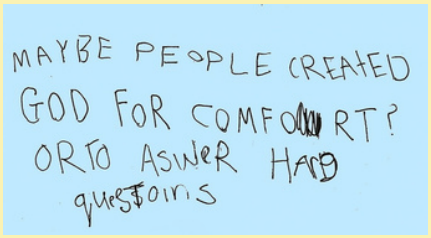


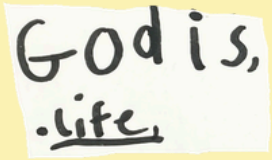
One of the questions P7's explored, is 'who or what they think God is'. Below are some of their ideas. What would your answer be?





A bearded, white male (The beardy guy) is how many of the P7's envisage God.
While some like the stories about God, they believe they are more a myth than a truth.





For some, their understanding of God is cerebral. For others it is an embodied knowledge.



Some children expressed how their faith or beliefs has helped them in difficult circumstances

Our Youth Worker reflects on the RME sessions.

In doing the Big Questions, I have learnt that children have a much deeper and considered view about their beliefs than most adults would give them credit for, or indeed, would have themselves. As you can see from some of their answers above, they have some strong, but differing views. It is great to create an environment in RME where they can safely explore, debate and consider this together. It's not easy though. As one P7 said, "My brain feels like it is going to explode after that."



VOLUNTEERS

TAKING UP THE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

We are incredibly grateful to our growing team of volunteers who enable DACYP to operate so well. They undertake all sorts of roles, including those behind the scenes such as trustees and management group members, alongside face-to-face support with young people.

Most of our volunteers have come through the different local church congregations, uniting them in service together. They are all required, and have successfully been registered with the Scottish Government PVG Scheme, and have undertaken ELC's safeguarding training. If you are interested in getting involved then contact us at: **dunbaryouthassistant@gmail.com**

42 42 X PEOPLE ARE REGISTERED AS DACYP VOLUNTEERS

27 27 X OF THESE ARE SCHOOLS BASED

85 HOURS

DACYP delivers approximately 85 hours of free, weekly provision to local schools



'A DIPPER-IN'

Some of our volunteers are unable to commit to weekly activities. instead, they remain connected with DACYP and the young people through occasional volunteering opportunities. Gill Harley, who describes herself as a 'dipper-in' is one such person:

"I enjoy helping out whenever I can, because of other commitments I am unable to do a regular slot for DAYCP. I enjoy Life Walks and Harbour Lights and spending time with the young people. who seem to enjoy a different face! It's great that I can still be involved even though it's from time to time."

SUMMER PROGRAMME

During the school holidays DACYP continued to work with young people. This provided important continuity, especially for some of the more vulnerable young people. It also enabled our team to engage with them in different environments, as well as strengthening the relationships between the churches.

LIFE BITES COOKERY ACTIVITIES

The popular cookery programme returned, enabling an average of 11 people a day to prepare, cook and share a meal with others. Life Bites equips folk with culinary skills, helping them to develop social skills as they work with and serve others. It is high quality, relational youth work. Beneath the wonderful food centred hospitality, there were meaningful conversations, belly laughs, and friendships being developed. Added to the mix were gentle but significant references to the Christian faith. A shared prayer of thanks, a tabletop discussion about beliefs, conversations about food related Bible stories.





200+ MEALS SERVED

At Life Bites, the young people worked with volunteers to produce excellent food. The menu included curry, pasta, wraps, rolls and delicious puddings. All served at a shared at meal together.

EACH MEAL £5.60

As well as the rising expense of food, the costs of Life Bites include hall rental, publicity and food hygiene training. This will increase next year as many folk will need to renew their certificates.



LIFE WALKS

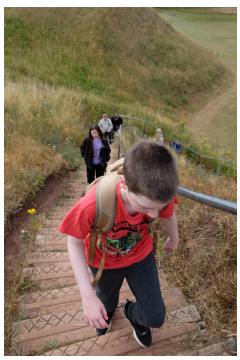
The great outdoors was where our Life Walks programme took young people. Each short walk revolved around questions about life and faith, and usually drawing on verses from the Bible to help folk reflect. for example, a walk around the Whitesands geology trails ***(Photo: above)*** stirred discussions about where we fit in the grand scheme of creation and life. The visit to Spott Glen and St John's Well reminded us about the story of the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed a man. *"Did people actually pray to be healed?"* asked one person. *"Yes, they still do!"* came the reply. This led to conversations, and a prayer for family members they know who are unwell.

At Belhaven beach, the group joined in with a sandcastle competition. A natural opportunity to tell the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders. (see photo of art inspired by this story) and conversations about what our foundations are.



"You can ask questions about God that you won't ask at home"







SCOUGHALL SU HOLIDAY

Back in 2010 we first took a group of young people to the Scripture Union Holiday at Scoughall, North Berwick, We enjoyed it so much that Richard has continued to return each year with a group. This time with 7 young folk who had a fantastic time learning about the Christian faith, making new friends and participating in lots of fun activities and ventures.



Jon & Sarah Wadsworth have led the camp at Scoughall for many years and have partnered with DACYP to enable us to bring young people along. They share their thoughts about DACYP.





"It is a privilege and a pleasure to have Richard serving alongside us at Scoughall. It is a real encouragement to see the connection and trust Richard has already built with the young people he brings to camp. He works hard to guide and help us provide an enjoyable and safe Christian holiday for all the young people. It is great to see each and every young person able to engage with the Bible on their own level and in their own way. The Dunbar young people definitely add to the event. They integrate very quickly and make friendships that will hopefully last well beyond the holiday."



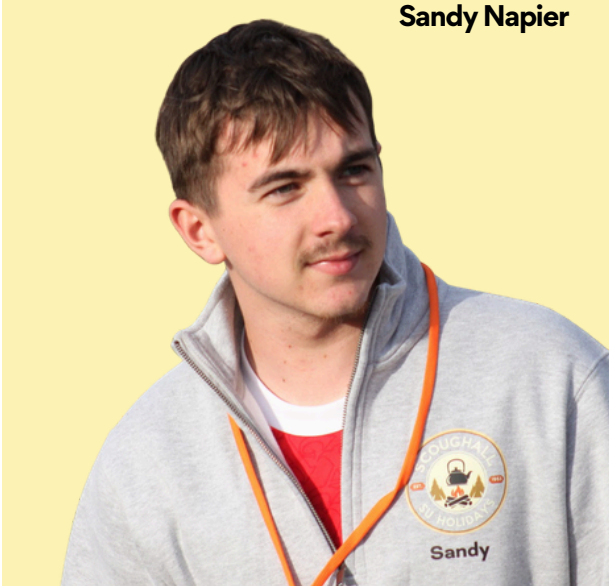


Through generous donations, and support from SU, DACYP is able to offer young people places on the holidays at 1/3 of their cost

SANDY JOINS THE TEAM

In 2025 Sandy Napier attended Scoughall as a young person. During his time there he came to faith and has since got himself involved at Prestonkirk in East Linton. He also helped out at Life Bites. He is part of the SU trainee leadership programme, and it was a privilege to see him return to Scoughall as part of the team of volunteers. He is a fantastic role model to the young people, and when he shared his testimony of how he came to faith, some of them were deeply moved.
Sandy will recieve a Saltire Award for his volunteering hours.

""Coming to faith has been the best experience I've had, the people I've met, the things about Christ that I've learnt, and the way I see things differently"
Sandy Napier



FINANCE

We are very grateful to have the expertise and support of our Treasurer, Fiona Fleming. As well as dealing with our finances, she also volunteers at Harbour Lights and in the Primary School.



Results for the financial year to 31 August 2026

The result for the year just ended was a deficit of £7,431 (2025: deficit of £8,600). Our grant income continues to be below our target level; however, our donation income increased as new donors came forward and many existing donors reviewed and increased their giving. The table below summarises the sources of our income and this year shows how much each income stream has contributed to our overall costs. The deficit has again been met from reserves, meaning that at the year-end our reserves were reduced to almost the minimum level (enough to meet approx. six months running costs and statutory liabilities).

£7,431

DEFICIT

"The deficit has again been met from reserves, meaning that at the year-end our reserves were reduced to almost the minimum level "

The Trustees and Management Committee are very grateful to all our individual donors from the local Christian community for their continued financial support. We are also grateful for unrestricted grants from the KPE4 Charitable Trust, East Lothian Educational Trust and St Anne's Scottish Episcopal Church and to the Red House Home Trust, Dr Guthrie's Association and BeGreen in Dunbar for restricted grants towards our summer activities (Life Bites & Walks and SU camps).

- We are always seeking to increase our individual supporters as grants are increasingly hard to secure - so if you would like to donate (regularly or with a one off donation) please ask for a pledge card from one of our Trustees, a member of the Management Committee, Richard or Alison.
- Have you considered leaving a legacy to DACYP in your will?

Statutory accounts with full details of all income and expenditure are available from the Treasurer – fionafleming559@gmail.com

		% of costs	2026	2025	% of costs
			£	£	
Income					
Individuals*		68.9%	32,728	28,017	60.3%
Grants		13.6%	6,450	8,953	19.3%
Other		1.9%	908	874	1.9%
Total		84.4%	40,086	37,844	81.5%
Expenditure		100%	47,517	46,444	100%
(Deficit)			(7,431)	(8,600)	

**including via local organisations*

DONATIONS QR CODE

please feel free to use or share this with others

HARBOUR LIGHTS

Harbour Lights is our Friday afternoon youth club for P7-S5's and is based in St Anne's Church. It is an informal, calm space where young people enjoy quiet games, pool and food.

We saw a number of young people outgrowing the group as they became school leavers. Some of them have been with us since Primary 4, and it is lovely to see them grow up. They have made way for a new group of young people who are very different but just as welcome. Several of them went on the SU Holiday to Scoughall and joined our summer programme. It continues to be connected and supported by the St Anne's Church congregation, making it a welcoming space for them all.







Photos: Board games (although Nick looks bored). One of the young people won an award at high school, and another enjoys a lie down after climbing the Law at North Berwick.

ANDY'S MAN CLUB





Richard continues to be involved with Andy's Man Club, men's mental health group. The organisation celebrated its 10th birthday as it continues to expand, with approximately 7000 men attending each week across the UK

NEW EVENTS

We ran some new events. Crafty Christmas was a fun craft making event for primary age children, offering a creative way to explore the Bible story.

At Easter we ran 2 new Life Walks around the grounds of Belhaven Hill School. One was to support the local Christian Aid Week, and addressed the subject of poverty through a simulated game.



Photos: 'Belhaven Bucks' was the currency used for trading

DACYP TEAM & THEIR ROLES

Trustees: Nick Archer (Chair), Neil Black, Moira Cockburn, Tim Greene, Alan Willoughby
Management Committee: Anne Harvey (Chair), Fiona Fleming (Treasurer), Jodie Boardman, Suzie Fletcher, Fionna Payton, Bill Stevenson

Harbour Lights Team: Fiona Fleming, Malcolm Payton, Gill Harley, Nick Archer, Neil Black, Jo Ramage
Lad's Group: Darren Kilfara, David Campbell, Nick Archer, Malcolm Payton, Bill Stevenson, Neil Black

Life Walks & Life Bites Team: Nick Archer, Neil Black, Jodie Boardman, Fiona Fleming, Tim Greene, Anne Harvey, Dorothy Hilsley, Keith & Mariella Mills, Hazel Gray, Gill Harley, Ben Johnson, Mike Ling, Diana Mackie, Bronwyn Brodie, Anne Marie Clay, Alan Dickerson, Jo Ramage

Primary School Team: Ruth Archer, Anne Marie Clay, Alison Crowhurst, Peter Davey, Gillian Denolm, Alan Dickerson, Fiona Fleming, Dorothy Hilsley, Ben Johnson, Jan Johnson, Julie Mackenzie, Chris McArthur, Fionna Payton, Gillian Rae, Jo Ramage, Moira Thompson

Employees: Richard Taylor (Youth Worker), Alison Murray (Administrator)