

## DACYP Prayer News - April 2026

We hope you have all had a great Easter holiday and found the balance of faith, family and rest. Apart from Life Bites and Life Walks, I was able to enjoy some time away from work. It was good being able to park the challenges we were facing for a couple of weeks and it gave us the space to recharge and rest.

I won't be at the Prayer Breakfast as I have a family gathering in Manchester to attend. I really recommend these breakfasts as they are a special time of fellowship and prayer. Great food too!

**Update on our position with East Lothian Council** - In our last prayer news we told you that we had written to the Head of Education asking when we might be able to get back into schools, and highlighting our concerns for the young people.

We received a response from her this week explaining what is happening, but with no indicators as to when the situation will be resolved. The council legal team are still assessing if DACYP is a suitable agency to partner with and they are unable to give us a timescale for that process to be completed.

This is very frustrating and we will continue to use whatever means we have to speed things along. Meanwhile, we just have to be patient and wait.

- **This is something you can be praying for. It will come down to individuals doing their jobs and prioritising our case over several others. Once they do assess it, then pray for them to have the wisdom to see why DACYP would be a good organisation to continue partnering with.**

### Easter Programme

**Life Walks** - We had just one young person at our Life Walks event, but I felt it was a worthwhile morning. Some good chat and positive engagement with the activity. We used Belhaven Hill School where we thought about listening to God, actually listened to some birds and other sounds (including a chain saw!) and wandered around the grounds. Definitely a location to return to in the future.

**Life Bites** - I just ate their food! The thing that stood out for me was how good the friendships are that have been forged through Life Bites. I really enjoyed catching up with the P7's, and being able to be around young people again. The team did a great job chatting to the young people and working together to produce another outstanding meal.

- **Give thanks for the opportunities we have had to re-engage with young people and for the time to reflect on the Life Walk.**

**Pastoral support** - We have been able to offer pastoral support to some young people. The confidential nature of this means we cannot give you more details. However, it is worth noting that this is a particularly challenging time of year for some school pupils.

- The seniors are in their exam period and we know that this can be very stressful and frightening for some. Do pray for them as they embark on their studies and exams.
- Primary 7's transition to secondary school is fast approaching. We would normally expect to be offering support to pupils at this time and are aware of how stressful this can be for them. Pray for them to have a smooth transition and for peace and confidence as they adjust to the inevitable changes.

**Harbour Lights** - One thing that has been able to run during our 'temporary suspension' from schools, is Harbour Lights. The group has been fairly settled with a small group of regulars. It is a really good place for folk to drop by and check in. I sense it is something of an anchor point for some of them.

**St Anne's Church & anti-social behaviour** - Unfortunately St Anne's has become the target of vandalism and anti-social behaviour by other groups of young people. It is sad when this happens as the church is a welcoming place for all. Do pray for the Vestry there, and for Harriet as they consider the best way to respond to this. Also pray for those responsible for the damage.

**Belhaven and Spott Messy Church** - After a long absence, Messy Church is back! Pray for the team who plan this to have creative thinking and God's guidance on what to do next. These events are a great opportunity for families, older people and others to join up for a morning of Bible themed fun and teaching.

**Summer programme** - Now Easter has passed, it is time to focus on our summer programme and prepare for it. Look out for the dates and different things that will be happening.

- Pray for the preparations to go smoothly.
- Our absence from school means it is difficult to reach young people in person to invite them along. We will need to explore other ways to do this and your prayers would be valued here.
- We still have some space for folk at the SU Holiday at Scoughall. Give thanks for those already booked in, but pray for others to be encouraged to sign up.

I hope these things will keep you encouraged to pray and support DACYP. This is a really rubbish time for us, but we have to continue to be thankful for God's faithful provision throughout our 20+ years.

Richard