

PRAYER POINTS - OCTOBER 2025

It was great to meet with so many of you last month at our 20 years celebration. There are some of you who faithfully pray for the project, but our paths rarely cross. Thank you for coming along and adding to a joyous occasion that enabled us to reflect and give thanks to God for all that has been done in 20 years. But it wasn't a closing ceremony, and I hope that people left it with a sense that much more is to come. Certainly, the opportunity for a Christian youth project to serve others and share the love of God, remains and grows.

For some of the churches in Dunbar there is, or will be new clergy starting: Alastair Stark (Belhaven & Spott & deferred union with Dunglass) and Harriet Johnstone (St Anne's). But I think the whole church community is united with a sense of hope and anticipation that great things are to come, and indeed, are already happening. That's not to put a burden on those two individuals, but to recognise that church is a community, a body of people. And when they respond to the prompts God gives, then, well...who knows what will happen? Sat in the midst of this is DACYP. We are part of the body and an agent to mobilise folk to do things that might be a struggle to do alone. I give thanks for these opportunities, and as you read on, I hope you will be able to pray for them.

Dunbar Grammar School - I spend a morning a week at DGS. Part of this is to facilitate the Lad's Group, but also to offer pastoral support to pupils, and occasionally staff.

Lad's Group - The group has reduced in size due to timetabling issues. We don't have an easy solution to this so hope and pray that those who need to attend, are able to without too much disruption.

One highlight was a couple of the lads were invited by the Head Teacher to speak at his Business Leaders Breakfast. The boys were brave and honest in sharing their own stories to a full hall of adults. It was no surprise that they got a huge applause from the audience, and that we have had nothing but positive feedback from those attending.

Girls Group - We are no further on in being able to restart this. As the member of staff from the high school cannot do this anymore, we need to identify someone else who can be its leader.

Dunbar Primary School - The main thing here has been going away to P7 Camp at the Dounans Centre in Aberfoyle. Three of us from DACYP went along and had a great week getting alongside staff and pupils. It was an incident free week and the young people had a great time. I enjoyed taking groups on early morning runs before breakfast. A chance to get some fresh air and take in the view. Our check-in groups were there and it was good to see them all working hard to reach the targets they had set themselves before they went.

Check-in Groups - Both Chris and I are running these and they are slowly introducing the young people into the practice of sharing and supporting each other. This takes time, and it can be frustrating to begin with. But we are thankful that some individuals are beginning to open up. Chris will be starting a third group soon. Once again, do pray for wisdom and guidance in who to put in that group.

At **West Barns Primary** I am enjoying supporting an individual there. It is good to be active in that school too.

Seasons for Growth - This bereavement and loss group is going well. The young people are relishing the opportunity to talk and articulate their feelings. For me, I have a real sense of God's healing touch at work.

Multi-faith prayer space - Something new that I am working on is developing a multi-faith prayer space. Why is a Christian project doing this? You might well ask. The reality is a small number of Muslim pupils use the room next to mine for daily prayers. Whilst they wait, their friends come and play games in my room. We got chatting about the idea of a space where people of any faith or no faith could pray or spend time reflecting. They liked this idea. I am also aware that there are a number of Christian young people who could benefit from this too. To enable that to happen, it has to be multi-faith. So, I am about to round up a working group of pupils (and staff if they want to) to set this up and facilitate a pilot. There are lots of successful models for us to use, e.g. Prayer Spaces in Schools, so let's see what happens.

Innerwick and Stenton - There is a new Head Teacher at Innerwick and Stenton, Amy Kay, and I am visiting there this week to do the Big Questions session. Give thanks for this and do pray for Amy as she settles in to her role.

Harbour Lights X'tra - Things have been going well with the new folk settling in well. Numbers rise and fall, but we believe it is a solid, reliable and safe space that young people can dip in and out of when they need to. It is a space they use to offload and to find peace.

Christmas Events for children and young people - We have two events coming up at Christmas. Both are designed to give parents and carers a break on a Saturday so they can do Christmas preparations. It is also an opportunity to share the Good News with folk.

- Saturday 6 December, Crafty Christmas and Stories. This is for P2-P7's and will offer a carousel of crafts, games, storytelling and treasure hunt. Look out for publicity to share with friends, neighbours, family etc.
 - Saturday 13th December, Christmas Life Bites. This is for P7-S5's where we will make a Christmas dinner, eat together and do a few reflections on Christmas. Perhaps even a Christmas service.
- These are new initiatives and we are hoping they will be well used and will create the perfect environment to share our faith this Christmas.

**** If you are interested in volunteering then please get in touch. We should be able to find a role for you.***

Fundraising, our 20 in 20 plan - We are nudging little by little towards our target of having 20 new donors, or increased giving in our 20th year. One of the biggest risks to DACYP's work is loss of funding. We are so thankful for the generous provision over the years, and this appeal is really to demonstrate good stewardship in securing our financial position so we can continue to be active and grow.

AGM - Our AGM is on **27 November** at the Bleachingfield Centre, 7:30pm. It is a formality to have the meeting, but we hope to make it in to an event where we can share with you our work, and to spend a bit of time listening to your thoughts and ideas about the future. Please keep the date.

Hopefully there is enough here to keep you going. As always, do feel free to join us at the breakfast if you can. It usually done by 9:45 and the fellowship is really good.

Every blessing,

Richard