



DACYP Prayer Breakfast, May 2026

Thank you all for your precious support for DACYP in prayer. These last few months have been a testing time for us all as we have tried to navigate the unexpected challenges East Lothian Council have thrown at us. However, throughout it all we have all been buoyed by the encouragement and prayers many of you have shared with us. These have been very helpful and have enabled us to make sense, bring calm and order to a somewhat chaotic situation. Just this weekend someone gifted me with this passage:

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

In the last 3 months there have been days where it has felt that all we have worked to build up for the Lord has been in vain and lost. DACYP has always been about serving God, and this recent episode has felt like a huge obstacle has been put in the way of us doing that. But God is good and despite the obstacles, we have been able to continue serving God in other ways, and the good news is that doors look set to open again soon.

Update on our position with East Lothian Council (ELC)

We had a letter from the ELC solicitor who is dealing with our case. It sets out a 15-point Service Level Agreement (SLA) that we will need to adhere to over time, but ended with these words:

'While we continue to progress through the onboarding process, East Lothian Council is content to permit delivery of the service in the interim.'

Before we rush back in, we are taking time in this 'onboarding process' to work with the Headteachers to develop clarity over what DACYP will be doing with schools. This prevents us having to go through this exercise again and again every time there is a change of staff, e.g. a new Headteacher is expected to be appointed at DPS soon.

Pray for the meetings with Headteachers. Ask God to guide us through the future plans and for wisdom in how to tackle them.

Pray for Jacqui McKinnon (DPS Head Teacher) who retires in a few weeks. The search for her replacement is underway so pray for that too.

So, we're not quite there yet, but we can be thankful for the progress and positive indicators that DACYP has a future with ELC schools.

Dunbar Grammar School Battlefields Trip

I have just returned from my 4th visit with DGS to Belgium for their S3 battlefields trip to learn all about WW1. Prior to the visit I had been invited to work with several young people who, for various reasons, would find the trip a challenge. The Headteacher had insisted I attend to support them and so it was exciting to see them on the bus heading for Dover. A real answer to prayer.

On the surface, this is a history trip. But really it is a journey of personal discovery for the young people, set against the backdrop of war, human endeavour, sacrifice and resilience. For the young people attending with their own personal grief, the exposure to this grand scale loss inevitably raised questions about life, God and their own existence. What a privilege it was to be part of this experience.

Once again, some of the lads group represented Andy's Man Club by laying a wreath at the Menin Gate, Last Post Ceremony. It was to acknowledge the loss of life to suicide in WW1 and other wars, and the ongoing mental health struggles folk have relating to war. It was very moving to do this and it had a powerful impact on the individuals involved.

Pray for these young people. The trip played an important part in their emotional wellbeing and has enabled them to reflect on their own lives.

Dunbar Grammar School, Lad's Group and pastoral support

Give thanks for DGS Headteacher, Mr Johnston. He has been very supportive of DACYP in this period and has been our advocate in various meetings. Through his leadership we have been able to continue some discreet pastoral support and continue running the lad's group with some of our volunteers. This has been important work and it has opened up possibilities of some new initiatives once we return properly.

Give thanks that DACYP has this opportunity to demonstrate God's love in such practical ways.

Bereavement and loss support

A number of young people I have been working with have experienced loss recently. Without our usual programme of Seasons for Growth in place, I have been working with them individually, including family visits to the church where they were able to pray and light a candle. I attended the funeral of a young person's grandparent last week, whose daughters and sons (now in their late 20's) and extended family were ex-Harbour Lights or Mentoring Group folk. It was lovely catching up with them all and reminiscing about their time at school and the old Methodist church hall.

These encounters are a reminder of the struggles young people face, and often alone. Pray for the Christian Community in Dunbar to find ways of serving others with these needs.

Harbour Lights

Occasionally, for no obvious reason, we get a no-show at Harbour Lights. But then the following week we can be really busy. It's been like that for the last few weeks. We enjoy seeing who comes through the door and being present for these young people and sharing our lives and faith with them.

Summer Programme

We are making good progress developing our summer programme. It will span over 4 weeks and will also include the Scripture Union holiday at Scoughall. Volunteering opportunities are in abundance, although be quick! Some of our days have already filled up. This is great news and thank you to all those so willing to give up their time.

Pray for young people to book in. Our absence from schools has meant not having people on the ground to recruit. Let's pray that in the coming weeks we will level that mountain out and see bookings come in.

Christian Aid Week walk - Belhaven Hill School

As part of Christian Aid Week, I helped a team put together a family Life Walk in Belhaven Hill School grounds. 25 folk gathered and took part in a guided walk designed to raise awareness about poverty and the work Christian Aid do to bring relief. There were some fun challenges along the way, games and discussions. But it was great to bring folk together too. Bonus - the sun shone all day!

Other things to pray for...

The end of a school year marks a transition for many. Let's keep the following in prayer:

- School leavers going to employment, college or university, or who are unsure
- P7 leavers going up to high school
- Staff retiring or coming to the end of a contract, or moving schools

There is a **Messy Church** service on this Sunday from 11:30-1pm at Belhaven Church. Give thanks for the last one and the families who attended.

There's a lot here to process. I hope it conveys the sense of gratitude we all have for your support, and for the many answers to prayer.

Every blessing,

Richard