



Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2025

The Knitted Bible

DACYP supported local churches to bring the Bible to people in a creative way using knitting.

A wonderful collaboration between the local churches and DACYP enabled a week long exhibition of knitted Bible stories to be shown at St Anne's Church. Different events were set up to enable people to see it, and through our school connections DACYP was able to bring along the whole of the Dunbar Primary School Primary 4 Year and use the visit as part of their Religious and Moral Education (RME).



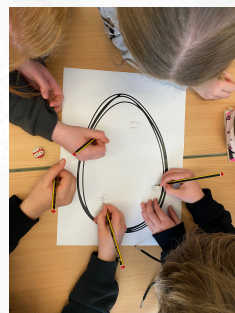
The knitted Last Supper



Volunteers told different Bible stories and there was great enthusiasm from the children to learn and explore them further. One of them said ***'I'm not good at reading so I would never be able to read the Bible. This helped me understand the stories, the main characters and what they were doing.'*** Another said, ***'My favourite part was being welcomed in...everybody was really nice.'***

Christian ceremonies and festivals

Primary 7's at East Linton and Dunbar have continued their Big Questions RME lessons by exploring the festival of Easter and its significance to Christians and to themselves. As they reflected on their learning, these are some of the words they used to capture the story: ***sacrifice, life, grateful, forgiveness, goodness, trust and hope.***



Primary 6's visited St Anne's Church to learn about baptism and marriage and how faith plays a key role in people's lives. For some this was their first visit to a church and came with many questions. They made use of the chapel to be still, light a candle and pray. One teacher commented on how good it was to see children connect their learning with real life experiences and places.

RME Summer Term

In the summer term DACYP will be doing RME lessons on the following subject:

- The slave trade
- Morality
- Fears and phobias

Additionally we will be contributing to the P7 Transition programme, supporting pupils making the move to high school.

Summer Programme

We are really looking forward to our summer programme starting in July. Once again we will be running in tandem the Life Bites and Life Walks programmes. We are also supporting a group of young people attending the Scripture Union camp at Scoughall.



Life Bites is our cookery programme where the participants get to make a meal, share it with others and eat together. Running through all of that are great conversations about life, faith and who we are. It brings young and old together and proved very popular last year.

Life Walks are an opportunity for young people to get outside and explore the local area, discovering new things as they go. It enables young people to rest in the wonder of nature, giving them precious time away from screens and other unhelpful pressures. As they walk, the groups are drawn into conversations about faith, life and what God has to say to us. They are all local and we have some new walks lined up for 2025.

Photos: Life Bites and Life Walks in the summer of 2024



DATES: Both programmes run on the following dates at approximately 11-3pm

4, 15 & 17 JULY

21, 22, 24 JULY

4, 5, 7 AUGUST

11, 12 AUGUST

VOLUNTEERING

WITH US THIS SUMMER

If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer with DACYP over the summer then let us know. In particular we will need:

- Life Bites team to assist the leaders. No cooking expertise is needed.
- Life Walks team. Adults to walk and talk with young people. The walks vary in length (max 7 miles) and some just 1 mile. Let us know what suits you.

Volunteers will need to be PVG approved. Alison can help you with this: dunbaryouthassistant@gmail.com



"A gentle walk - sometimes on rough ground and uphill - to see things of local historical interest, sometimes with a natural history fact to be fascinated by. Good company - adults and young people taking the opportunity to listen and talk as they walk or pause for a breather.

Nick Archer shares his experience of volunteering on Life Walks



The walk leader has various snippets of information to share or questions to start chats about serious things or things that make you laugh. These are some of the reasons why I enjoyed Life Walks last year and am looking forward to this year's walks and I haven't even mentioned the delicious lunch prepared by the Life Bite group to welcome us at the end of an approximately 90 minute walk."

Nick Archer

Thinking and vision day



In the picture: Folk from different churches gather to seek vision for the future of DACYP



Over 20 years ago a group of people from different churches in Dunbar dared to dream and believe in the idea of a youth project that could link the churches with young people in Dunbar. Through hours of work, perseverance and prayer, DACYP came into being in 2005. 20 years later the DACYP management group, Trustees and folk from different churches gathered to imagine what could be next. The DACYP Thinking and Vision Day encouraged conversations about the many possibilities for the future of DACYP.

The event was facilitated by Paul Beautyman (*Photo above*) of Youth Work Journeys. As people shared stories about their own involvement in local youth work, there was a sense of thankfulness and excitement about future possibilities. Whilst no decisions have been made yet, the next steps are to whittle down the list to priorities. This report is partly here for posterity so that we can look back in 20 years time at this pivotal time for DACYP.

Key events in DACYP's story

- 2004 - The core team of people formed a management group and began to seek funding and support for the project to start.
- 2005 - Funding from the Church of Scotland, TSB Bank and many individual donations enabled the project to commence with the appointment of Richard Taylor as Youth Worker.
- 2007 Richard moves into the John Muir Campus at Dunbar Primary (DPS) and begins to regularly contribute to the RME curriculum for P5-7's, as well as offering pastoral support to pupils.
- 2011 -The £8.5 million DPS Lochend Campus opens and Richard moves in. The introduction of volunteers as readers begins.
- 2020 - DACYP becomes an independent charity and continues to work with local schools, churches and the wider Dunbar community.



Lots of ideas to consider such as raising young leaders, a second worker and developing children and families provision

Fundraising targets 20 in 20



Throughout the 20 years of DACYP we have been blessed and are grateful for all the individual supporters who regularly give financially to the project. Their generosity has enabled us to plan ahead and keep on top of the costs of running the project and employing its 2 employees.

As we reach our 20th year we are hoping to increase this number and have set ourselves a target of gaining 20 new donors in our 20th year. We have already seen a positive start to the '20 In 20' drive and hope we can add to that number and see our income rise.

If you would like to become a supporter or increase your giving to DACYP then please contact Fiona our treasurer who can advise on the best way to do this. Or use the QR code to go directly to our pledge page.
fionafleming559@gmail.com



It's okay to talk

An important role our Youth Worker and volunteers have is giving young people a listening ear and encouraging them to talk. Here are some examples of the work we are involved with.



Photo: A chance encounter with T.V. star Joe Wicks, who took an interest in our mental health work in schools.

Andy's Man Club is a UK charity that is trying to reduce male suicide by enabling men to get stuff off their chests in a peer to peer group. The Dunbar group is one of 270+ groups that meet every Monday night. Our Youth Worker is involved as we see it as an opportunity to continue supporting young people when they leave school. It also sees an overlap of support for parents and carers of young people we work with in schools.

In January we supported the **Lothian's Speak Their Name Quilt** exhibition at St Anne's Church. Each segment of the quilt has been created by the families of someone lost to suicide. They are all different and a visual reminder of how important it is to help each other by asking how we all are.



Lad's and Girl's Groups, Dunbar Grammar School

Building on the success of **Andy's Man Club**, DACYP was invited by Guidance teachers at Dunbar Grammar School to set up a similar group for senior boys. It uses the same format as AMC and meets in the old stables at Belhaven Church and is facilitated by our volunteers and the young people. Now in its third year, the group has expanded to three sessions, covering all year stages.

It soon became clear that a similar group for young women would be beneficial too. So in partnership with the school staff and our volunteers there is now a **Girls Group** that also meets in the church stables building. The feedback from them has been very positive and it is evident that having a safe space to talk is a huge help to them.

Bronwyn Brodie (Photo right) is a volunteer at the group and says, **'The girls are really chatty and it is a nice open space that helps them talk about things they wouldn't discuss elsewhere. They know what is said won't go any further. Some of them started off being very quiet but now they talk every week.'**

If you are interested in volunteering with this Wednesday morning group then please get in touch.



Seasons for Growth

DACYP continues to run Seasons for Growth groups in Dunbar Primary School. The programme is designed to assist folk deal with the unwanted changes that bereavement and loss bring. A recent P6/7 group brought together children dealing with parents splitting up, the loss of a parent and the impact of terminal illness on family members. One parent described the benefits to their child; **'It has been a real help to him and has helped him open up about his feelings around our divorce.'**

New look website for DACYP

Check out our new look website at: <https://www.dacyp.org.uk/>



Check-in Groups

The Primary 7 weekly check-in group is now focussing on the Primary 7 to S1 transition and preparing the group for this move. The group has made two visits to the high school for an orientation tour. The group is a safe space for them to address both school and home life challenges. We are using the Rotary Junior Community Award to help them achieve more and try new things. A recent WWII archaeology trip to Bullet Hill was very popular, seeing the group return with a handful of bullets (spent, not live!).

Contact us:

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