

Prayer Points August 2025

Thank you all for your continued prayer throughout the summer holidays. As we look back at the various activities that took place, there is clear evidence of God at work. We are very thankful for these things and we hope sharing them here will encourage you.

Overall, the **summer programme** blended different aspects of DACYP's work. If we did a Venn diagram then it would include the circles of lads group, RME, Harbour Lights, check in groups, Seasons for Growth, church, schools' volunteers, etc and in the middle there would be all of this overlapping in the summer section.

Life Bites ad Life Walks - Between them we had good numbers of young people attend. We were able to reconnect with folk we already knew, and we welcomed in some new faces. We were really pleased to welcome young people that often miss out on such things because of behaviour or home struggles. All the young people did very well.

Each day the young people prepared a meal together. It was a calm and friendly environment and the young people talked about how they enjoyed meeting new people. They also talked about how kind and helpful the volunteers were.

As we worked and then ate together conversations gently, but significantly overlapped into chat about church (it was being held in Belhaven Church), life and faith. A simple thing like saying grace together was a new thing for some.

We are thankful for the way such programmes model a healthy Christian community. Almost every church had a volunteer involved. Some of them didn't know each other beforehand, and others got to know each other better.

The **Life Walks** had less attending than expected. However, they went well and it was good to use our environment to help us reflect on God. Each day we grew to appreciate more the beaches, caves, woods and gardens that God has given us here. And as we walked we were able to discuss our faith and the joys and the challenges it brings.

Scripture Union Holiday at Scoughall - The 6 young people who we took to the holiday had a brilliant time. The camp itself went very well. 56 young people attended and the week went very smoothly ad without incident.

2 of the young people we took were challenged by the teaching. Part way through the camp they both, independently made the decision to be a Christian. We rejoice in this but know that the cost of following this up at home is great. As someone joked, 'It's easy becoming a Christian, I've done it loads of times!'. Therefore, we want to encourage these young people to grow in their faith at this time. We are encouraged to hear they have both been connected to their local churches through friends they met at Life Bites and school.

One of the most poignant moments of the holiday programme was one of these young people saying grace at the last Life Bites meal. He did it with such conviction and it was clear he was talking to God in a very personal way.

Give thanks for the summer and all the young people and adults who were involved.

Back to school - The schools went back last week and it has been a quick start, with me returning to do RME lessons with P7's. The first of the Big Questions session have been positive, with some quite deep conversations about beliefs. The new RME teacher has been supportive of us working together and we have been giving some consideration to some future collaborations.

Groups - Some of the groups will be starting back once we have identified participants. There's an element of discernment needed here so do pray for that. The Lad's Group has started and we are looking to take on some more of the responsibility for the girls group ourselves. This frees school staff up and gives us a more consistent approach to the work.

Volunteers - Our team of volunteers who support classes at the primary school are back in action. We have space for more so do get in touch if you are interested. Meanwhile give thanks for their faithful service and witness in schools.

20 years of DACYP celebration - To mark the amazing fact we are now 20 years old as a project, we are holding a special service on 28th September, 3pm at St Anne's Church. Put the date in your diary and let us know if you are able to attend. There will be refreshments and time to catch up with folk who have been involved throughout the years. Please let Alison know if you can attend.
dunbaryouthassistant@gmail.com

Linked to this, we are still looking to secure 20 new financial supporters in the 20th year. The 20/20 initiative has helped us grow our support, but we have a bit more to do to reach our target. Pray for the finance team as they explore other ways to secure funding that will enable the work to continue for years to come.

Contact our Treasurer Fiona for more details: **fionafleming559@gmail.com**

Behind the scenes people - The project is only able to function because we have a team of people doing the admin, management and overseeing of the project. Pray for them, but especially our Chair, Anne Harvey who is having to take on additional responsibilities at St Anne's whilst they seek to find a new Rector.

And we were all saddened to hear the news of Susan Dickerson's death. She and her husband Alan had volunteered in school on and off for some years. Do pray for Alan and his family.

I shall look forward to seeing some of you in person at the breakfast. I know some of you are unable to attend but will be praying wherever you are.

Every blessing,

Richard