

NEWSLETTER

Dumfries and Galloway

News from Owain



But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Daniel 1:8 (NIV)

One of the reasons I love the local weekends so much is because we are able to have local youth leaders on team who know the young people and their backgrounds. This means that along side all the activities and team challenges we are able to tailor the teaching to be direct and challenging. This year most of the young people had strong links to a local youth club or church so we used the verse from Daniel as our core verse. We used it to explore what it means to live a distinctive Christian life in a hostile culture and why Daniel resolved to put God first. This sparked a number of discussions over the weekend and commitments to not just be a Sunday or Friday night Christian.

This term Bible Alive was running in two schools: St Andrews RC Primary in Dumfries and in Park Primary in Stranraer. It has been fascinating to be exploring the Bible in these school one day after each other. With questions ranging from “Were these real people that actually existed?” to “Why does Jesus call God Father if Jesus is also God?” We continue to praise God to have this access to schools and pray that as the children hear of God’s love and plan through the whole Bible, they will continue to explore their relationship with Him. Another very exciting opportunity in the last two months has been the opportunity to support a Bible study group running at Gatehouse YMCA, earlier this month one of the young people asked for a Bible to continue reading it at home.

SUpport Squad

This time last year we faced the situation that if we didn't increase monthly financial support then there would need to be a reduction in the local work. A year later and through the amazingly generous support of individuals and churches we are in a much healthier place with local finances.

But with the complex situations of people's lives and as their financial situation change we need to keep praying and looking forward. So with this in mind we would love to see new supporters joining the support team. Introducing the new nationwide initiative, SUpport Squad, we are looking to find 25 new supporters who could give as little as £1 up to £25 a month. If we get one person giving £1, another £2, and so on until all 25 places on the squad filled then together we will increase the Dumfries and Galloway funds by £3,900 a year. Please do pray into this and if you feel you could play a part in the new SUpport Squad then please visit the local webpage - suscotland.org.uk/DandG or email me at owain.evans@suscotland.org.uk.



Schools Update

There has been lots of ministry and opportunities to get into schools recently to explore the Bible:

- The SU Groups in Georgetown and Wallace Hall are continuing and going well with about 12 regular young people coming each week in Georgetown.
- Local ministers are currently going into Stranraer Academy on a Wednesday lunch time to be a chaplaincy presence in the school. We are now looking to start up an SU Group from this current chaplaincy work.
- After a couple more assemblies in Dalbeattie High school, a new SU Group is hoping to be started at the end of April.
- This year there are 10 schools from across the region involved with one of the various Easter programmes. These are mainly with P7 classes exploring the Easter story and its significance as part of the Christian faith.
- Towards the end of the summer term we will also be running the P7 transition support program It's Your Move in various schools across Dumfries and Galloway.
- There are no confirmed Bible Alive sessions set up for the summer term yet, however hopefully two more will run in Dumfries schools.
- There have also been recent connections with new volunteers looking to support the Locherbriggs and Kelloholm Primary schools.



ELM2a: 9 - 12 April at Lendrick Muir

Due to the school holidays in Dumfries and Galloway this P5-7 short camp is taking place as local schools return after the Easter break. But please do remember the 20 children from across Scotland and the team as we make use of all the activities at Lendrick Muir and explore the character of God through the Bible.

Regional Weekend: 24 - 26 May 2024 at High Barbuchany

The return of the P5-7 weekend. While still at the Faith Mission centre in Newton Stewart the event has moved from October to May. Hopefully this move will mean better weather and it gives more time to let people know about it. We will be looking at the life of Daniel as he lived and worshiped in Babylon.

Basecamp: 10 - 16 June at Kingscross

In June it is very exciting that the S5-6 leadership camp was so popular this year that rather than the one week we usually run, we need to have two weeks for everyone to be part of it. It's amazing to see the next generation of Christians stepping up to be leaders and share their faith.

GB2: 6 - 13 July at Gowanbank

In the summer GB2 is almost fully booked out, but we have reserved six spaces which the Dumfries Action Group are subsidising. This subsidy is to give local young people who wouldn't usually be able to attend a SU Holiday the opportunity to come to GB2. We have reached out to schools in Dumfries with this opportunity but if you would like to know more then please do get in touch.

Holiday Clubs: All through the Summer

Throughout summer churches across the region will be running holiday clubs to reach into their local communities with the gospel through various styles of holiday clubs. We are partnering with Stranraer Baptist again this year to run a primary age holiday in the morning and also to run an evening youth gaming cafe.

Support is available to enable children and young people to attend any SU Holiday. Please do get in touch if you would like to know more details.

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Each month a fantastic group join together online to pray for the children and young people and we would love for you to join with us. Each month we pray for: children and young people, local schools and the wider work of SU Scotland. I send out reminders before the prayer meeting, if you would like to receive these then do let me know. We usually meet the first Tuesday of the month.

Tuesday 2nd April @7:30pm

Tuesday 7th May @7:30pm

Tuesday 4th June @7:30pm

Tuesday 2nd July @7:30pm

No meeting in August

Zoom details

Meeting ID: 828 6003 9305

Password: prayer

Prayer Points

Give Thanks

- For a safe Regional Weekend away in February.
- For continued opportunities to access schools and to be able to continue exploring the Bible.
- For all the volunteers that serve faithfully in schools and as part other teams. Their ministry is what enables more local children hearing about God's love.

For the Future

- That all involved with Easter programmes this year would see the love offered at the cross. That as they hear the Easter story it wouldn't just be an intellectual activity but their hearts will be touched by the love of God.
- It is so very encouraging to have schools requesting for more and for volunteers coming forward, please pray for wisdom and time management to handle all the new opportunities.
- During this time of planning and preparations for camps and holiday clubs do remember all the practicalities and safety in your prayers. And that God leads these plans and works in the lives of the children and young people now. To bring the either into a relationship with God for the first time or to bring them into a deeper relationship.

We are trying to reduce our costs, would you consider receiving Newsletters by email? If you would like to update how you receive Newsletters, please email regional@suscotland.org.uk with your name and email address.

A huge thank you to those of you who give financially to the work in Dumfries and Galloway. If you would like to commit to partnering with us in this way, you can sign up on our website - <https://www.suscotland.org.uk/dandg>

Registered in Scotland as a charity (no. SC011222) and as a company limited by guarantee (no. SC54297).
Registered Office: New Olympia House, 13 Olympia Street, Glasgow, G40 GTA.