

## Give thanks for...

- God's provision and goodness over the last year for the work of COOL
- Wonderful supporters who give so generously, and especially over this past year
- The resilience of our children and young people through these ever changing times
- The relationship COOL have with the local primary schools and high school
- The work of the schools and youth worker
- All the volunteers who serve God with COOL
- Our management committee and trustees
- Safety and protection throughout these days

## Please pray for...

- Guidance and a vision for the future work of COOL in these ever changing times
- Our youth who are experiencing sadness and grief after the loss of a loved one
- Pupils who feel isolated or vulnerable, and even more so due to Coronavirus restrictions once again
- Pupils who are struggling in their Christian faith or find it difficult to see God's goodness in all that is going on around them
- Our churches as they find new ways to support our children and young people
- A move of God's Holy Spirit to sweep through our schools and nation



## Exciting News

COOL has a big birthday, 20 years old this year! God has been so good. We are so excited to be able to celebrate it with you in various ways throughout the year. Unfortunately these will depend on restrictions at the minute but for now, we want to share our new look. We have a great new logo and our new website is NOW LIVE! You can find out lots more about what we do, volunteering opportunities, and see what events we have upcoming. There is also a page on staying informed where you can choose to sign up to receive this newsletter via email and you can sign up to our new monthly prayer update.



We would really appreciate if you could consider signing up to receive our newsletter via email as this will both save money and save our environment.

---

## Contact

This newsletter is available on our website. If you would prefer to receive a copy by email instead of post, please sign up on the website

### Youth Worker: Timmy Currie

e: [timmy@coolscotland.org.uk](mailto:timmy@coolscotland.org.uk) | t: 07731575331  
a: 5 Crowlin Road, Kyleakin, Isle of Skye, IV41 8PP

### Chairman: Colin MacDonald

e: [chairman@coolscotland.org.uk](mailto:chairman@coolscotland.org.uk)  
a: Ault Mhor, Glenelg, Ross-shire, IV40 8LA

### Treasurer: Robert McRae

e: [treasurer@coolscotland.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@coolscotland.org.uk)  
a: Tidal View, 15 Lower Breakish, Isle of Skye, IV42 8QA

We believe you have given COOL permission to send you a copy of this newsletter but you can withdraw your consent or update your details at any time by contacting Christine at the email address above.

COOL is an interdenominational Trust employing a youth and schools worker to share the Christian message and support young people. COOL is an SU Scotland Associate Trust, a Recognised Scottish Charity (No. SC031455) and Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.



# January 2021

**COOL**  
[www.coolscotland.org.uk](http://www.coolscotland.org.uk)

## Where does your help come from?

At the beginning of a new year, we often think of the year that's past. As we look back this year, it is very different to normal. **There have been times of joy and celebration but for many, these have been few, and the sense of loneliness, sadness, grief and even fear have prevailed.** As we enter this new year where even the 'new normal' has changed again, it's easy to be disheartened, discouraged and downcast.

The valley's of life can be a place of despair and hopelessness, a difficult place to walk, where often our troubles take centre stage and we struggle to see past. **With heads face down we keep walking and often don't even realise there is a stronghold all around us; a means of rising above the difficulties and seeing with a new perspective.** The problem is, the enemy doesn't want us to see that and wants keep us enslaved to the valley. He wants us to focus on our circumstances.

**While Satan is our enemy, God is our stronghold, and He wants nothing more than for us to lift our head and look up to our Helper.** There will be a climb, it's a mountain after all, but the reward is great, and the climb is not alone. As we look to Him, we are looking to the One who made the mountains and the One who can stop us from slipping. These words were sung as the Israelites crossed the mountains and ravines on their way up to Jerusalem to worship; a very literal keeping from danger promised by God. We are looking to the One who protects us from harm and who watches over us like the picture of the Good Shepherd caring for His sheep. **We are looking to an awesome God.**



If you are in the valley, all He asks is that you look up to the Stronghold, and He will take care of the rest! **He wants us to look to Him and trust Him every day of this new year, finding hope, joy and freedom in Him, instead of focusing on the circumstances that surround us.**



## From the Chairman

As we leave 2020 and head into 2021 it is my pleasure to wish all COOL supporters a very Happy New Year.

**In a year of Covid-19 pandemic with its change, regulations, restrictions and uncertainty we are more than ever grateful and thankful to God for His unchanging, faithful and steadfast nature – He is the one thing that we can always rely on when everything else is proved to be untrustworthy, fleeting and transitory.**

We are thankful to God for Timmy our Youth and School Worker who has adapted so quickly and efficiently to the ever changing circumstances thrust upon us by Covid-19 and has continued to support, encourage and be involved in the lives of our young people and the High School, Primary Schools and our communities. **We are blessed to have a Youth & Schools Worker who is so committed to our young people and who loves to share the good news of Jesus with them.** Please continue to pray for Timmy, Janette, Mia, Ivanna and Josiah.

**As ever we are thankful for the Head Teachers and Staff for the access given to COOL into our local Primary Schools and Plockton High School.** Every community in Lochalsh and South Skye with young people in it benefits from the work of COOL and we are most thankful to all who support COOL from across the area and beyond.

**We are overwhelmingly thankful to God for the provision of steadfast and true supporters who have given sacrificially and faithfully of their time, their finances and their prayers; the three essentials for any ministry to operate.** In this year of uncertainty, we have seen God's providing hand at work as COOL's income for this year has exceeded outgoings for the first time in several years. We thank you all for your generosity and we thank God for you all.

So as we look forward to 2021 we do so trusting absolutely and completely in God, who knows the future and holds us in His hands. We pray that we would fulfil His commission and follow the paths He has appointed for us to take. **We place our hand in His and go forward in confidence and expectation of what He has in store for us.**

## Youthwork

**As with all youth work over these past months, the work of COOL has become like a chameleon adjusting to the environment around it.** Changes are happening all around, but although our methods change, the message never changes.

Our Friday Night Youth group is a popular place for young people to get together, worship together and study the bible, and it has been wonderful to continue to do that. **Whether it was online, then outdoors in the evening, outdoors after school as the light started to fade, or most recently, socially distanced in a church building, it was a joy to be able to walk through these changes together and encourage each other with the Good News of Jesus Christ.** Every week we met outdoors, we would pray for no rain, and every week God was good, often drying just for the times we needed. **We have been so encouraged by the young people who come along nearly every week no matter where we are meeting, desiring to be together and learn more about the Lord.**



Since the schools closed in March, our means of speaking to the children have changed too but it has been a blessing to be able to still serve our schools. The assemblies have been a particular highlight as through the wonders of technology we have still been able to do live assemblies with the schools through Google Meet. **It has been an absolute joy to see their faces and tell them about God through stories from His Word, and even though they weren't allowed to sing, they could join in with the actions for the songs.** Our Christmas assembly was particularly special as all the schools came together online as we thought about what really happened that first Christmas, and the significance of the birth of our Saviour.



**As we continue to serve God in these times, we know there could be more changes to come, but we are so thankful for His goodness, and continue to look to Him as He holds the future in His hands.**