

Give thanks for...

- An amazing Lord and Father who walks with us through the troubles and goes ahead of us to fight our battles
- The easing of restrictions that have allowed us to meet with children and young people, even in a reduced capacity just now
- The two P4-7 Easter Bushcraft Bible Club days and the Youth Activity Day, the leaders and our young leader, Bethany, and for all of the children and young people that came along
- The welcome back into the High School to be able to run our drop-in club on a Wednesday
- The privilege of working with our Primary Schools and being able to lead assemblies

Please pray for...

- All the P7's who will be preparing to move to High School after the summer. Pray that they would sense God's help and they would use the SU booklet as a guide
- The current S1's who transitioned during lockdown, missing out on much of the usual support, and finding that difficult
- Our churches as we move out of lockdown and that they would know God's guidance in how to best support their children and young people
- Our Walk for Wellbeing project, that it would be a blessing to many and that young people will feel confident to get in touch
- The planning for our Holiday Bible Clubs in the summer and the team of wonderful volunteers



Looking ahead

This term we are looking forward to meeting with the Primary Schools for assemblies and especially to meeting with the P7's for a chat with them about their transition to High School. It will be online this year again, but it will be great to let them know that we are here for them, and that many people are praying for them. **It will be another really hard year to transition after everything they have been through but we know that God can help them every step of the way if they look to Him.** Each child that we meet with will also get a helpful little book called 'It's your Move' produced by SU, and it is packed full of good advice.

We are also starting to plan what the summer programme might look like and what we will be able to offer the children and young people. If the regulations continue to ease in the way they have been, we will be able to hold reduced Holiday Bible Clubs. **All the volunteers really missed not being able to hold these last year so we earnestly pray that circumstances will allow these to go ahead this year.**

Contact

Thank you for your interest in our work and for your invaluable support. We thank God for you.

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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.



The battle
IS NOT YOURS, BUT

God's

2 Chronicles 20:15



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The battle belongs to the Lord

“This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.’ 2 Chronicles 20:15

Jehoshaphat was terrified by the news of a vast army marching towards them and called all the people of Judah to pray and seek the Lord’s help. “As all the men of Judah stood before the Lord with their little ones, wives, and children, the Spirit of the Lord came upon one of the men standing there” (v13-14) and that is when he spoke this great verse to the people.

This last while has maybe felt like a battle for you, or you may know people where this is the case. Maybe there has been one thing after another and it seems as though a great army stands against you. Please take comfort and draw strength from this great truth. **We don’t have to be afraid or discouraged but can worship God that the battle is His.** The army of Judah began to sing and worship God in the midst of the battle and God conquered their enemy, and even more, He blessed them with all the belongings of those he had conquered.

God will fight the battle for us because He loves us and goes before us. Do not be afraid or discouraged. **As Phil Wickham puts it, lets fight on our knees with our hands lifted high, the battle belongs to God.** He will listen, He will fight and He will bless.

Back to home learning

The announcement came that no one wanted to hear... the country would go back into lockdown and schools would once again close. For many families, children, and young people this would be even more difficult



to produce video assemblies and for some schools continue with the online Google meets.

than the first lockdown, **but it was a joy to continue to bring hope and light in the midst of the darkness and challenges.** We had the privilege of being able

We were continuing to look at skills that help to sustain good well-being and encouraging the children that the bible says Jesus can be with them. **The story of Jesus disciples on Lake Galilee when the storm arose reminded us that we can’t just jump out of the boat, but we have to trust the One who is in the boat with us, and look to Him.** In March we focused on the Easter message and how Pilate choose to follow the opinions of the people instead of the facts that were before him. It is always better to look at the facts of a situation, as opinions change and can feed into negative emotions. **Jesus was innocent yet we know that it was God’s plan for Pilate to sentence Him, and so He willingly, and silently, was accused and taken out to be crucified for the sins of the world.**

Easter events

By the end of February it was becoming clear that all things Covid was going in the right direction and we were going to be able to meet with a group of up to 15 people by the Easter holidays. This was really exciting news and we got to planning some events for our children and young people. **We wanted something for them to look forward to and enjoy with their friends but more importantly to share the love of Jesus.** We were still restricted to outdoors gatherings but Timmy was very excited to be able to put his past training to good use!



A few days after the bookings went live for the two P4-7 day events, they were almost fully booked! 12 children came each day and the time just seemed to fly by. They all got stuck in with the shelter building, the fire making and what campfire experience isn’t complete without toasted marshmallows! In the afternoons they warmed up with some orienteering, before getting their hands dirty with a foraging craft and challenges set out in the forest. **Lots of skills learned and lots of bible truths told as we spoke throughout the day of the love that Jesus showed in dying on the cross for them.**



The Youth Activity Day was also fully booked and one of the highlights of the last year. It has been great to be able to keep in touch with our young people via the online meets but it’s been challenging at times, so to see 13 of them together, in one place, for the first time in over a year, was a momentous occasion. **One which we are so thankful to God for, in His keeping of them and His enabling for us to be able to host the day for them.** It was a similar programme to the primary age but a more relaxed atmosphere and with more time for the young people to chat and enjoy being together again. We spoke about how the disciples had to decide to be Jesus followers after He went back to heaven and how it’s the same for us today. **We need to make the same decision and get out like they did to tell others the Good News.**

Walk for wellbeing

Do you ever feel the need to get outside and enjoy some fresh air? It is recognised as being very helpful to our health and wellbeing and so is being able to talk to someone about things that are going on in our life. We think it’s incredibly important for the young people in our communities to have access to something like this so have developed an exciting project called Walk for Wellbeing. **Many young people have been struggling through the lockdowns and would often spend hours in front of a screen, so this project will enable us to give them a safe space to talk with Timmy or another accredited volunteer and also get out to enjoy some fresh air!** When life is tough and things don’t seem to make much sense, it’s good to know that you are not alone. If you know anyone that would find this helpful please direct them to our website where they can get in contact with Timmy or book a slot online for a walk.

We would love if you could join us for our Prayer for Youth evening on Wednesday 19th May at 7:30pm via Zoom. If you do not see the joining details in your churches notices, or are from out with the local area, please contact Timmy for more details and you will be warmly welcome to join us.

