

Give thanks for...

- God's faithfulness and goodness throughout another year and over the past 20 years sustaining the work of COOL
- All those who volunteer and all who give so generously to enable the work
- A safe and exciting weekend away to Alltnacriche and for the word of God that was spoken into the lives of our young people
- The continued relationships with the primary schools and high school and the work that we are able to do with them
- The opportunity to use the Light Up Christmas resource to explore the true meaning of Christmas with two of our primary schools
- Each of the young people that come along to the Friday Youth and for the safe trip through to Inverness before Christmas

Please pray for...

- All the young people who attended the youth weekend that they would be reminded afresh of the things they heard, and especially for those hearing it for the first time
- The many young people who Timmy has contact with that do not come from church families and the opportunities he has to share the love of God
- Our church youth who have been severely Spiritually impacted by the events of the last two years and that they would seek God again
- Our schools as they still navigate these times
- The Seasons for Growth programme and that many pupils would see how it will help them



Youthwork (continued)

Before Christmas we had a wee trip to Inverness for an evening at the trampoline park with the Friday Youth bunch. The most spoken phrase of the night had to be, "are we nearly there yet?" **But when we did get there it was a lot of fun and a great end to the term. We continue with the Friday Youth this term are excited to see where God is leading us.**

Lastly, our Alltnacriche Youth Weekend, which took place just as the last newsletter was going out, was a fantastic trip and long overdue! There was great food, great activities, great weather and great chat among the groups. **There was some disappointment before we left with a few young people deciding not to go but God was good to us and was with us throughout.**

There is a dedicated team of leaders who make the weekend possible and so we want to say a huge thank you to each of them, and to our past pupils who popped in to help too. Special thanks to the Brown family and especially Mia for leading our worship so well alongside Hannah. Thank you.

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.



Cast your
BURDEN
on the Lord
and He will
SUSTAIN
you.

Psalm 55:22



January 2022

COOL
www.coolscotland.org.uk

Do you sense God's sustaining in you?

At the start of a new year we often look back at what has been and we look forward to what is going to be. This past year has been challenging at times but also brought many opportunities to be able to invest in our children and young people. **They need to know that in a quickly changing world, where snapshots of life are the new norm, and distraction is all around us, the word of God never changes and gives life in a fullness that we can't experience in anything else today.** One of the biggest oppositions is that of time and not only our young people are constantly bombarded with messages, images, and videos that stop them from taking time to think, but we all are to some degree.



So it is good to intentionally stop for a part of our day, dwell in God's presence, and meditate on His word. It is good to be reminded of God's promises and what He says to us.

"Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved." Psalm 55:22

There is real power in these words and a certainty that cannot be found in anything or anyone else. **'He will' is repeated here and when God says He will do something then we know it's not an if or a maybe but it is certain.** When we come to Him, spend time with Him, offload to Him, He will strengthen us, support us, and enable us to walk in Him. When the sustain pedal of a piano is pressed, the note sounds long after the key is played, and God's presence will sound in us long after we press into Him. **What a wonderful, compassionate, and loving God we have. Do you take time to press into Him? Do you recognise His sustaining you?**

From the Chairman

As we head into 2022 it is my pleasure and my privilege to wish all COOL supporters a very Happy New Year. This year we look back and we look forward.

In November COOL Celebrated 20 years of employing a Youth & Schools Worker at a Celebration evening in

Dornie Hall. It was a night of worship, fun and nostalgia as we looked back on the last 20 years and the effect COOL has had on the lives of our young people. **We were profoundly aware of God's faithfulness, blessing and provision for the work and deeply thankful to Him who has been steadfast in His blessing of COOL.**

God has been faithful in so many things. In the provision of Timmy as our Youth & Schools Worker, in gifting him with the enthusiasm, compassion and commitment to our young people. We are thankful to God for the members of our community who faithfully pray for Timmy, Janette, Mia, Ivana and Josiah and for the work of COOL, lifting Timmy and our young people before the Throne of Grace and being the engine room of the work.

We are grateful to the many who give of their time and talents to help the work of COOL. We just could not run without the commitment of these wonderful people. **We are also deeply thankful to God for the provision of the array of generous people in the area and beyond who commit financially to keep COOL running.** In these austere times we do not take that commitment for granted and are profoundly grateful to you for your continued, faithful support.

thank you

As always, we remain grateful to the Head Teachers and staff of our High School and local Primary Schools, for the access they allow COOL into the school life. We do not take this for granted and are intensely grateful for your continued support of the work.

As we look forward into the New Year we do so with hope and confidence, knowing the faithfulness of our God and seeking to faithfully follow His will for the work. We plan to hold a strategy meeting this coming year to prayerfully focus on how the Lord is leading us to best serve our young people. We know that Timmy will continue to find new and innovative ways to connect with our young people and support them in encouraging one another in these times of ever-changing regulations.



We head into 2022 with hope and confidence, trusting continually in Jesus, who is ever faithful and striving to bring His peace, grace, comfort, and example to all. **We place our hand in God's hand looking back at His great faithfulness to us and looking forward with expectation to what He has in store for us.**

Youthwork

It is a real privilege to be able to work with the children and youth in our area and we are so thankful for all the opportunities we have to do this. **We have learned over these last two years that we cannot take anything for granted.**

The primary school assemblies continue to be a mix of online and in person but either way, it is great to be able to see the children and to share with them the Word of God. **Christmas is a special time of year and our assemblies focused on the very special coming of our Saviour, and the importance of the journeys that took place that very first Christmas.** It was also a joy to be able to run the Light Up Christmas resource from SU Scotland for two of our primary schools.

The high school clubs continue to be a safe and welcoming space for pupils and it's been a highlight to be able to support a few of the pupils by taking them out for a walk or playing football while giving them an opportunity to talk.



Unfortunately, the Seasons for Growth programme had to be postponed due to Covid isolations but will have just started by the time you are reading this!

We were very excited to be able to relaunch our Friday Youth and are very grateful to Stevie, Stuart and the team at Lighthouse Coffee for allowing us the use of their building and providing lots of yummy goodies! We had hoped this would be a support for our church youth but for various reasons most of the young people who attend are from unchurched backgrounds. **Although different to what we envisioned, we give thanks to God for these opportunities to share his love with these young people.**

LIGHTHOUSE
COFFEE

www.LighthouseCoffee.co.uk