

Give thanks for...

- The strength, help and upholding that God promises to His children to overcome fear
- God's faithfulness and goodness through another year to sustain the work of COOL in every way
- A brilliant youth weekend, all the young people that attended and the leaders that came along to help
- The continued relationships with the primary schools and high school and the work that we are able to do
- The starting of a group in Broadford Primary and the restarting of the group in Plockton High
- The opportunities over the Christmas period to share about the real meaning of Jesus birth
- A safe trip with the young people to the go-karting in 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 applicants for our Church Liaison Worker and the interviews due to take place on Friday 26th January
- Our Annual Celebration on the 1st March
- A trip that we are currently planning to take our young people to the Awakening Conference on 15th - 16th March. Pray that they would have a desire to go and that God would do great things
- Funding that might help us continue to pay a sessional worker when the current funding finishes at the end of February
- Our Management Committee and all they do, but it would be good to have some new volunteers and especially for the role of treasurer



Schools (continued from overleaf)

...help out with the Christmas Journey sessions Jackie had organised through Strath and Sleat CofS and see the children think more about the real events of Jesus birth. It is also exciting that an SU group has started in Broadford Primary School and we are very thankful for Krystal and her passion to see this flourish.

Our work in Plockton High School continues to be such a privilege as we have opportunities to share in Religious Observance assemblies, provide individual support through our Walk for Wellbeing and for the clubs that we are able to run at lunchtimes. It has been a great blessing to start the bible study group in the school again and although still in early stages, it has been encouraging to see more and more pupils attending. We are very thankful for Angela's help with this and for giving of her time as she brings great experience and an understanding of the pupils. It was also wonderful to be asked to come and speak to the S2 year group about what Jesus birth was really all about and what it means to Christians.

We are so thankful to God and to you for supporting this work, both financially and in prayer. It means so much.

Contact

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

Youth Worker: Timmy Currie
e: timmy@coolscotland.org.uk | t: 07731575331

Chairman: Colin MacDonald
e: chairman@coolscotland.org.uk

Treasurer: Robert McRae
e: treasurer@coolscotland.org.uk

We believe you have given COOL permission to send you this newsletter but you can withdraw your consent or update your details at any time by contacting us. If you would prefer to receive a copy by email instead of post, please sign up on the website at coolscotland.org.uk

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.



SO DO NOT FEAR
FOR I AM WITH YOU
DO NOT BE DISMAYED
for I am your God
I WILL STRENGTHEN YOU AND HELP YOU
I WILL UPHOLD YOU
with my
Righteous right Hand
Isaiah 41:10



January 2024

COOL
www.coolscotland.org.uk

Fear or freedom?

As we begin a new year, people often look to make a fresh start and leave the things of the previous year behind, but unfortunately it is not always that simple. There could be things that make us anxious even to think about them, things that we fear or dread, things that can almost render us 'out of order', but God doesn't want any child of His to have to even consider these things. **He wants us to know that His strength and help is for us and that He will hold us in the palm of His hand, no matter what we face.**

It is incredibly liberating to know and trust that whatever comes our way, whatever we are facing, or whatever is yet to come, it is covered by the most reliable lifetime guarantee ever. This guarantee does not have any hidden clauses or fine print that is hard to understand, although we do sometimes like to complicate it. **It is given by your Creator, the great I AM, the one who was and is and who is to come, the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. He is the almighty, the all-powerful One, the all-knowing who has dominion over all things.** When God says He will do something, we don't have to think twice, we just have to trust His Word and believe.

The picture here of being held in the palm of Gods hand is a very powerful one but also beautiful. **The same hands that flung stars into space and set planets in motion, moulding the universe to perfection, are the hands that hold onto us. Hands so infinite, yet hands that show a personal touch.** He invites us to cast all our cares upon Him because He cares for us, but at the end of the day, it depends on how much we give to Him and how often we stop and hand everything to Him before we face something that brings fear.

If you have ever let fear stop you from doing something, or thought to yourself that you can't do that, then consider who it is that upholds you, and where it is your strength and help come from.



From the chairman

'Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.' Colossians 3:23-24

As we start a New Year we look back with thanks to God for His provision over the years, and we look forward trusting in Him to sustain and lead us into the coming year.

This year, we as COOL step out in trust, as we look forward to taking on a second employee for the first time. **We hope that our Church Liaison Worker will soon be in place and helping and supporting Timmy in the work of COOL across our area.**



One of the responsibilities of this new role is to encourage volunteers to serve alongside Timmy in schools outreach, youth clubs, youth events, holiday clubs, youth activity weeks, youth weekends away and all aspects of the work of COOL. **We have noticed in recent years it has become more difficult to find willing helpers for the running of the above events, without whom it is impossible to run them.**



As we consider the verse above, Paul is extorting his readers to Christian service - to hearty and selfless service in the name of our Lord and Saviour. **May we also be encouraged and challenged to fully commit ourselves to**

Christian service in our own local area, remembering that where the Lord calls, He also equips. So we give of ourselves and our time and trust in the Lord to equip us for His service. And we do it all because it is Christ we are serving and He is worth it!

So let us be encouraged to serve and move forward trusting in Him, and to Him be all the praise and all the glory. **Happy New Year.**

Youth Weekend

The last term of the year was another busy one with lots going on and a great bunch of young people. It started off with our Friday Youth sessions from the beginning of September, shortly followed after on the third weekend with

our Alltnacriche Youth Weekend. **This is often a highlight of the year for many of the young people and they were still talking about it long after it was over.** It was the first time for quite a few of the young people, and almost all from families that aren't connected with church, so it was a huge privilege to be able to share the joy of knowing Jesus and for the young people to see that lived out in our leaders.

As well as great activities throughout the weekend, lots of fun and wonderful conversations we had lots of very tasty food to sustain us, so we give a huge thanks to our cooks and indeed to all those who came along to help at the weekend. **We are very thankful as it would not be possible without them.**

Instead of having a main speaker for the weekend we thought it would be more useful for the young people attending to hear from a few of the leaders about what Jesus has done in their lives. They listened intently, and for some, it's the longest I've ever seen them sit still and quiet! **God was definitely very present with us and evidently moving in the lives of some of our young people.** Please continue to pray for them as what they heard at Alltnacriche, and Friday afternoons, is only a tiny drop in a massive ocean of information and distraction that they swim in. **We long that they will feel Gods nearness and hear His voice, because no matter what distractions there are, we can't forget those times.**

Schools

It is so important to us to have the connection with the schools in our area and it is always a joy to lead assemblies roughly once a month in each of the 10 primary schools. **The children love to sing and hear the stories of the bible and we pray these seeds of truth will stay with them for the rest of their lives.** We were thankful to be able to...

