Edition 17, June 2015

NEWS

Est. 2007

A project working with 10-18's in Carntyne, Cranhill & Riddrie

The first 6 months brought joys and sorrows to J12. Staff and volunteers have rejoiced as two more teenage boys became Christians and many of the younger kids have shown genuine interest in exploring the Bible and what they believe. At the same time it is difficult to watch some of the young adults who are Christians struggling to live out their faith.

Pray for seven of our young people who have lost parents during this year. This has been incredibly difficult for them and for staff as they seek to support these young people and their friends. It has brought home to J12 that the life expectancy statistics we hear about in the news are about real people in the communities J12 seeks to work and minster in.

Two young people in foster care have moved placements and are now living a fair distance from the project.

Please pray that they will both settle in well and feel cared for and supported in their new homes. Pray too that J12 will be able to maintain contact with them.

FINANCE

Lyndsey Tigar/Jane McIntyre (maternity cover) has been employed on a consultancy basis to access large trust funds. Give thanks to God for the money that has come in during the last 6 months. The J12 Board would like to employ another Project Worker but currently there is not enough finance for this.

Please pray for the finances for this post as so much more work could be done with another member of staff.

BRIGHT SPARKS

This is a new initiative that will work with P5-6 children from Cranhill Primary. Gordon and four volunteers, all teachers, will do Maths and Language with 12 children who need extra support in this, one morning a week. This also gives J12 the opportunity to establish relationships with new children.

Please pray that this will be an effective part of J12's work.

BASE DROP-IN

The Base Drop-In's continue to be busy especially at lunch time. Staff have been greatly encouraged to see the changes in some of these young people at school and in the community. Good relationships have been formed with young people who don't come to any groups and some are going to camp over the summer.

NEWS FROM

WORK IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

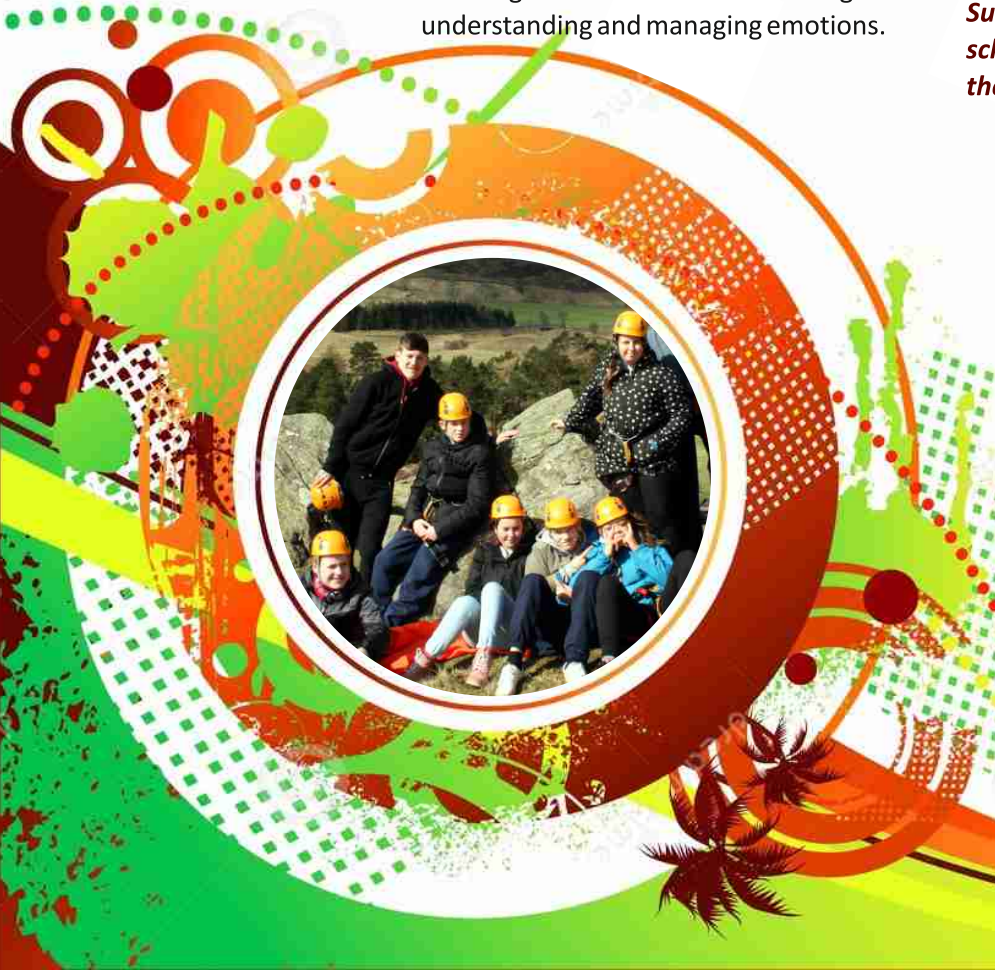
Work in the local primary schools continues to be one of the most valuable aspects of the work of Junction 12. A year ago in January, J12 began working in two new schools; Avenue End and Sunnyside, and it is extremely encouraging to see these school groups grow and relationships develop in each of them. From October- May, Gordon ran the SU group in Sunnyside, with help from the new SU regional worker, Mary-Louise Stone and a local church volunteer. Libby ran the group in Avenue End with help from Llinos Burt and Stuart Beggs, a teacher in the school. Both of these groups have grown since we began working there and both groups are fully established in the school.

Groups have also continued to run in Cranhill and Carntyne Primary schools. Relationships with these two schools are excellent, and Gordon and Libby always feel very welcome in them. In Cranhill and Carntyne, Gordon and Libby have run the Emotional Literacy course for all P6s. This is a great way to get to know all of the young children as well as delivering much needed teaching on understanding and managing emotions.

PRIMARY CAMP

In May, Gordon and Libby led the SU East End weekend away, which was bigger than ever before. Children from all four J12 schools came, as well as groups from Wallacewell, Thorntree, Swinton and Caledonia. In total, we had 80 young people who filled the whole of Lendrick Muir! The weekend was fantastic and ran very smoothly with a great team of volunteers to help. It is great to see the work across the wider East End growing and we look forward to working with other youth workers and volunteers in the future. The teaching at this weekend focused on Peter, and how he journeyed with Jesus and eventually understood much more about following Him. The young people all really enjoyed the teaching and it provided a great basis for SU in the new school year.

Give thanks for the weekend camp and for the groups at Cranhill, Carntyne, Sunnyside and Avenue End. Pray for the schools and the headteachers there as they plan for next term just now.



S3 SU GROUP

The situation with S3s has been different this ye
groups. Gordon led a group for around eight S3s i
the young people aren't convinced by the Bible,
questions about it. They continue to build good re
volunteers at J12 and many of them came to camp
Libby ran a small group for three S3 girls where t
well as looking at the story Esther. The group is ve
came to camp at Easter. We really hope and expe
year, and to continue to explore and ask questions

Please pray for the S3 groups a
Pray that they all rem
they would come to

WANNABES

So far, 2015 can be described as a mixed year for Wannabes. Numbers are very low for a number of reasons so it has been difficult to get much momentum going with the group. However, God continues to work, and clearly he knows best, as the young people who do come have engaged with the stories remarkably well! Gordon and Craig Whyteside had a great conversation with one of the boys who professed his own faith in Jesus. We have looked at how Jesus changes lives and many of the young people were able to express how they had seen God work in each other! Three out of the four young people who come regularly are Christians and are a real testament to God being at work through J12.

Praise God for the boy who has become a Christian.

Praise God for the fact that He is changing lives!

BIBLE STUDY AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Wednesday night Bible Study has really gained momentum since Januray, with five boys all coming along each week. Scott, Mark, Craig, Andy and Robbie have really engaged with the the book of Acts, as well as Titus, Philemon, 2-3 John and Jude! We've looked at the topic of living as a Christian in a very secular world. Despite difficulties and challenges in their lives, these boys all maintain a very real faith and many of them have served as leaders and role-models to younger children at J12. In a world where male Christian role models are hard to come by, these young men are a huge answer to prayer. Please continue to pray for them.

In February this year, J12 raised money to take many of the 'young adults' on a discipleship weekend at Netherurd House in the Borders. Matt Setliffe, a minister and church-planter from the South Side of Glasgow (originally from Tennessee!) came to speak about our identity in Christ and living as a Christian. His messages were very clear, and it was obvious that God was at work over the weekend.

Libby and Gordon continue to meet 1:1 with the young adults, which, as they grow in number, is an increasingly difficult job! Libby and some volunteers also take many of the young people to church on Sundays, at Shettleston New Parish Church, Kirkintilloch Baptist and Re:Hope. This year, we also had the pleasure of seeing Robbie Bryant baptised and become a member at Shettleston.

Thank God for these young people! Thank God for Robbie and for his faith, as well as the other young adults as they grow in their faith.

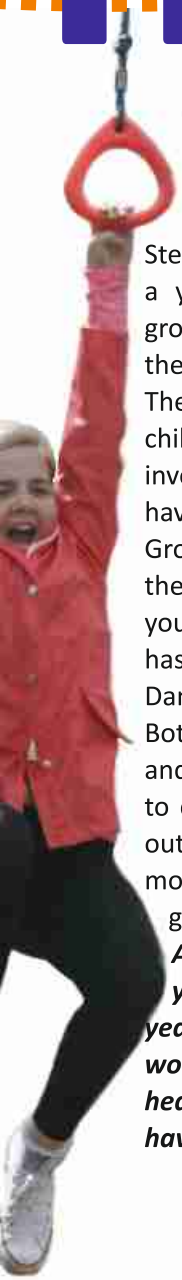
LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER

This summer looks a bit quieter than last year, as we have fewer camps and no Commonwealth Games. This means that Gordon and Libby can take their own annual leave, but there will also still also be many things happening. On 27th June-4th July, the camp for S4-6 pupils takes place at the SU centre Alltnacriche, near Aviemore. There are 14 young people from J12 attending, along with others from Edinburgh, Stirling, Oban and other parts of the East End.

In mid-July, Gordon is going as a group leader to an S1-3 camp at Glenshee with 8-10 young people from J12 who weren't able to make it at Easter. The other time during the summer will be spent organising outings for the young people and planning and preparing for the year ahead.

Pray for the young people over the summer, particularly those who are not going to camp, as many will not have a holiday. Pray that they are kept safe and out of trouble!

THE STREET



S1/S2 SU GROUPS

In Smithycroft Secondary, Gordon has led the S1 group with help from Stephanie, an S5 pupil, and Robert Wilson, a youth worker from Robroyston. This group has spent January-June looking at the life of Jesus, and the first part of Acts. The group has a number of enthusiastic children coming to it, many who were involved in primary, but also some who have met Gordon through Smithycroft Groups this year. Simultaneously, Libby ran the S2 group, which has had a core group of young people over the last two years. Libby has been looking at Judges and then Daniel, with help from Jo, another S5 pupil. Both these groups have been very fruitful, and many young people from them came to camp at Easter. The S5 girls who help out, Jo and Stephanie, are excellent role-models to the young people and have built great relationships with them.

Ask God to continue to work in these young people's lives as they move up a year over the summer. Pray that they would come back to SU and continue to hear stories of Jesus. Pray for them to have their own faith in Jesus.

EASTER CAMP

This year, the way that J12 does Scripture Union Camps has changed. In the past, S1-3 young people were split over three different camps, which had many benefits, along with some drawbacks. It was decided to trial doing one 'J12 Camp' this year, exclusively for kids from J12 at Easter at Glenshee. Gordon and Libby co-led the team, which ended up being very different from what was planned for originally. It was clear very quickly though, that this was the team God had planned, and the week was a huge success. The young people had fun, the weather was good for Easter time, and the team were fantastic.

Each day, the young people spent time listening to stories from Luke, in order to really investigate and find out who Jesus was, what he is like and what difference that can make to their lives. Gordon and Libby wrote the teaching material, specifically with these kids in mind, so it led on from much of the teaching they had been getting in SU groups all year. The young people were asked each day to write down words to describe Jesus based on the stories they had heard. The level of engagement was brilliant and clearly all the kids were thinking hard about who exactly Jesus is. One highlight of camp was when Craig, an 18 year old leader, who grew up through J12, shared how God had changed his life. The young people were captivated by Craig's story and the idea that God still works this miracle by changing people's lives and saving them!

Give thanks for this camp, and pray for the young people there who heard the gospel. Pray that God continues to work in their lives through J12.

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but it is still amazing to hear their thoughts and
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about following Jesus.

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