



J12 News

A project working with 10-18's in the east end of Glasgow

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Murray Lockhart joined the team in mid-August and is settling in well, getting to know lots of young people and getting his head around the various different bits of the Project Worker's job at J12. He has been to 3 residential weekends since starting allowing him great opportunities to develop relationships with young people and volunteers.

"It has been an absolute joy working with J12 over the past few months. I've really enjoyed getting to know the young people and begin to build meaningful relationships with them. I have really valued the emphasis on developing long-term relationships with young people and walking alongside them as they navigate the challenges they face."

Calum Macleod moved on from J12 in the middle of October. Calum joined the project in the summer of 2021 and made a huge contribution to the lives of many young people. He got alongside them at drop-ins and games clubs and developed significant relationships with young people at residential events. Everyone at J12 wishes Calum God's rich blessing as he begins his new role at Crow Road Free Church.

We advertised Calum's post but to date have been unable to appoint anyone. We plan to re-advertise in

January, please pray for the right person for this important role. The advert will be on the J12 website, please pass this on to anyone you know who might be interested in this post.

As we begin the Advent Season two ideas have been going round in my head; the fact that God had been silent for 400 years prior to Gabriel appearing to Zechariah, yet he was still active and working out His purposes. Also when J12 was beginning, back in 2007, the words from John 1:5 were very much in my mind - I saw J12 as bringing the light of Jesus into the darkness whilst clinging to the promise that the darkness can never extinguish Jesus' light.

It has seemed a wee bit like God has been silent on the staff situation as there is a huge need for another male project worker and the recruitment process has been unsuccessful. At the same time we are seeing lots of evidence of light in the darkness as young people come to know and trust Jesus as their Saviour, others grow in their relationship with Him and begin to serve as volunteers and with more numbers than ever at drop-ins, SU groups and residential.

Libby Lobban (Project Leader)

Support Work in Schools

The months since August have been busy with Emotional Literacy (EL) groups in Cranhill and Carntyne primaries and with S1s in Smithycroft and a Positive Relationships group with S3 girls. Staff have also supported 8 children and young people on a 1-2-1 basis. The EL groups have enabled staff to make contact with 85 P6 children and begin to get to know them. The Positive Relationships group has been an amazing opportunity for Jo and Libby to deepen relationships with a group of S3 girls that come along to lots of J12 activities. Through the 1-2-1 work Jo and Libby have continued to support children and young people who have to live with the impact of multiple traumatic events.



Base Drop-ins

Lunchtime and after school drop-ins at the Base have always been a feature of J12's work and ministry and the young people who've attended over the years have enjoyed having a safe space to be with their friends, staff and volunteers. Since August, without any intentional effort from staff, there have been more young people than ever before at drop-ins, lunchtimes increasing by 23% and after school increasing by a massive 88% on last year. At lunchtime there is only 30 minutes and it's mainly a case of supervising so lots of young people can have lunch safely. The afternoon drop-ins have run 4-5 days a week and some structure and activities have been introduced which include; baking, cooking dinner and then enjoying it together, games and as always time to chill out. Staff have been intentional about not allowing young people to sit on phones for the whole time and this is largely respected by them.



Ignite (S1-3)

It has been encouraging to have some S1s join a group of S2-3s at Ignite. Thursday evenings in the Smithycroft gym are very loud and lots of fun! The young people enjoy the games and do some amazing pictures of the Bible story. Over the past few months they have looked at stories from Genesis. Special thanks go to the volunteers; Jack, Abi, Stu and Gordon who have made Ignite possible this past term.



Please give thanks for all the young people who come along to Ignite and Illuminate. Pray that God would open their eyes and heart to see and respond to his love for them. Pray too for those in S1-2 and S4 who are on the fringes and currently don't come along to Ignite or Illuminate.



These times are wonderful opportunities to deepen relationships with a core group of young people and staff are thankful to God for the way they have developed over the last few months.

Please pray for wisdom as staff chat to young people and think ahead to next term, on the best use of these times. Pray too for volunteers to be able to help out on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.



Illuminate (S4-6)

Only a few of the current S4-5s are engaged with J12. These are the young people who were in P6-7 during Covid lockdowns and so missed getting to know J12 staff. Small groups have continued with S5-6s meeting regularly in the Base and homes and once a month they enjoy an evening of games and food together in Shettleston New Church. Again this part of the ministry could not happen without the commitment of the volunteers; Allan, Kieran and Shana.



Mentoring

1-2-1 mentoring is a key part of the ministry with S4-6s and 18-21s; for some this includes Christian discipleship. This 1-2-1 is crucial for these young people, many of whom are still living in very challenging situations. The aim is for a staff member or volunteer to meet with each young person every 4-6 weeks, with 20 young people this takes up a significant amount of time and sadly it hasn't been possible over the last few months.

Please give thanks that J12 has the privilege of journeying with these young people/young adults and pray for more volunteers to step forward to provide this much needed support. There is a huge need for men to mentor the 12 guys in this age group.



2025 School Leavers

A group of 14 young people turned or are turning 18 this year and are no longer "J12 young people". Almost all of them have been involved with J12 since P6 or S1, several have become Christians and are keen to grow in their faith. Some have been meeting, each week, with Libby and Scott (J12 volunteer and former young person) for dinner and Bible study.

Please give thanks to God for drawing these young people to himself and for his spirit at work in their lives. Please pray that they would all continue to grow in grace and love as they come to know and experience more of God's love and grace for them. Pray too for those not yet Christians that they would come to put their trust in Jesus.



Gabby's Story

I was always a socially awkward child and have been diagnosed with autism and anxiety. This means I often struggle to make meaningful connections, whether that's because of social barriers or simply not having the confidence to do so. I first came into contact with J12 at the age of 11 in S1 at Smithycroft.



J12 gave me a secure network of people who would look out for me. The leaders and other young people became a safe place for me to express myself and grow as an individual. J12 also enabled me to explore faith. When I first joined J12 I was an atheist who was extremely curious. I was constantly asking questions about God! J12 was a safe place for me to ask these questions and not feel judged. This constant support and safety in allowing me to explore faith is part of the reason I can now call myself a Christian.

I am now 17 and at university. I have had a multitude of experiences that I would never have had if I hadn't gained confidence through J12. Now I can give back to the organisation, that helped me so much, by volunteering. Being part of J12, both as a young person and now as a volunteer, has been so enriching and gratifying. Truthfully, I don't know where I would be now had it not been for J12's involvement and support and I am eternally grateful.

Fraser's Story

Like so many others, my introduction to J12 began in P6 with lunchtime groups, parties and the primary weekend in May. Since then J12 has helped to shape my path and what I hope to do in the future. A highlight was summer camp at the end of S3, we were looking at Jesus' characteristics and whilst looking at John 14 "I am the way, the truth and the life" I came to faith. My journey has come full circle and I now volunteer with J12. This gives others the opportunity I had to have an amazing holiday and to discuss faith.



Residential

Summer camps at Alltnacriche enjoyed the best weather in several years. Good weather always creates a more relaxed atmosphere; the paddling pool and water slide are great fun and use up lots of energy! The senior camp was a very special time with the young people, especially the ones at their last camp. The teaching time explored how we can "Enjoy Jesus", using Tim Chester's book. Having a large group of young people leaving meant the senior weekend in November was smaller than in the last few years but everyone had a great time and the first taste of winter weather at Alltnacriche.

Back in the spring of 2024 staff realised that the traditional S1-3 weekend in October would not have enough space for all the young people in this age group so the decision was made to take S2-3s to Lendrick Muir in October and run a separate event for S1s at Gowanbank at the beginning of December



The October event had 34 young people who all commented on the positive difference having a smaller camp. These young people had all been to camp and to Lendrick Muir before which added to the relaxed and fun atmosphere. Teaching times looking at the early life of David went well with lots of interest and good questions in group times.

The S1 weekend has just taken place with 26 S1s at Gowanbank. The weekend was full of outdoor activities, team challenges, Bible teaching with group times and a bonfire to close Saturday evening. The smaller nature of this camp was good for children who hadn't been away from home before and it was great for relationship building.

J12 Staff are very grateful for everyone who has served at a residential event in the last 6 months. The energy and enthusiasm they put into each event makes camp a fantastic experience for all the young people.

Prayer Update

Give thanks for:

- The huge number of young people that are around J12 every day and the good relationships staff have with them.
- The young people who are Christians and want to grow in their faith and for those asking big questions.
- For those who have volunteered at camps, weekends, outings and weekly groups.

Please pray for:

- Rest and refreshment for staff and volunteers over the holiday period.
- God to protect the J12 children and young people over the holidays, it's not always a good time for some of them.
- Recruiting a new male project worker
- For the volunteers needed to run 2 weekends and 3 week long camps, alongside the staff, between now and summer. In total 10 senior team, 50 group leaders, 5 chief cooks, 10 assistant cooks and 12 travel leaders are needed – can you help?

If your church would like to hear more about the work of Junction 12 please let us know and we can visit.