

J12 NEWS

A PROJECT WORKING WITH 10-18 S IN THE EAST END OF GLASGOW



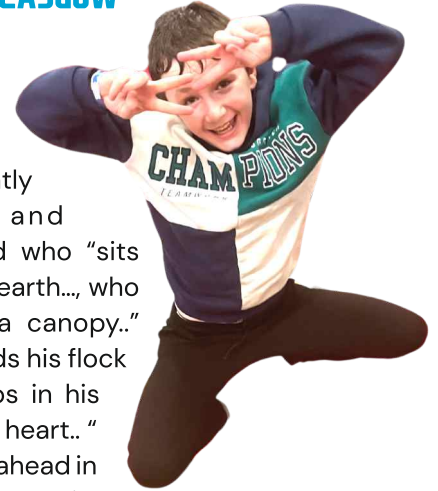
PROJECT LEADERS UPDATE

Another incredibly busy 6 months has passed in which the staff team and volunteers have gone the extra mile on many occasions to meet the needs of the young people and ensure the smooth running of activities. Personally I want to thank everyone who stepped in and enabled me to go up north to care for my mum in the final weeks of her life, especially Jo McNeish from the J12 Board who was there to support the staff team.

As we look ahead to the next school year there are big changes coming and it is very easy at times of change and uncertainty to

wonder where God is in it all. Recently I've been reading in Isaiah and particularly noticed that the God who "sits enthroned above the circle of the earth..., who stretches out the heavens like a canopy.." (40v22) is the same God who "tends his flock like a shepherd, gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.." (40v11). So we face the uncertainty ahead in the confidence that our God the Sovereign Lord, mighty in strength and power, is carrying us in his arms close to his heart.

Please pray that we won't lose sight of this in the weeks and months ahead.



STAFF UPDATES

Laura Hutchinson and Rebecca Laird have been an integral part of the J12 team over the last year and have contributed to the work J12 does with girls in significant ways through 1-2-1 support, group work, outings and mentoring. They have built good relationships with lots of young people and we are thankful for their work and commitment. Both will finish their time on staff at the end of summer camps.

"My year at J12 has been amazing! I've loved building connections with the young people and being able to explore and grow in my relationship with God." Rebecca

"I have been so blessed and fortunate to have been involved in such a Christ driven youth project, a role in which I knew was God's plan for me. I'm sure I will be back to help on camps and trips soon! Laura

Please pray for Laura and Rebecca as they move on from J12 staff.

As you know Jen Clokey has been on adoption leave since last summer. In April Jen decided that it was right for her to remain at home with their twin boys and not return to work. Since then Owen, her husband, has got a job at Abernethy Outdoor Centre so the family have moved to Nethy Bridge. **Please give thanks for the amazing contribution Jen has made to J12 and pray for their family as they move, especially that the boys will settle into their new surroundings and it will be a place where they grow and develop.**



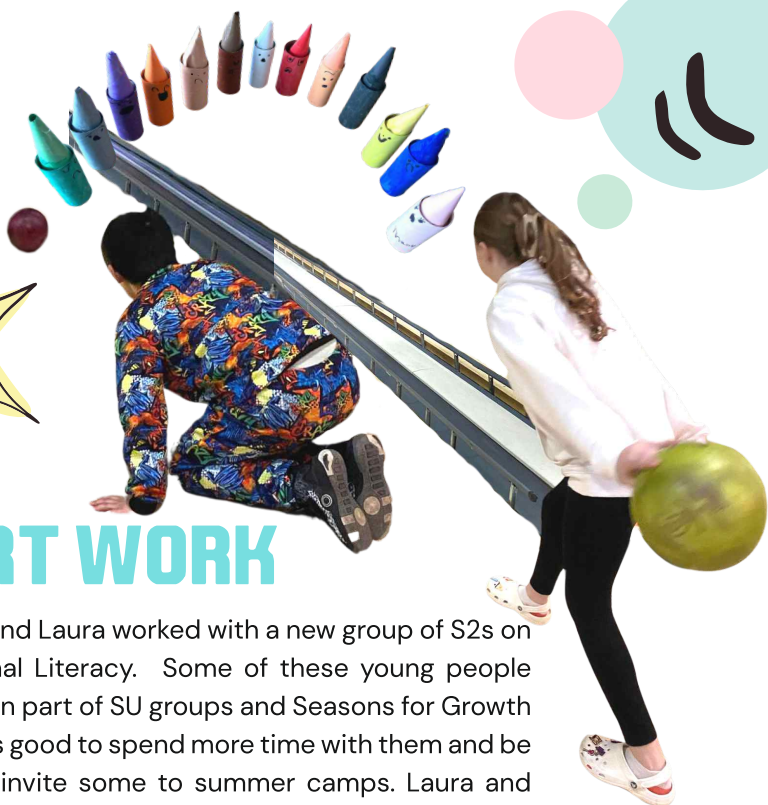
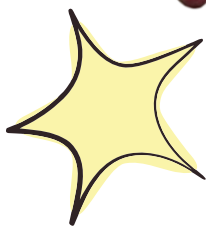
James Edgar is also leaving the staff team at the end of our summer events. James joined the team in October 2020 and spent his first 6-8 months doing almost all work online and outdoors! Online work wasn't great but James' considerable skills and talents came to the fore in all the outdoor activities of his first year at J12. James has become a central part of the team and made excellent relationships with the young people. **Give thanks to God for all he has brought to J12 and pray for him as he begins his new role as youth worker at Cartsbridge Evangelical Church.**



PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPORT WORK

A varied programme of support work has happened over the past 6 months in Carntyne and Cranhill Primary schools with Emotional Regulation and Seasons for Growth groups and six 1-2-1's across both schools and some detached playground work in Carntyne. The P7 transition programme took place in the 5 primary schools linked with Smithycroft. It was the first time J12 has worked in Wallacewell and did so at the request of the headteacher.

1-2-1 work is particularly important as it supports the pupils who have huge amounts of need due to traumatic past or present home lives. Libby has been working closely with a P7 girl who a year ago was not managing school at all; unable to cope in a classroom or to engage with her peers. Libby's work with her has remained consistent and stable for over a year and it is wonderful to see this girl's progress and development. She attended a J12 weekend away in May and overall managed that event well. She has also been part of our P7 transition sessions taking part appropriately in all aspects of the sessions.



SECONDARY SUPPORT WORK

J12 staff continue to see the huge need to provide 1-2-1 and group work support in Smithycroft. Pastoral Care are regularly in touch asking for support with new young people. At times there has not been the capacity to meet those needs, especially in the summer term when the P7 Transition programme in 5 primary schools started. The 1-2-1 work remains an integral and increasing part of the contact between staff and young people. Some of this work can be short term but much of it continues over 2-3 years and J12 staff become a significant, trusted adult in the young person's life. **Please give thanks and pray for all the young people receiving 1-2-1 support.** They all have personal struggles and worries that affect their every day lives. **Pray for God's wisdom and patience as staff provide this support and pray for the youngsters over the summer.**

Calum and Laura worked with a new group of S2s on Emotional Literacy. Some of these young people had been part of SU groups and Seasons for Growth so it was good to spend more time with them and be able to invite some to summer camps. Laura and Rebecca ran a nurture group for S1 girls' focussing on emotional regulation through sensory activities and friendship.

Please give thanks for the time spent with these groups and the relationships that have been built. Pray that they will remember some of the strategies they learned and be able to use them in their lives at difficult times.



GAMES CLUB

The S1-3 Games Club, at Smithycroft, has had a consistent bunch of young people coming so staff have got to know them and it's been a good way to build connections with S1 boys. **Give thanks for the young people who come and the relationships that have been built. Please pray that the young people who have only attended the games club will engage with other J12 activities.**

DROP INS

The Base drop-ins have a wide mix of ages. The lunch drop-ins are typically busier than the after school ones, but at both times young people enjoy having a safe place to catch up with their pals, build relationships and talk with J12 staff and find out what's going on at J12. **Give thanks for the young people we've seen come in and become regular faces and those who have got more involved after coming to drop-ins. Pray that the J12 Base continues to be a safe place for the young people and that good, long-lasting relationships are built with staff.**

OUTINGS

In March, 69 children from the four primary schools enjoyed going bowling with J12 staff and volunteers. Many of these children came to SU groups in their school and others were part of group work and 1-2-1 support with J12 staff. At the start of summer term 29 S1-3s went to Pinkston Watersports. The youngsters had a brilliant time and got involved in games and a bit of kayak practice. These outings are great opportunities to get to know children and young people but the costs have spiraled over the last couple of years, **please pray for funding to enable these outings to be affordable to all in the coming year.**

Illuminate (S4-6s) came back to school after exam leave and went to SU Gowanbank for a BBQ. Despite the temperature being more like March than June everyone enjoyed being together again, eating food and toasting marshmallows.

SU GROUPS

SU groups continued with all ages exploring various aspects of Jesus' life. The S1-2 SU group has been well attended by a group of committed young people, The S3 group ran in the Base till Easter but in the summer term a conflict with other after school activities meant the group didn't happen.

Give thanks for each young person that has attended an SU group and heard the news of the Gospel, continue to pray for them over the summer and that they will return in the new school term. Pray especially that the S3s will engage with Illuminate next year.

ILLUMINATE

Illuminate has faced various challenges since January; Kat Moir, volunteer leader, moved to York for a year with her work and the school minibus was no longer available. So changes needed to be made to the format. This included staff meeting small groups of young people alongside less regular altogether Illuminate sessions. The young people enjoyed the small group times and relationships were built and strengthened. As in previous years Illuminate ran from the Base during exam leave. The new kitchen enabled staff to cook dinner for the young people and enable them to have a bit of time to relax in the midst of the exams.

Give thanks for all those who have attended Illuminate this year and continue to pray for their journeys in faith. Give thanks for the team of volunteers who have helped with lifts and the running of Illuminate this year.

// I enjoy group time at illuminate, the questions they give us, give us an in-depth idea about the evening's teaching. //
S5 Girl



RESIDENTIALS

“100/10... this is the best camp ever.”
P7 Pupil

JACKS STORY

During the Easter holidays 23 S1's enjoyed a week at Alltnacriche. Despite the wet weather they had a fantastic time taking part in outdoor activities, a "Biscuit Bake-off", lots of team games and taking time to explore God's Big Plan. It was very encouraging to have some young people show interest in learning more of God and faith. Three young people asked for and received their first Bibles.

In May, 46 P6 and P7 children, from Carntyne, Cranhill, Avenue end and Sunnyside Primary Schools went to Gowanbank for a weekend. Both weekends had great weather and the children enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities and games including a water fight! The children listened really well to stories of people who got to know Jesus.



Give thanks for opportunity to take J12 youngsters to events where they can experience Christian love and care and explore the Bible together. Please pray that God will continue the work he has started in these young lives.

As a young person starting to get involved with J12, I used to see it as an opportunity for a fun week away with friends but the more I did the more I started to listen and learn about Jesus and the word of God and the more I thought yeah, that makes sense! J12 not only gave me the opportunity to explore my faith and develop a relationship with God, it has allowed me to meet plenty of people who have helped me in my faith which I am so grateful for.



As I have moved onto university J12 have helped me continue to grow in my faith by meeting with me for Bible studies and giving me the opportunity to volunteer at camps. This has helped me stay strong in my faith when I was struggling, and because of this I feel like my relationship with God is getting stronger each day. I am also so happy that through volunteering at J12 camps I am able to help give young people the same sort of experiences I had and be a part of their journey with God. I have been able to make so many great memories through J12 and they have had such an impact on my life that I couldn't be more thankful.

PRAYER UPDATE

GIVE THANKS FOR

- God's goodness, faithfulness and provision in what has been a challenging 6 months.
- The young people who have come to faith in Jesus and those who are growing in their faith, often in difficult life situations.
- As Phil Wray steps down from the J12 Board give thanks for his service and invaluable contribution over the last 7 years, three of them as the Chair.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- Camps – S2-3 (1-6 July) and S4-6 Camp (15-20 July).
- For rest and refreshment for staff and volunteers between camps and the new school year starting.
- For the recruitment of a new Depute Project Leader over the next weeks and months.
- For Libby, Calum and Llinos as they begin the new school year as a much smaller team.