



Autumn 2021


# **press**



## **A Summer of Hope** **New Opportunities**

**facebook**

The Cambuslang and Rutherglen Christian Reachout Charitable Trust Scottish Charity Number SC022459



# The Reviewer

# Celtic Worship

If you are like me and enjoy the sound of traditional Scottish music as well as worship music, then check out Celtic Worship. Having recently brought out a new single 'Blessed Assured' written by Fanny Crosby, along with 'Come Thou Fount', the future looks bright for the Scottish based folk band.

I have picked two lines from the new single which stood out to me: "I will testify to the love of Christ" and "praising my Saviour all the day long".

Although 'Blessed Assured' is a song written nearly one hundred and fifty years ago (in 1873) Celtic Worship have been able to put their own spin on the song and give it new life.

'Blessed Assured' and 'Come Thou Fount' will feature on the band's new album, which is due out soon, so keep your eyes peeled.

Calum Herd.

## Quiz

Can you answer these questions correctly?

All of the answers are found in the contents of this edition of Xpress. Answers on the back page.

- 1 What activity is associated with the picture on this page?
- 2 What instruments can Bailey play?
- 3 When was the hymn Blessed Assurance written?
- 4 How many projects does Reachout offer in schools?

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## Members of the Management Committee and Trustees

### Management Committee

Alan Thomson (Chair), Stuart Ross,  
Susan Reader-Harris, Stephanie McBride,  
Valerie Sim and William McIntosh.

### Trustees

Alan Thomson, Lynn McChlery,  
Jackie Cathcart, Steve Loomes,

## Letter from The Editor



**Hello and welcome to the Autumn 2021 edition of Xpress. It has been almost nine months since our last publication and since then so much has happened.**

We are eager to tell you all about the new and exciting opportunities that we have had the privilege to be involved with since the start of 2021. In this issue we are delighted to announce the beginning of a new section called 'The Reviewer'.

In each edition recent Christian films, books and/or music will be reviewed and given a score out of five stars. As well as this we are pleased to present to you an update from Senior Youth and Schools Worker Ross Murray on this summer's activities, an interview with young volunteer Bailey and much more.

I hope you enjoy Xpress Autumn 2021 and that this year, despite the current circumstances, you too have experienced God's never-ending provision.

Editor Greg Senior



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Reachout Trust**

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The Cambuslang and Rutherglen Christian Reachout  
Charitable Trust Scottish Charity Number SC022459

## Meet the REACHOUT team



**Alan Thomson**  
Chair of the  
Management  
Committee



**Ross G Murray**  
Senior Youth  
and Schools  
Worker



**Valerie Sim**  
Scripture Union  
Regional Worker



**Alison Kennedy**  
Youth and  
Schools Worker



**Greg Senior**  
Admin Assistant



# A Summer of Hope

**After a year of challenges and cancelled events, Summer 2021 provided us with new opportunities to engage with young people in our local area. With the usual trip to Kingcross (KX1) cancelled once again this year, the summer was looking bleak.**

However, with restrictions being eased slightly we were able to do some new and exciting things. As well as the opportunities to run these new events, the Trust was extremely grateful for the funding we received from South Lanarkshire Council. This enabled us to provide excellent events at no or little cost to the young people and their families.

The first of these events was Holidays Unleashed, this replaced KX1 this year. As well as having funding for these events, the fact that they took place in Cambuslang meant we were able to target more local young people to attend - particularly young people that might not have attended in the past. 35 young people were part of the week long event, taking part in activities including archery-tag and pond-dipping. In addition to taking part in these

exciting activities and engaging with their local environment in fresh and new ways (including a walk up Dechmont Hill), we had lots of opportunities to chat while exploring the Bible together. Over the week we looked at the Book of Ruth and how her



story signposts us to Jesus. All the young people and team had a fantastic week which was helped by the amazing weather. Having never done this type of event before we weren't sure what to expect but it worked far better than we could have hoped for.

There is lots to give thanks to God for and lots of food for thought for future years.

In the last few years we have worked in partnership with local churches in Cambuslang to provide a holiday club type of event for teenagers. Last year this was unable to happen for obvious reasons but this year, thanks once again to South Lanarkshire Council, we were able to do something a little bit



more exciting for our young people. At the end of such a challenging year it was incredible to be able to take some local young people out for a couple of days to explore some of Scotland's beauty and spend quality time together doing lots of activities. This included a trip to Millport where we did some kayaking and had lunch together before returning to Largs for ice-cream, putting and dinner.

On our second day we visited Chatelherault Park where the young people participated in a scavenger hunt before lunch. We then travelled through to Hamilton where we went to the cinema and had dinner together. It was great to be able to offer the young people these events free of charge particularly after the year we have all experienced. After the excitement of Holidays Unleashed and our teenage day trips it was time for something a little more familiar: Holiday Clubs.

Thanks to the extra funding we were able to do significantly more including exciting crafts, props

and good quality snacks. Restrictions meant that we still had to do things a little differently, we had smaller teams and less spaces available to young people, but this did not stop everyone having lots of fun. This year our theme was jungle adventures. We took the young people on a journey through our makeshift jungles whilst exploring some of the accounts of Jesus' life. As always, we had a varied programme of singing, storytelling, games, crafts, and crazy challenges. 2021 started in a way that was difficult for all of us and whilst in the middle of home-schooling and other challenges it might have been hard to see how things could improve.

Thankfully God is a God of hope and we were able to cling to him and look forward expectantly to a time when we could reconnect with people. The summer brought with it warm weather and some renewed freedoms which allowed us to provide quality youth events in our local communities.

These were well received by the young people and their families who were excited about being able to be together again. Our summer programme was able to take place due to the generous funding that we received. It is easy to take this all for granted but it is important to stop and give thanks for what we have received.

### **Ross Murray**

Senior Youth and Schools Worker





# Interview with Bailey

**I'm Bailey a pupil at Stonelaw High School and a member of Flemington Hallside congregation. In my spare time I play basketball and drums and have been known to play some guitar and drums with the churches in the local area.**

I volunteered to help at the holiday club because I thought it would be a good experience to have and that I'd learn things from it. I was right! I learned I look amazing in a coconut bikini and a hula skirt! I really enjoyed being a leader at the summer club and loved it all but what really was my favourite part was feeling like I had a strong impact on some of the kids and that sometimes it's ok to be a wee bit silly and that you're never too cool for school!

The most challenging thing for me was the messy challenge I was picked for. I'm still washing the whipped cream out of my hair and will forever shiver when I see raspberry ice cream sauce! We had to hold an ice cream cone in our mouths let someone from our group decorate it and then try to eat it with no hands, as you can imagine it got messy and I will never unsee the priceless look of delight on the boy

decorating my face and making a mess of us all! All good fun and I'm sure is better to watch than be part of.

My highlight of the week was definitely just being around a group of people after the past couple of years we've all had. I used to go to the holiday club some years ago and it was great to be able to help the kids have the same fun as I had at the holiday clubs in the past.

I would highly recommend volunteering for the holiday club it was a great experience and was amazing to grow closer to my friends that I've came through Sunday School and Holiday Club with. It was not just an amazing experience but was a great addition for my CV and was one of my highlights of the summer.

Helping at holiday club also helped me in faith. Being able to help more young people get to church was a huge plus and really helped me see my Sunday school leaders in a different light and realise how hard they work.

**Bailey McDonald**



# Looking Forward

**Last year in August while halfway through the pandemic we looked forward nervously into the unknown not sure if, or when, things would return to normal. At that time we created a new project to deliver in schools: Boomerang.**

This was our fifth project and the main theme is resilience. In this project we talked about bouncing back after difficult situations, but recently I have heard the phrase bouncing forward rather than back. The idea being that instead of bouncing back to what used to be we are bouncing forward to something new and exciting. Having been transformed by our experience of the last year we need to learn and move forward from these experiences.

Whilst there has been lots of challenges in this last year there are definitely things that have been positive. As we look forward to a new academic year we need to be ready to take with us the best of these experiences. It is easy to be sceptical and to think we cannot plan because we don't know how things will look tomorrow never mind in a month or two, but this has always been the case. We need to rise above what is right in front of us and look with hope to what lies ahead. We have already begun to plan this year with some of the local schools. We have tried to develop creative

ways in which we can deliver our projects and assemblies in a safe and responsible manner. It would be easy to say there are things we can't do right now however with a little bit of thought and creativity most of what we do is possible. Including delivering assemblies via video calls or delivering some of our projects outside in the playground. As well as adapting, some of the ways we have had to change have provided new opportunities which may be worth repeating in the future. One good example of this would be the Holidays Unleashed model which allowed us to engage with local young people in a fresh and exciting way.

At present we are prayerfully considering what our work will look like in the next year or so and this includes what new events we may run over the next year. As we look forward to 2022, we are hopeful that some of our key events like residential weekends and KX1 will be able to return to compliment the work we do throughout the year. 2021 provided lots of challenges but through it all God was faithful in supporting us and providing us with fresh opportunities to serve our local communities, schools and churches. As we look forward to 2022 we do so with hope and expectation that opportunities will come our way which allow us to continue to serve.

**Ross Murray** Senior Youth and Schools Worker



*Pet Portraits*

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Graphic Design | Print | Photography | Videography | Art

# Fancy a winter weekend with Reachout?

Why not put these dates in your diary:

**Lanarkshire Secondary Weekend Away**

19th-21st November 2021

**Lanarkshire Primary Weekend Away**

18th-20th February 2022

Date for your *Diary*

**Reachout Prayer Meeting**

Saturday 4th December 2021

08:30

**Quiz**

**Answers**



**1** Pond-dipping

**3** 1873

**2** Drums and guitar

**4** Five



**Scripture Union Scotland is a Christian charity working in partnership with local churches.**

Everything we do is governed by two core values: dependence on God and deepening relationships. We want to see children and young people exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus. Across the country there are a number of associate worker schemes.

The Reachout Trust was the first of these schemes, where a partnership is formed between Scripture Union Scotland and groups of churches, to employ youth and children's workers.



**Valerie Sim**

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