



Autumn 2020

# **press**

## Adventures with God Journeying Together



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

# An Unexpected Journey



**It is fair to say that last year was a turbulent year for Reachout with many changes having taken place. As Alan Thomson and I sat in Costa at the beginning of the year, reflecting on last year and all its changes and difficulties, we had no idea what challenges lay ahead.**

We had just completed another successful year of Christmas Unwrapped in 13 local primary schools. Greg had been with us for 3 months and was settling in well. Tegan was halfway through her college placement with us. We were about to move office to our new home in Cambuslang Parish's main building and were very thankful for the Church's generosity in providing that space. We both commented on God's goodness and his faithfulness through a challenging year.

The year had started off like any other with a trip to Deep Impact, followed by SU Scotland's Lanarkshire Primary Weekend. I had spent a week with the P7s from Newton Farm Primary School at Lendrick Muir on their activity week, and we moved into our new office on the 1st of March. The day after the move was the first day of our Easter Code programme. Everything was going to plan, our relationship with local schools was being continually strengthened and our projects were running smoothly.

Then in mid-March everything changed! We are all aware of what has been happening over the last few months. Like many people in our country the Reachout team has mostly been on furlough since the 1st of April, except for a week to get in touch with people and make plans for the return to school

in August. As I write this, we are all back at work but not totally sure what things will look like in the coming months. We are trying to carefully adapt to the "new normal" and a new way of working. We are seeking God's will for the work of the Trust and earnestly listening in order to discern what God might be saying to us, and how best we can develop the work we do. Our desire is to continue to support the local churches and the schools with whom we work in partnership.

This has been an unexpected twist in the journey we are part of, but we continue to trust that God has a plan for us, and that He will continue to guide the Trust in these challenging and unsettling times. This is the first of two issues of Xpress in relatively quick succession. Our next issue will be with you before Christmas. We were keen to communicate with you and did not want to wait until Christmas to do that. Thank you for your continued support over the last few months. We pray that you have been kept safe and well and are beginning to settle into a new way of living.

**Ross Murray** Senior Youth and Schools Worker



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## Members of the Management Committee and Trustees

### Management Committee

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

### Trustees

Alan Thomson, Lynn McClery, Jackie Cathcart, Steve Loomes, David McTaggart and Jen Robertson.



## Letter from The Editor

Welcome to the autumn edition of Xpress 2020. A lot of things have changed since our last publication! Some we expected and some we did not! However, even during these uncertain times, we have so much to be thankful for.

In this issue we are pleased to include several good news stories, interviews with various members of the Reachout Team and a focus on journeying ahead with God. Also included is an update from our Senior Youth and Schools Worker, Ross Murray.

**Editor** Greg Senior



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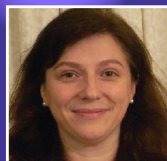
## Meet the REACHOUT team



**Alan Thomson**  
Chair of the Management Committee



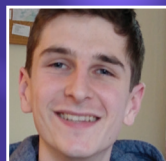
**Ross G Murray**  
Senior Youth and Schools Worker



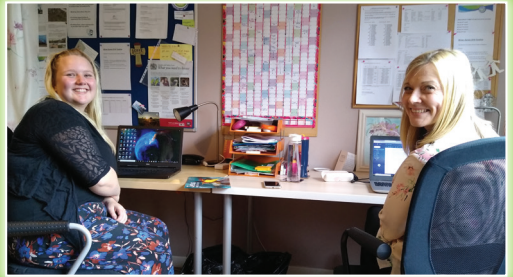
**Valerie Sim**  
Scripture Union Regional Worker



**Alison Kennedy**  
Youth and Schools Worker



**Greg Senior**  
Admin Assistant



# CHALLENGES

## Alison Interviews Tegan

**Tegan will be a very familiar name and face to many of us in Rutherglen and Cambuslang. However, some of you may not know the many roles that Tegan has taken since being part of the Reachout Team.**

Last academic year Tegan was with us as an SU Gap year placement and through this we saw her grow in Faith and in confidence.

Tegan very much enjoyed her time with us and was sad to be leaving when she started college to study Social Services. However, she soon found out that she needed to do a 2 day a week placement in a relevant workplace, and after discussing what we do at Reachout and the range of opportunities available, her college agreed that Reachout would be a perfect place for her to do her placement.

So, as of September 2019, we were delighted to welcome Tegan back on to the team for another year. This year her workload has been slightly different, and Tegan will tell you how.

**What have been the main differences to your work this year? And what have you found most challenging?**

The biggest difference has been going from 5 days to 2 days. This was also a challenge especially at the start as I was unable to be at Reachout as much as I wanted to but soon got into a routine. Another difference has been that I have been involved in

toddler groups at Burnside Blairbeth Church and at Flemington Hallside Church. This has been both a challenge and an amazing experience. I found it challenging as I had never worked with toddlers before and I was nervous about this, but I have come to really enjoy it and I have been able to build relationships with the children and watch them grow.

**How has this been helpful with your college course?**

It has helped with my course as it has enabled me to put the teaching I receive into practice and I have also found that because of this I can understand the children more and where they are coming from. Also, I have sometimes had to use a pupil in my essay, and this has been welcomed by the schools, which is really amazing, and I am very thankful for this.

**Can you tell us your highlight of the year?**

There has been lots of highlights for this year so far, but I think one of the main ones is the Lanarkshire Primary Weekend in February. This was the first time I had been able to be part of the team as last year I was in Ukraine. I felt very much welcomed by the team and it was refreshing as I knew some of the children from last year on gap year, along with those who I had met this year. I found this a really nurturing weekend that was filled with opportunities to see the children explore more of their faith.



# AND GROWTH

## Alison Interviews Greg

**Greg has now been in post as our Admin assistant for 7 months and has been extremely busy during this time. It is a complete joy to have Greg in the office and he continues to go above and beyond in his role and in supporting the work of Reachout. Greg can you tell us:**

### Are you enjoying your role at Reachout?

I am thoroughly enjoying my role at Reachout. It has been great to get to know Ross, Alison and Tegan over the past months. Reachout is a fantastic environment to work in and I can't believe that 7 months have passed already.

### What has been the most challenging thing you've had to do so far?

The most challenging thing I have had to do so far was to help with the move to our new office. Although assembling and packing the boxes was easy enough the upheaval was difficult especially when the Easter Code project was running at the same time. Despite all this, I feel, that the move has gone smoothly and we are settled in our new surroundings.

### What do you enjoy most about working at Reachout?

I enjoy that through my work I can serve God albeit in a small way. To be responsible for communications with schools and churches as well as arranging

the various project throughout the year is a huge privilege. Also, the environment in the office is relaxed and humorous (especially when Ross and Alison are in at the same time!) I am very grateful that I work for Reachout.

### Has God shown you anything new since you have been in post?

God has taught me that his timing is perfect and that he really does have "...plans to prosper us and not to harm us". I remember when I was in Primary 7 Ross came to my school's week away and then later in High School he led our assemblies. I never once thought he would end up being my boss. It just shows how God can lead us to places we would never think possible.

### What are you looking forward to in the next year?

I am look forward to becoming more familiar with the projects that Reachout does. I have been involved in Christmas Unwrapped and Easter Code so I am eager to learn about both It's Your Move and Buddying.

### What would you appreciate prayer for in the coming months?

I would appreciate prayer for Reachout. So much work goes on behind the scenes by so many people (many of whom do so voluntarily). So, I would ask people to pray for the Trust's stability and longevity.



# Memories from Rhonwen

**During my time with CRRT, it was a great privilege to work alongside volunteers from local churches who were committed to reaching out with the Gospel to children and young people. I learned so much from them, in particular from Sheila Cook of Burnside Blairbeth Church of Scotland who really encouraged and inspired me. It was great to work alongside her in school SU groups and church children's activities, learning from her experience and sharing in the fun!**

It was also a great privilege to represent local Christians through chaplaincy work in schools and in the community. It was so exciting to have the opportunity to share the Good News with school pupils in relevant and meaningful ways and to be available to serve the schools practically. In the community, one special setting stands out - Blairtum Park House, formerly the YMCA project for young homeless people.

This soon became a highlight of my week. Finally, the best part of my month was the SU prayer meeting. From the outside, it looked like just a few older ladies getting together, maybe for a chat and a coffee. But they were real prayer warriors who covered everything that was being done in prayer and it was a great blessing to be part of that.

To sum up, I am really grateful to God for having gifted me the chance to help build His kingdom in Cambuslang and Rutherglen all those years ago.



# Kirstin's Journey



When I was a pupil at Hallside, there was an SU group for P6s and 7s. My mum suggested that I join, but I rebelled and joined Girl's Football- which I HATED. It seemed to always be cold and wet on Thursday's after school, and I would walk past the SU group sitting in the canteen where it was nice and dry. They also got to go on a week away, which I wished that I could have been part of.



In P7, I decided that I would join the SU group. I LOVED it, and this was the beginning of me taking ownership of my faith. It also helped that my church got an AMAZING new Youth and Community Worker, which is a testament to Reachout's close partnership with local churches.



Although we didn't get a weekend away, I learned so much about Jesus. HE IS THE BEST!! Particular favourites included learning how to trust Him- through the story of Peter walking on the water, a selection of parables and realising that Jesus is going to come back again soon! I wasn't sure about joining the SU group at High School, but Stacy found me one lunchtime and invited me along. IT WAS GREAT!! I eventually got on a Lanarkshire Weekend Away and grew even more in my faith.

KX1 has also had a HUGE impact on my walk with Jesus. I was a fairly reluctant camper, but surprised myself with how enjoyable the experience was. There I remember hearing the story about Jesus calling the fishermen to be his disciples and knew that I wanted to be just like them.

Now I have had the opportunity to lead at KX1, along with several other Reachout events.

It has amazed me how much confidence I have gained, and would not be the young women I am today without the time and effort they have so generously invested in my growth.



**Thank you Reachout!!!**

