



# Winter 2019 **ipress**

## Reflections on 25 years of Reachout

**Memories and highlights  
from previous workers**



**facebook**

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

# The highs and lows of 2019



**This year, we have celebrated 25 years of Reachout. It has been a great opportunity to look back and reflect on the many events, groups and people that make up the memories. There have been lots of laughter, some tears and lots of journeys.**

There have been the many physical journeys to Lendrick Muir and other residential centres each year but more importantly there have been lots of journeys with God. Sometimes these have been alone, with one or more people or with larger groups.

The one constant in all of these has been a loving God who has travelled with us, frequently carrying us as we went. I have been working for Reachout for 11 years but my involvement goes back to our first worker Fiona Stewart, when as a student I used to volunteer at some of the events and weekends she organised.

Over the years I have seen many changes. Changes in our staff and management team/trustees, local ministers and lots of staff within the schools. There are only four head teachers currently in post that were here when I arrived. I have also worked with many wonderful volunteers, some who continue to serve and some who have moved away or are unable to volunteer with us at the moment.

For me personally, and for the trust, this year has brought with it lots of unexpected challenges but through it all God has remained constant and faithful. In the midst of some of the most difficult moments God felt closest and reaffirmed his presence and hand on both my life and the trust. Looking back this has been a painful year, but one full of growth and renewal.

Before we look forward to a new chapter in Reachout, I want to take this opportunity to thank Susan Young. Susan started out volunteering in the office just over 2 years ago then officially started as our Admin Assistant in January last year. In her time with us she provided lots of admin support as well as being heavily involved in Easter Code. She attended a P7 residential at Lendrick Muir with Bankhead Primary twice and served as a group leader and travel leader at KX1. We wish Susan every blessing as she leaves us and spends more time with her grandson Finlay.

As we enter this new season and look towards a new decade, we do so with excitement. As well as new trustees and new members of our management team, we have a new member of staff and a returning volunteer.

Greg Senior, started with us at the end of October as our new Admin Assistant. Greg has just graduated from Strathclyde University with a History degree, he worships at Stonelaw Church and lives with his parents in Rutherglen. Tegan Ramsay, who was on Gap year last year has returned on college placement two days a week until June next year. We are so excited about what both Greg and Tegan will bring to the team and the opportunities that may open up as we grow and develop together.

**Ross Murray** Senior Youth and Schools Worker



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## Members of the Management Committee and Trustees

### Management Committee

Alan Thomson (Chair), Mary McDougall (Treasurer), Stuart Ross, Kieran Wardrop, David Samson, Stephen Collins, Susan Reader-Harris, Kenny McKie and William McIntosh.

### Trustees

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

## Letter from Ross



Welcome to Xpress, Winter 2019 edition. It has been a year since our last one of these due to unforeseen circumstances. We are glad to be back on track and pleased to be bringing you the latest edition celebrating 25 years of Reachout.

Also, in this issue, we say goodbye to Susan Young and are pleased to welcome Greg our new admin assistant to the team, and to welcome Tegan Ramsay back again this year as part of her placement for college. Finally, we have a letter from our Senior Youth and Schools worker and a note from the new chair of the management group.

**Guest Editor**, Ross Murray.



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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



**Kenny McKie**  
West Team Leader and Regional Worker



**Tegan Ramsay**  
College Placement



**Alison Kennedy**  
Youth and Schools Worker



**Greg Senior**  
Admin Assistant



# Reflections

**As the story of the Bible unfolds we encounter again, and again, significant events that had beginnings that could easily have been overlooked.**

Abraham decides to leave his hometown and so unfolds God's incredible plan for his family, David's years looking after sheep in the hills prepare him to be King, Ruth is quietly gleaning in a field when she is noticed by Boaz, Gideon is hiding in a winepress from his enemies when God comes to visit, and some young men on a beach in Galilee are asked by a rabbi to leave everything and come and follow Him.

Looking back 25 years to the beginnings of the Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout

Trust, it was all very simple and apparently insignificant. The Churches in the area were working well together, and I had been doing some full-time volunteering with them for Scripture Union Scotland in the local schools: working alongside school chaplains, leading and supporting SU groups, and holding out of school events for children and young people.

The work was going well and some of us began to chat (conversations are such good things!) about the possibility of employing a local schools' worker in the area. These conversations brought up lots of questions, one of the most important ones being, "How can someone be employed by so many Churches!?" The answer, of course, was to set up a charitable trust which would give independence to the work alongside the existing Christian witness in the community.





# on 25 years of Reachout

Those of us who had those conversations all those years ago just took one step at a time and as we did so the Trust began to take shape: the signing of the trust deeds (which now look like an ancient document), the appointment of our first worker (the wonderful Fiona Stewart!), and working out what a Christian schools' worker could and should do.

We were the very first Trust of this kind in Scotland, and the model has now been copied across our nation enabling thousands of children and young people to hear about Jesus. Jesus said, "What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like...it is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." Mark 4:30-32 This has been shown to be true in the work of the trust.

From its beginnings in a conversation in an ordinary town with very ordinary people it has grown and branched out, and many have found the safety that only Christ can bring. What is the challenge for us now, in this time and place? What are the conversations we need to be having that will lead us on to the next step of the work God is calling us to?

**Jen Robertson**



# Memories and highlights

I arrived at Reachout in the summer of 1995 having just completed a gap year with SU Scotland. I had a Fiat Panda with a dodgy handbrake, a newly purchased puppet and a strong sense that God had called me to move to this unfamiliar part of Scotland.

Almost 25 years on, I look back and am filled with thankfulness for all that God had in store for me and the young people of the area. Assemblies with Jessica (the puppet that everyone remembers better than me!); weekends away; The Gap schools week in Stonelaw and Cathkin High; Proclaimers bible study for teenagers, Megamix after-school club; holiday clubs during the summer; doughnut evenings with youth leaders... and so much more that I can't remember any more!

Most of all, though, I'm thankful for the people. People who took a risk on a clueless 23-year-old. People who volunteered to work with young people or as members of the management committee. People who prayed. People who gave. People who faithfully pursued a God-given vision for their little patch of South Lanarkshire. Praying for his kingdom to continue to grow and flourish!

**Fiona Stewart**



I've got so many lovely memories from my time working for Reachout! From doing assemblies to running SU groups and being part of Chaplaincy teams in the various schools, the opportunities for talking about Jesus and for building relationships with people and young people were countless.

One of the groups that I loved being part of was Trac2, which was a group of older teenagers who had been part of their High school SU groups. We used to meet on a Tuesday night, usually for food and then Bible Study.

I used to drive around in my silver Clio and collect everyone and then we used to meet, initially in Jen Robertson's house, and then in mine when I moved to Rutherglen! Our times together were full of laughing and fun, and challenge as we opened the Bible together. We went on various weekends away where these friendships grew and lasting memories were made.

**Gillian Gunn**



# Notes from the chair



**My name is Alan Thomson and I am a member of Burnside Blairbeth church where I have worshipped with my wife, Andrea, and four children (now grown up and flown the nest) for forty years.**

I retired from being an employment lawyer just over four years ago. I have been involved in supporting Reachout since its inception 25 years ago and it has been wonderful to be associated with the work God has been doing in our schools and community over that time.

My wife, Andrea, has led JAM Club at Burnside Primary for over 20 years so she, likewise, has been 'hands on' with the work of Reachout.

I joined the Management Committee three years ago and one of the tasks I have undertaken on its behalf is applying for grant awards from trusts who are supportive of the work Reachout is doing in our schools in Cambuslang and Rutherglen.

In June this year I was asked to take on the role of Chair of the Management Committee. This is both a great privilege and a great responsibility. Reachout has been going through a period of transition in recent months with the departure of trustees and some management committee members. I am pleased to report that we now have six new trustees in place as well as a new treasurer.

Finance is a continuing challenge for us and I would take this opportunity to ask you to become a supporter, financially, if you have not already done so.



Fancy a winter weekend away with Reachout, or how about a summer week camping on the beautiful island of Arran?

Here is how you can book your place!

## Lanarkshire Primary Weekend Away

14th to 16th February 2020

P5 to P7

Lendrick Muir (code: WWLM6)

## KX1

27th June to 3rd July 2020

P5 to S2

Arran (code: KX1)

[www.suholidays.org.uk](http://www.suholidays.org.uk)  
or call Ross on:  
07837 193028 for more info.

Supporting the work of  
Reachout in 2020



New fundraising project  
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**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.



**Kenny McKie**

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