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Prayer Newsletter
Summer 2010



### **SU Training in Schools Work**

# On 12th October 2009, I headed to the Kings Park Conference Centre in Northampton for SU's five day training in schools work course.

The first day was mainly focused on settling in, introducing ourselves to the other people at the training. During the two sessions we had that day, Wayne and Lisa explained a little about who they are and the work they do for SU. We also briefly looked at what schools are like and what it means to be a Christian schools worker. After a day of travelling it was a great way to ease us all into what was set to be a really insightful course.

The next day, after what I can only describe as the biggest breakfast ever, we all met for a time of worship and bible study in which Gill introduced us to Word Live, which is a fabulous resource for personal bible study and reflection. Gill then jumped straight into the first of her two in depth seminars entitled "The World we Live In and the Mission Context." We began by looking at how over the decades community focus had changed from the church to schools and how now it is important for Christians to go into schools. We followed this by looking at the different types of school there are, from grammar to voluntary controlled, and the legal and OFSTED requirements that they must fulfil and how by one of us running a group such as n:vision we are able to help them fulfil them. Every point that Gill made was backed up with any necessary legal information that we may need to know, as well as giving us an understanding not only of what we as schools workers could and couldn't do, but that there is a need for us to do our work. The afternoon session was led by Wayne talking about his type of schools ministry and some of the things he does. My favourite was Hanging Around Ministry, in which Wayne goes into one of his schools that he works with and is available to talk to students about anything and everything. We finished the day with a session that looked at how by doing the work that we do, we are able to foster links between our churches and the schools so children can realize that church and Christianity aren't scary or outdated.

On Wednesday we met Sue Brown, who is an SU schools worker based in Sheffield. After a brief introduction we jumped straight into a session on communication. We learnt how different people learn (do you know if you are you a visual, audio or kinetic learner?) And how to create assemblies and club sessions that engages all three as well as how to switch them off. This neatly led into Lisa's session on Collective Worship in schools. In groups we had to choose a topic and create an engaging assembly, we were then all given feedback and shared ideas on some of the topics that had been chosen. The final session of the day looked at how as well as engaging the children in the school, we can also support Christian members of staff, this led to the insight from another girl on the course that the organisation she works for started by running groups in schools for the kids but now they also go in at breaks and lunch times with coffee, cake and chat for the staff.

As our last full day, Thursday was all about looking at ourselves and our groups, some of the problems and creative blocks we might face and how we can work around them. This was a great chance for us to not only pick Wayne and Lisa's brain but each other. We rounded the day off with a session in which we shared various ideas and resources; this led to an impromptu games session for several of us.

With the final day upon us, we had our final session together in which we were given some tips about strategy and time management as well as reminders of some of the key points we had looked at that week before joining together for our final worship session.

The training in schools course was brilliant it has helped me to really engage my work for Future Vision. I was so blessed to meet some inspiring people and have been able to share so many ideas and experiences. So thank you to lan and Chris for enabling me to attend.

Louise Moore

## t has been a hectic start to the year and it continues to be through the summer term.

Assemblies, lessons and advisory work all take up a lot of time but our big project at the moment is the pilot of Sudbury's Lifepath project starting with Simon of Sudbury. Our two days of events working with Woodhall, St. Joseph's, St. Gregory's and Tudor Primary schools goes ahead on June 9th and 10th.

What is Lifepath? It is a Scripture Union initiative that offers opportunities for school children to explore the Christian faith through the lifepath of a local, historic Christian.

There are three ways in which you could be involved in this exciting project:

- 1) By becoming a volunteer and helping with the children
- 2) Lots of prayer
- 3) Financially as we, Future Vision, take a step of faith with this new project There is a possibility of having Simon's head reconstructed by students at Dundee University, but more about that later.

As we look into this possibility there could be a lot of spin off benefits. The 'head' aspect could develop into a stand alone project that could be taken into high schools looking at art, biology, history, philosophy, faith and values – the potential is incredible.

Pray for us and, if you can, help us practically in whatever way you can.

Ian Copeman



### Christian clubs in our local schools

Every day of the week we run at least one n:vision club in a school, so **please pray** every day for the clubs and the children who attend them.

Mondays3.15 - 4pm n:vision@tudor6 - 7.30pm n:vision@springlandsTuesdays12 - 1pm n:vision@uplands3.15 - 4pm n:vision@stgregorys

**Thursdays** 12.55 - 1.40pm n:vision@allsaints

3.15 - 4pm n:vision@great waldingfield

**Fridays** 3.15 - 4pm n:vision@cornard 3.15 - 4pm n:vision@acton



**Mondays** 9.30am Hillside x2 (senior & primary)

(Alternate weeks) 10.15am Woodhall **Tuesdays** 10.15am St Gregory's

**Wednesdays** 3.00pm Great Waldingfield

(Alternate weeks) 1.30pm Nayland

**Fridays** am Tudor (taken by Lesley Mitchell)

Assemblies are usually taken every other week by Jo Longhurst and her 'Open the Book' team.