



Edition 21, June 2017

NEWS

A project working with 10-18's in the east end of Glasgow

The first 6 months of 2017 have been something of a roller-coaster for the J12 staff team. You can read of the work with children and young people in schools, the community and at camp in the following pages. Alongside this the Project Worker post was advertised and interviews were held at the end of March. Although the interviews were positive in many ways the panel agreed that it wasn't right to appoint any of the candidates. During April and May, the J12 Board and Project Leader have spent time praying and considering what God has been saying and where he is leading. It seemed that after a few months of waiting lots was happening all at once!

During this time J12 received funding that enabled the J12 Board to offer Katie Stott a job as Trainee Project Worker, which she has accepted. Katie has been a huge asset to the staff team over the last year; she has built excellent relationships with many of the young people and everyone has benefited from her caring, creative and hard-working attitude. Staff, volunteers and young people are delighted that she will be staying at the project. **Please give thanks to God for this wonderful provision.**

Craig Whyteside has transitioned well from the role of volunteer to staff member over the last year and again has developed excellent relationships with the young people. He has worked hard to keep up with his studies and made a huge contribution to the work of J12. With both Craig and Katie to support the J12 Board are hoping to be able to advertise a senior post over the summer months. **Please pray for a clear understanding of God's will for the way forward, for provision of the right person to join the team and the necessary finance for this post.**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!

It is sometimes hard to believe that J12 has been going for 10 years! Libby Lobban was employed as the Project Leader on 1 July 2007. There have been many joys and sorrows, encouragements and disappointments over these years but throughout the constant has been the love, goodness and faithfulness of God. Inside this newsletter is your invitation to join with staff, volunteers and young people to give thanks to God for the last 10 years and to look ahead and pray for what is to come under God. Your faithful support in prayer and financially has been greatly appreciated over these years and it would be lovely to see you on Saturday 2 September at Carntyne Parish Church.

CRAIG WHYTEIDE

I have now been working for J12 for almost a year and I have also finished 1st year of my BA (Hons) degree in Theology with Youth & Community. It's been a roller coaster year for me with changing careers and going back to education, I have loved year one at J12 and am still very passionate about the work that J12 undertakes and the lives that are being changed in front of you. The hardest part of the year has been managing the college work; essays and studying but I've passed the year and am looking forward to starting year 2 in September. My highlight over the year has been helping the S1's settle into Smithycroft, building up good relationships with them and watching them grow over the year and seeing God at work in this. Having worked in the primary schools this year I'm looking forward to the same process again in the new term.



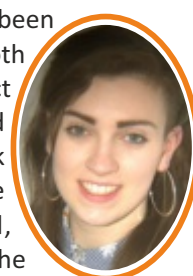
KATIE STOTT

It's hard to believe that I'm approaching my last few months on my gap year but as I reflect, it's also hard to believe the number of things fitted into the time! My highlight of the week is still the S2-S3 SU group at Smithycroft. I've really enjoyed leading them through the book of Daniel and have been challenged personally by Daniel's integrity and boldness. I have enjoyed spending more time with this group through the monthly S3 girls' outings and the week-long camp. As my relationship with these young people has deepened, our discussions during SU group and detached work have become more open and honest.

Aside from the weekly activities J12 offer, I have spent a lot of my time at residential events, including the S1-S3 camp at Easter, the primary weekend, SU Scotland's Voice camp, Ferrywell Youth Project's primary weekend, gap year training blocks, planning weekend for the gap years' mission trip to Ukraine and I am currently preparing talks and material for a week at 'Basecamp' (a training event for young leaders) on Arran at the end of June.

This term I've really enjoyed having the opportunity to use some of my creative skills working on a short video for J12's 10th anniversary celebration in September as well as photographing the local area for use on the website and celebration banners.

The last 6 months have been extremely busy for both myself and the project but I have appreciated the wide variety of work as I continue to be stretched, challenged, and encouraged by the work God is doing through both J12 and SU Scotland.



NEWS FROM

PRIMARY SU GROUPS

SU Groups have continued in the 4 primary schools between January and May. Some groups had smaller numbers than before Christmas but the children in all 4 groups had a really good time playing games and listening to Bible stories. It was a delight to see how engaged they all were and how excited to "know what happened next"! Back in January we continued with the story of Abraham and then moved on to look at some stories from the life of Jesus.

Please pray for these children over the summer and that those moving to Smithycroft in August would come along to SU and the other J12 activities.

SMITHYCROFT SU GROUPS

Since Christmas J12 staff and volunteers have continued to run two SU groups in Smithycroft. Craig, Katie and one of our key volunteers, Libby Rodger, ran the S1 group on a Wednesday while Katie and Libby ran the S2-S3 group on a Tuesday.



This past term we have seen a decline in numbers at the S1 group although the few that do still come, attend faithfully every week. Over the past 6 months, this group has explored key events in the life and ministry of Jesus through to the growth of the early church and Paul's

missionary journeys. Although the decline in numbers has impacted the group's atmosphere, overall the S1s continue to engage well with the teaching and enjoy the games.

The S2-S3 group's number has remained steady and many of the young people have made significant spiritual progress. It has been exciting and very encouraging for Libby and Katie to see some of the S3 girls wrestle with big questions, have some attend church regularly and see 2 of these girls become Christians in the last few months. The group has really enjoyed looking at Esther and Daniel over the last few months. Despite being centuries-old biographies, the teaching has prompted some deep and relevant discussions along the themes of God's timing, God's sovereignty and the way God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Please give thanks to God for the work he is clearly doing in the lives of these young people and pray that it will bear much fruit in the weeks and months ahead.

WANNABES

Over the last 6 months Wannabes numbers have been poor for many different reasons. We continued to run the group with low numbers believing that the core 4 or 5 young people benefited from the teaching and the social aspect of meeting. After the Easter holidays the time at Wannabes was reduced to an hour. It was hard to maintain a positive atmosphere for any longer as the few young people that came along were not really friends and only see each other at Wannabes. We believe that Wannabes has come to its end after 11 years of seeing many people come and go from this group.

Please pray that J12 staff will have a clear sense of God's leading as they look at the best ways to work with those in S4 and above. The small core group from Wannabes are all going to camp (AV1 or GS3) in the the summer.



THE STREET

OUTINGS AND TRIPS

Over the last 6 months J12 has organised lots of outings for different age groups including bowling, adventure golf, a musical at the King's Theatre, in which Katie was performing, go-karting, a girls' pamper night and a car treasure hunt amongst other activities! Taking the young people out into a different environment helps deepen the relationships between the young people, staff and volunteers as everyone can relax and have fun together. These trips also allow J12 to engage with some young people that currently don't come to drop-ins or SU groups.

Please pray that over time relationships with these young people will deepen and that God would draw these young people to other J12 activities, especially SU groups and camps.



PRIMARY WEEKEND

The second weekend in May saw 36 children from J12 and 14 from Thorntree Primary head to Lendrick Muir with a strong team of 32, some bringing their own children which helped create a lovely family atmosphere. It was very encouraging to see former young people volunteering with the project again. The children had a great time. The weather was not great but this did not stop them having loads of fun. This weekend is a great opportunity to spend time with the P7s that are going to Smithycroft; to get to know them better so they have some familiar faces when they start S1 in August. It's also a great time for children from different primary schools in the Smithycroft catchment area to begin to get to know each other. The teaching times looked at some stories in John's gospel of people whose lives were changed by meeting Jesus.



Give thanks for all the children and volunteers at this weekend and pray that the seeds sown will take root and grow in many of these young lives.

EASTER CAMP

During the first week of the Easter holidays 30, S1-3, young people from J12 went to Auchengillan Outdoor Centre. This was the first time we used this centre; it had its ups and downs but it was a great week. There was a huge range of activities which was especially good for young people who've already been to many camps. Libby & Gordon led the team which included 4 former young people along with help from other J12 volunteers. It was also great to have a J12 Board member on the team with John Cameron and his wife, Rosemary, helping in the kitchen. Throughout the week it was very evident how important positive relationships with staff and volunteers are for these youngsters. It's always amazing and a privilege to see God at work in young lives and again you could see this throughout the week.

Give thanks for the wonderful opportunity there is at camp to create a Christian community for J12 young people and please continue to pray for everyone who was at Easter camp.



SUPPORT WORK

As always, J12 staff ran Emotional Literacy groups in the P6 classes in Carntyne and Cranhill Primary Schools between January and March. As neither Craig nor Katie had done these groups before Libby needed to be in both schools. This meant there was not enough time to run 2 groups in each class as is normally the case. Instead we worked with the whole class and instead of 12 hours with the children we had to reduce this to 8 hours. None of this was ideal but was unavoidable this year.

Please pray for Libby as she works with primary head teachers to look at the best way of serving the schools in the year ahead.

During the Easter term Libby and Craig ran a Seasons for Growth group (helping to manage loss and change) with 8 S1 pupils in Smithycroft. Libby and Craig knew most of these young people before the group started which is always beneficial. Many of these young people had lost parents or siblings so understandably found some of these sessions very difficult. It is always the hope that this group is part of the holistic work J12 does with young people and that staff can build on what was done in the group through other J12 activities.

Please pray for God to comfort, support and help these young people move forward in positive ways.

Libby and Katie have also done some 1-2-1 work with 4 young people over the last few months. These are good opportunities to meet the needs of individual young people and to develop deeper, trusting relationships with them.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DIARY

Due to staffing changes that are likely to take place over the summer we're not yet sure what a regular week will look like next term. When this has been sorted we will put it on the website. Support groups at Smithycroft, Avenue End and Cranhill and the Smithycroft SU groups are likely to start the week of 28 August and primary SU groups will start week of 23 October.

OTHER EVENTS & MEETINGS

2-8 July	S4-6 Camp at Alltnacriche (Libby, Gordon, Craig & Katie)	2 September	10th Anniversary Celebrations
	3 young people at S1-3 Camp at Scoughall with J12 volunteers	11-15 Sept	Craig at college in Manchester
15-22 July	6 young people S1-3 Camp at Glenshee	12 September	Management Group Meeting (Libby)
19 July	Summer Outing to Millport or Leisure Centre at Greenock depending on weather	21 September	J12 Board Meeting (Libby)
21 July-6 Aug	Katie on SU trip to Ukraine with others on SU Gap Year	9 October	S3-5 Outing
22 July-13 Aug	Craig volunteering at House of Hope in Bethlehem as part of his course	10 October	S1-2 Outing
12-18 August	Katie at camp at Alltnacriche	16-20 October	School Holiday Week – everyone off!
15 August	New School Year Starts	27-29 October	S1-3 Weekend at Lendrick Muir
28 August	Katie starting paid employment at J12	17-19 November	S3-6 Weekend at Lendrick Muir
		30 November	J12 AGM
		7 December	Primary Party
		11 December	Secondary Party
		20 December	End of Term!

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