

PRAYER LETTER

Lanarkshire

News from Karen



Dear Friends, as I write this prayer letter, I am so thankful for your prayer support and the prayers that underpin all we do in Lanarkshire. I could echo Paul's words in Philippians 1:3-5 that "I thank my God... because of your partnership in the gospel". Prayer is one of our anchors at SU Scotland, and I am so encouraged by how evident it is in Lanarkshire, not only in those receiving this prayer letter, but also those who provided around the clock prayer at the Regional Weekends, those who meet monthly on Zoom, and the many more who meet termly at Local Ministry Hubs. Thank you for partnering in prayer. I hope this prayer letter inspires and encourages you.

God bless, Karen

Exciting news!





**WE'RE
HIRING!**

**REGIONAL
WORKER**

**LANARKSHIRE
LOCAL MINISTRIES**

suscotland.org.uk/jobs

I am delighted to share the exciting news that we are seeking a second Regional Worker to come and work alongside me. Praise God for this new opportunity to grow the work within Lanarkshire. Please join us in praying for God's leading and guiding at every step of the recruitment process.

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Would you like to join our monthly Zoom Prayer Meeting? It is always an encouraging time of sharing stories of what God has been doing in the area and praying for the children and young people in Lanarkshire.

Our next two prayer meetings are:

Wednesday 2 July 1.30pm-2.30pm

Wednesday 6 August 1.30pm-2.30pm

Zoom Codes

Meeting ID: 891 2560 5152

Passcode: 918202

Email: karen.stangoe@suscotland.org.uk

Phone: 01236 914045

Website: www.suscotland.org.uk/who-we-are/our-team/person-search/karen-stangoe/

Primary Weekend

Another one of our anchors at SU Scotland is the truth that residential transform lives. There is something so special about creating a temporary Christian community where children and young people can experience the presence of God and immerse themselves in the Bible. There is a richness in deepening relationships and having a lot of fun over the space of a few days away.

This was the experience of the children who attended the Primary Weekend in February at Lendrick Muir.



As the children explored the stories of some Unlikely Heroes from the Old Testament, they had many creative opportunities to respond to what they had been hearing. For one boy called Thomas, this truly was a life changing weekend. On the Sunday at lunchtime he came running to find me shouting "Karen, guess what, I've become a friend of Jesus, I'm now a child of God". Later that afternoon we gave Thomas a Bible to take home and his face was priceless, he was full of awe as he looked at his very own Bible. It was as if he instinctively knew the words in his hand were "more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb." (Psalm 19:10)

Praise God for Thomas and the other children who became followers of Jesus that weekend. Pray that they would grow up rooted in the knowledge of the Lord.

Schools Work



This term has brought with it many opportunities to be in schools across the region, from visiting SU Groups, to Bible Alive with an enthusiastic P5 class, and Easter Code workshops in partnership with local churches. Each are different in delivery and yet all rich in providing opportunities for children to explore the Bible in a school setting. One highlight for me was sitting in a tent with a group, imagining we were in the Garden of Gethsemane, answering the children's questions. One girl was curious to understand why, if Jesus died to forgive people from their sins, not everyone is forgiven. This opened up an opportunity to explore the idea of gift giving, teaching her that Jesus freely offers everyone the gift of forgiveness, but just like with birthday presents, we need to accept the gift someone holds out to us in order to receive it. By the end of this particular Easter Code, many of the children said that they wanted to know more about the Bible, and one of the schools asked if they could begin an SU Group after the summer.

Interview with Ewan Cairns

Ewan has been doing a Gap Year with SU Scotland this year, spending four days per week working with one of our Associate Trusts – Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout Trust – and one day per week spent with me in wider Lanarkshire.

What cartoon character are you most like?

I'm definitely like Bart Simpson – I'm still an immature boy at heart!



Why did you apply for Gap Year?

Last year I had just finished school and wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do next when someone sent me the information for Gap Year. I had done SU Scotland stuff before and liked it, and this sounded fun so thought I'd give it a go. It would also give me an extra year to figure out what to do next.

What have you been doing during your Gap Year so far?

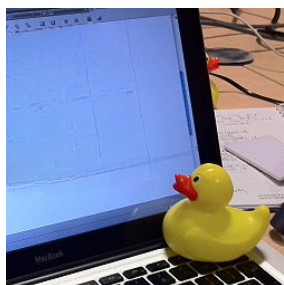
I've done so much! From events like SU Holidays, Regional Weekends and holiday clubs, to weekly SU Groups, school projects, Bible Alive and assemblies. I've also been on the Equip West team and I have led teaching sessions at two Regional Weekends.

What has been your highlight so far?

I could really say the whole year has been a highlight, I've loved it all! But I guess if I need to pick one thing I would say Weekends. They give the best experience of getting to connect with children and young people and they are so much fun.

What has been your funniest moment so far?

So many funny moments to choose from, but the one that stands out the most has to be the ducks! Back in September I bought 200 tiny plastic ducks and thought it would be funny to wind up the Reachout team by hiding the ducks all over the office. Ross's initial confusion was hilarious and they are still finding ducks even today!



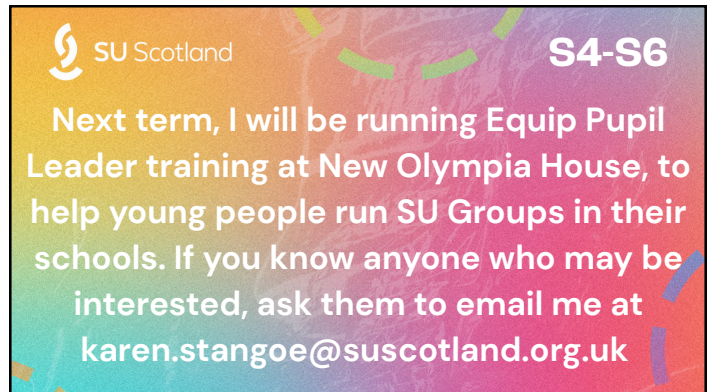
What has God been teaching you this year?

I've been learning to step out, trusting that God's got it. I came into Gap Year not quite sure what it would be like, but trusted in God. Then in January I began to really feel the pressure of wondering what is next for me. I found myself applying to different jobs but the doors were either shut or the roles just didn't feel like the right fit for me. I knew youth ministry was for me but when the doors kept shutting I began to question it. Then I felt a sense of God saying "wait, it's coming in my time". Just after that I was accepted to the Scottish Baptist College to study Theology with Youth and Community Focus.

Upcoming Events



Bellshill Liberty Holiday Club



Equip Pupil Leader Training

Prayer Points

Give thanks for:

- God's provision in allowing us to employ a second Regional Worker in the area, giving thanks for the many new opportunities this will open up.
- The warm welcome of schools, inviting us to lead SU Groups, Bible Alive and Easter Code events. Praise God for these opportunities for children to explore the Bible.
- The Primary Weekend in February, for the fun, the deepening of friendships and for those who became followers of Jesus.
- Lanarkshire's prayer warriors who continually pray for the children and young people, and for ministry opportunities in the region.

Pray for:

- Ewan Cairns as he enters the last few months of his Gap Year, that God would continue to use him, teach him and equip him.
- The many young people attending Basecamp this summer and becoming Trainee Leaders at SU Holidays and Missions around the country.
- The Bellshill Liberty Holiday Club in August, that it would be a week of great fun and laughter with many opportunities to share Jesus' love with the children who attend.
- God's leading and guiding as we seek a second Regional Worker.
- God to stir up more young people in S4-S6 who would lead an SU Group in their school so that they can share Jesus with their friends and peers.

We are trying to reduce our costs, would you consider receiving Newsletters by email?
If you would like to update how you receive Newsletters, please email
regional@suscotland.org.uk with your name and email address.

A huge thank you to those of you who give financially to the work in Lanarkshire.
If you would like to commit to partnering with us in this way, you can sign up on our website – www.suscotland.org.uk/who-we-are/our-team/person-search/karen-stangoe/
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