

January 2019



Dear Friends...

From the GROW Management Team

Dear friends,

As I write we are just starting the second week of 2019 but that's not too late to wish you a blessed and peace filled 2019.

The school year, however, is almost half way through with one of Oskar's targets (in addition to the usual SU groups, assemblies and SU weekends) already having been completed. A second Gener8 programme ran in Glenwood High school in the weeks between the October half term and Christmas and we are very grateful to those who volunteered to support Oskar in the inter-generational experience. The first film night also took place in October and following on from its success another is planned for this term alongside a trip to Powerpoint in Edinburgh.

During the last term Ally Stark, who has been the Church of Scotland youth worker, left his post to work in guidance at Fife College. Ally has been a great support to GROW supporting SU groups, chaplaincy teams, coffee drop-ins and Soundwave and Film Nights. We wish Ally well in his new role and thank him for all his valuable efforts working with Bee and Oskar. Ruth Livingstone, another valuable member of Oskar's team, is currently on maternity leave. We are grateful to have the support of Iona Kimmitt and Sandra Davie

who are giving their many talents as they cover her role. So, it is fair to say that the last term provided some key changes in Oskar's team and as we look ahead to the new term, we need to give thanks and continue to pray for all those who support the work of GROW and encourage others alongside them.

Following the successful "Refresh and Look Forward" evening in the Rothes Halls in September the Management Group continue to work towards more frequent communication and information via our social media platforms. You can find us at www.grow-trust.co.uk and on Facebook.

As the decision-making period relating to Brexit draws to a climax and the arguments come to a crescendo, I am immensely grateful for the nature and structure of GROW, that it is an ecumenical Trust where the churches work in collaboration with one another, using the gifts given them by God to serve the young people of the town. May it be our prayer for 2019 that our sense of togetherness continues to be strengthened so that our young people experience acceptance of diversity within a shared vision and love of the God we all serve.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.



Hello...

Oskar Forbes – GROW Outreach Worker



Hello,

And Happy New Year!

As always the last few months have been filled with exciting opportunities to work with our local schools and churches including hosting our first GROW Movie night, launching the new coffee drop-in at Auchmuty High School and running a second Gener8 Course at Glenwood High School.

I have also had the opportunity, with the chaplaincy teams in our local high schools, to present assemblies to pupils and staff on topics including Identity, Spirituality and Christmas. These assemblies have been very well received by pupils and staff and we have been encouraged by recent feedback from schools regarding the work carried out by the chaplaincy teams.

As mentioned above, in November we had our first GROW Movie Night at Glenrothes Baptist Church. Eighteen young people from several of our local churches came together for an evening of popcorn and fellowship as we watched *Soul Surfer*. The film depicts the true story of Bethany Hamilton, a surfer from Hawaii who, as a teenager, lost one of her arms in a shark attack. Bethany has a strong testimony of faith and courage and continues to inspire people all over the world. It was a great evening and I was very encouraged to see so many young people attend. We plan to have more movie nights this year so please look out for more information in the coming months.

Back in October we launched the new Auchmuty High School Xchange Drop-in by giving away over 180 cups of tea, coffee and hot chocolate and in November we started the weekly drop-in which has seen an average of twenty-five pupils attending. The atmosphere of the drop-in is great as many pupils stay around to play games or chat and some simply stop by for a free drink.

Also in November we started the second Gener8 Course at Glenwood High School. This time around we had five participants in the older group; Joy Allan, Sheila Philp, David Smith and Steve & Davina Saunders and I am extremely grateful to each of them for joining us on our second venture in intergenerational practice, meeting with pupils from S3. Here are a couple of quotes from both older and younger participants as they describe their experience of the course;

“It was really fun and good to meet people.”

“Wish I could bottle the excitement [and] enthusiasm.”

“I would hope anyone would go to this special group.”

Please pray for me and the GROW committee as we seek to develop these projects and others in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you all again for your support and prayers.

Upcoming Events

GROW PRAYER MEETINGS

Wednesday 13 February: St Columba's – 7pm

Tuesday 12 March: St Luke's – 11.00am

Wednesday 24 April: Salvation Army – 6.30pm

RESIDENTIALS

Fife, Perth & Kinross Primary & Secondary Weekend: 25-27 January