

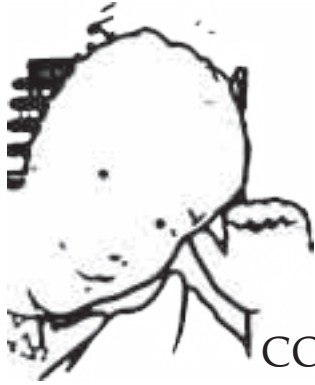
COOL

youth worker project



Annual Report
2003 *to* 2004





COOL, in association with Scripture Union Scotland, is an interdenominational project working with the local church to reach the young people of our area with the Christian message and provide social and recreational opportunities through the employment of a full time Youth Worker.



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COOL is an interdenominational project in partnership with Scripture Union Scotland through the Associate Worker Scheme, under which has been employed a full time youth and schools' worker to work amongst the young people of this very rural area of North West Scotland.

COOL aims to cover all the villages and ten primary schools which currently send their children to Plockton High School. This incorporates Applecross to the north, Glenelg to the south, together with the parish of Strath and Sleat on the Isle of Skye. Within that region there is a combined population of approximately 7000 people (including over 800 school children) and covers a geographical area of about 300 square miles. Public transport is limited with no local evening bus or train service and much of the population lives in isolated locations. Plockton High currently has 365 on the school role.

Providing opportunities for youth in our rural setting presents its own challenges. Due to the sparse population, lack of public transport and long distances between villages, there are few local opportunities for young people. The facilities that are available tend to be sited in the larger centres of population (such as Kyle) which can be as far as 50 miles from the outlying villages. As the majority of students at the high school travel by school bus, after school activities are restricted. Typical social issues of the twenty first century are as problematic in the Scottish Highlands as in urban Britain: drugs and alcohol are easily accessible and misused by some.

In August 2000 a committee was formed from members of local Christian congregations to work towards employing a youth worker in the area. During that time the committee met at regular monthly intervals until, in January 2001, COOL was launched and registered as a charity in Scotland. The post of youth worker was advertised the following June with interviews in July. Mr. Dave Mockett was duly appointed and in November 2001 took up the post of youth worker for COOL.



Dave was brought up in Gloucester and gained a BSc(Hons) and MPhil at the Manchester Metropolitan University. He then studied for a PGCE (Secondary) at Strathclyde University, before working for three years as the Youth Worker at Airdrie Baptist Church, heading up the young people's ministry, both within and without the church and in local schools. He is married to Ruth and they have one son named Joshua.

Dave is supported in his work for COOL by the management committee, local ministers and youth leaders. As an SU Associate Worker he is also supported nationally by SU's extensive network of schools workers. The Associate Worker Scheme offers training and development, management support to the committee and a team of workers throughout Scotland, bringing all the benefits of a national body to the local communities.

YEAR THREE OF YOUTH WORKER'S WORK

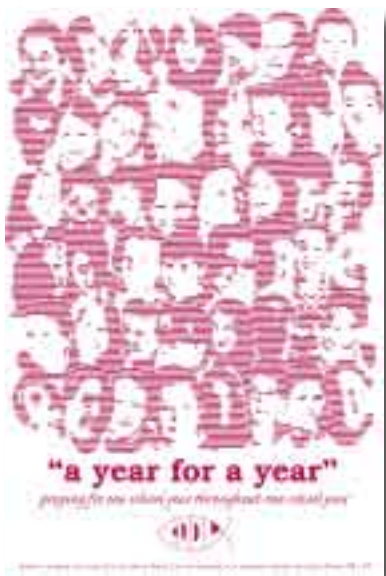
Dave has become increasingly well known throughout the area and in consequence is being asked to participate more and more in work with children and young people both within the educational system and the local churches. We continue to be grateful for these open doors and to value the support given to us by the schools and churches in the area.



SCHOOLS WORK: PLOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL

Dave continues as a key member of the Christian Support Team. His ongoing involvement with the school involves taking assemblies, being involved in RE and PSE classes, the S6 Conference looking at ethics, as well as less structured times such as making himself available for informal chats at lunch time one day a week and visiting the hostel on Wednesday evenings.

The extra curricular club known as Dave's Club continues with increasing success as ever more youngsters drop in for a chat, games and Bible discussion.



His contributions to the life of the school have been much appreciated by the head teacher and other members of staff.

New this session for the current S1 is the initiative,

'a year for a year,' seeing every S1 prayed for on consecutive days through the year.

Two weekends away have taken place, one in March at the SU Centre of Alltnacriche with the theme, 'Journeying With Jesus,' which 20 attended and which was a great success. More recently in December there has been another on the theme of worship and community in which a small group went to the Combruih Centre in Comrie owned by Crusaders Scotland. As well as enjoying themselves together and having discussions based on the theme, the group involved itself in practical help, painting and cleaning parts of the centre. Another weekend is booked for March, at the Badenoch Centre in Kincaig.



These events continue to be very popular and are regarded as part of the regular calendar of events. They offer opportunities to help develop the personal and social development of the participants as well as times to discuss aspects of the Christian faith together and to consider ways of putting that into action. COOL continues to offer financial assistance to those for whom attendance would otherwise prove difficult. It is also a time of encouragement and stimulation for local youth workers who attend as helpers.

Along with his wife, Ruth, Dave holds a weekly Bible meeting for those of secondary age. In August Dave and a sixth former along with a few others from



southern Scotland attended Soul Survivor, a highly significant annual youth conference

which is at the forefront of trends in Christian youth work.

In January Dave heads out to Peru with the Vine Trust (Amazon Ferry Project) which develops projects for young people there in association with SU Peru. Plockton High has approved Dave setting up an overseas project for S6 students possibly in 2006 and so he is travelling there to see the work first hand and to find out how the students could be involved. He has raised his own finance for this initial visit.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Throughout the past year Dave has continued to make regular visits to all the primary schools sending pupils to Plockton High, which this year also included Elgol.

The total number now



supported by COOL is eleven, as well as the High School.

He takes regular assemblies in Auchtertyre, Broadford, Glenelg, Kyle and Sleat as well as termly visits to the other five primaries.

How much he is appreciated is evident from his having been invited to join the School Boards of both Kyle and Glenelg primaries. Some RE work has also taken place in Sleat primary this year, the

culmination of which was an assembly led by the children.

As well as this, he had input to the familiarisation process of the P7s with the

High School helping with their visit in June and distributing the *It's Your Move* booklet. The booklet was again funded by local churches. All of this, plus church involvement, has meant that Dave now knows all the new intake quite well further helping to build relationships.

CHURCH YOUTH WORK

Worship on the Pavement is well established as a regular event with a committed team of helpers and support from young folk who show an increasing awareness of the true meaning of worship and an increased readiness to participate. Some money has been spent to enhance this experience which takes place twice termly, normally in Kyle.

Dave continues to support the Glenelg youth group which continues to develop. This year the group raised over £800 for World Vision on a 24 hour famine which was supported by COOL.

A major part of the work in the summer was the preparation for and leading of the three holiday clubs held in the area:



- over three weeks more than 180 young people contacted
- first SU holiday club held in Lochalsh led by Dave
- holiday club and new teenage programme in Glenelg
- holiday club and teenage programme Xalt (written by Dave) in Lochcarron with excellent response which has led to further involvement by the young folk.



As well as these specific events which are again planned with further developments for 2005, there is ongoing support for churches' youth work and occasional involvement in that.

PARTNERSHIP WITH SU

Dave continues to attend staff meetings and conferences where he has the opportunity to discuss aspects of his work with others in a similar position and to receive ongoing training. With the formation of a North Team group he has not always had to travel so far and recently a meeting was even held in Lochalsh. Colin Carmichael of SU Staff continues to offer support and attends COOL meetings on a regular basis.





“TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF LOCHALSH AND SURROUNDING AREA, HELPING THEM TO ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. THIS WILL BE DONE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOCAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE ASSOCIATE WORKER SCHEME OF SU SCOTLAND, WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM OF BRINGING MORE PEOPLE TO GOD”

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Over the past year, the COOL committee has continued to meet with Dave approximately every six weeks for an update on the work, providing practical and prayer support.



Three newsletters have been produced and distributed during the year as well as a new publicity brochure produced specifically for distribution at community events.

We were pleased to be invited to take part in Kyle Gala where our presentation of Dave’s work was quickly recognised by the children and young people who enjoyed trying their skill at a table-top game.

Much time has been spent trying to secure further funding to ensure the future sustainability of the project. We have been very encouraged by, and thank God for, an increase in support by individuals following the

distribution of a letter through the local churches. Efforts continue in order to raise the awareness of individuals and congregations of the value of the work being done by Dave. A recent letter to congregational boards has also produced a good response and promises of regular financial support. Support from the local community has continued with donations received from Kyle Gala Committee. Internet shoppers can support COOL at no extra expense to themselves by shopping through UshopUgive. Many high street shops are among those who are part of the scheme and donate on average 2% of the spend to the chosen charity. (Details of how to do this can be found by visiting the COOL web site and clicking the UshopUgive logo.)



Over the past three years we have been very grateful to the Lloyds TSB Foundation for considerable funding for the project. This grant has now come to an end but Lloyds TSB have



continued to help by awarding us a grant to undertake an Organisational Review. The review was carried out in October by an independent advisor who produced a comprehensive report which will help the committee become better equipped to continue the work and develop in the future. The next year will see us putting into place structures to increase the accountability of the team and evaluation of the work.

associated with that work. We agreed to retain our name COOL with a more colourful fish logo and the words "youth work project" for all committee and publicity work. The decision to drop the words, 'Christian Outlook on Lochalsh,' for publicity purposes was taken as the area covered by COOL is much wider than the Lochlash district. The branding of youth events under the umbrella of COOL has been left to Dave, giving him the flexibility to change as the work progresses.



Since the last report, we have introduced six-monthly forward planning meetings attended by the committee and trustees. These have been a first step in helping us to become more structured in assessing our progress. During the course of the Organisational Review we realised that we needed to clarify the aims of the project and it was agreed that the main thrust of the work should continue to be evangelism and discipleship whilst continuing to provide social and recreational opportunities for young people.

We looked at our name and logo in an effort to make the project more eye catching and recognisable. A certain amount of market research revealed that whilst Dave and his work was well known, COOL was less well known or

At the end of the year we looked forward to the first of a series of area prayer meetings focusing on: our young people and their needs; youth work in the churches; and COOL. The distribution of questionnaires through the churches aimed at assessing the impact of COOL and raising awareness of the work is also currently in operation.

Two committee members attended SU's Associate Worker Scheme Conference in May with Dave. Subsequently, Malcolm Gardiner met with chairpersons of other trusts before being nominated to attend the next two SU Associate Worker Group meetings aimed at strengthening the existing partnership.



PERSONNEL

This year has seen no changes in the members of the committee. We are grateful for their continuing commitment and input into the running of the project.

Susan MacLaren has moved out of the district but continues in her job as

Development Officer, Highland Child Protection Committee and is at the end of the telephone if advice is needed. We are also grateful to Fiona Talbot, a former committee member, who has been advising on funding matters via e-mail.



OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING YEAR

Dave's work is now bedding down into the community and this year we would hope to develop the personal and social development areas of our programming. This will be reflected in a new emphasis on our weekends away, Worship on the Pavement and holiday club work. It is hoped that Dave's visit to Peru will open up new opportunities for older students and we will assess this after the trip.

As the current contract concludes at the end of the year, the Committee, in consultation with the youth worker, plan to draw up a new contract for a further period, and to review the whole structure of the present work through the Organisational Review. We also continue to seek greater representation from the

entire area served and in particular would like to have increased input from Skye.

SMART POINTS

- Assess the recommendations contained in the Organisational Review and draw up a list, prioritising three for implementation.
- Evaluate the results of the questionnaire and draw up a list of suggested recommendations from supporters.
- Extend all established holiday clubs to include high school aged participation.
- Seek new and continuing trust funding to secure future sustainability.
- Provide three opportunities to train volunteer youth leaders.

FUNDING AND FINANCIAL FORECAST

During the year 2003 / 2004 we received our third and final grant of £7000 from Lloyds TSB for which we are most thankful. However, the committee is aware that further funding will be required in place of this amount. In view of this, the committee underwent an organisational review funded by Lloyds TSB with the aim of improving efficiency and focus.

Throughout the year there were special events which included the S6 Ethics Day and three holiday clubs. The committee were most grateful for the support and encouragement from the local churches

there is a need for further, regular committed giving

and individuals, financially and also in giving of their time and prayer.

Local, individual giving has reached a total of £13 747.55 over the year, which includes a significant rise in monthly, pledged giving in the last three months of the financial year. The committee are encouraged and most thankful for the continued increase in local giving but are aware that there is a need for further, regular committed giving if the work is to be ongoing.

PROJECTED FUNDING FOR 2004 / 2005

	Income [£]	Expenditure [£]
Pledged Personal Donations	11 980	
Gift Aid from Inland Revenue	3 500	
Other Personal Gifts	3 000	
Pledged Church Donations	2 700	
Open Door Café	1 000	
Worker's Salary & Employment Costs		21 500
Travel Expenses		3 500
Youth work Expenses		1 200
Administration		500
Capital Expenditure		500
Insurance		500
Staff Development		500
	22 180	28 200

OVERSIGHT OF COOL

THE COMMITTEE

Chair:

Mr. Malcolm Gardiner (*Trustee*) Lochalsh Christian Fellowship, Kyle

Treasurer:

Mrs. Alison Beaton Free Church of Scotland, Plockton & Kyle

Secretary:

Mrs. Jill Clayton (*Trustee*) Church of Scotland, Lochalsh

Mrs. Alison Angus Church of Scotland, Lochcarron

Mr. Colin Carmichael Scripture Union Scotland

Mr. Noel Gordon Church of Scotland, Lochalsh

Mrs. Ruth Harris Lochalsh Christian Fellowship, Kyle

Mrs. Linda Inglis Free Church of Scotland, Plockton & Kyle

ADVISERS TO THE COMMITTEE

Rev. Roddie Rankin (*Trustee*) Plockton & Kyle Free Church of Scotland

Rev. John MacDonald (*Trustee*) Lochalsh Church of Scotland

Mrs. Susan MacLaren Development Officer, Highland Child Protection Committee

Mr. John Clayton (*Funding*)

Mr. Geoff Venables (*Funding*)

Mrs. Fiona Talbot (*Funding*)

The Committee have adopted the Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith.