



Investing in Young People in and around Alnwick
Inspiring Faith • Releasing Potential • Empowering Action

Ignite is a Christian charity based in Alnwick and the surrounding area. We have a particular focus on working with children, young people and their families both in the community and in schools. As a charity, over the last year we have expanded, recently employing our new Schools and Community Workers, Sarah and Rachel. Sarah is taking a lead on our partnership work with St Michael's and All Angels Felton and has already become a familiar face in Felton Primary School. Despite Sarah being Felton's lead worker, we very much take a team approach, so expect to see the wider team at various events.

Please read on for a snapshot of the work of Ignite both in Felton and wider work which covers our whole area...

Rooted Youth cell groups

Our Rooted Youth Cell groups remain a place of welcome and care for the children and teenagers who we meet each week. We now have five groups running from ages 7 through to young adults. Each one of these groups has a slightly different culture and identity depending on the interests of the group. We combine games, crafts and activities alongside Christian discussion, thought and prayer. Recently we have started to explore sung worship with our young people. A number of our teenagers brought in their instruments and gathered together to fill our The Lindisfarne Centre with the sound of worship! It was such a joy to hear them all together.



Food and Fun

This wonderful group has been part of St Michael's Felton for about five years; led by a committed team, hospitality is at the heart of the welcome families receive. Sarah has been welcomed into the Food and Fun team and is loving getting to know the families and their children. Sarah has great skills and experience with storytelling and working little ones, so this is an exciting new addition to her role.

Felton Primary School

Over the last 6 months Sarah has begun to establish herself as a regular in Felton Primary School joining in with Collective Worship and Open the Book assemblies. Sarah leads a lunchtime club on a Thursday exploring the themes discussed in their Collective Worship ready for the children to present to the whole school on a Friday morning. Sarah is also a regular helper with Forest School activities and has accompanied children on school trips. Building those foundational relationships with both staff and students is key.



Baptisms

Jess is part of a Baptism working group with Mitch (Alnwick) and Rich (Felton). Together we have begun to explore how we can really invest in baptism. Each baptism is such a valuable opportunity where we can show families that they are welcome and wanted in our local churches. Research tells us that baptisms are most often a step on a spiritual journey for families, and one that we need to allow space for families to be able explore. Therefore, we are considering how we can make the most of this step in faith, whilst also ensuring that we maintain contact with these families in the long term.

Seasonal activities - Experience Easter

Each term we have a seasonal event depending on the time of year. Towards the end of last term that focus was Experience Easter. Six different creative stations were set up around the church, with each one exploring a different part of the story. The children were provided with an opportunity to think and reflect about the Easter message, in a way that was meaningful and relevant to them. This activity was a whole school event for both Felton and Ellingham Primary Schools.

Year 6 transitions work will begin as we approach the end of the summer term, look out for an update in our summer newsletter.



Restorative Practice in Education

Some of the Ignite team are trained to deliver Restorative Practice in Education. Restorative Practice focuses on repairing harm and restoring relationships; this involves a journey where responsibility is taken, questions are asked, and every voice is heard. It is a powerful tool to increase a sense of connection between individuals when harm has been caused, helping steps forward to be taken. A pilot has just started with one of our schools to see how these tools can be used locally with our young people.

Church activity

Sarah has joined the Felton Messy Church team and is supporting the current programme of activities. In the month when we celebrate 20 years since the first ever Messy Church started, it's important to recognise the significance of this ministry in providing welcome, food and opportunity to explore faith as a family. Sarah has also begun to support the children and young people during the monthly 5pm service. Sarah has been getting to know the group and providing discussion and activities based on the service topic.



Baby Basics

As a team we are very excited that our new Baby Basics project is going to start soon. Baby Basics is a national charity and Ignite will be the only Baby Basics hub in Northumberland. This project will provide vulnerable mums in our local community with a Moses basket filled with everyday essentials for their new baby. We can't wait to see how this new missional project brings together different generations to serve those in need.

CANNY (Council of Alnwick and North Northumberland Youth)

Children from our local primary schools have been invited to join CANNY. Alongside the DCHS, we have welcomed a group of students from year 5 and year 6 (including Felton Primary School) to explore how we can improve our local environment, both within our school settings and also the wider community. This group of inspiring students have so much enthusiasm and ambition for how we can make our area a better place to live. Expect to hear more about how this work develops as we support children to become local change makers.

As our work expands and develops further in the Felton area, we hope to be able to welcome more volunteers to increase what we're able to offer our local families. If you're interested in supporting this work, then please get in touch with either Sarah or myself.

Written by Jessica McArdle, May 2024

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