Voices in Wingrove

Robert Stewart Memorial United Reformed Church CRCW project annual report 2017
This has been another very busy year for the CRCW project – new groups starting up and old ones continuing to prosper. In previous years I have written a report on the project from my perspective, this year the project management committee thought that for a change it would be good to hear from the groups themselves in the annual report. What follows is a collection of “voices” – how those involved with the project at Robert Stewart Memorial URC view their work.

Ann 😊

From Jenni Evans Project leader.

It is fantastic to run my drama school, Little Voices Newcastle, from Robert Stewart Memorial Hall. I hire two rooms from 3.45 to 6.45pm every Tuesday...

The families of my pupils are very happy with us being here for our venue. They love that there is an area they can wait in and they can see where their children are going. The pupils are extremely safe here and really look forward to their sessions. The rooms are lovely, heated and very safe...

I am excited about future expansion and being able to hold our LAMDA exams and holiday workshops here. The spaces are perfect for performing arts and parents and carers are happy for us to be here.
The staff are incredibly welcoming and I honestly couldn’t have found a more perfect venue.

"The earth is the Lord’s” Ps 24

In 2017, we gave thanks and bade farewell to Greening Wingrove, a council funded initiative whose staff have been promoting environmental improvements around Wingrove. They have often been in RSM holding Open Days and attending church based events. Their work can be seen in many places.

Tuesday Coffee Mornings

*Linda Robson writes*: From 10.00am to 12 noon in the Minor Hall, the Coffee Morning happens! This warm and friendly group welcomes all to meet over coffee or tea, natter and sometimes share ideas and do little jobs. At Advent 2017, we launched a plan to support homeless people by buying and wrapping gifts and placing them in Jesus’ manger at the front of the church. They were taken to St James’ Church Benwell to go to the homeless.

*June Walker writes:* “We discuss every subject under the sun and we laugh a lot. Coffee, tea, biscuits – and sometimes cake – are enjoyed by all."
Everyone is welcome. Any small donation is appreciated and goes towards the Windows Fund.”

Come and join us any Tuesday!

In 2017, we met Scruff! Hello Scruff.

Wingrove Primary School

For the past few years, Wingrove Primary School has received welcome support from the members of RSM and in particular Ann Honey. Ann regularly attends school on a Thursday afternoon to listen to children read, help them with their writing and work on creative projects. This is invaluable and the children look forward to her visits.
Ann has become a school governor, attends many meetings and training and is involved in important decisions for the school’s management.

Members of RSM have attended Christmas productions, school fairs and events such as the ‘Walking Bus’ being encouraged to do so by Ann.

Various classes of children have also enjoyed visits to the church as part of the RE curriculum.

I hope that the well established links between the church and school will continue to flourish.

Written by Jackie Jordan (Member of the Senior Leadership Team and Year 1 class teacher)

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PLAYinNEWCASTLE

URC

JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB

PLAYinNEWCASTLE, with funding and support from the Church were able to start a Junior Youth Club at URC and this has been a huge success, we knew the young people would enjoy it, but it has been more than that, we were able to give an outreach for families with a variety of different issues. We are able to provide a very much needed service for the young
people in the area by being able to give them with a safe, calm and stimulating environment where they could take part in the many different activities available for them to do. We have done so much already; the list is endless but throughout it all we have all enjoyed it and had so much fun.

Pam Gill, Peter Wood: Director/Snr. Playworkers

Scouts and Cubs have been part of RSM’s life for many years. Recently, both have been thriving. While the 49th Newcastle Scout Group is not part of the CRCW Project, there is a good working relationship between Ann and the leaders. In a Christmas letter to parents of Cubs, Dan Mercer, Cub leader, included the following words of appreciation...

“...Thanks to Ann and the Church Elders who host us and offer their unwavering support to the development of the group and its young people and the executive committee...”
We wish them another successful year in 2018.

THANKS GO TO....

- All at RSM, members and friends, who have supported the CRCW project during 2017.
- Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church for continuing and generous financial support which meets the Project’s costs.
- Members of the CRCW Project Management Committee for all the commitment, support and encouragement given.
- Mrs Helen Hodder for her work as Project Treasurer.
- And finally – to Ann Honey for everything she does and is!

RSM’s very own International Relations.

RSM’s premises are shared by Christians from DRC (Congo), Ethiopia/Eritrea and Romania. During 2017, all came together joyously and in celebration of a common faith through our different foods, music and drama.

A summer get-together was the first occasion and was much enjoyed by an excellent attendance.
The second was a multi-lingual pre-Christmas service, led by Ann Honey, CRCW. Candlelit and celebratory with the Romanian children re-enacting the Nativity scene in the manger and adults in crowns and robes as the Magi, it was a memorable and unique occasion for all who were there. More food and sharing afterwards have helped to strengthen friendship and community in the Christian family.

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**Jobs, Education & Training (JET)**  
*Jaya Drona ESOL Tutor writes:-*

“JET is a charity working primarily with people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds helping them to get more from their life in the UK, including finding one’s feet in a new culture or integrating better into the British way of life. A very important part of our delivery is carried out at RSM where we run our women’s integration Project weekly. It aims to help women with the issues they face in their lives and helping them overcome the same.”
Since the church is based in the West End, its location helps us bring women together as many live in the neighbourhood and walk to the sessions, where they can get information and awareness. For some women, this is the only opportunity to get out from their homes and meet and interact with other women socially.

Running these sessions is essential for the well-being of the communities we live and work in. Ann has always helped with running the sessions, there is nothing we have requested that Ann has not accommodated. From the women in the sessions and everyone at JET, I would like to express the appreciation to Ann for the same.”

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SEARCH

The Search Project works with older people in Benwell, improving quality of life. It provides help with benefit claims and runs many activities in the area. These include the monthly Tea Dance held at RSM.

Linda Robson writes: “the Tea Dance is very popular and hugely enjoyable. Most months we have ceilidh dancing with Ann as the caller. Ann has begun to teach Sue Whisler to be the caller and when the CRCW Project comes to an end, I hope to be RSM’s link with Search and the Tea Dances continue.
Sue has agreed to help me with this. A short Tango course began in January 2018! ”

*Tea Dancers hard at work!*

**Sue continues** – “I have been attending the Search events at RSM for over two and a half years. As well as the Tea Dances, there have been seasonal events (e.g. Christmas and Hallowe’en discos). I bring my mother (currently suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease) so she can meet others. I too have made friendships and look forward to attending as much as my mum does. The whole experience has been positive for both of us.”

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**The last word.....**
My thanks to all who have contributed to this report, and to Janet Turner for her remarkable editing skills! I was blown away by how many people were keen to write something about how the project at RSM has benefitted them. The church provides a safe and welcoming space for groups to run, for the benefit of those who live in the Wingrove area. There are new groups, long standing groups – all working hard so that all might live “life in all it’s fullness” (John 10:10), it has been my privilege to work alongside them.

Ann 😊