



**Carluke Churches  
Youth Project**  
*"Investing in young people"*

# THE NEWS ON THE STREET

Newsletter

Pentecost 2024

**Youth and family centre:**  
37 Stewart Street  
Carluke ML8 5DZ  
Tel 01555 751818

**Opening hours:**  
10am – 9pm Mon-Fri  
10am – 4pm Sat

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*Street Level is an  
ecumenical project  
established and supported  
by six Carluke churches:*

St Andrew's Church  
St Athanasius' RC Church  
St John's Church  
Kirkstyle Baptist Church  
Kirkton Church  
United Reformed Church

*Street Level is supported  
by funding from Choices,  
the churches community  
shop, Hamilton Street,  
Carluke*

**Charity No: SC022006  
Company No: SC178185**

## Easter activities

Over the Easter break there were a total of 227 engagements with young people and families between drop-in sessions in Street Level and outings. Our Primary 7s were able to enjoy a fun day out at Heads of Ayr Farm Park with the jumping pillows being the biggest highlight. They were able to test their fears of heights and water at Wiston Lodge doing the High ropes course and some Canoeing. Seniors were able to test their strength and determination at Scotland's Ninja Warrior course in Edinburgh and a slightly more relaxed activity with ice-skating a Time Capsule. The family group were also able to enjoy an exciting day at the Science Centre which was a new experience for a lot of the group.

As a massive thank you to the continued commitment and hard work of the young leaders they were able to enjoy a very long but thrilling day to Blackpool. In addition to the outings there were also drop-in sessions available for both Juniors and Seniors as well as the regular Foodie Friday slot.

Street Level is a great safe space for many young people to attend with their friends and for the younger age group they can make new friends potentially from different schools. Having attractive outings over the school holidays will benefit the local community as for some this will be the incentive for them to start attending regular groups or drop-in sessions at Street Level.

Giving young people the opportunity to try new activities and build their confidence will benefit their own wellbeing. Having an outing away from their local community, for some, can

be a break from any ongoing issues and will have a positive impact on their self-esteem. Also, having a new shared experience with their peers and staff members will allow young people to develop relationships. The outing will also be an opportunity for staff to engage with young people in a different setting and provide encouragement when trying new activities.

Through ongoing discussions and consultation with the young people themselves we are now busy planning a fun filled summer programme with their ideas.



## Careers Day @ Street Level

The first Careers Day facilitated by Street Level with Universal Connections took place on Wednesday 17th April. This event was organised by a UWS student, Grant MacKay, who organised this as part of his Capstone project. Grant invited a variety of further education and support organisations and local businesses to support this event. The day was well attended by approximately 150 people, mainly students from Carluke High School but also a group from New College Lanarkshire along with members from the local community.

On the day, attendees were able to give one word feedback which was predominantly positive. Some examples of words given were interesting, informative, good and eye-opening. Those in attendance were also given the opportunity to complete a survey to be in with a chance to be entered into the prize draw. This has been drawn and all winners have been notified.

Thanks to Carluke Community Council who awarded Street Level a Microgrant which was put towards the buffet lunch and refreshments on the day. This was very well received.



*Street Level has been successful with a funding application to the Loaningdale School Company. This money will be used for the Primary 7 transition group during 2024/25 and will include outings during the school holidays.*

## Vibe – exploring faith with young people

Last year conversations between representatives in local churches, Street Level and Clydesdale Christian Youth Trust started taking place around an event for young people in Carlisle. Together Street Level in partnership with Clydesdale Christian Youth Trust agreed to pilot a monthly event for local Christian young people in S1-S6 to come together to make friends in a safe space, to have fun and learn more about God.

With the upcoming merger of the Church of Scotland churches, it was felt it would be a good time to introduce youth groups together in a neutral space. One of the thoughts behind this was local churches may have small youth groups and this could be an

opportunity for them to all come together and meet likeminded young people in their local community. There was also consideration that for some young people who don't normally access any other activities in Street Level that this may be an opportunity for them to feel more comfortable in the centre and with the staff enough to branch out to other groups or outings that may be on offer. Equally once the young people attending are comfortable with their surroundings the group could possibly open up to others who are supported by Street Level. It was decided that this monthly event would be piloted in February and March to find out if there was an interest in the community.

Initially the group was focused around getting to know the young people and each month there is time for a short reflection and discussion time around each topic. For example, prayer, communication with God and your identity in Christ. Feedback from young people and volunteers involved has been very positive. Over the first three events we have engaged with 15 young people from most local churches. This has been encouraging to see and has given those who have attended an opportunity to meet other likeminded peers to explore some big questions around their faith. We hope that this group will continue to grow and we thank you for your ongoing support and prayers with this new venture.

## Q & A with Chloe - one of our Young Leaders

### When and why did you initially start coming to Street Level?

I first started coming to Street Level with Universal Connections in March 2019, because some of my friends used the centre and they told me it was a great place for something to do. There was plenty of things, for example, playing pool, talking to staff, playing Xbox/PlayStation and much more. There were also lots of other young people my age that I could make friends with.

### How would you describe yourself when you first started coming to Street Level?

Before coming to Street Level I didn't have many friends at all and making friends is something I struggled with. I felt lonely and very isolated as I spent most days stuck in the house with nothing to do.

### What impact has coming to Street Level had on you?

Coming to Street Level has had a really positive impact on my life and it has made me a lot more confident. When I was 16, I was given the opportunity to become a Young Leader which has been a great experience. Volunteering has allowed me to give back to the centre and new young people who attend as well as giving me the chance to continue my own involvement.

### What are some of your highlights of your time at Street Level?

I have had many highlights throughout the years, but the biggest confidence boost was

presenting the YFCL awards night in front of 250 people. I have also made a lot of good friends through my time here and been able to go on fun outings such as Blackpool, Wiston Lodge and many more.

### Where are you at in life just now?

I now have had my own house which wouldn't have been able to do it without the help of the staff at Street Level and Universal Connections. I am hoping to start college very soon to study social work and I'm continuing to volunteer at Street Level. In the Summer I have the amazing opportunity to go to Germany with some of the other young leaders to volunteer in a youth exchange programme. I am really looking forward to this because travelling abroad will be a new experience for me.

*We've registered Street Level with [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk), which means over 7,000 brands and major retailers will now donate to us for FREE every time you use [#easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk) to shop online. Over the past year, a few of our supporters have raised over £200 which is being used to pay for trips and activities for our young people. So please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long. Go to*

*<https://tinyurl.com/wah4556j> or scan the QR code right here ~>.*



Chloe with a "friend"!

