

through it all...

2019-2020

ANNUAL REVIEW



...our eyes are on **you**



The news in our annual review covers September 2019–August 2020.

The financial information is for the year from April 2019–March 2020.

This last year has been like no other. Nearly all of our regular activities had to be completely rethought in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. Through it all, our FOCUS has been on Jesus.





sawubona

si- ('we') -wu- ('you') -bona ('to see')

This is a Zulu greeting for hello. It literally means 'I see you, you are important to me.' Here in Scotland, and across the world this year, while we haven't been able to meet because of lockdown, we have often still been able to see each other online. We're grateful for all the ways we can connect, continuing our vision to enable children and young people to explore the Bible and respond to Jesus.

So welcome and Sawubona.

view from our Chair

Lockdown was devastating – during two weeks in March, we unpicked our whole programme and our centres shut! We lamented the loss and wondered what to do next. Then...

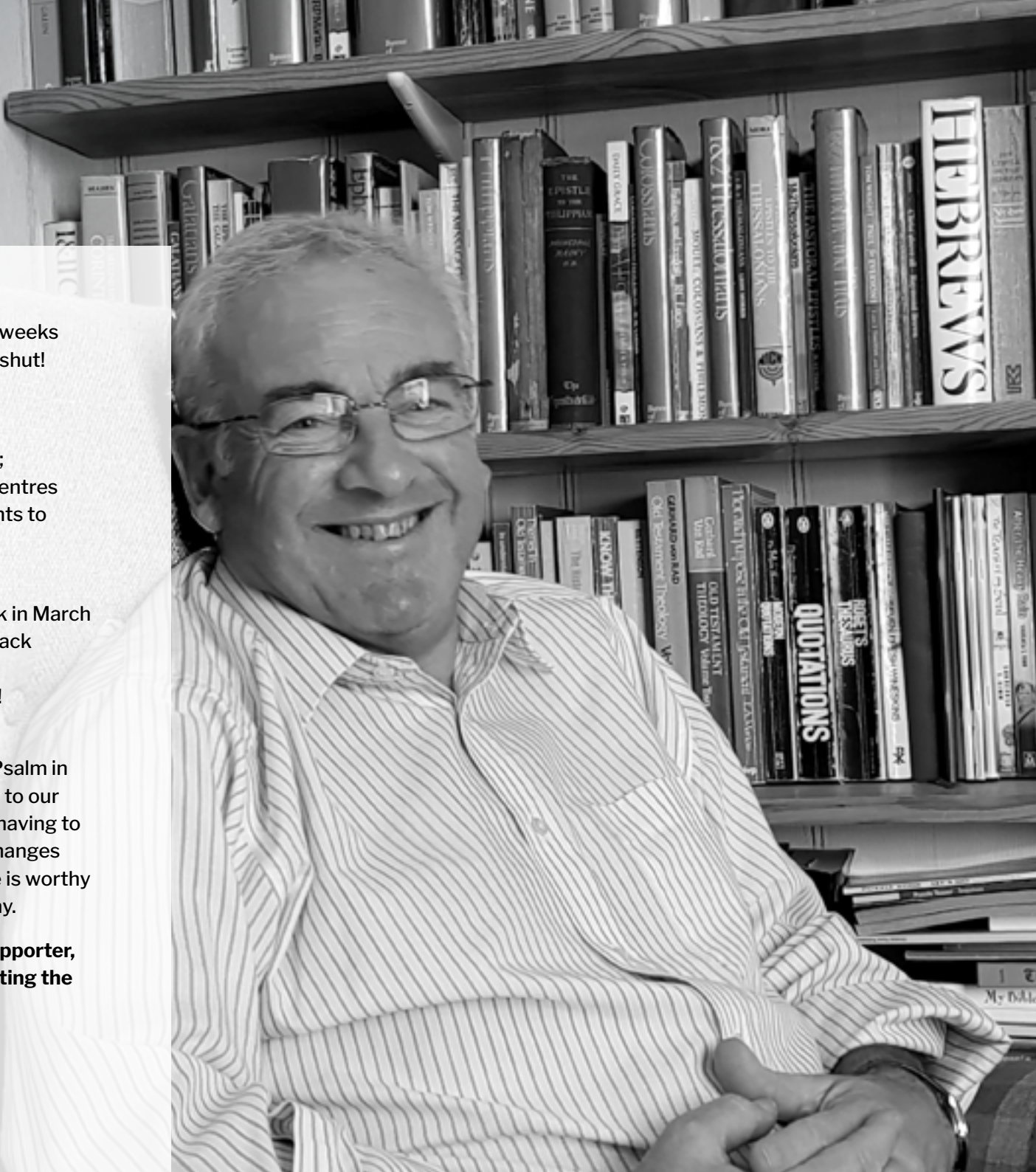
Out of the ashes – SUTV, Discipleship at home; Magnitude online; Equip East and West; Activity Days at the centres (my grandson talked the WHOLE way home in the car and wants to go again); GO conference; staff conference.

A new CEO – we said goodbye to Andy Bathgate back in March with YouthLink Scotland's 'Inspirational Leader' award in his back pocket, and welcomed Robin MacLellan as the new CEO on 1st April. Just look what he had to deal with from the very start!

Psalm 13 – sums up where we are so powerfully. It is a Psalm in three stanzas: the first two are a proper lament and give voice to our feelings of loss, fear and uncertainty given where we are, still having to navigate our way through troubled waters. The third stanza changes the mood and expresses our ongoing trust in the Lord, that he is worthy of that trust and his love never ends. That's where we are today.

Thank you for your support, whether you be a volunteer, a supporter, a member of staff, church leader or parent. We work on, trusting the Lord, supported by his love in every circumstance.

Rev Jim Dewar, Chair of Trustees



view from our new CEO

Looking back over the period covered by this annual review, what can you say but 'Wow!' Autumn 2019 saw many encouraging stories filtering through from the frontline of our ongoing regular ministry activities in schools and at our outdoor centres. One source was the SHINE initiative, encouraging and supporting young people to live out their faith at school.

With Andy Bathgate, our former CEO, retiring in Spring 2020, it was always going to be a year of significant change. But then, none of us saw coronavirus coming!

Surrounded by so much anxiety and uncertainty, many of us will have taken huge comfort from being reminded of the few things that do not change: the character, sovereignty and love of God; the eternal relevance of his Word; the good news it contains; the vision of SU Scotland to find fresh ways of seeing children and young people exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus.

Come August 2020, it was a joy to gather as the SU Scotland family for our annual Big Celebration and wonder together at the goodness of God in making a way where there had seemed to be no way through. New ways had been found of creating and sharing compelling, biblical content online. Digital training and discipleship events became commonplace; we even hosted a festival on YouTube! Our staff team had been protected from the financial shock caused by Covid-19, thanks to the faithful and generous giving of supporters and the lifeline provided by the Government's furlough scheme.

Read on for more insight into what that has looked and felt like and join me in thanking God for his faithfulness to us and through us as a movement.

Robin MacLellan, CEO



...in school

Last autumn and winter, when we visited schools, supported SU Groups and led assemblies, we had no idea that suddenly all that would have to stop.

We were so sad to lose the face-to-face connections with children and young people that resulted from the pandemic. Online has been amazing, but it doesn't make up for all being in a room together. During 2019 there were new connections and new groups starting in schools. We are trusting God that we can pick up where we left off.

'When I asked the group what they would do first when we got out of lockdown the only boy got in before all the girls and said "Say thank you to God."'

Dave, Volunteer

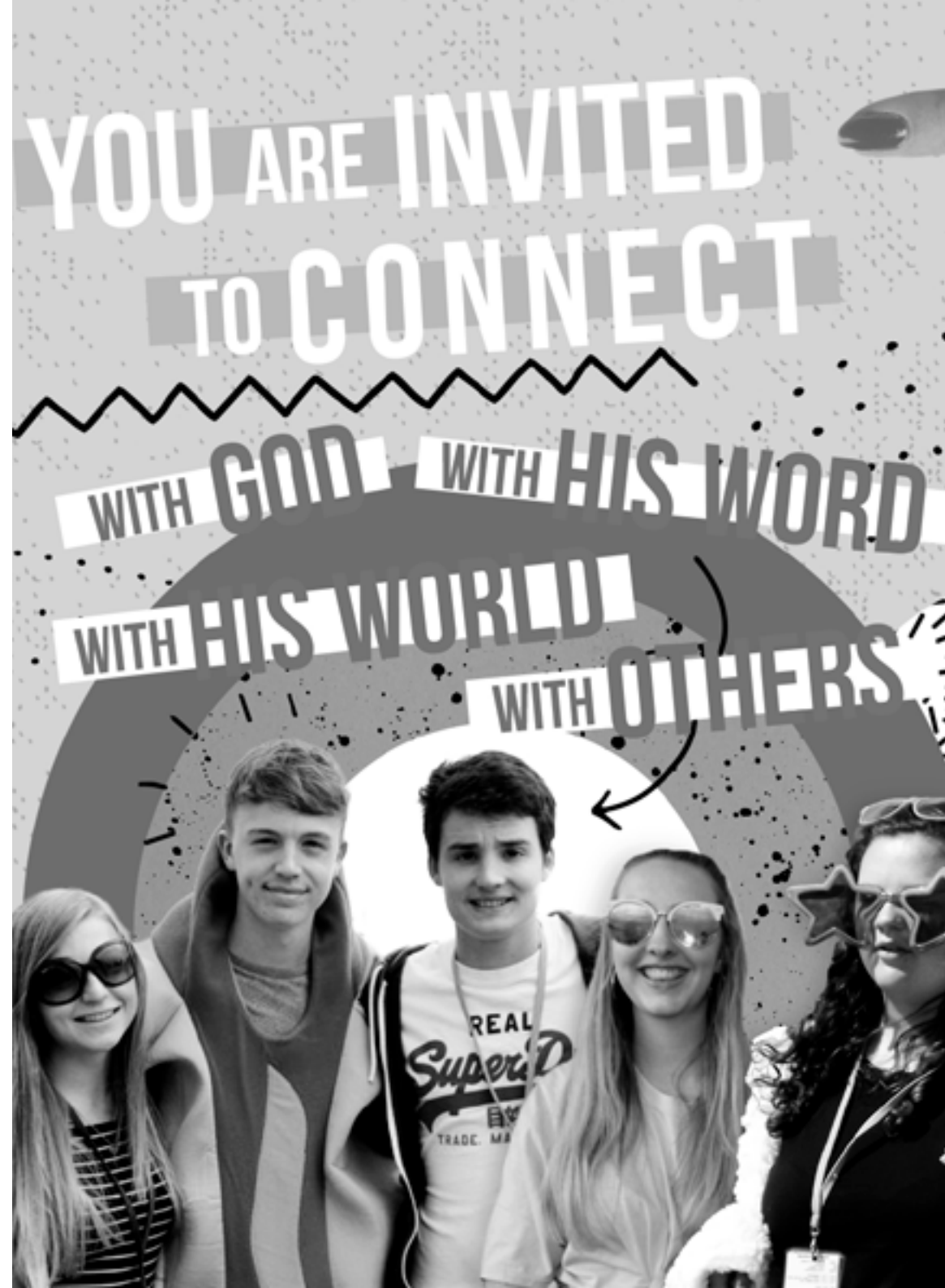


connect & equip

We've been working on developing a network of small groups for senior pupils. When lockdown happened, these groups were some of the first events to go online.

'It has been really encouraging as I see so many faces there, some that I know and some that I don't. It's been really good hearing from lots of different speakers on issues that are very topical: being connected; and where is God during Covid-19? When most places are closed it's so good to be able to meet online.'

Chloe Stirling



retrospective perspective

in Scotland

Before lockdown at SU Scotland
(September 2019–March 2020):



1693 young people came to a school residential event



436 SU Groups were meeting in schools



1,017 young people attended an SU Holiday or weekend event



104 young people attended COMMISSION training events

It was a privilege to meet each and every one.

1/4

of population is <19 years old

697,989

pupils went to school in 2019
(Education Scotland)

Young people encountering poverty and living in the most deprived areas of Scotland experience significantly worse health outcomes than those living in the least deprived areas.

(Public Health Scotland)

14,015

children are 'looked after'

(Scottish Government, July 2019)

'For you created my inmost being...
'Your eyes saw my unformed body...'

Psalm 139:13,16

2020 in hindsight

2020 will be remembered because...

- ⊘ The majority of young people could not attend school March–June
- ⊘ SU Groups and school residentials could not meet
- ⊘ SU Holidays & Missions could not happen face-to-face

...but

...we wanted every young person to know they are valued and loved so this happened:



Amazing SU staff and volunteers continued to connect with young people



Families watched SUTV during the Easter Holidays



Many SU Holiday events met online



1,000+ attended Magnitude online



Scotland's Biggest Holiday Club took place online



200 churches used Back to School with God resources



Our immediate response to the pandemic was SEEN by thousands in Scotland and beyond.

'It really got the message through and it was as good as going on a camp.'

Young person

'Thank you for praying and planning in the face of an uncertain world and producing a quality production in Scotland. You were all brave in using your own homes and families and friends. The friendship between you all as followers of Jesus and SU was noticeable and reinforced the SU family ethos. You all looked as tired at episode 10 as at the end of camp! Have a well earned rest before the next adventure.'

Parent





Over the summer, 22 SU Holidays met online. We SAW God at work even though we were sad at not being able to spend time together.

‘The joy, enthusiasm and participation of the campers was a real encouragement. So much laughter.’

Graham and Elaine Tait, Team Leaders

‘Jess has had a great week! Well done for all the hard work and a big thank you. I really appreciate how SU quickly adapted and reached out at this time. My daughter could enjoy the Christian teaching and connect with others online.’

Parent

‘I learned more than I knew possible about the Bible. I was able to take time to question if I really believed in God. It was here that I realised I wanted to be a Christian because I really did believe in God.’

Young person, Ayrshire Weekend



MAGNITUDE

Magnitude transformed into an online festival with young people joining from across Scotland.

- Over 1000 young people took part
- Church youth groups provided support and interaction
- Leading Bible teachers spoke on the theme of 'immeasurably more'
- Young people were challenged to think about and fundraise for world issues, including modern slavery

'Encouraging and challenging teaching, beautiful worship—Magnitude lifted our young folk after a long time of drought.'

Youth Leader

'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.'

Ephesians 3: 20–21



We WATCHED online as Scotland's Biggest Holiday Club connected children with fun, laughter and the wonder of all God's creation.

'How awesome to know that children were at home in their living rooms, with their families, taking part in Wonder Zone. The message was going to them, right where they were. Of course I would rather be able to meet with young people face to face, but it has been amazing what we've been able to do... with creativity, hard work and the grace of God.'

Cara Wightman, Cathcart Youth Ministry Partnership



COMMISSION

Young people delved deeper into their faith at conferences and online training, **LOOKING** for God.

'I felt very connected to God and everyone else in the room through the worship.'

Go Conference, Lendrick Muir, October 2019

'I was just in need of social interaction and encouragement in my faith and this week was so brilliant in doing exactly that.'

Discipleship @ Home June 2020



resources

We've produced resources for schools, for families, for churches and youth groups. Since lockdown we've **FOCUSED** on creating materials that will help young people engage online.

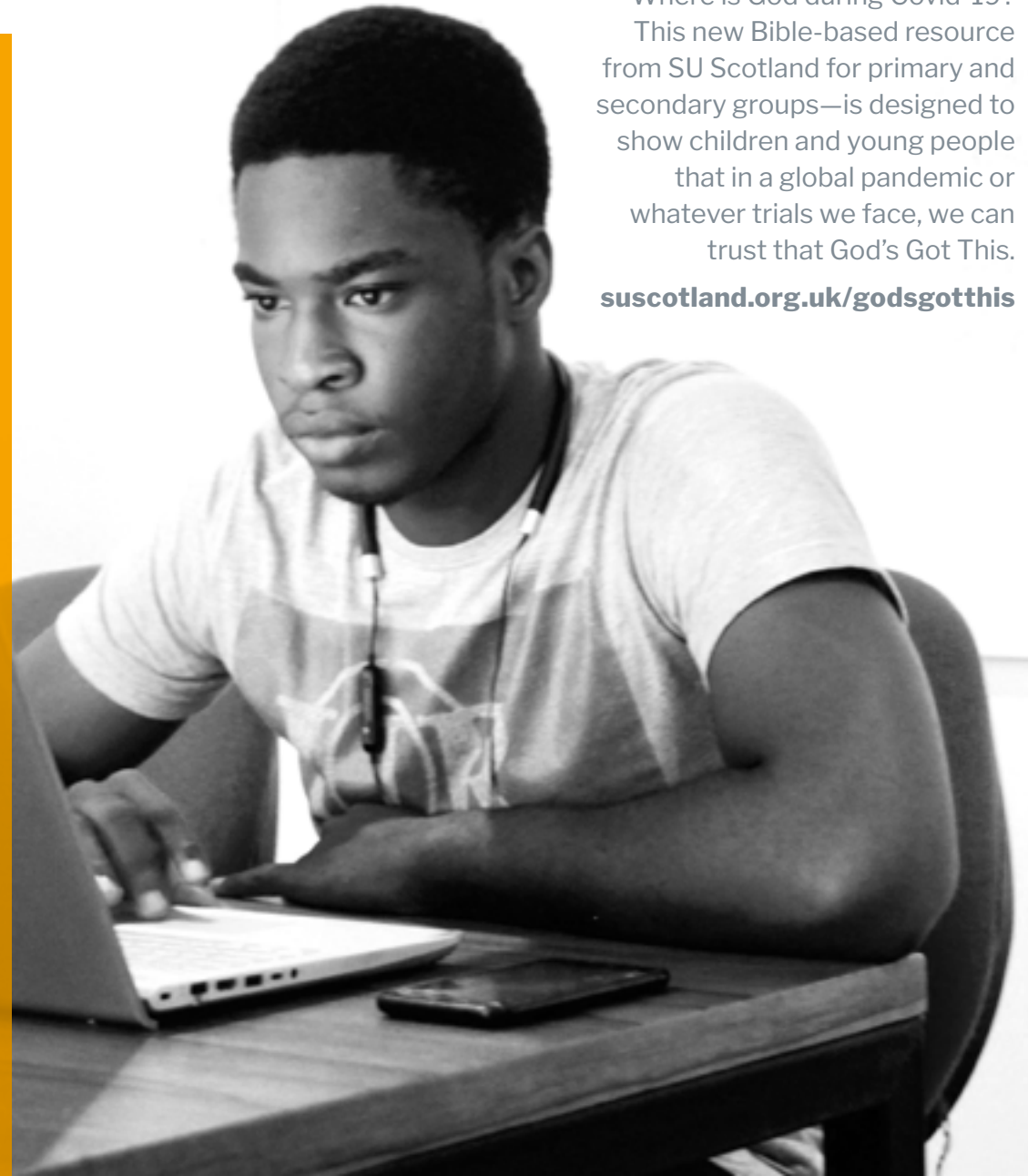
'We have been grateful for the Primary SU Group materials that you have been posting online. We have been using them with our own children every week and we now hope to start using them with other families in our church as a "virtual Sunday School".' Parent

'Explore Online provides activities to help children and young people who normally attend SU Groups continue exploring the Bible at home. There are eight sessions each for primary and secondary with videos, activities and questions to reflect on. Churches also use these resources for their youth activities.' Lesley Crawford, es-team Schools Worker

GOD'S GOT THIS

Where is God during Covid-19?
This new Bible-based resource from SU Scotland for primary and secondary groups—is designed to show children and young people that in a global pandemic or whatever trials we face, we can trust that God's Got This.

suscotland.org.uk/godsgotthis



encounter

Encounter was our last large event to happen before lockdown. 120 young people and their youth leaders met to PRAY at the Inchyra Hotel, Falkirk.

'I have learned today to tell God about my fears and he will deal with them.' Cameron, S1

'I enjoyed Encounter. I was inspired to rely on and trust God in every situation.' Rachel, S4

'Loved it! Felt really inspired. One of the closest moments I have had to God.' Ben, S1

We pray that the eyes of your hearts will be opened. Ephesians 1:18



volunteers

For many, volunteering completely changed direction in March 2020. School groups couldn't meet, and all SU residentials, Missions, Training events and the Magnitude Festival were cancelled. Volunteers were flexible and creative, finding ways to connect online.

'Sadly, due to the current situation, the SU Groups where I volunteer can't start back but we are hoping and praying that they will be able to begin again at some point soon.' Fraser Ellis

'In July, I was part of the team for the Wonder Zone holiday club on Zoom. It was my first time as a trainee leader at an SU Scotland event and by the end I felt more confident—not only in interacting with children, but also in my own faith.' Mary McVicker



finances

for year to end March 2020

We want to say a massive thank you to all our supporters, trust funds and other funding bodies who provide the resources we need to deliver our vision of enabling the children of Scotland to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus.

During the financial year to March 2020...

- Our results were largely break even. Although donation income levels were maintained, exceptional income in 2019/20 relating to the development of Gowanbank was not repeated..
- Salary inflation represented the majority of the increase in cost.

Since lockdown Covid has had a devastating impact on our trading activities at the Centres, SU Holidays and fundraising events. We are enormously grateful for the ongoing financial support of donors and responses to appeals—particularly in enabling our centres to survive this challenging time and be ready to open their doors as lockdown eases.

Looking ahead, we continue to work towards sustainable levels of regular income to support the ongoing costs of staff and wage inflation.

We are so grateful to God for all that he has given us as an organisation.

Sally Sydserff, Honorary Treasurer
Lisbeth Macmillan, Chief Financial Officer

	19/20	↑ ↓ 18/19
TOTAL INCOME	£4m	(↓ £0.4m)
DONATIONS & LEGACIES	£2.4m	(↓ £0.5m)
CHARITABLE (trading activities)	£1.6m	(↑ £0.1m)
SPEND	£4m	(↑ £0.2m)
DIRECT MINISTRY	£3.3m	(↑ £0.1m)
SUPPORT COSTS (inc fundraising)	£0.7m	(↑ £0.1m)
NET SURPLUS	£0.02m	(↓ £0.6m)

The financial information above is based on figures from the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020. All figures are rounded. The accounts received an unqualified report from Mazars LLP, our auditors, and signed copies have been lodged with OSCR and the Registrar of Companies. A copy of the full document is available online at suscotland.org.uk/annualreview.

trusts

We are grateful to the following trusts for support in 2019/20:

Aitchison Trust

Angela Lynsey Macdonald Trust

Ardbarron Trust Limited

Bitmac Christian Trust

Black Family Trust

Burrows Charitable Trust

Challenge Trust

Charnwood Trust

CLN Trust

Criffel Charitable Trust

Cruden Trust

Door Trust

Dr Guthrie's Association

Durris Charitable Trust

Eaton Charitable Trust

Epaphroditus Trust

Esther Hennell Charitable Trust

Exodun Charitable Trust

Ferndean Trust

Generation Trust

Inverclyde Trust

J & C Fleming Charitable Trust

J W Laing Trust

Kenneth Barge Memorial Trust

Levering Charitable Trust

Life Trust Limited

Martin Connell Charitable Trust

Miss M E Swinton Paterson's Trust

Netherdale Trust

New Park Educational Trust

Petty Trust

Pleasance Trust

Roy Miller Charitable Trust

Sandringham Trust

Sannox Christian Centre

Scott Thomson Charitable Trust

Souter Charitable Trust

Sporos Trust

Springboard Charitable Trust

Tableel Trust

Waterside Trust

Wilson Distributors Charitable Trust

YouthLink Scotland



staff team

The staff team is amazing!

We want to honour the way that our staff have adapted to the Covid-19 crisis with commitment and flexibility. For some it has meant months on furlough, for others rapidly adapting to create resources and deliver events online. Because of the long term impact of the pandemic, many staff had to adjust to working shorter hours and there may be redundancies for some as our work patterns change.

Please pray for the staff you know, during this time of uncertainty.

And pray for wisdom for our leadership team as they guide the organisation.



our centres

Our centres at Alltnacriche, Gowanbank and Lendrick Muir were in the midst of one of their busiest ever seasons. The pandemic meant they had to close, with many staff on furlough.

At Gowanbank, we were gearing up for our first school residential, with the entire programme to be run by us, when we went into lockdown. This was hard. We had to close and I was taking phone calls and emails of cancelled bookings and refunds.

This is when I was reminded that God is doing a 'new thing' and that he 'will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert' (Is 43:18-19).

We were encouraged that most of the groups we spoke to were simply moving their booking to the following year or to when they could return to us.

Sylvia Campbell, Joint Centre Manager



our vision for 2021

We don't know what the year ahead will hold but we are excited to have opportunities to continue to work with children and young people, online and face-to-face.

- We look forward to SU Groups and school visits restarting.
- Day camps are planned for the Easter Holidays.
- We hope and pray for SU Holidays, Missions and Magnitude face-to-face during summer 2021.
- Connecting online has become important to us and we will explore how to integrate this more into our activities.
- We will continue to support and develop new Connect groups and training events for senior pupils and students.



'Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.'

thank you

To all of you, our supporters,
volunteers and staff. We
couldn't do it without you!

'In saying thank you, I recognise that some of you, our amazing volunteers, have been unable to be a part of the ministry that you love this year. Many of you have been able to get involved in whatever opportunity did arise. Your continued support for SU Scotland and your service to the children and young people of Scotland is hugely appreciated.'

Janice Aitken, Volunteers Manager



who are SU Scotland?

Our vision is to see the children and young people of Scotland exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus.

We are a Christian charity with over 2,000 volunteers and 100 staff working in four contexts: schools, holidays, community-based missions, and training and equipping.

We work in partnership with churches, SU Scotland Associate Trusts and others to help children and young people across Scotland have an opportunity to explore the Bible and respond to the significance of Jesus.

We offer safe places where they can have fun, meet new challenges, feel valued, accepted and free to express their views and consider their own beliefs as they engage with peers and Christian leaders. We aim to prioritise the needs of those from a disadvantaged background in all our activities.



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*We keep our eyes fixed
on Jesus, the author and
perfector of our faith.*

Hebrews 12:2

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