



Lighting
Up Scotland

ANNUAL REVIEW 2020-21

CHAIR & CEO

Looking back on the past year of ministry during academic session 2020/21, it has definitely been a year of two halves.

Periods of significant lockdown resulted in the loss of most of our face-to-face activities. However, as things began to open up again after Easter 2021, there was much joy and a great deal of activity with a range of innovative approaches being taken to run day events, tented expeditions and outdoor missions as we worked to do everything we could within the COVID-19 restrictions still in place.

Through it all, we experienced and depended on the constancy

of our great God. As Psalm 136 reminds us, His love endures forever. The psalmist uses that refrain no less than 26 times in this one psalm just to reinforce the point. God is constant and His love really does endure forever!

And so, encouraged by that reality, we're determined to share our message of hope with even more children and young people right across Scotland.

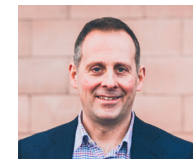
With a renewed vision to see every child exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus, our new strategy for 2021 to 2024 will demand fresh energy, creativity, funding, urgency and, most of

all, prayer as we move forward in faith and action together.

Whether you serve, give or pray, (or even all three!) thank you for the part you play in this vital mission to the next generation. ▣



Rev Jim Dewar
Chair



Robin MacLellan
CEO

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods.
His love endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords:
His love endures forever.*

Psalm 136:1–3 NIV



SU Holidays
YOU BELONG HERE



SU HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAYS UNLEASHED

At the start of 2021, even the regulations about travelling out of local authority boundaries was enough to put our regular SU Holidays programme in doubt.

We decided to bring the best bits of camp to our young people instead. The new venture saw 13 events—from Inverness to Castle Douglas to Aberdeen—with nearly 200 young people in attendance, many from areas of deprivation. They took part in activities like archery tag, wood carving and earth ball, exploring the Bible together and enjoying being with friends—new and old—

just in their local park rather than at one of our centres. Plans are underway to see what we can do to continue this new model in 2022.

EXPEDITIONS

One of the restrictions affecting our summer programme was the rule that accommodation could only be single occupancy.

However, we noticed that camping was given a thumbs up, and so we set about plans to run 5 expeditions (3 canoeing and 2 multi adventure).

The response to this opportunity was incredible with some of the events filling in 24 hours and some with a waiting list bigger than the event capacity in the first place.

DAY CAMPS

Initially, we weren't sure how popular day camps at the centres would be, with substantial travel time involved. 50 events and nearly 1,000 bookings later, it was clear we were on to a good thing!

Many events were entirely outdoors, and this resource-light approach was a great reminder of the power of God's word, without feeling the need to highlight it with projectors and media clips. ▣





EQUIP & CONNECT

Equip events aim to help Christian young people think through why the Christian faith is true in the face of the big questions of today and then live it out in one of the hardest places to be a Christian: school.

- Equip expanded during the year, with Equip North as well as Equip East and West.
- Meeting online has made it easier for young people who live out of the cities to connect.

Connect Groups are places for young people to explore and develop faith. A place where they can meet, chat, read the

Bible, pray and encourage each other to share their faith.

Mary McVicker, Equip Group member: One highlight of lockdown was Equip Online. It was great to see familiar faces every couple of weeks and the talks were also really uplifting. Although I still miss the familiar old world of life before Coronavirus, and it will be brilliant when SU events can happen in person again, God has really used this time, when it's difficult to plan ahead even to next week, to help me understand more about trusting him. I've also been surprised at the amazing opportunities that God has provided to do events online that I would never have thought were possible!

Julia Marshall, Aberdeen: This has been a year of (dare I say it) 'unprecedented' growth in my Christian life and being a volunteer for SU Scotland was a massive part of that. In June 2020, instead of travelling to the Isle of Arran for Basecamp, I found myself 'Zooming' in to the online alternative—Discipleship at Home. Through that, I got involved in a Connect Group which has enabled me to continue my development as a young leader throughout the year and get to know other Christians from across Scotland. I prepared and led my first Bible study there which was among the experiences that have built my confidence in leading. ▣





RESOURCES

THROUGH THE YEAR AT SCHOOL

Digital resources have been an important route for communication both in and out of school over the last year, as face-to-face ministry was more limited.

Good quality video content is a key way to communicate with children and young people and these resources, designed for key points in the year, all do just that.

A partnership with SU Ireland has helped us create all of these resources and we were delighted to be able to offer them for free. suscotland.org.uk/resources



LIGHT UP CHRISTMAS

Through a series of cross-curricular activities, children can take a fresh look at Christmas in a fun and dynamic way.


COLOUR IN EASTER

Based around a three-part video series, this cross-curricular resource brings the Easter story to life!

MOVE

A resource to help young people move from primary to secondary school. Over three short films, join Sarah, Mark and Darren as they help children think about this exciting next step with key themes of emotions, foundations and growth.

WHAT'S NEXT?

We are working at developing our digital resources and events, connecting with children and young people wherever they are, all year round. 





MISSION

WE WENT OUTDOORS!

Jungle Adventure Holiday Clubs met in Scotland's towns, villages and cities.

Jungle Adventure was SU Scotland's 2021 holiday club resource, designed especially for outdoor events.

- 20 SU Scotland events
- 572 children and young people
- 224 volunteers
- 110 copies of Jungle Adventure were sold, supporting events reaching a further 1300+ children and young people


Currie and Juniper Green: 'Being outside was nice and open.'

There were members of the churches and members of the community who deliberately walked nearby where we were so they could see what was going on and watch from a distance. If we had been in the hall that would not have happened and it was nice to see others taking an interest in what we were doing.'

Killmaurs: 'We saw so many non-church kids signing up, and then bringing their friends. There were conversations with parents who were really struggling with life. And then so many families came along to the BBQ run by the church and one new family started coming to the Sunday Service!'

North Berwick: 'The team was amazing. Each individual put so much time and preparation in for the group times; came with lots of experience and ideas; were creative, fun, prayerful, and reliant on God—it made my job so much easier!'

Kirkcaldy: 'Just seeing the smiling faces and having face-to-face contact was amazing.'

Helensburgh: 'One of the youngest children was able to go home and explain a Bible story to his mum...they have since come along to a Sunday morning church service and we hope to see this continue in the weeks to come.' 





PRAYER

The pandemic didn't stop us praying, but it did change how we did it.

SU Scotland Day of Prayer 2021

Our day of prayer happened online for the first time, with the unexpected blessing of us being able to hold regional prayer gatherings which drew up to 200 people!

Encounter

A committed group of young people spent time reimagining the traditional Encounter event which previously met in person and ably brought together a different style of programme.



Individual young people joined in from far and wide across Scotland.

Back to School with God 2021

In August a total of 361 churches of every possible denomination held a Back to School with God Sunday service, encouraging young people and school staff by praying for them at the start of a new school year. The resource was picked up by five churches in the USA; four in Ireland; and one each in Barbados, Switzerland and Finland!

In answer to 'If you could describe the resource in three words, what would you use?' participants said:

- **Multi-generational, engaging, relevant**
- **Flexible, linked-up, Biblical**
- **Full, attractive, good spiritual content. ▣**





MAGNITUDE

Magnitude once again adapted to create a hybrid festival, streaming live from Lendrick Muir for three days, with 42 youth groups across the UK watching from local church halls, campsites, back gardens and even a beach on the Isle of Lewis!

The themes of Encounter, Captivated and Empowered helped the young people to explore who Jesus is, how we can remain in Him, and how He can empower us to change the world around us for His Kingdom.

Through seminars with International Justice Mission and


We Are Tearfund, we engaged with the themes of Isaiah 61, and took part in a 'Focus, Follow & Fundraise' challenge which highlighted the work of justice, and saw young people take part in daily actions to seek justice in their everyday lives.

Through this hybrid approach, many youth groups were able to connect with each other to take part in Magnitude which helped to establish relationships between churches and young people.

We hope to encourage these connections in the lead up to the 2022 festival.

Youth Group Leader: 'Five of our six young people have no

church background, and parents are not always supportive of them attending our youth group, because it is connected with a church. We live in a high SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) area which brings lots of challenges.'

Youth Group Leader: 'One of our young people, who only started connecting with us just before lockdown, came along to Magnitude. As a result of what she experienced, she went out the following day and bought herself a Bible. She is keen to connect with us even more and has said that she can't wait to come back to our youth group when we restart this week.' 





YOUNG LEADERS

IN 2020–2021 OUR COMMISSION EVENTS HAPPENED ONLINE

COMMISSION ONLINE replaced events such as Basecamp and LeadUP in June 2021.

40 young people took part in an event over a long weekend which included a mix of leadership training, fun activities and Bible teaching.

David Clipston, Young Leaders Development Coordinator:

'As ever, the young people were utterly amazing—defying the challenges of meeting online. They got stuck into real hands-on training, working in small

groups to prepare and deliver trial sessions for their peers. Zoom fatigue was real at that point, but we saw real engagement and enthusiasm from this group. It inspired me for sure!'

Ian Bathgate, Volunteer:

'Re-engage was a great online event at Easter 21 for those who had taken part in Discipleship at Home in 2020. It ran with the idea of getting folks re-engaged with both their personal Christian Journey and their involvement in the local church.

'Our morning group times focused on the life-changing relationship we can have with Jesus, while our evenings focused on the important role a gathered church

has on the lives of every Christian.

'We also enjoyed fellowship with the young folks with some time of worship and prayer but also loads of crazy fun that saw many of us leaders (myself included) make a complete fool of ourselves.'

'Personally I loved the opportunity to think and share about these things while creating new friendships with young folks and leaders alike.' ▣





GAP YEAR

WE PIVOTED TO DIGITAL

While gap year has been anything but normal it has been full of exciting opportunities, thanks to a bit of creativity, some technology and our amazing God.

Steven Randall—gap:comms—was based at home in Falkirk, and Laura Barber—gap:fusion—was based in Ayrshire and Gowanbank.



Both grew in faith and skills, and were able to engage with young people all over Scotland, and even in Ukraine, thanks to a Zoom club with Open Bible.



From online clubs, Connect

Groups, and conferences, to the occasional in-person events there was plenty going on. They dreamt up daft games for the digital world, created videos for events and played their part in opening the Bible with young people.

Steven and Laura say:

'...there is a lot to reflect on. We have grown, we have been challenged and we have learned to trust God more.'

'Even though most of what we were excited for has not been able to happen, it has still been a great year with many experiences that will stick with us for a long time. This year has helped both of us grow in our faith and in our

confidence.' (SU Blog March 21)

Steven is now studying with Edinburgh Theological Seminary. Laura stayed on with Gap Year for another year to discover how to put all she's learnt online into practice in in-person youth and children's work. ▣





INTERNATIONAL

WHEN A VISIT TO OPEN BIBLE IN UKRAINE WASN'T POSSIBLE, WE FOUND A NEW WAY TO WORK TOGETHER

Open Bible's Oksana Khimich led a 10-week 'English Club' for young people in Ukraine. A team from Scotland joined to help young people engage with English Bible stories from the Jesus Storybook Bible and develop their English language skills at the same time!

Oksana was keen that we also share about life in Scotland and for children to have every opportunity to listen to a native speaker.

The 10-week block flew by, and then we offered a 5-day 'camp'

which ran for three hours every morning during the first week of June. Where some couldn't attend, new faces joined in. We learned to be flexible. One thing we discovered is that last-minute planning is normal in Ukraine, unlike here!

Children are children, wherever they live. Some were lively; others were shy, needing a little bit of encouragement to speak. Despite Zoom, we got to know them.

... SUPPORT THE CENTRES

Funds from our Centres Appeal in autumn 2020 supported work at Open Bible's Vorzel campsite, which enabled them to refurbish their kitchen. ▣





CENTRES

AT OUR THREE CENTRES

Throughout the pandemic our centres have adapted to create life-changing outcomes for children and young people on their faith journey.

- We delivered events outdoors in our grounds
- We sought out and supported vulnerable young people
- We ran day events for school groups instead of school residential
- We ran day camps instead of residential SU Holidays
- Our teams helped deliver Holidays Unleashed and Expeditions (see page 4)




Hannah Steeds, Schools Host, Alltnacriche: 'During October Holidays (2020) we pitched tents in the grounds to make places for young people to store their belongings and got on with delivering some SU Holidays day camps.'

Sylvia Campbell, Centre Manager, Gowanbank: 'Whilst we've been working with fewer young people, we've had opportunities to work with vulnerable young people over an 8-week period. The programme included hillwalking, cycling, archery, bushcraft and Christian teaching.'

Rachel Luxton, Schools Programme Manager, Lendrick Muir: 'We've been able to build links with local schools, work with vulnerable young

people and support young people with the transition from primary to secondary school.'

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US

Paul Bayton, Director of Centres and Resources: 'An appeal in autumn 2020 raised an incredible £265,000 which helped us plan to ensure that staff were retained, centres maintained and enhanced, and most importantly ready to serve young people throughout 2021. 10% of the appeal fund helped our partners in Ukraine to refurbish their kitchen at the Vorzel campsite. We were also successful in obtaining support from a number of Scottish Government schemes. Thank you for standing with us, financially and in prayer at this time.' 



VOLUNTEERS

We want to say a huge thank you to you, our volunteers, for all you have contributed to SU Scotland in 2021:

In a year when we have continued to experience restrictions and constant change we are so grateful to you for stepping up to support ministry with children and young people.

However challenges remain, with over half our volunteers unable to be involved in their usual groups and events in 2021. This included many SU Group volunteers who have been unable to be part of their groups since March 2020.



I particularly want to recognise those who have stepped down from volunteering in this time and have been unable to say goodbye to the children in your group and be properly thanked for all you have contributed.

All that you have given to help children and young people engage with the Bible and explore the significance of Jesus is hugely appreciated.

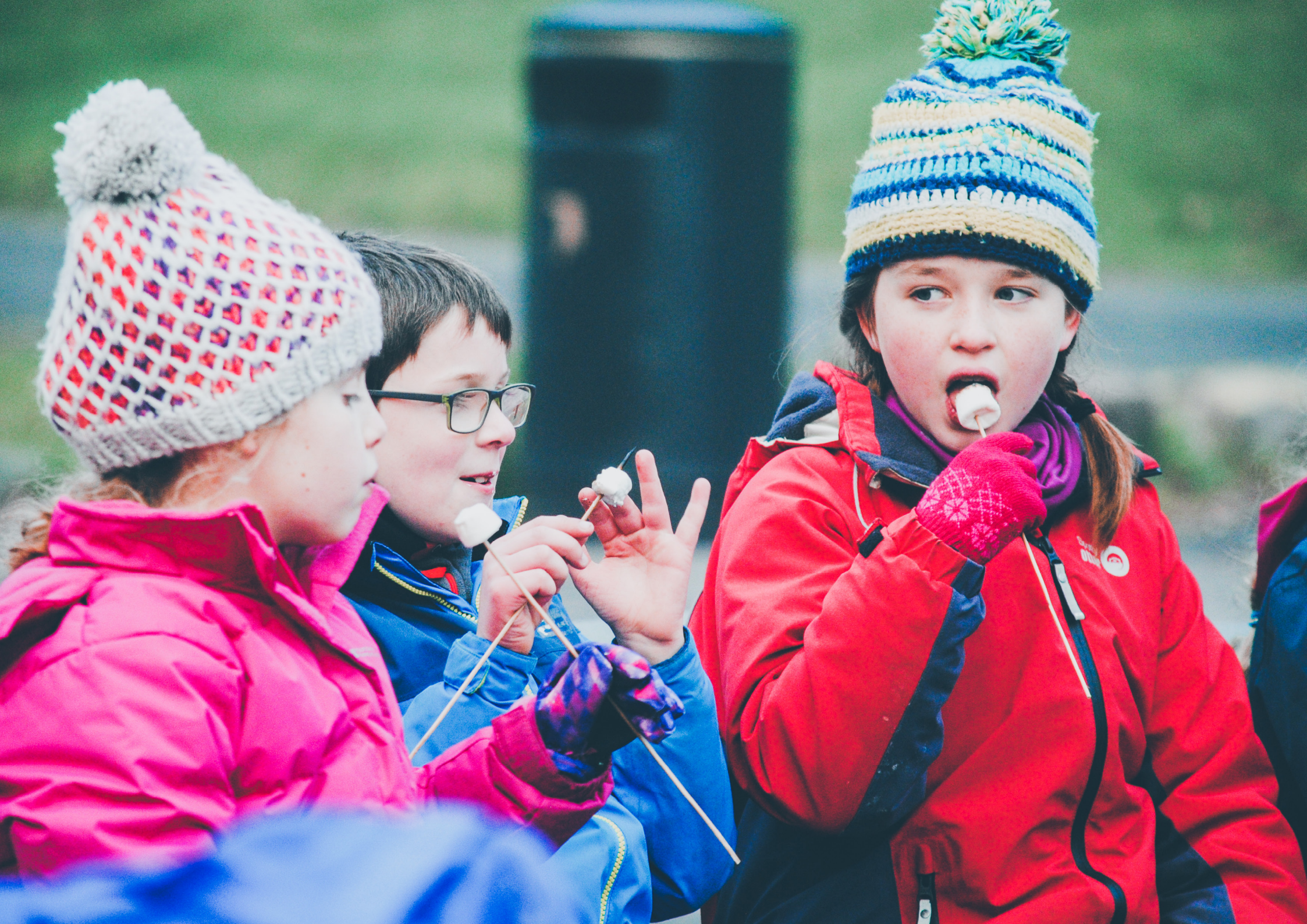
I end with a quoted highlight from a Mission volunteer that expresses so well what we hope is the experience of volunteering with SU Scotland:

'Lovely atmosphere for the children to learn about Jesus

and have fun. A clear gospel message came through the whole event and one 6-year-old boy in my group, with no church background, said that he wanted to learn more about Jesus.' ▣

—Janice Aitken
Volunteers Manager





FINANCES

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Wow! God has moved the hearts of so many people and organisations to stand by us during such difficult times as we are locked down all year. We are so grateful to all of our supporters, trust funds, other funding bodies, and the government who have stood by us to enable our work with children and young people in Scotland to continue during COVID.

During the financial year to March 2021:

- Remarkably we ended the year with a surplus of £254k. This was a result of exceptional giving, particularly to our appeals—

Lockdown Hope and Centres— and government support.

- **We carefully managed all expenses to ensure that we were in a position to maintain our staff base and Centres, so that we could start to engage with children and young people in person as soon as the restrictions were lifted from May 2021**
- We had practically no trading income at our Centres or through SU Holidays during the year but donations were in line with the previous year and government grants and furlough supported us through—for which we are very grateful!

Looking ahead, we continue to work towards sustainable levels of regular income to support the ongoing costs of staff and wage inflation. We are also working to raise funds for new areas of ministry in online digital activities and young people living life at the margins.

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

Jonathan Innes, Honorary Treasurer
Lisbeth Macmillan, Chief Financial Officer





INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	20/21	19/20	↑↓
INCOME	£3.4m	£4m	(↓ £0.6m)
DONATIONS & LEGACIES	£2.5m	£2.4m	(↑ £0.1m)
CHARITABLE (trading activities)	£0.1m	£1.6m	(↓ £1.5m)
GOVERNMENT	£0.8m	—	(↑ £0.8m)
EXPENDITURE	£3.2m	£4m	(↓ £0.8m)
DIRECT MINISTRY	£2.5m	£3.3m	(↓ £0.8m)
SUPPORT COSTS (inc fundraising)	£0.7m	£0.7m	NO CHANGE
NET SURPLUS	£0.2m	—	(↑ £0.2m)



The financial information above is based on figures from the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. 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

TRUSTS WHO SUPPORTED US IN 2020/21 INCLUDED:

- Aitchison Trust
- Ardbarron Trust Limited
- Arndee Trust
- Black Family Trust
- Burrows Charitable Trust
- Challenge Trust
- Charnwood Trust
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- Tabeel Trust
- TBF & KL Thompson Trust
- Waterside Trust
- Wilson Distributors Charitable Trust
- YouthLink Scotland



TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES

- Angus Allan (from Sept. 2021)
- Stephen Bell
- Rosie Bowker
- Audrey Chalmers
- Jim Dewar
- Caroline Dodds
- Pam Fulton
- Heather Haywood
- Jonathan Innes (from Aug. 2021)
- Arthur Jones (until May 2021)
- Martyn Link (from Aug. 2021)
- Christine Murison
- Kenny Stott
- Sally Sydserrff (until Aug. 2021)
- Cara Wightman (from Aug. 2021)





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