

# STREET LEVEL

Carl Luke Churches' Youth Project  
"Investing in young people"

# Street Level Newsletter



CHRISTMAS EDITION

DECEMBER 2021

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CLOSING DATES

### Closing:

Christmas Eve at  
4pm

### Reopening:

Sunday 9th from  
6pm - 9pm

Please check our FB  
page for any updates  
due to the current  
pandemic.

Street Level is very grateful to the churches of Carl Luke for their past and continuing support



- \* St. Andrew's
- \* St. Athanasius'
- \* St. John's
- \* Kirkstyle
- \* Kirkton
- \* U.R.C.

And of course,  
CHOICES shop

Special mention to our sessional workers **Lynn & Joanna** who have regularly gone above and beyond over the past difficult year.

Thanks also to the **Carl Luke Listeners** who have helped us to provide drop-in sessions for the young people.

## "End of an era" or a new beginning?" - by Jim McIntyre

### Welcome to our Christmas newsletter.

Usually this publication is full of news about what the project and our young people have been up to, but this time (embarrassingly) the main story is about me.

After many weeks of prayer, deliberating and perhaps even anguish, I have eventually made a very difficult decision.

I'm taking early retirement at the end of the year.

It has been a privilege and an honour to have been able to do the type of work I love, in the town I grew up in. The town my children grew up in (and most of my grandchildren are growing up in). As I mentioned in a previous talk, I have been doing it so long that my surname changed from McIntyre to "Fae Street Level".

Yes, there are some drawbacks about working with a community in which you live, but the advantages outweigh the disad-

vantages – not least being told by a member of bar-staff that the middle-aged bloke in the corner wanted to buy me a drink, then realising he is one of the youngsters I had known from years back.

I hadn't planned on retiring quite so soon, and I apologise to all at Street Level for "springing" this on you. There are many and varied reasons which have led to my decision; some personal and some work-related. Street Level is at a bit of a crossroads now with me leaving and other external factors, but I just want to say I have had nothing but tremendous support from all the members of the management team over the years, and from the community as a whole.

I would urge anyone who has the interests of our young people at heart to help and support Street Level if you can; financially is great, but if you could spare some time to share your talents either on the manage-

ment committee or as a volunteer worker, then I'd urge you to consider it. It can be so rewarding. You may not even know you have the required talent. When I first started as a volunteer for Street Level, I had no experience of working with young folk whatsoever. But thanks to the Street Level management investing in me by putting me through an HNC in working with communities, followed by a degree in Community education and over 25 years of practical experience, I think I've just about got the hang of it.

The list of "**Things I will miss**" is way too long to post here, but top of that list has to be the young people. They have been my teachers, my hope-givers, my pains in the neck, my pushers of boundaries. They have kept me young in mind and heart. Please pray for all our young people, the Street Level project, the staff, management and volunteers.

Goodbye and God bless.

Jim Fae Street Level.

## A message from the chair - John Wilcox

Jim McIntyre has been the public face of Street Level for over 25 years. He has had a significant and positive impact on very many of our young people. Lives have been changed through the work he has helped lead at Street Level.

And so, as he plans his retirement, he will be greatly missed.

It's the end of an era ... and the next step on the journey.

The management team will take

time to reflect on the way ahead. Street Level is a member of the One Carl Luke Area Network, and our partners at the Carl Luke Development Trust are embarking on a survey of the views of the young people in the town. What do they want, and need from us?

We are listening.

If you wish to show your appreciation for Jim, you can make donations to the Street Level bank account (marked "for

Jim") - 80-11-00 06082505, or to our Paypal account [streetlevel@paypal.com](mailto:streetlevel@paypal.com).

You can also hand your donation to your church's Street Level representative, or post it to Sue Kehoe, 26 Kirkton Street, Carl Luke ML8 4AB.

Thank you for your support.

# Volunteering - Vienna McAllister



Vienna and Chloe taking part in one of the training sessions



Cooking with Mel



Boards, bikes and baguettes



At the skate-park

If you have any memories or thoughts on what Street Level has meant to you, your children (or even your parents for that matter), We would love to hear them. You can post them on our Facebook page—see the link below.

We would love to hear your stories.

Check out our website and FB page <https://streetlevelcarluke.org>

 [Streetlevel Carluke](https://streetlevelcarluke.org)

**A few words from one of the young people who took part in the volunteer training programme**

*“Street Level is like a hobby to me. I’ve been going to Street Level for a few years now and it’s a great, fun place to be with friends – or even meet new people. It provides a lot of opportunities and activities for young people and young adults.*

*Every time I go there I learn*

*new things, whether that’s learning to cook, playing pool, arts & crafts or getting help with dealing with problems. Street Level is a great place for me.*

*As a way of repaying all the help I have had at Street Level I decided to join the volunteer training programme to become an official volunteer. I believe that volunteering will improve my confidence but it will also look good on my CV.*

*Some of the responsibilities that*

*come with volunteering are: discussing with other members the ways Street Level can improve, registering/recognising your work and communicating with and helping other young people. One of the essential skills I hope to learn from the training, and actually becoming a volunteer, is team-work. This is a great skill to have and is one of many opportunities that Street Level provides.”*

**Wee V.**

## In other news

### Young Carers & Mel’s Meals

Our Young Carers’ group were very happy to accept the offer from ONECan for Mel to come and show them how to make a variety of healthy food using some produce from the Community Garden. Over the course of four weeks, They helped with the preparation, cooking and devouring of some really tasty but simple recipes.



### Greggs up “The Skatey”

The weekly visits to the skate park on Thursdays proved so popular that even after some restrictions were lifted, we decided to continue this important outreach part of our youth-work.

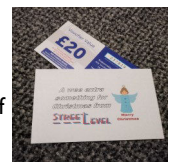
Greggs kindly donate any unsold produce and we collect it and take it up to the kids at the skate-park.

It’s a great way to meet different groups of young people, adults and the odd passing dog.

I mean, who doesn’t like a Steak-bake? (we even do a vegan version)

### A wee extra something for Christmas

Thanks to some funding from STV Children’s appeal we were able to provide shopping vouchers to around 80 families this year. A big “Thank you” to our friends at the Clydesdale Food Bank who helped us distribute these by adding them in to their food parcels which are being delivered during December. We hope it goes some way to help struggling families at this time of year.



**This was recently posted by one of our “Former Patients” on our Facebook page - it’s nice to get positive feedback now and again.**

*“There’s a few Universal Connections but there is only one Street Level (Street Beat).*

*Street Level, to me was huge whilst I was growing up, Big Jim McIntyre came to my primary school in 1999 LOL. I was in P7.. he told us of this wonderful place and how we should all come and visit. I did, and never left for years!*

*Coming from Carlisle, English accent and buck-teeth and a massive chip on my shoulder, I found it hard to integrate and also dealing with ADHD would legit run to Street Level*

*It got me out the house and let me be me! I met new people and it allowed me to get to know a lot of people my age and make friends, and a lot that I still know to this day, it helped me grow and develop into who I am today.*

*I took full advantage of all the groups, trips and most importantly*

*advice and guidance, from all the staff.*

*To name a few Raymie, Brian (Papa Bear), Cath and the many other workers that had to put up with my snash lol.*

*I just wanted to say how important Street Level is to me and this community.*

*I hope Street Level continues to thrive for at least another 20+ years and continues to mould the youth of our sleepy wee town to be better people.”*

**Thanks Dave - Love it!**