

# Connecting you

Autumn  
2019

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PULL-OUT  
MISSION  
REPORT

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Scripture  
Union

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## Generous Joe shares Jesus with his school friends

When Joe, aged 10, was given a copy of SU's *Diary of a Disciple*, he loved it so much that he wanted to give copies to all 70 pupils in his junior school.

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## Secondary school students shine for Jesus

Often young Christians are keen to share their faith but don't know where to begin. That's why SU has helped to develop Shine to help young Christians explore faith and share it with their peers.

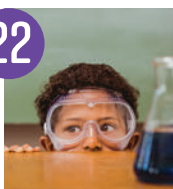
18



## 'I will not be afraid...for you are with me'

Our free Light Party resources help thousands of churches hold positive and fun events at Halloween. This year's pack focuses on Jesus bringing light and comfort, more broadly for when children go through dark and difficult times.

22



## Making spiritual sense of science

Children are often taught that science and faith conflict but our latest holiday club will help them explore how science and faith can go hand in hand to help us understand the world we live in.

# Jesus provides the strong foundations young people need

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**"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9**

When we talk about sharing Jesus with children and young people who aren't part of a church, we often say how important it is to 'go to where they are'.

But that's not just about geography. It's about where they are mentally and emotionally too. What concerns and interests do they have? And how can we help them to explore the difference that Jesus can make to the challenges they face?

Huge numbers of children and young people today experience anxiety and depression. Maddy was amongst them. Finding Jesus literally saved her life. She's helped develop a new SU resource that will introduce young people to the comfort and hope that Jesus brings – read more on page 4. This year's *Light Party Pack* also incorporates a mental health and well-being theme (page 18).

As Christians, we can be strong and courageous because God is with us wherever we go. In November, school groups across the country will learn how to be 'Fearless' as part

of a three-week programme called *Shine* (page 12). You can also discover how one fearless young Christian introduced his entire junior school to Jesus (page 10)!

On a different note, many children and young people get mixed messages about faith versus science. Are the two contradictory or complementary? Our latest holiday club resource, developed in conjunction with the Faraday Institute, helps them to explore the wonder and awe of science, and encounter God who is behind these wonders (page 22).

Children and young people today are exposed to a myriad of conflicting ideas all claiming to be 'truth'. God's truths are unchanging; only he can offer the strong foundations that they so desperately need.

*Myles*

**Myles MacBean,**  
National Director



*Connecting You* is Scripture Union's supporter and prayer magazine, keeping you up to date with what God is doing through the work you support.

*Connecting You* magazine is also available online at: [www.su.org.uk/connectingyou](http://www.su.org.uk/connectingyou). If you have a

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# God is there for us in our darkest days

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Worrying numbers of children and young people suffer from anxiety and depression. Maddy was among them but finding Jesus literally saved her life. Now she's helped SU to develop a new resource, produced with your generous support, to introduce children and young people facing mental health challenges to the help, healing and hope that Jesus offers.

WATCH MADDY  
TELL HER STORY AT  
[SU.ORG.UK/MADDY](https://www.su.org.uk/maddy)

The Children's Commissioner says there is an 'epidemic' of self-harm, anxiety and depression amongst young people in the UK<sup>1</sup>. Half our children and young people feel lonely<sup>2</sup>, half have been bullied<sup>3</sup> and a quarter have self-harmed<sup>4</sup>. 1 in 10 say they have nothing to live for<sup>5</sup>.

The complex drivers include huge pressures at school, bad childhood experiences, community and family breakdown, parents with their own mental health issues, and social media<sup>6</sup>.

## MADDY'S STORY

Maddy, now 25, was hospitalised for anxiety and depression at an early age. 'I thought I wasn't lovable or good enough. My dad had undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder from action in the forces. It impacted the whole family. I didn't understand so I blamed myself for his moods.

'Then at school I was bullied and beaten up because I didn't follow the crowd.'

Maddy withdrew into her own world. At 13, she started secretly self-harming.

'Cutting yourself releases endorphins, which make you feel good,' she says. 'The huge sense of release is addictive.'

Late one night she cut herself too deep. 'The bleeding wouldn't stop

and I went into shock. I knew I could die if I didn't get help. I woke Mum and she rushed me to hospital. She and Dad hadn't known about the cutting until that night.

'At 18, I turned to alcohol to cope. But then a man took advantage of me one time when I was half-cut and that sent me into a downward spiral and back to cutting. I knew I was in trouble, but I didn't know how to stop.

'I confided in a friend and she suggested I went to church with her. It was the last place I wanted to go. I thought they'd just judge me. But by then I was planning to commit suicide, so I told myself I had nothing to lose.

.....

**“I felt such extraordinary peace, acceptance and love.”**

.....

'I went – and it saved my life. 'The sermon was about how Jesus saves a demon-possessed man named Legion who, like me, would cut himself. I thought, "if Jesus could save Legion from his demons, maybe he can save me from mine." 'So when the pastor asked if anyone wanted to follow Jesus, I slowly put my hand up. When I prayed and made my commitment, I felt such extraordinary peace, acceptance and love. I sensed Jesus saying "you are mine now". With his help, over the following months I grew in faith and gradually stopped self-harming.



## HELPING THE NEXT GENERATION FIND COMFORT IN JESUS

'Later, I got a degree in illustration at university. Last autumn I was able to put that, and my mental health experiences, to good use; I was one of a group of creative volunteers that were accepted onto an SU Creative Collective weekend. We developed ideas for new resources for children and young people facing mental health challenges.

'I'm really excited about the new Mental Health Toolkit. Children and

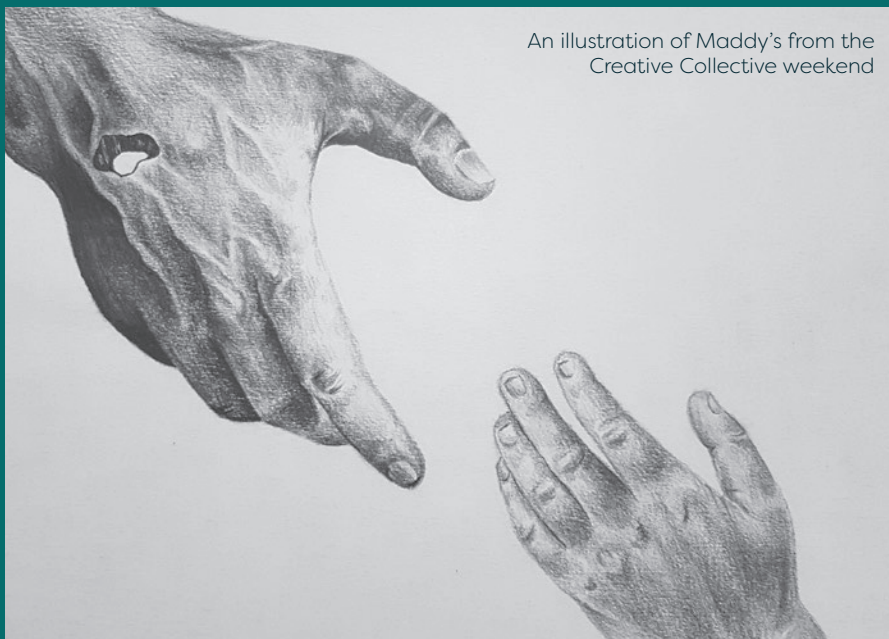
.....  
**“I'm really excited  
 about the new Mental  
 Health Toolkit.”**  
 .....

young people with anxiety and depression so need to know that God is with them in the midst of the darkness and mess – and that, if they hold onto God, he will bring them safely out the other side.'

## EXPLORE THE MENTAL HEALTH TOOLKIT

Our new Mental Health Resources are now available for free at [su.org.uk/mentalhealth](https://su.org.uk/mentalhealth). To help us create more resources to introduce the next generation to the hope found in Jesus, you can donate at [su.org.uk/give](https://su.org.uk/give)

  
**mental  
 HEALTH**  
 and wellbeing



An illustration of Maddy's from the Creative Collective weekend

For article references, please visit [www.su.org.uk/references](https://www.su.org.uk/references)



**WEEK  
 BEGINNING  
 SEPT 1**

## Prayers

.....  
 Please pray for children and young people who are struggling

### SUNDAY 1

Please pray for children and young people as they start the new school year, particularly those who are changing schools and those who are stressed by school issues including exams, homework and relationships.

### MONDAY 2

Give thanks to God for young people like Maddy, for their courage in speaking out about mental health issues and helping to reduce the stigma.

### TUESDAY 3

Pray for God's protection on all the children and young people who are suffering mental health and well-being issues. Ask God to give insight and wisdom to their teachers and parents in spotting the signs and offering help and support.

### WEDNESDAY 4

Read Psalm 139. Praise God that there is no place so dark, so lonely, so difficult or remote that his love cannot reach and that he is always, always there for us.

### THURSDAY 5

Please pray that many churches and schools will make use of SU's new Mental Health Toolkit to explain to children and young people that God is with them in the tough times, and that they can turn to him for support, strength and hope.

### FRIDAY 6

Praise God that he spoke so directly to Maddy through the story of Legion. Pray that many more children and young people with mental health challenges will find similar comfort through God speaking to them in scripture and other ways.

### SATURDAY 7

Give thanks to God for Maddy's friend, who took the initiative to invite her to church in the faith that Maddy would meet with God. Pray that he will inspire every young Christian to share their faith with their friends.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
SEPT 8

## SUNDAY 8

This month, Sunday School teachers from churches in Thailand are hoping to develop new skills as they undergo training organised by SU Thailand with Bangkok Institute of Theology. Please pray for the teachers and those providing the training.

## MONDAY 9

The north west and north east and Yorkshire regional teams have joined together to become one team. Please pray for the new combined team as they seek to grow mission opportunities across the north of England.

## TUESDAY 10



Give thanks for the appointment of two new directors – Stephen Vis (Finance and Services) and Rachel Warwick (Mobilisation). Pray that they will settle quickly into their roles.



## WEDNESDAY 11

Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust, a local mission partner, ask us to pray that they'll be able to reconnect with the young people they were working with last term. Pray that they will have the opportunity to form new relationships with young

people in the schools where they currently work and that new schools will open up.

## THURSDAY 12

SU development worker Bob Goody is leading various services and outreach events aimed at reaching children and families as part of the oneLIFE Mission across Southwell and Nottingham Diocese. Pray for this work that starts today and finishes on Sunday.

## FRIDAY 13

SU is partnering with others in Amplify (the youth arm of Advance 2020) which will train a selected group of young people to become more effective in sharing their faith. Pray that the inaugural residential this weekend will enthuse and envision these young people.

## SATURDAY 14

Pray for Sam Fowler (development worker in the South East) as he supports Kingsland Church in Colchester with their community day, using a giant inflatable pitch



to bring sport and faith together. Pray that they will have lots of opportunities to show the love of Jesus.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
SEPT 15

## SUNDAY 15

SU Singapore ask us to pray for the Jana Alayra children's concerts and children's worship workshops that take place this month. Pray that they will help the children grow in relationship with God.

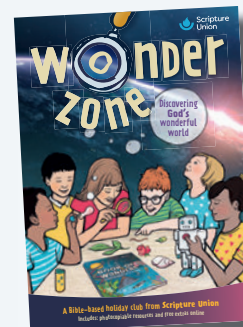
## MONDAY 16

Please pray for the new schools ministry course being launched this term in four locations in England and Wales. Pray that many people who are looking to engage with 'the 95' in schools will come and be inspired and equipped.



## TUESDAY 17

Today and tomorrow, an SU team will be at a gathering of Christian retailers and suppliers. SU content



innovator Esther Calvert-Jordan will talk about the new holiday club resource (*Wonder Zone* – see page 22). Pray that retailers will catch the vision.

## WEDNESDAY 18

Pray for local mission partner YOYO based in York. They are running a number of New Start assemblies in primary schools across York during September and October and also have their commissioning service for the year on Sunday.

## THURSDAY 19

LifeMatters is a Year 7 transition event run by local mission partner SU Ministries Trust on the Isle of Man, helping children to think through what matters to them. Today sees the first of four this term. Pray that the young people will build new relationships through this and for the volunteer team who make it possible.

## FRIDAY 20

The Rugby World Cup, which starts today, will be massive in Wales. Pray for the varied mission activities that SU Wales will be running around it in September and October – assemblies, lessons, rugby fun days and *The Games* in schools.



## SATURDAY 21

Give thanks for the summer outreach activities in Guisborough. Pray for wisdom and clarity for development worker Neil Jackson and the local Christians involved, as they explore the best activities to build on this and the best place to locate them.



# Generous Joe shares Jesus with his school friends

DIARY OF  
A DISCIPLE

When Joe, aged 10, was given a copy of SU's *Diary of a Disciple*, he loved it so much that he wanted to give copies to all 70 pupils in his junior school.

Joe has reading difficulties, so he loved the pictorial style of *Diary of a Disciple* and wanted all his classmates to be able to enjoy it too. With help from friends and relatives, he set up an online crowdfunding page so others could help him raise money for the books.

In just three hours he'd met his target. In fact, donors were so generous that Joe was able to buy copies for all the junior pupils in another Pembrokeshire school as well!

Joe's classmates love their new books. One boy said, 'It's the first book I've ever been given – I always wanted a Bible!'



A girl commented, 'I didn't know the stories before – just looking through the pages is really exciting!'

Since then, many of the children have been reading their copies at home and talking about what they've learned.

Joe says of *Diary of a Disciple*, 'I really liked reading it; that's why I wanted to give it out to my school friends. My dream is that every time someone moves up to Class 4 they get a copy, so I want to raise more money for that.'

See what happened at the school when Joe gave out copies of *Diary of a Disciple* at [su.org.uk/joe](http://su.org.uk/joe)

## FOLLOW JOE'S LEAD

Perhaps you could give *Diary of a Disciple* to students in your local schools? For a limited time, we're offering 20 copies for just £69.90 (50% off). Visit [su.org.uk/diaryoffer](http://su.org.uk/diaryoffer)

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
SEPT 22

## SUNDAY 22

SU Estonia have just launched a Bible app for children in Estonian. Praise God for this opportunity and pray that many children will be helped to engage with the Bible in new ways.

## MONDAY 23

Pray for the planning for and promotion of *Shine* which takes place in November and equips young people in schools to share their faith (see page 12). Pray that many people would hear about it and want to run it in their schools, either as part of an existing group or an impetus to start a new group.



## TUESDAY 24

In the summer we prayed for Beach Life events taking place in the Lake District, Lancashire and on Merseyside. Thank God for the many children who heard about Jesus through these pop-up events. Pray for all the churches that SU worked with to run the events.

## WEDNESDAY 25

During September and October, Jo Morley and the rest of the holidays

staff team will be working on the new guest booking system for SU holidays. Pray that they quickly understand how to use the new system and create a better and more efficient booking system.

## THURSDAY 26



Pray for Terry Clutterham in his role as Director of Culture and Innovation. Terry will be seeking to stimulate

thinking across the movement, and within the wider Christian community using social media and face-to-face gatherings.

## FRIDAY 27

Give thanks for the Saltburn holiday club and the children who attended. Pray for the follow-up as development worker Neil Jackson explores with Saltburn Evangelical Church the possibility of running a regular midweek outreach to local children.

## SATURDAY 28

Next Monday and Tuesday, local mission partners and the staff team in the north will be gathering for a time of encouragement, challenge and reflection. Pray that as ideas are shared they will all be inspired afresh to reach 'the 95' in their own communities.



# Secondary school students shine for Jesus

Often young Christians are keen to share their faith but don't know where to begin. That's why SU has helped to develop *Shine*\*. Run over three weeks, Shine has short videos, discussion ideas and activities that make it fun and simple for young people to explore and share their faith with their peers. Through your support, Shine will run in secondary schools across England and Wales this November.



LAURA

Eighteen-year-old Laura co-leads a Christian group at a Newcastle school. She says, 'For years, we'd talked about doing some sort of event to share our faith with other students, but we weren't really sure where to begin.'

'Geoff Brown (SU North) visited us and told us about *Shine* – it sounded really good. We went on the website and answered a few questions about our group (ours is quite big, we have 20 members aged 11-18: some are Christian, and some aren't). Then the website showed us which version of *Shine* would work best for us.'

'The programme is three weeks long. For the first two weeks, you watch videos on the website and discuss them. Meantime you're planning an activity for the third week where you share your faith with other students (there are ideas on the *Shine* website or you can do your own). We did "Grill a Christian" – Geoff came in and we asked him difficult questions like "why is there suffering?" We all enjoyed it and learned a lot.'

'Since doing *Shine* I find it much easier to share my faith with my friends.'

If you know a young person who might want their school Christian group to take part in *Shine*, tell them to register on the website [www.shineinschools.com](http://www.shineinschools.com). While most groups hold *Shine* in November, it can be run at another time if more convenient.

## HELP YOUR LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOL 'SHINE'!

'Fearless' is the theme for this year's *Shine* programme. Young people have many fears – will people like them, what if they fail, how will their friends react if they share their faith? *Shine* will explore how Jesus helps us overcome our fears instead of letting them define us.

“Since doing *Shine* I find it much easier to share my faith with my friends.”



\*Shine has been developed by SU in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales, and Crown Jesus Ministries and Logos Ministries International.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
SEPT 29

## SUNDAY 29

Today the SU Global Board come to the end of three days of meetings. Pray that there will be wise decisions and good conclusions. Tomorrow SU International Field Development Directors start three days of meetings to consider the best way to support national movements. Please pray for insight and God's guidance.

## MONDAY 30

Pray for development worker Bob Goody as he takes a one-hour show based on *Dairy of a Disciple* into about 18 schools over the next couple of weeks. This is part of the HOPE Tour in Mansfield and Ashfield, and will feed into family events on 5 and 11 October. Pray too for the secondary schools week (October 15-18) with gospel concerts on 18 and 19.

## TUESDAY 1

Pray for schools workers Tricia and Johanna of local mission partner Watford Schools Trust as they deliver lessons in line with the new Herts RE syllabus. This term they are looking at creation and harvest in Year 1 and taking harvest assemblies.

## WEDNESDAY 2

Many churches across the country will be planning Light Parties (see page 18). Pray for all



involved, that God will guide them to make the most of the opportunity to share the Light of Jesus this Halloween.

## THURSDAY 3



Pray for all the volunteer leaders of *Guardians of Ancora* clubs, especially those starting in schools this term. Thank God for the growth and impact of this form of mission and pray for the effectiveness of the revamped *Guardians of Ancora* clubs resources.

## FRIDAY 4

Development worker Lisa Jones is running a residential weekend this month in Kent. Pray for the team and for the children who will be drawn from 'the 95'.



## SATURDAY 5

Please pray that local mission partner Stort Valley Schools Trust will be able to find new Trustees with a real heart and enthusiasm for the ministry amongst young people in local schools, and a strong sense of God's call.



Scripture Union

# Mission Report

YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH  
2019





## As Scripture Union's new National Director, I am delighted to share this year's Mission Report with you.

As you read through the next few pages, I really hope you are encouraged by the amazing work your gifts, time and prayers make possible. I know it sounds clichéd, but it really is only thanks to your support that we're able to share the gospel with the next generation so effectively. Thank you so much for the part you have played in making the activities in this report possible.

With 95% of under 18s in England and Wales not in church, we are faced with an important but challenging task in meeting the next generation where they are, both in a geographic and cultural sense. John Stott famously called Christians to 'double listening': listening to the unchanging truth of the Word of God that we might believe and obey, while listening to the modern world in order that we might understand that world and relevantly communicate the unchanging truth to it.

Your support helps us to find ways to do that for today's generation, as I hope this report demonstrates. Thank you once again for all you do to support Scripture Union in going to where the children are but the gospel isn't.

**Myles MacBean**  
National Director  
Scripture Union England and Wales



### VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are all #SUperheroes, making much of what we do possible. There were **5,561** known opportunities for volunteer involvement – the equivalent of **6,219** working weeks, or **132** full-time staff.



### INTERNATIONAL

There are around **130** Scripture Union movements working in **120** countries across the world.



### THE 95 CAMPAIGN

During the year, **3,150** people joined The 95

Campaign to play their part in reaching an estimated 12 million children and young people who don't go to church in England and Wales. If you haven't signed up yet but want to get help through prayer, by giving or by getting practically involved in mission, sign up for free at [www.the95.org.uk](http://www.the95.org.uk)

## Multiplying mission



### PARTNERS

We've got **65** mission partners across England and Wales. Many hundreds of volunteers are involved in sharing the good news in a whole range of exciting ways. Between them they employ **120** staff.



## New mission activities



**263** new mission activities were established across England and Wales seeking to share the good news with children who don't go to church.



Over **26,000** children and young people were involved, **96%** of whom were from non-church backgrounds!

## Mission POSSIBLE



We released our Mission Evaluation Report, *Mission Possible*, unpacking the factors for successful mission with children and young people.

**67** mission projects were explored in the research, having been identified through **319** survey responses (detailing a total of **1,304** activities), **50** projects funded by The Good News Fund and **253** SU staff-led initiatives.

**Interesting fact:** The research highlighted the importance of building relationships, being distinctively Christian and a reliance on prayer. Read the report at [su.org.uk/missionpossible](http://su.org.uk/missionpossible)





## THE GOOD NEWS FUND



**£57,000**

worth of Good News Fund grants were awarded to support **45** great mission initiatives. We estimate that around **10,000** children and young people will have heard the gospel as a result!

[www.su.org.uk/goodnewsfund](http://www.su.org.uk/goodnewsfund)

## Holidays, missions and amazing volunteers

Scripture Union holidays continue to be the perfect place for children to get away from home and closer to God.



**2,280** children attended an SU holiday this year.

The Scripture Union Holiday Fund enabled **188** of those children to attend where finances were tight.

**2,096**

amazing volunteers helped make our holidays and missions possible. We also ran **5** brand-new holidays as part of a programme of **62** residential events.



## Resources for mission



### IT'S YOUR MOVE

Over **162,000** copies of *It's Your Move* were given to children about to take the big step to secondary school.

We also launched a brand new edition of *It's Your Move*, with updated content and a fresh design for a new generation.

## ROOTED

Rooted offers a new and different approach to youth ministry, encouraging the development of long-term relationships. It can be used in any context, with any level of faith development and with any level of ability.

LOOK OUT FOR MORE EXCITING NEWS ON ROOTED SOON AT [SU.ORG.UK/ROOTED](http://SU.ORG.UK/ROOTED)

The Rooted model starts where young people are at - culturally, in their interests and passions, and at their faith stage - seeking to provide space for each

young person to grow, flourish and be nurtured in a safe, committed and compassionate Christian community.

During the year, we ran Rooted in **10** locations with **20** separate groups. Well over **150** young people were successfully involved in piloting the Rooted resource! There were also over **350** downloads of our free digital Leaders' Pack, helping others to run Rooted groups.



### DIARY OF A DISCIPLE



We released the second book in the popular *Diary of a Disciple* series, retelling Peter and Paul's story. We also launched *Diary of a Disciple* Clubs. Over **200** people downloaded the accompanying resources to help them run a club.

### LIGHT PARTIES

Over **8,500** Light Party Packs were distributed to help churches once again plan and run exciting Light Parties as a Christian alternative to Halloween. Get this year's pack for free at [www.lightparty.org.uk](http://www.lightparty.org.uk)



### CHRISTMAS PARTY PACK

Around **1,400** people downloaded the *Christmas Party Pack* for ideas to run a Christmas Party for children who don't go to church.



### THOUSANDS EXPERIENCE THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Around **127,000** copies of *The First Christmas* were distributed to help children explore the real Christmas story. These were gifted by local churches, our mission partners and through food banks and children's hospitals.





## GUARDIANS OF ANCORA

Our digital Bible game continues to go from strength to strength, helping many thousands of children to explore the Bible in this creative way.

We estimate that since its launch in 2015 there have been more than **1.6 million** game plays. More than **1,000** children each month are inviting their friends to play the game.

From September 2018, when the scheme started, more than **1,695** children in Ancora clubs have received 'goody bags', to encourage them to play the game at home as well as during their club.

Working with SU Kosova, the game was released in Albanian in April 2018, making four language versions so far, with more in development.



## A new Development Hub

We launched the Development Hub to help us better develop innovative mission resources and tools. The hub is closely integrated with our work in the field, ensuring we have our ear to the ground and can test, evaluate and improve on ideas and models for reaching 'the 95'.



The **Creative Collective** is a community of Christian creatives using their creative skills to help reach the next generation.

Two Creative Collective residential weekends took place during the year, bringing together over **40** people. The first gathering focused on developing content and mission models to connect with 'the 95' around issues of mental health and wellbeing – providing content for our new *Mental Health Toolkit*. The second weekend also generated several innovative ideas that are now being pursued by the Development Hub. Look out for more information soon!

To be part of this creative process, go to [su.org.uk/creative-collective](http://su.org.uk/creative-collective)

## Mission through sport

### JUMPERS FOR GOALPOSTS



Over **1,000** people downloaded the free *Jumpers for Goalposts* pack to help them use the Football World Cup to share Jesus.



### GRASS-ROOTS

**7** new local grass-root mission-through-sport initiatives were developed with churches in the north east of England.

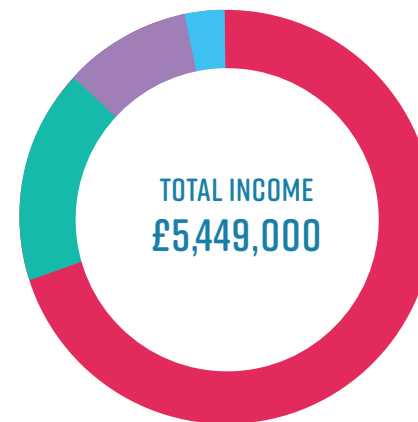
## Financial resources for mission

It's only through your gifts, time and prayers that SU can continue to provide opportunities for so many children and young people to explore the difference Jesus can make to their lives. To everyone who has supported us in any of these ways, THANK YOU.



Your gifts make a huge difference and, for the year ended 31 March 2019, your donations and income from legacies totalled **£3,676,000**. As expected, expenditure was higher than income, largely because your past giving allowed us to invest **£614,000** in a number of significant initiatives to grow the scale and impact of SU missional activities. In addition, the money spent during the year on securing funding for SU's mission achieved nearly a 7:1 return.

Here's an overview of the money we received during the year, and the ways in which it was spent...



**£3,676,000**

Donations and legacies

**£1,051,000**

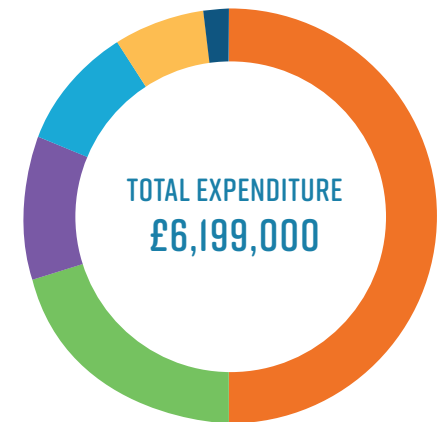
Publishing sales

**£585,000**

Holidays and missions

**£137,000**

Other, including investments



**£3,153,000**

Face-to-face mission (including holidays and missions)

**£1,099,000**

Commercial publishing

**£791,000**

Content creation

**£545,000**

Cost of raising funds

**£450,000**

International activities

**£161,000**

Advocacy

This is a summary of Scripture Union's financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2019, extracted from the full Trustees' Report and Financial Statements which have been audited. A full statement of our financial activities can be found in our Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements, a copy of which can be obtained online at [su.org.uk/annualreport](http://su.org.uk/annualreport) or by contacting us on 01908 856135.

TURN THE PAGE TO MAKE A GIFT

# Help more children hear the good news

Will you help us share the good news of Jesus with even more children and young people by setting up a regular donation?

## Your details (for contact purposes)

Title	First name	Surname
Address		
Postcode		
Phone		

We would like to send you updates to keep you informed about the difference you are making to children and young people's lives through your giving, and to offer you further opportunities to ensure the good news is shared.

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**Email – Yes Please** ☐ If you would prefer to receive updates by email, tick the box and fill in your email.

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Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by Direct Debit. Please pay Scripture Union Direct Debits from the account detailed in the instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain within Scripture Union and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank/building society.

Signature Date D D M M Y Y

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
OCT 6

## SUNDAY 6

Pray for the new First Nations Ministries project developed by SU South Australia, which aims to evangelise, disciple and support ministry to indigenous Australians. Their new indigenous staff member is leading the ministry. Pray for her and the new team being developed.

## MONDAY 7

This week Chris Eales is planning to run a Go Wild non-residential camp for children being homeschooled. Pray that all the planning will bear fruit and that this event will reach those outside the church.



## TUESDAY 8

Wayne Dixon of local mission partner Christian Connections in Schools is on sabbatical until 3 November, having been working in schools for 31 years. Pray for a time of rest, reflection, learning and evaluating, for wisdom for the future and for possible Christian groups starting at three schools after Illuminate with LZ7 last October.



## WEDNESDAY 9

Please pray that Jim Winning, who has recently joined us as Supporter Care Lead, will quickly find his feet and begin to make positive changes to benefit you, our supporters. Pray too for Karina Motta who works alongside Jim.

## THURSDAY 10

Pray for the SU Council as it meets on Saturday to think about important issues in the contemporary world and how they impact on our presentation of the good news of Jesus.

## FRIDAY 11

The SLAM (Sport, Life and More) Mini holiday for 8-11s takes place this weekend led by Susan Williams and Helen Franklin. Some of the children may not have been away from home before; pray that they will settle, enjoy it and make new friends as well as learning more about Jesus.

## SATURDAY 12

Local mission partner Learn4Life have a launch event tomorrow with new branding and a new name, Reach. Pray that as they share the vision for the future many more people will support them through prayer, volunteering and giving financially so that the work in Reading schools can go from strength to strength.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
OCT 13

## SUNDAY 13

SU Hong Kong has a new series of youth notes in production aiming to complete a series of 12 volumes in the next 3 years. Please pray for a good response from churches and schools who will be willing to promote systematic Bible reading among young people and for the production of the app version in the future.

## MONDAY 14

Pray for development worker Lucy Pearson as she spends time this month developing Rooted across the north and for the preparation of new resources to support the programme that helps young people to see the difference Jesus can make.



## TUESDAY 15

Tonight, the south west team take the 95 Tour to Swanage. Pray that many will come and find fresh vision and new confidence and discover more about how they can partner with us to reach 'the 95'.

## WEDNESDAY 16

This is the second of three days of the Prayer Fellowship Conference. Give thanks for the faithfulness in prayer of the former trustees, Council members and staff who are

attending and pray that they will be inspired by all they hear during the conference.

## THURSDAY 17

Pray for the development of plans to help children and young people from 'the 95' engage with the Bible. It is hoped that a pilot will be available by November.

## FRIDAY 18

Pray for Ian Gooding as he manages our IT operations, and for our planning to migrate applications such as our finance systems and database to make use of the latest technology.

## SATURDAY 19

The Director of Sports Ministry for local mission partner PSALMS is meeting with contacts across the Gloucester Diocese to discuss plans for an initiative to develop churches for people who don't engage with traditional forms of church. Pray that they will know God's leading and that the way forward will become clear.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
OCT 20

## SUNDAY 20

SU Greece would like to find a place to serve children in need in Athens, including refugees, immigrants and poor Greek families. Please pray that they will find the right place.

## MONDAY 21

Dan Wicks, development worker in the south east, will be running two one-day sports camps this week, one in West Molesey and one in Romford. Pray for good attendance and for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus.

## TUESDAY 22

Please pray that Patrick Weld, chaplain at local mission partner Great Wood Trust, will show God's love to the schools and staff that come to the site and in a new God Club in Haygrove School, Bridgwater which has attracted a rowdy bunch of boys, who would never normally come.

## WEDNESDAY 23

Give thanks for SU's trustees who have overall legal responsibility for the charity and who are ultimately responsible for the strategic leadership of the movement. Pray for them as they meet today with the leadership team to finalise the strategic plan.

## THURSDAY 24

Local mission partner MINE youth (Mission in Newcastle East) have been running a DJ school. Tonight

they are running an evening of Christian-themed music and testimony giving young people a chance to hear what God has done in the lives of people from their area and to enjoy some great music. Pray that many young people who find it hard to fit in will see that God loves them.

## FRIDAY 25

Pray for Margaret Lilley as she leads our cooking holiday for primary aged children, Come Dine with SU, running 25-28 October. Pray that as children enjoy learning new skills they will meet Jesus.



## SATURDAY 26

Pray for Sarah Davison, development worker in the north, as she works with schools who have shown interest in using the *Diary of a Disciple* workshop.





“I will not be afraid...  
for you are with me”

Your support enables us to offer free Light Party resources to thousands of churches, helping them to hold positive and fun events at Halloween, celebrating Jesus as Light of the World. This year's pack focuses on Jesus bringing light and comfort, more broadly for when children go through dark and difficult times.

We asked some children and young people about what things worry them and who they talk to. Their concerns included exams, homework, moving schools, friendships and bullying. But whilst they might talk to family and friends about minor concerns, they keep their big worries to themselves. They worry that sharing them could lead to gossip and in turn to bullying and ridicule.

**‘If it was, like, something big, I probably wouldn’t share it with anyone... because then there’s a possibility of them telling other people.’**

Angela, 12

**‘If it’s big and important, I wouldn’t want it to get loose and go everywhere in the world.’**

Ben, 10

**‘I’m quite a private person, so I don’t tend to talk to people easily.’**

Ella, 14

**‘Sometimes people pick on me and I get bullied badly... I thought that by telling, they’d call me a snitch.’**

Harriet, 12

So, this year's Light Party resources include elements that will help children to grasp how Jesus is a light that is always with them in the dark times of their lives, offering them comfort, strength and support. These



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YOUR FREE  
LIGHT PARTY PACK  
AT [LIGHTPARTY.ORG.UK](http://LIGHTPARTY.ORG.UK)

Your generous donations help us create resources like the *Light Party Pack* and enable us to share Jesus in a whole range of exciting ways. To make a gift, go to [su.org.uk/give](http://su.org.uk/give) or call 01908 856 000

.....  
“God knows what I think anyway. I’d ask him for advice, for wisdom.”  
.....

are additional to the regular content – ideas for your light party event, top tips on planning and promoting it, and how to talk to children about Halloween.

The good news is that Christian children were already talking to God about their problems. Kerry aged 14 says, **‘God knows what I think anyway. I’d ask him for advice, for wisdom.’** And 12-year-old Harriet says, **‘I know I can trust him because it says it in the Bible.’**

But children who aren’t part of a church may not have that comfort.

Churches who used our *Light Party Pack* last year said that 64% of the children attending did not usually go to church. So this October, don’t miss out on the opportunity to hold a light party, and share how Jesus is always there for them to turn to when life gets tough.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
OCT 27

## SUNDAY 27

SU India would appreciate prayer for their note writers who work in eight different languages as they write and finish for the year 2020. Pray that God will give creativity and inspiration.

## MONDAY 28

For the next three days, Simon Barker will be helping to lead Hope MK. Over 100 young people will spend the mornings in fun activity, Bible study and prayer before going out in the afternoon to engage in a range of community projects. Pray that the young people will grow as they serve.

## TUESDAY 29

For the rest of this week, Trevor Ranger of local mission partner Synergy will be helping to lead a *Space Academy* holiday club in Sutton Benger, a small Wiltshire village. Pray that the links with the schools will result in a good number of children attending and discovering what it means to choose God's way as Daniel did.



## WEDNESDAY 30

Pray for John and Rachel Settatre (Regional Team Leader and Supporter Worker in Wales) as they move to Pembrokeshire to try to grow more ministry in West Wales,

especially developing some young evangelists as part of Amplify (the youth arm of Advance 2020 mission).

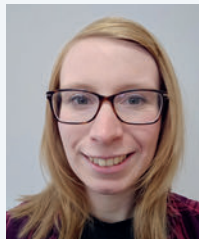
## THURSDAY 31

Thousands of Light Parties will be taking place across the country today. Pray that God will open the hearts of the children, young people and families who attend and that there will be good follow-up.

## FRIDAY 1

National mission partner Festive is seeking to find and train chaplains for colleges and sixth forms. Pray that God would call and equip those he has chosen and that he would open doors so colleges and sixth forms will be willing to receive Christian chaplains.

## SATURDAY 2



Careful care and management of supporter data is hugely important. Please pray for Meri Suokas and Gill Russell as they support the organisation with all aspects of data including requests, reports, development and compliance.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
NOV 3

## SUNDAY 3

SU Namibia praise God for committed Christian teachers who are running vibrant SU clubs at various schools in the country. Pray that God will continue to support them and that through them many young people will encounter Jesus.

## MONDAY 4

Pray for five volunteer teams from GenR8 (local mission partner in Cambridgeshire) as they begin their Advent-themed assembly presentations in over 100 primary schools. The assembly will include an interview with John the Baptist and a ski trip to Australia as children explore what would happen if God came down from heaven.

## TUESDAY 5

Pray that the young people who attend the Mission United Faith In Life residential gathering run by local mission partner Missional Generation (who work along the M62 corridor) this month will be equipped to step out in faith and share Jesus and that they will see lives changed by the good news.

## WEDNESDAY 6

Give thanks for the impact of schools work run by local mission partner Trobwynt on the Lley Peninsula. Pray too for schools worker Eleri Trythall as she gets married on Saturday to Gruffydd Davies who also started part-time

work with the trust in September developing sports ministry and discipleship groups.

## THURSDAY 7

Brentwood Schools Worker Christian Trust are preparing for the Christmas Unwrapped Project and Darkness to Light Christmas lessons. Pray for clarity and creativity in their planning.



## FRIDAY 8

A pop-up Lifepath takes place next Thursday at a school in Northumberland. This is a new event working with local churches to provide a Lifepath event for Year 4 pupils in the primary school. Pray that it will encourage pupils to think about the direction of their own lives.



## SATURDAY 9

Today student leaders of school Christian groups from across London will be meeting. Pray that they will be encouraged and equipped in their roles and that the groups which they lead might be a clear Christian presence in schools.

# Making spiritual sense of science

Children are often taught that science and faith conflict. But thanks to funding from The Faraday Institute and supporters like you, our latest holiday club will help them explore how science and faith can go hand in hand to help us understand the world we live in.

British scientist Michael Faraday (1791-1867) was a blacksmith's son with no formal education. Yet his legacy included inventing the electrical dynamo, on which modern power generators and electric motors are based, and discovering the Faraday Cage – which is why, if you're in a vehicle and it's struck by lightning, you won't be electrocuted. (That's good to know!)

Faraday was also a committed Christian and believed that whilst investigating the natural world serves to indicate

God's existence, salvation can only come from the pages of the Bible. The year he died was also the year that Scripture Union was born.

## NEW SCIENCE-BASED HOLIDAY CLUB

Now the Faraday Institute, named after him and dedicated to research, education and training around science and religion, has helped us develop our latest, science-themed, holiday club. *Wonder Zone* will help children

to explore God's amazing creation, whatever their faith background. Holiday club leaders take the role of professors, and the children get to play scientists. Over three to five days, they will conduct simple, entertaining experiments, discover the wonders of the world (and beyond!) and how the God behind all of it wants to get to know them too. The resources include videos of real-life scientists who are also Christians, talking about how they feel their work complements their faith.

## HELPING CHILDREN EXPLORE GOD'S AMAZING CREATION

And SU has its very own real-life scientist – yes, our National Director Myles MacBean has a PhD in quantum physics! He says, 'I don't think there's any inconsistency between using the scientific method of exploring the universe and having a personal relationship with

Jesus. But the popular view is that science and faith conflict, and most Christians aren't scientists. So, churches are reluctant to use science to help children explore God in the world around them.

'The *Wonder Zone* holiday club will bridge that gap. You don't need to know anything about science to use it. It will help children to explore the wonder of God's universe and discover God's amazing love revealed to us.

'And that is something of which Michael Faraday would surely have approved.'



GET  
WONDER ZONE  
AT [SU.ORG.UK/  
WONDERZONE](http://SU.ORG.UK/WONDERZONE)

“I don't think there's any inconsistency between using the scientific method of exploring the universe and having a personal relationship with Jesus.”

Myles MacBean



# Top Tips for running a holiday club



Heidi Haagensen ran her first holiday club last Easter using our *Backpackers* holiday club resource. The club attracted 50 children, most of them not from a church background. Here's what she learned through the experience...

- **Promote your holiday club – but not too soon, or people forget.**

We gave out flyers in local schools (where we do assemblies), put posters up in shops, posted about it on local Facebook pages, and leafleted streets.

- **Success isn't about getting children into church on a Sunday.**

They may not feel at home! It's about getting them to come to a safe space you've created, where they feel they belong and can explore faith.

- **If your church is small, adapt the holiday club to your resources and time.**

Don't be overambitious if you're starting out. And borrow help! Another church lent us their youth worker; she'd just turn up on the day and was a huge help.

- **Ask parents if you can have their email address so you can let them know about other events.**

Emails are more likely to be seen than information you post on social media but please be mindful of data protection laws when collecting personal data.

- **Involving young and old volunteers from your church builds strong, lasting relationships.**

One young helper said it was the first time she'd felt part of the church community.



WEEK  
BEGINNING  
NOV 10

## Prayers

Please pray for children to discover God in science

### SUNDAY 10

Praise God for the wonder of his creation, and for helping us to understand and appreciate its incredible complexity and diversity through science.

### MONDAY 11

Please pray that many churches will be inspired and excited to use the new *Wonder Zone* holiday club resources to show children how science and faith complement one another, and how God is alive and at work in the world around them.

### TUESDAY 12

Give thanks to God for Heidi and other church workers and volunteers for their passion and commitment, planning SU holiday clubs and other outreach events to introduce children and young people to Jesus.

### WEDNESDAY 13

Please pray that God will prepare the way for many children and young people who aren't part of a church to

come to *Wonder Zone* holiday clubs. Ask that he will prepare their hearts to receive what he has to say to them.

### THURSDAY 14

Give thanks that holiday clubs bring together church volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, build stronger relationships and give people a sense of belonging to God's family, particularly young people.

### FRIDAY 15

Give thanks to God for all those individuals and organisations whose financial support, scientific knowledge and understanding of children and young people has enabled SU to develop the *Wonder Zone* holiday club resources.

### SATURDAY 16

Please pray that God will continue to inspire SU staff, volunteers and partner organisations to develop resources around the interests and concerns of children and young people, and truly meet them 'where they are'.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
NOV 17

## SUNDAY 17

Myanmar faces many problems – civil war, natural disaster, and political crises – but SU Myanmar's children and youth programmes are becoming more successful year by year. Thank God and pray that more volunteers will be found to continue the programme of reaching many children in non-Christian areas.

## MONDAY 18

The north regional staff team meet today to plan for the months ahead. Pray for wisdom as they seek to grow new projects across the north and for a clear sense of purpose and unity.



## TUESDAY 19

Give thanks for two great SU family holidays at Great Wood this year,



with lots of positive feedback about having time to be families. Please pray for plans for a third

families' holiday that Steve and Judy Hutchinson are due to run for families who have adopted or who foster.

## WEDNESDAY 20

This summer, Edale Adventure holiday (a regional holiday in the north) was oversubscribed. Pray for all the children who came and for wisdom for Rob Steward and Sarah Davison as they decide how to grow more SU holiday experiences in the north over the next year.

## THURSDAY 21

Scripture Union South Africa has had unexpected and unique problems in getting their translation of *Guardians of Ancora* off the ground. Please pray that progress will now be swift and uncomplicated so that many children will be able to experience the Bible engagement app in their heart-language.

## FRIDAY 22

Pray for HR Officer Adelaide Nketsia as she provides support on a range of HR processes to the Movement.

## SATURDAY 23

Today there is an induction day for new holiday and mission leaders. Pray for them as they meet that they might be excited about what God is going to do, gain new enthusiasm and fresh insights and be encouraged as they prepare to take on leadership.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
NOV 24

## SUNDAY 24

Pray for the programme of care for children, adolescents and their parents run by SU Chile asking that those cared for will know the hope that Christ offers for the various problems that affect them.

## MONDAY 25



Pray for development worker Jenni Whymark who is taking part in the Surbiton Christmas light switch-on event which presents opportunities for the local churches to be involved and share Jesus.

## TUESDAY 26

Local churches are key when it comes to sharing the good news of Jesus with the next generation. Please pray for guidance as we seek to support these churches and especially for Rachel Warwick (Director of Mobilisation), asking for wisdom and discernment as she leads the mobilisation team.

## WEDNESDAY 27



In July, Neil Jackson worked with a new church in Bradford to pioneer outreach using sports (especially cricket on the back of the Cricket World Cup).

Please pray for the church as they seek to follow up this outreach and

for the Scripture Union north team as they support them in this.

## THURSDAY 28

Pray for new Director of Finance and Services, Stephen Vis, and the finance team as they start the detailed work on preparing the budget for the next financial year. Pray for wisdom, and for a sense of God's priorities.

## FRIDAY 29

Local mission partner Chester Schools Christian Work have a new team leader in place, having lost the leader of 19 years and the high schools' worker. Pray for them at this time of change and as they look to consolidate the work in schools.

## SATURDAY 30

Local mission partner Faith in Schools, working in Newham ask

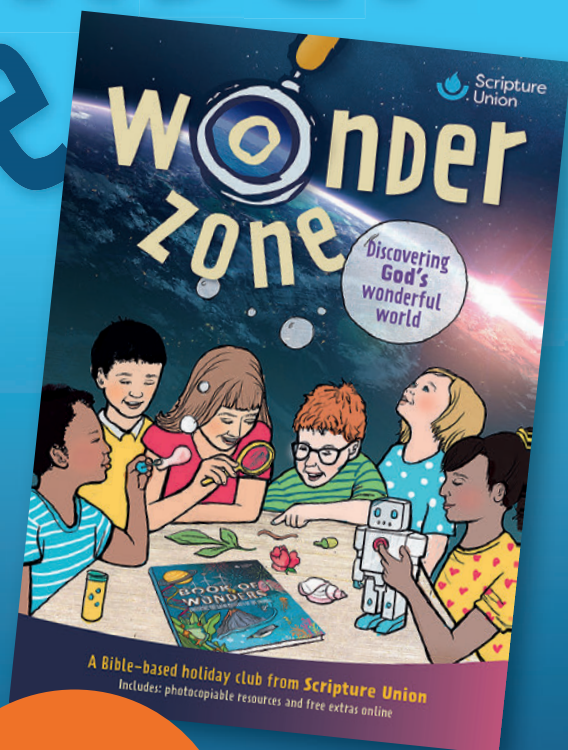
us to pray that God will give Christian parents a heart to become part of the Adopt a School scheme where they can sponsor a class for £60 which pays for one lesson in their child's school.





# Wonder Zone

Encourage children to explore the scientific wonders of the world and discover how the God behind all of it wants to get to know them!



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