

# Connecting you

Winter  
2019

## IN THIS EDITION

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- Opening the Bible with the 95



Scripture  
Union

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## A legacy helps future generations find faith

Sheena Moss passed away earlier this year, leaving Scripture Union a gift in her will. Her prayer was for future generations to come to know Jesus through our work, just as she did.



*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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# Taking the long-term view



**“For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand” (Isaiah 52:15).**

When it comes to sharing Jesus with children and young people without church backgrounds, it takes patience and perseverance.

They often don't even know the basics about the Christian faith. And from their perspective, how can they trust that what we say is true? After all, they are fed a constant stream of often conflicting ideas and information through their smartphones.

Seldom will we share the gospel with them and see them immediately believe.

We've got to make connections, build relationships and walk alongside these young people on their faith journeys.

To help churches build those initial connections, we've developed a brand-new Christmas giveaway called *God Became Like Me?* that we hope will help introduce thousands of children to God's love this year (see page 10).

I'm also pleased to introduce Rooted, our new youth work framework that firmly puts young people – their interests, dreams, fears and big questions – at the

centre, and helps to build those much-needed relationships (see page 4).

But even when connections are made and relationships built, another long-term challenge is how to open the Bible with children for whom it's often an alien concept. We don't have all the answers, but we've developed four key principles that we hope will start to bridge that gap and help the next generation discover the wisdom the Bible has to offer (see page 20).

The work of building God's kingdom is a long haul and needs long-term support, so thank you for all you are doing to help children and young people to explore the Bible, respond to Jesus and grow in faith.

Together, we can help them achieve their God-given potential.

**Myles MacBean,**  
National Director





## Rooted: Strong foundations for young people in uncertain times

.....

Many teenagers are lonely, unhappy and struggling to find a sense of purpose. In a world driven by social media and hype, they live on shifting sands. Through your support, we're launching a simple but revolutionary youth work framework, Rooted, which will help them to develop solid foundations of faith and identity, and to thrive.



LUCY PEARSON

Scripture Union's Lucy Pearson has been intensively involved in Rooted's development. She says, 'We want to tell young people that

God created them and has a purpose for their lives. But they're exposed to all sorts of ideas – why should they listen to us? We need to earn the right to be heard by them – to show we're trustworthy and that we genuinely care about them.

### HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE BE THEIR AUTHENTIC SELVES

'So Rooted might start with a church or school finding out what interests local young people (such as photography, sport or music), and offering them a safe space in which to gather around that interest (a hub). We're always upfront about the fact that we're Christians and over time, as trust is built,

the conversations turn to deeper things including faith. We can help them to explore what's being fed into their lives, what they dream of, what's holding them back. We want to journey with them as they explore, be there for the long term, and help them discover and be their authentic selves.'

.....  
“We want to journey with them as they explore, to be there for the long term.”  
.....

Rooted is very flexible. Lucy says, 'Even a small church with few resources can start a Rooted group. It's about using what's in your hands – it doesn't need to be slick and professional. It's about finding a place and time that works.'

SU has developed various resources that Rooted groups can use if they





want to. Some help to stimulate discussion – for example, there are Hub Cards with short but deep questions, and a Leader’s Guide with more in-depth material.



Other tools give young people an opportunity to respond, such as the *Rooted Personal Journal* which has fun, thought-provoking activities. There are also Rooted retreats, which are light on activities and have lots of space for reflection. The first retreat was in the Peak District – young people (some Christians, some not) used the *Rooted Personal Journal* as a basis for discussion and reflection. One youth leader who was there says, ‘It was wonderful to see them grow in confidence, becoming more open to hearing about God and his love for them. They applied

their journal reflections to their lives in overcoming fears and openly talked about their feelings and newfound strategies. Perhaps the most moving part of the weekend was the ‘game’ they initiated of giving compliments round the campfire. The Rooted journal sessions had encouraged them to value themselves and this seemed to flow instinctively into them wanting to show others that they too were valued. This made such a difference to their self-esteem, and seeing them talk about themselves in a more positive way the next day was beautiful!’

**AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT ROOTED?**

‘It’s like the fire in my life, lighting me up in the dark,’ says Ellie. Carl reflects, ‘I’ve made loads of new mates, gone out of my comfort zone and learnt loads more about myself and how God sees me.’ Zinna and Joy say, ‘We love Rooted. We can be ourselves, talk about anything and it’s good knowing there’s somewhere to hang out each week.’ Gus simply says, ‘I feel like we’re family’.

.....  
**“I’ve made loads of new mates, gone out of my comfort zone and learnt loads more about myself and how God sees me.”**  
.....

**GET ROOTED**  
Visit [su.org.uk/rooted](http://su.org.uk/rooted) to see how Rooted can help your church introduce young people to Jesus.



**WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 1**

# Prayers

.....

Please pray for young people to develop deep roots of faith

**SUNDAY 1**

Rooted gets its name from Ephesians 3:17–19. Read this verse and use it as a prayer for all the young people you know.

**MONDAY 2**

Give thanks to God for giving Lucy the vision for Rooted, and enabling her and the SU team to develop the programme.

**TUESDAY 3**

Please pray that churches large and small, urban and rural, will catch the vision of Rooted, and be eager to use it to build strong and lasting relationships with young people in their communities, especially those who aren’t part of any church.

**WEDNESDAY 4**

Please pray for those young people who encounter Rooted that they will be able to discover their authentic

selves and find real purpose and the peace that only God can give.

**THURSDAY 5**

Ask God to help us be our authentic selves too, and be honest about our own struggles as we share the good news of Jesus with children and young people.

**FRIDAY 6**

Praise God for what he is doing in the lives of young people who are already involved with Rooted, and pray that they will continue on the journey towards faith.

**SATURDAY 7**

Gus (mentioned in the article and part of a Rooted group) says, ‘I feel like we’re family’. Please pray that wherever young people encounter the gospel, whether or not that’s inside a church, they will get that same sense of God’s love and belonging.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 8

## SUNDAY 8

SU New Zealand is running two wilderness journeys for school leavers from 7-18 December. Please pray for safety, fun, growing relationships with God and awareness of his creation as these young people prepare for life after school.

## MONDAY 9



South east development worker, Lisa Jones writes, 'Please pray as I invite church youth and children's workers to join me

in leading *Christmas Unwrapped* workshops in schools in the run-up to Christmas. May these workshops encourage stronger relationships between the churches and schools.'

## TUESDAY 10

This month, SU development worker Sam Fowler is working with the Romford outreach team to bring the good news to the 95 on the streets of Romford. Pray that they will communicate effectively and that there will be a number who respond.

## WEDNESDAY 11

Local mission partner Re:generation Harrow sees their Christmas Roadshow as a great opportunity to go into schools and share the

Christmas story. Please pray for the team as they go into these schools and that the children will engage and understand the good news of Jesus.

## THURSDAY 12

Steve Hutchinson is leading a Christingle service for over 100 3- to 7-year-olds at his local primary school. Pray for safety and that they will understand the true meaning of Jesus the Light of the World as they light their candles.

## FRIDAY 13



Jenni Whymark, development worker in the south east region, will be running Crafternoon with Surbiton Hill Methodist Church. This is an

opportunity for primary children to make Christmas-related things and hear the Christmas message. Pray for a good number to come and that they will be responsive.

## SATURDAY 16

Local mission partner Lighthouse has Christmas Explored workshops taking place in primary schools in Crawley. Pray that these fun, engaging workshops will help children to discover what happened on the first Christmas and see what it means for them.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 15

## SUNDAY 15

This month SU Singapore has their annual children's and youth camps. Pray for protection as participants go about the camp activities, and for lives to be touched through the programmes and teaching sessions. Pray for safe travel for the youth as their camp is held in a neighbouring country.

## MONDAY 16

Pray for the Christmas presentations to all Year 6 children in Fleet and Church Crookham being run by local mission partner Fleet and Crookham Churches Together in Schools. Pray too for positive outcomes as they encourage local churches to start children's clubs for children at junior schools.

## TUESDAY 17

Pray for the north staff team as they meet today under the leadership of north team leader Rob Steward to plan for the next few months. Pray especially for guidance for new residentials across the north.

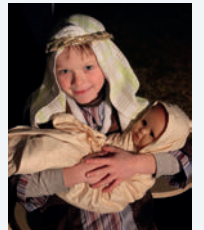


## WEDNESDAY 18

Please pray for the children who will be getting a copy of *God Became Like Me?* this Christmas. Pray that through this interactive storybook they will see how loved, precious, special and important they are.

## THURSDAY 19

Star in the Stable offers an opportunity for people to place themselves in the Christmas story; it is used in schools and public places and features as part of the mission in south west, north and Wales regions. Pray that this simple activity will help people to think more deeply about Christmas.



## FRIDAY 20

Thank God for those young people who last November took part in Shine, based on the theme of fear. Pray for a lasting impact and that the Christian young people would be more fearless as they share their faith and that non-Christian pupils will know that Jesus wants to help them with their fears.

## SATURDAY 21

Pray for churches across the country as they engage with their local communities over Christmas, using SU resources like *God Became Like Me?* and *A 95 Christmas* to help them share the real meaning of Christmas.





# Help children to discover the deeper meaning of Christmas

Thanks to your support, in the coming weeks thousands of children will discover the life-changing message of hope behind the Nativity story through the gift of our new Christmas book, *God Became Like Me?*



*God Became Like Me?* is a poetic retelling of why Jesus came, how much he loves us and how he is always there for us. It features stunning line illustrations for children to colour in while reflecting on the words.

Some of the 124,000 copies will be given to children facing a difficult Christmas, such as those in hospital or whose families are having to use food banks. The rest are available for you and your church to use as part of your Christmas outreach activities.

## SU SUPPORTERS USED LAST YEAR'S CHRISTMAS BOOK IN ALL SORTS OF CREATIVE WAYS:

- In Nottingham, Mary Cully persuaded two supermarkets to put copies out on a shelf for children to take.
- In Devon, Katie Cross gave a resource pack to families attending Christmas services, to help them continue their faith journey. These included a copy of SU's Christmas book, a stained glass window to colour in, and a tree decoration featuring a prayer for the family.
- In Hull, families completing the minister's multi-activity Christmas Trail, and signing up to get more information, were given a copy of the book.

Many families who don't normally come to church do so at Christmas, so it's a great time to start building relationships with them.

And giving their children a copy of *God Became Like Me?* could lead them to the best gift of all-knowing Jesus for themselves.

## GET FREE COPIES OF *GOD BECAME LIKE ME?* FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS OUTREACH EVENTS!



As this is all about sharing the good news with the 95% who don't go to church, 95 Campaign members can get copies for free! So if you haven't already, join The 95 Campaign at [www.the95.org.uk](http://www.the95.org.uk).

## HELP ANOTHER CHILD TO DISCOVER GOD'S LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS



It's not too late to give a gift and share the real Christmas story with a child that doesn't know Jesus – every £1 you give will get a copy of *God Became Like Me?* into the hands of another child that needs to hear its message of hope. Donate online at [www.su.org.uk/christmasgive](http://www.su.org.uk/christmasgive) or call us on 01908 856000.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 22

## SUNDAY 22

Thank God that SU in Italy are encouraged after a number of difficult years. Pray that this will continue and especially that they will see an increase in the circulation of Bible notes.

## MONDAY 23

Give thanks for the HOPE Tour which went into primary and secondary schools across Mansfield and Ashfield in October, and helped thousands of children and young people hear about Jesus. Pray for Bob Goody as he seeks to build on these contacts and follow up those who showed interest.



## TUESDAY 24

Give thanks for all who have served on the staff of the movement and are now retired. Pray that they experience God's presence in a special way this Christmas. Pray for the work of the Josiah Spiers Trust which seeks to support them.

## WEDNESDAY 25

As today we reflect on the wonder of God coming among us, pray for the 95 – for some this will simply

be a joyful day of family celebration with no thought of Jesus, for others a painful day of loneliness and separation. Pray that over the coming year they may meet those who can show them the love of Jesus.

## THURSDAY 26

Pray for *Guardians of Ancora* partners around the world, particularly in Serbia, Kosovo, Albania and Brazil. Please pray for encouragement, stamina and safety in mission areas which are often challenging and sometimes dangerous. Thank God for the successful launch in Brazil on National Children's Day in October.

## FRIDAY 27



Pray that the 250 Christmas books given out to children in the Barrow area by development worker Sarah Davison will have an

impact on the children and families who received them.

## SATURDAY 28

Pray for development worker Geoff Brown as he works with Contagious (local mission partner in Alnwick) to develop new materials for use with Year 7 to help them settle into secondary school. They will be working on the second session in the build-up to Easter.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 29

## SUNDAY 29

Thank God for the appointment of Gareth Lynch, as the National Leader of Scripture Union in the Republic of Ireland. Pray for him as he sets about developing a strategic vision and new direction for the ministry.

## MONDAY 30

Last term the north regional team worked on three pilots of a children's choir called Soul Children that saw children coming along each week to the choir to learn the songs and explore the Bible. Pray that these children will continue to grow in their faith.

## TUESDAY 31

Thank God for everyone who has supported the work of Scripture Union financially over this last year. Pray that God will encourage them through this practical involvement in mission.

## WEDNESDAY 1

Give thanks for the eight Beach Life summer events that took place in



the north last year. Pray that this year more projects will develop across beach towns in the north and that they will result in many responding to the love of Jesus.

## THURSDAY 2

Local mission partner Southport and Area Schools Workers Trust gives thanks for over 100 children and young people who gave their lives to Jesus last summer in Southport and asks us to pray for the continued follow-up.

## FRIDAY 3

The team from local mission partner YOYO (York Schools and Youth Trust) are in several primary schools delivering their 'It's Your Bible' programme, an overview of the Bible in three lessons run over three weeks. Pray that this will give children a real interest in exploring further.



## SATURDAY 4

Local mission partner Impact in Schools works in North Montgomeryshire taking assemblies and lessons. Join them in praying for a new schools worker for the Welshpool area to serve one high school and fourteen primary schools. Pray too that links with local churches may grow.





# Inspiring young people's next step with Jesus

It's thanks to your generous donations that we can organise weekend residential camps like SOLID, offering all kinds of adventure activities and opportunities to explore faith and worship Jesus. It's the perfect space in which children and young people can take the next step in their faith journey or encounter Jesus for the very first time.

It's July, and hundreds of children, young people and youth leaders from over 50 churches are gathering at Stubber's Adventure Camp in Essex for SOLID, a high-octane mix of activities and spiritual input. Morning and evening, there's worship, prayer and reflection, theatre and talks which all bring the gospel to life. In the daytime, participants enjoy an assortment of activities from high ropes, abseiling, jet skiing and archery to football, drama and a silent disco.

Staging an event on this scale takes a huge effort, and SOLID brings together many organisations and local churches who share a commitment to see young people encounter Jesus.

By the end of the weekend, 136 young people had made a commitment to follow Jesus. One girl said, 'I finally feel like I have a place to be myself, a place that feels like home.' Another said, 'I have had a lot going on at home and it has really affected me but this weekend I have felt this energy that everyone here gives off and I felt something I've never felt before so this weekend I have given my life to Jesus.'

## SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS

Those already with faith found it deepened, with God challenging them in new ways. One young man says, 'On Friday night a lady I'd never met asked to pray for me and she told me that God gave her the word "courage". Through the worship at Solid I have felt God telling me I'm worthy and to have courage to spread the word.'

SOLID works because of the commitment from churches and Christian groups who bring children

“I felt something I've never felt before so this weekend I have given my life to Jesus.”





and young people to the event. They can see the value it has in supporting and deepening the ongoing relationships they have with those children and young people, often from unchurched backgrounds.

Ed Jones pastors a church in Battle and works regularly with children and young people not in church. He and a team brought a group of them to SOLID. He says, 'It was brilliant being alongside some of the lads, seeing them engage and respond. Four of them made a commitment to follow Jesus. One girl went up for prayer and was healed of pain in her leg – that had a huge impact! Some of our young leaders sat with her and led her to Christ.'

Alex Shoderu brought a group of young people that he knows from his

sports mission sessions in Kings Cross. He says, 'SOLID has an atmosphere you can't create in your own setting, and it gives the kids more spiritual input. God's Word gets preached and there's an opportunity for kids to respond. It's really woken them up to the reality of spiritual things, helped them take another step forward on their journey towards faith, and now God is more real to them.'

.....  
**“All the kids I brought last year wanted to come again, and some new ones too. That speaks volumes about how much they got out of it.”**  
 .....



## BRING A GROUP TO SOLID 2020!

If your church is working with children and young people, whether part of a church or not, why not bring them to the next SOLID? Find out more at [www.solidfestival.org.uk](http://www.solidfestival.org.uk).

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 5

## SUNDAY 5

Give thanks for the Bible notes writer training which Scripture Union Togo ran in the autumn. Pray for the writers as they put what they have learned into practice and that as a result readers will grow in their relationship with God.

## MONDAY 6

Local mission partner Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust asks for prayer that the cold weather will not hinder their detached youth work and they will still be able to engage with young people across Sevenoaks building relationships and sharing the good news of Jesus.

## TUESDAY 7

Local mission partner The Youth Net is offering Interfaith RE conferences at primary schools in Stafford and Burton-on-Trent. Pray that these will help pupils engage positively and encourage them to think about their own beliefs and values.

## WEDNESDAY 8



Some of the Welsh team will be involved in the Higher mission in secondary schools across north Wales running

3-7 February. Pray for development worker Helen Franklin as she helps set up events and prepares local workers and volunteers for the

mission week and all that will happen after it.

## THURSDAY 9

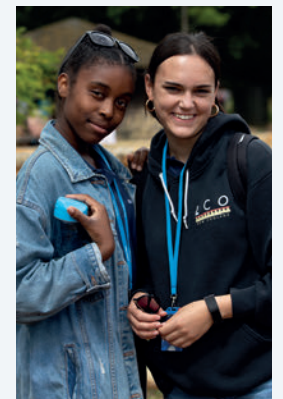
Rooted is an approach to youth ministry based on long-term relationships that enables young people to explore Christian faith at their own pace. Pray for the development of Rooted hubs in partnership with Eden bus project across Anfield, and for Rooted retreat days happening across schools in Blackpool and Stockport.

## FRIDAY 10

Pray that the storytelling week project this month run by local mission partner Christians in Stockport Schools will reach many schools with the good news and that children will engage and learn something of Jesus.

## SATURDAY 11

Pray that as the movement continues to discuss what we understand by mission we will gain a better understanding of what it requires in our world; pray that this will make us more effective in communicating with those who do not know Jesus.





# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 12

## SUNDAY 12

Join SU Chile in praying for the *Profamilia* programme that benefits adolescent children and their families who need to receive the hope that only the Lord offers. Pray that there will be adequate funding for the programme to continue.

## MONDAY 13

Local mission partner Engage in Woking asks us to pray that more volunteers will come and help with the schools work they do, to help with assemblies, youth work and new opportunities and activities as they move into the new year.

## TUESDAY 14



Shine in Schools encourages and equips pupils to share their faith with their friends and takes place in November each year. Over the next two days the planning group will review last year and plan for this November. Pray that they will have wisdom and know God's guidance.

## WEDNESDAY 15

As a new year starts, please pray for the new and ongoing opportunities

that local mission partner Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust has to support the schools, staff and young people in the schools of Brentwood, Essex and the surrounding area.

## THURSDAY 16

This term, local mission partner YOYO will be working with some secondary schools and possibly primary schools in York looking at the Holocaust and the themes of suffering and faith. Pray that this will help children and young people to see that God cares about human suffering.

## FRIDAY 17

Pray for the fundraising team as they work to raise the money that is needed to implement SU's plans over the next year. Pray that God will raise up a new generation of supporters for the movement.

## SATURDAY 18

Pray for the planning for Lifepath Brinkburn 2020 in what will be its tenth year. At these early stages, the core team will be seeking God's leading regarding the overall theme and how to integrate this into the programme.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 19

## SUNDAY 19

SU Sri Lanka asks us to pray for those who lost their friends and family members in the tragic events of last Easter and especially for healing for the children who were traumatised by this incident. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity for the staff team.



## MONDAY 20

Local mission partner Reach, working in Reading, asks us to pray for the year 7s continuing to adjust to their new school environments and their new home workload. Pray too that God will bring more volunteers to help with baking and serving refreshments to staff in schools.

## TUESDAY 21

Pray for the south west team, South West Youth Ministries and Urban Saints as they partner together to provide new and varied opportunities at SPREE which last year attracted 1,500 children, young people and adults. Pray that as they meet to plan today they may have a clear picture of God's way forward.

## WEDNESDAY 22

Jenni Whymark is involved with Jeremiah Project, a Churches Together in Portsmouth initiative, to train young leaders; please pray for their growth and development

as they plan a joint worship event and an outreach event and for a residential being planned for the February half-term.

## THURSDAY 23

Pray for churches planning their programmes for this year and aiming to use this year's holiday club material *Wonder Zone*. Pray that this material which explores faith and science will help children to experience the wonder of creation and introduce them to the Creator.

## FRIDAY 24

As the conference for event leaders in the south takes place this weekend pray that leaders will be equipped and inspired for the coming year.



## SATURDAY 25

At X:site Gloucester, which takes place today, they are working through the *Must Know* stories from the Bible. Pray that children will see the importance of the Bible in their lives and that many will respond to the invitation to camps where they can learn more.





# Opening the Bible with children and young people not in church

The Bible is of course essential to spiritual growth. But how do you help children and young people who aren't in church to engage with it? Terry Clutterham, SU's Director of Culture and Innovation, shares how your support has helped us learn what they need – and how you can help us to develop new Bible-centred resources.

'Is it like a parent's love for a child that jumps in to rescue them? Yes, that's what God's love for his children must be like.' This insight came from a child who doesn't go to church, but had been playing *Guardians of Ancora*, our digital game that faithfully retells the crucifixion story.

Unchurched children and young people are often more open to God and the Bible than we might assume. But our research indicates that there are some principles we need to follow in sharing the Bible with them.

Today's children and young people:

## • VALUE AUTHENTICITY

So we need to be honest about our own struggles, and show how the Bible helps with the challenges and adventures of life.

## • ARE RADICALLY INCLUSIVE

So we need to encourage them to be active participants in exploring together.

.....  
 “It's vital we help children and young people who aren't in church to explore the Bible.”  
 .....

## • WANT TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT PART IN TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

We should be expectant as we discover the Bible together – God can speak to and through all children and young people, not just those in churches.

## • HAVE FRAGMENTED LIVES

Their lives are busy and fragmented and their attention spans short. We need to produce resources in different formats – online, print, video and more.

It's vital we help children and young people who aren't in church to explore the Bible. It's the only way that they will truly understand Jesus' message – and that in him they can find belonging, significance, confidence and hope.



## HELP US DEVELOP NEW BIBLE EXPLORATION RESOURCES!

Have you learned important lessons as you've shared the Bible with unchurched children and young people? Or do you have ideas about sharing the Bible with the 95% that you'd like to share with us? If so, we'd love to hear from you as we'll be developing new Bible-sharing resources in the coming months. Contact Terry Clutterham, SU's Director of Culture and Innovation – [terryc@scriptureunion.org.uk](mailto:terryc@scriptureunion.org.uk).





# Prayers

Please pray for children and young people to discover God's Word

## SUNDAY 26

Praise God that the Bible is as relevant to today's youngest generation as it ever was (Isaiah 40:8.)

## MONDAY 27

Praise God for inspiring new ways for us to share his Word (such as *Guardians of Ancora* and *Diary of a Disciple*) with today's young people, particularly those who aren't in church (Colossians 2:2,3).

## TUESDAY 28

Give thanks to God that we live in an age when children and young people are hungry for the words of the Lord and are so open to discovering the Bible and learning about him (Psalm 119:103).

## WEDNESDAY 29

Praise God that he has given today's children and young people a real passion to make the world a better place, and that they can find that

desire fulfilled through knowing him (Matthew 5:6).

## THURSDAY 30

Give thanks to God that his Word is alive and active, and speaks into the lives of children and young people, showing them how to live for him (Hebrews 4:12).

## FRIDAY 31

Pray that churches have the courage to share the Bible with children and young people, both those who are part of a church and those who aren't, knowing that through it God will speak to them (Isaiah 55:10,11).

## SATURDAY 1

Pray for churches to be mindful that children and young people who aren't from a church will be starting further back in their understanding of scripture and we need to start from their baseline (an issue that Paul had – read Acts 17:16–34 noting verses 19 and 20).

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
FEB 2

## SUNDAY 2

Local mission partner Christians in Calderdale Schools started as a millennium project and they are planning 20 activities to celebrate 20 years. Today there is a concert with local choir Halifax Young Singers. Pray that this will raise their profile and funds and be an act of witness to the singers and their families.

## MONDAY 3

The Higher mission in secondary schools across north Wales starts today and runs until Friday. Pray for development workers Helen Franklin and Mike Adams who are involved and ask that these events will lead to many young people wanting to know more about Christian faith.

## TUESDAY 4



Pray for the central region team as they meet today to pray, review and plan under the guidance of team leader Simon Barker, asking that God will give wisdom and clarity of vision.

## WEDNESDAY 5

SU in Finland are publishing a new website that will contain a wide variety of materials for use in youth work. Please pray for a warm welcome and wide uptake of this free

tool, so that God's Word will become better known among young people in Finland.

## THURSDAY 6

Pray that as the holiday brochure for this year is sent out God will prompt people to respond and to book up. Pray that we will be able to use residential activities to reach the 95.

## FRIDAY 7

The 412 course developed by local mission partner SU Ministries Trust on the Isle of Man enables young Christians to think through the kind of leaders they want to be. Pray for participants at this weekend's residential as they plan a service and continue to understand more of who they are as leaders.



## SATURDAY 8

The south west region has a fruitful partnership with SU in South Africa and a team will be going out again in the summer; pray for the preparations. Pray too about developing training tools and programmes to help SU South Africa use sport in their ministry.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
FEB 9

## SUNDAY 9

Scripture Union in Laos thank God for the Bible engagement training they held in one province where 35 people attended. After the training, some people were very excited about engaging with the Bible. Pray that this excitement will remain.

## MONDAY 10

Pray for staff as they adapt to using new cloud-based office technology, and for Mark Green and Ian Gooding as they train and equip people to make the best use of the resources, in particular the fast-changing world of Microsoft Office 365.

## TUESDAY 11

Local mission partner PSALMS working in Gloucestershire thanks God for their Active RE courses that were delivered in a number of schools all over the county last year and prays that as they continue children attending may discover more about the truth of Jesus. Pray too for their non-residential sports camps being held during the February half-term.

## WEDNESDAY 12

Please pray for development worker Lisa Jones as she explores the possibility of working with Christians in Orpington to connect with the Chinese community with a view to running a children's holiday club or non-residential camp during the school holidays.

## THURSDAY 13



Development worker Neil Jackson is hoping to work with some churches in the north of England to run some

pancake events later in the month. Pray that he will be able to help churches make the most of these opportunities.

## FRIDAY 14

Thank God for all the volunteers who make our work possible. The northern event leaders' conference takes place this weekend. Pray that this will be a time of inspiration and encouragement and that leaders will be better equipped to lead their teams this year.



## SATURDAY 15

Pray that the team of local mission partner Milton Keynes Bridgebuilder Trust will retain their vision as they continue to develop and deliver their new well-being programme in schools. Pray too for strength as they continue to present a programme of assemblies.

# A legacy helps future generations find faith

Scripture Union began over 150 years ago and, God willing, we will continue sharing Jesus with children and young people for many years to come. By leaving a legacy to our ministry, as Sheena Moss did, you can help future generations to develop strong and lasting faith.

Sheena, born in Elgin, passed away in January 2019. She left a testimony to explain her love and support of Scripture Union. She says, 'I was not born into a believing family, but when the local Scripture Union secretary came to my school and told me about summer camps, no one stood in my way. I went to camp for three years and it was here that I accepted Jesus' invitation to follow him.

'There was no evangelical witness in Elgin that I knew of, but I received SU notes which helped

to keep my faith alive and I have continued to read these daily notes all of my life.' Indeed, her son Gregor says, 'My mother spent a lot of time in Scripture as she became more frail and I am sure it was a lifetime of daily reading that gave her the resources to continue to rely on her Heavenly Father as that frailty deprived her of so much.'

Later Sheena met and married Rowland. They spent eight years in Nigeria before returning to the UK where they were involved in student ministry and later in visiting the elderly and housebound.

We are so very grateful to Sheena for her legacy gift, and give thanks to God for her life of faith-filled service.



LEAVE  
A LEGACY  
TO SU

Every year, hundreds of children hear about God's love through our camps, just like Sheena did. We're praying it's the start of a lifelong Christian faith for them too. You can help by leaving a gift to Scripture Union in your will: visit [su.org.uk/legacy](https://su.org.uk/legacy) or call 01908 856120



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
FEB 16

## SUNDAY 16

In Australia, SU Victoria offers year-long internships in three areas – church-partnered children and families ministry, schools ministry and residential camping. Each internship provides training in leadership, ministry foundations and practical skills. Pray for guidance for the future, for their current interns and for the recruiting of new volunteers for the year ahead.

## MONDAY 17

Pray that the young people who came to the Tri-Sports mission in Gateshead in the summer will continue to think about the difference that Jesus can make to them and pray for Matt the local youth worker to have wisdom as he decides how best to build on this.

## TUESDAY 18



Pray that as the south west team meet today under the leadership of team leader Margaret Lilley they will hear God speaking to them

as they look to future strategy.

## WEDNESDAY 19

Pray for a better understanding of how we can facilitate the formation of faith in the 95, and that those working on resources to help them will have creativity and a good

understanding of the context.

## THURSDAY 20

Local mission partner Christians 4 Education working in North Wales thanks God for good contacts with children and their families through their mentoring and parenting work. Please pray for new volunteers to help with the increasing requests from local schools.

## FRIDAY 21

Pray with local mission partner Faith in Schools in Newham for the Holy Spirit to bring them the six to ten recruits needed for the second year of Sharing Faith in Schools, a pilot project to develop schools workers, run in conjunction with SU schools working training programmes.

## SATURDAY 22

Pray for the Bible focus group as it continues to explore how best to help the 95 engage with the Bible in meaningful ways and discover more about Jesus. Pray that the key tools being developed will enable staff and other practitioners to help the 95 explore the Bible for themselves.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
FEB 23

## SUNDAY 23

SU South Africa thank God for a great holiday club season in which many children were challenged to know and walk with Jesus. Pray for their continued growth throughout the year.

## MONDAY 24

Pray for effective operation of our websites, for Ian Gooding and Mark Green as they oversee and develop them, and the many staff who look after the content. Pray also for the team at our web agency as they provide support and development.

## TUESDAY 25

Pray that as local mission partner Christian Connections in Schools (Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead) looks to appoint a Primary Schools Development Worker to start sometime this year God will lead them to the right person.

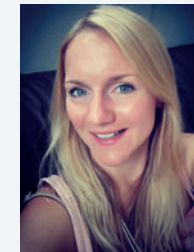
## WEDNESDAY 27



Tomorrow Rob Steward north team leader will be speaking at the Blackburn Diocese Children's Conference about the 95. Pray that

this will encourage many more churches to look for creative ways of reaching children and young people who have no contact with the church.

## THURSDAY 29



Today Hannah Legge, central region development worker, is helping the Diocese of Gloucester with

their Schools Work Conference. Pray that many churches will see the possibility of schools work and will be enthused and equipped.

## FRIDAY 1

Pray that as development worker Sarah Davison explores opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with children and young people in some of the most deprived areas in the north, and looks for the right connections, God will open doors.

## SATURDAY 2

*Guardians of Ancora* goes right to the heart of ministry to the 95, going where children are, but the gospel isn't, in the digital world. Please pray that many more will discover Jesus, perhaps for the first time, as they play the game.





Scripture Union

# A 95 CHRISTMAS

A 95 Christmas is a brand-new resource, packed full of ideas to help you share the real meaning of Christmas with the 95% of children and young people who don't go to church.

**DOWNLOAD FOR FREE:**  
[su.org.uk/95christmas](http://su.org.uk/95christmas)

