

# Connecting you

Autumn  
2020

INSIDE:  
PULL-OUT  
MISSION  
REPORT

## IN THIS EDITION

- Mission in lockdown
- Holiday clubs – a launchpad into the community
- Rooted – supporting people through tough times
- Sharing God's love in new ways



Scripture  
Union

# Contents

.....

4



## The shape of mission in lockdown

We take a look at some of the creative ways people have responded to the challenge of mission during lockdown.

12



## “Our SU holiday club has been our launch pad into our community”

Read about how vicar Dominic Newstead brought together nine churches in Potters Bar to set up a year-round mission programme.

18



## Rooted – supporting young people through tough times

SU Cymru's Rachel Settatree shares on how Rooted became a lifeline to some young people during Wales' strict lockdown.

24



## Sharing God's love in new ways

SU Mission Enabler Toby Chant outlines some of the digital mission possibilities we're exploring.

## Also inside: Your pull-out Mission Report

Turn to the centre of the magazine for a run down of just some of the things your support has enabled over the past year. Thank you for making so much possible!



*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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Published by Scripture Union, Trinity House, Opal Court, Opal Drive, Fox Milne, Milton Keynes, MK15 0DF

# A change of plan can be a good thing

.....



**“Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans” Proverbs 16:3**

For some time, we have known that taking the good news of Jesus to the 95% of children and young people not in church involved going to where they are. And most of them spend significant amounts of time online.

So we already had plans in place to explore ways of doing mission digitally – but for two or three years’ time. However, COVID-19 restrictions brought those plans forward and pushed us to get to grips with technology much faster than we had envisaged.

There’s no doubt that meeting up face to face will continue to play an important role in mission but doing mission digitally does turn out to have some particular advantages – it’s convenient, it’s immediate and it’s flexible. For some, it may even be more engaging. We’ve noticed that many children and young people have attended online groups more regularly than face-to-face groups, and some of the quieter ones have interacted more than usual. Find out more on the following pages.

I believe that in future, and sooner than we might think, mission will become a seamless flow of meeting

up in person and communicating digitally between times. Such a holistic approach will make sharing the good news of Jesus a more continuous and flexible process, and we pray that God will accelerate the pace of spiritual growth in children and young people and help them to build stronger, deeper faith.

Talking of plans – in October, we will be launching a brand-new mission framework to help you and your church connect and journey more effectively with the 95. We’ve included more information on this special online celebration and launch event on the back of this magazine, and I do hope you’ll join us from wherever you are.

Thank you once again for your continued support and prayers. God has taken us into exciting new territory and helped us to negotiate our way so that children and young people have been able to discover his infinite love, hope and steadfastness in perhaps the most testing times of their lives.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Myles".

**Myles MacBean,**  
National Director



# The shape of mission in lockdown

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When COVID-19 lockdown came, your support enabled us to rapidly repurpose for a brave new world of mission. So what has mission looked like over the past few months, and what lessons have been learned for the future? We caught up with a few local mission partners and churches to find out.





In Hinkley, Amy and Jon Berry from St John's Church ran a virtual holiday club using one of our older resources, *Mega Makers!*. They pre-recorded all the sessions, including a daily 'messy challenge', then posted the video on YouTube and sent parents the link. Amy says, 'Many parents and children said they copied the games at home, and parents found they were having lots of good conversations about faith with their children after the sessions.'

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“ We didn't want any child to get left behind, so we put together 50 packs. ”

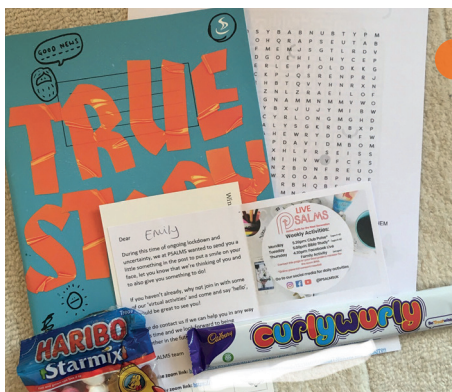
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'Each day, we'd invite the children to send in photos and jokes. We'd edit the next day's pre-recorded video to include these to make things a bit more "two-way". We found that if our own children co-presented with us, the children viewing interacted more – they identify better with someone closer to their own age.'

## MIXING ONLINE WITH OFFLINE

In Gloucestershire, local mission partner PSALMS normally hosts many weekly sports ministry groups for children and young people. During lockdown, they set up regular Zoom sessions instead. 'However, not all the children could join in with online groups,' says PSALMS' Emily Twigg. 'Some didn't have access to a laptop, some found the idea of Zoom daunting and, for others, their parents didn't want them using online platforms.'

'We didn't want any child to get left behind, so we put together 50 packs containing SU's *True Story* book (a short evangelistic booklet that helps your church introduce teenagers to the message of Christianity), worksheets, a personalised card and some snacks. And volunteers dropped them off to the children's homes. Our online youth Bible study is working through the book together, and those who aren't online can go through it on their own.'



## SO WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Other churches and local mission partners have been sharing their experiences of mission during lockdown. Here are some key lessons learned:

**Not all children and young people in your circle will join an online group** for the reasons Emily outlined. And older children can be less keen, especially if they've been in video meetings all day for lessons.

**Those who do join online groups engage really well.** Children attend more regularly especially if you can keep things interactive. Sometimes, quieter children interact more online.

**Don't let children who can't join in online get left behind.** Find ways to keep in touch with them, as Emily did with her *True Story* packs, and

Rachel did with Rooted journals (see page 18). You don't want there to be a 'them and us' feeling when you go back to meeting in person!

**Pick the online 'channel' that works for your situation.** Video meetings allow for interaction and are good for relationship building, but they can be quite tiring to host and are better for small numbers. You'll also need to get parental permissions and to consider other safeguarding requirements\*. YouTube broadcasts aren't interactive but are a great option if you want to reach large numbers of children and young people, and you don't need parental permissions for broadcasts.

Amy concludes, 'Meeting online has helped us to show that the church is still happening, that we still care about the children, and that we want to share and talk about Jesus.'



## HELP US TO SUPPORT MORE CHURCHES IN ONLINE MISSION

Even after the end of COVID-19 restrictions, online mission is here to stay. Make a donation at [su.org.uk/digitalgift](https://su.org.uk/digitalgift) and you'll be helping us to train, resource and support churches and other partners to do effective online mission

\*We've put together some helpful principles for running online group sessions safely. See [su.org.uk/running-online-groups](https://su.org.uk/running-online-groups)



WEEK  
BEGINNING  
AUGUST 30

# Prayers

.....

Please pray for children and young people in these uncertain times

## SUNDAY 30

Praise God for the wonders of technology that have helped us all to share Jesus with children and young people at a time when it has not been possible to meet up in person.

## MONDAY 31

Give thanks to God for inspiring our local church and mission partners to find creative and resourceful ways to keep in contact with the children and young people in their communities and to reassure them of God's deep love for them.

## TUESDAY 1

Please pray that God's message of hope will settle deep in the hearts of those children and young people, and that ultimately they will know the joy of accepting Jesus as their Saviour.

## WEDNESDAY 2

As a new school term begins, please pray for all children and young

people returning to having lessons at school. Ask God to help them settle back into a different kind of normality.

## THURSDAY 3

Give thanks to God for those who share Jesus in schools. Pray that they will be able to build strong and authentic relationships with the students, and help them explore the difference that Jesus can make to the challenges and adventures of life.

## FRIDAY 4

Please pray for Amy, Jon, Emily and all our local church and mission partners who so faithfully share Jesus even when that means going beyond their comfort zones.

## SATURDAY 5

Give thanks to God that, no matter what uncertainty the future may hold, if we commit whatever we do to him, he will establish our plans.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
SEP 6

## SUNDAY 6

SU in Peninsular Malaysia has produced several videos, held e-chapel and published resources for family worship. Pray for them as they continue to use digital platforms to reach the next generation with God's Word asking that these will impact young lives.

## MONDAY 7

SU is a member of the South East Partnership, a network which supports children's, youth and schools workers in South East England. It is hoping to run an online event enabling participants to explore digital evangelism. Please pray that this will help them to understand the possibilities and to use them effectively.

## TUESDAY 8

The last few months have been difficult for many children and young people, and many have struggled. Pray for them as they return to school, that they will find strength and know that they can pass their anxieties on to God.



## WEDNESDAY 9

Pray especially for those starting in Year 7 who may not have had much help to transition due to school

closures. Pray that all the resources produced which help parents, churches and schools make the most of *It's Your Move* will continue to help them.

## THURSDAY 10



Mission Enabler Helen Franklin gives thanks for ways we have seen God at work – for those churches who ran online holiday

clubs and for all that summer mission teams were able to achieve digitally. Pray for the ongoing impact and for new families who have been reached.

## FRIDAY 11

Thank God that there were relatively few issues over transitioning SU staff to working from home. Much of this was due to being prepared for emergencies such as the COVID-19 lockdown.

## SATURDAY 12

Christian Unions in sixth forms and colleges came to an abrupt end in March with no opportunity to choose new leaders and prepare them. Please pray for young people who are trying to pick up leadership in the new term and for National Mission Partner Festive as they support them.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
SEP 13

## SUNDAY 13

Local Mission Partner **Re:generation Harrow** asks us to pray for effective use of Education Sunday today. Join with them in praying that it will help to highlight ministry to children and young people in our schools.

## MONDAY 14

As we start a new academic year, Local Mission Partner **PSALMS**, working around Stroud, requests prayer for Active RE lessons as they potentially restart and the opportunities they give for children to be engaged with the Bible and God's message through sport and games.

## TUESDAY 15

Despite the sadness of not being able to run the Go Wild residential, we were able to produce a short video of activities and questions to reflect on. Pray that a good number will continue to respond. Pray too for the continued development of Go Wild resources for all stages of faith development.



## WEDNESDAY 16

Join with Local Mission Partner **Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust** in thanking God for the opportunities that they had in serving local schools during

lockdown. They used a range of resources including video assemblies for primary and secondary schools and online lunchtime club activities.

## THURSDAY 17

Mission Enabler Sarah Davison gives thanks for the depth of relationship that has been fostered throughout lockdown with Local Mission Partners and existing contacts, enabling them to pray for one another, share resources and encourage one another.



## FRIDAY 18

Praise God for the creativity of our teams in providing a new suite of *Lockdown* resources to help young people and families to keep Jesus in heart and mind in abnormal times. Give thanks too for the success of the online training events held over the summer, with many hundreds being equipped for mission.

## SATURDAY 19

Many events that would normally have taken place face to face over the summer took place in some form online. Pray for follow-up for the children and young people who 'attended' them, and give thanks for volunteers who embraced a whole new way of working this year.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
SEP 20

## SUNDAY 20

This year, SU in South Sudan are aiming to reach 20,000 children and young people with the gospel. They thank God who has enabled them to open in two new towns. Pray for them as they implement plans to establish work in three more towns.

## MONDAY 21

This week we focus on the Central region, a large geographical area. Pray for Simon Barker in his role as Team Leader. Give thanks for the staff team, Local Mission Partners, holiday and mission leaders and key volunteers as they seek to reach out to the 95 in the area.

## TUESDAY 22

Mission Enabler Steve Hutchinson works with churches in Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Herefordshire.



Some groups have continued online; pray that relationships can be rebuilt so that children and young people can explore and grow in faith.

## WEDNESDAY 23



Hannah Legge is an SU Mission Enabler working with churches across Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Shropshire. She would especially appreciate

prayer for churches she is supporting in using the mental health tool kit to foster mental health and wellbeing in children and young people.

## THURSDAY 24

Local Mission Partner **Impact** work in Bedford and are supported by the regional team. Give thanks for the positive feedback from schools using their RE resource packs and e-assemblies. Pray that God will continue to open the hearts and minds of staff, parents, carers and children.

## FRIDAY 25

The Harriers Cruise on the Norfolk Broads is one of many activities in the region that could not take place as planned this summer. The leaders give thanks that they were able to meet digitally as a virtual cruise; pray that they will be able to maintain momentum with team and young people as they plan for 2021.



## SATURDAY 26

Alan Darlington has been a volunteer for about 30 years and is involved with a number of schools around Mansfield. Pray for him as he helps schools and churches deal with the ongoing effects of lockdown.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
SEP 27

## SUNDAY 27

In Cameroon, SU thanks God for the training of children's and youth workers from various churches in February this year, with 86 participants from 6 denominations. The online follow-up started in May; pray for the next session this month.

## MONDAY 28



**Mission Enabler**  
Lucy Pearson has been encouraged by stories of churches and communities using Rooted online. Some have delivered

the Rooted journals, which have given young people space to reflect and process with God the ups and downs they may be experiencing in uncertain times.

## TUESDAY 29

Thank God for all our supporters who have been incredibly generous in their giving and their prayers particularly over what has been a challenging time. Pray that they may know God's blessing.

## WEDNESDAY 30

Pray for wisdom about the use of Shine in Schools. Many partners usually run it in the autumn term but we, as SU England and Wales, are thinking of it more as a year-round resource. The theme this year is 'Influencers', designed to encourage both Christian and non-Christian

young people to consider what it would mean to have Jesus influence their lives.

## THURSDAY 1

Pray that as secondary schools in north Wales get back into something closer to normality, Local Mission Partners and local churches will be able to pick up in some way from the Higher mission back in February and encourage young people to continue to follow Jesus.

## FRIDAY 2

Thank God that *Guardians of Ancora* has been used by thousands of children, while they stay safe at home. Pray that they will meet Jesus for themselves, as they find and follow him through the app Bible adventures.



## SATURDAY 3

Local Mission Partner **Engage** in Woking thank God for ways in which they have seen him at work during lockdown, opening up new ways of connecting with young people and meeting with others in the area to share ideas and pray together.



“Our SU holiday club has been our launch pad into our community”

.....

With help from SU, vicar Dominic Newstead brought together nine churches in Potters Bar to set up a year-round mission programme. Four years later, it attracts almost 100 children and young people, mainly those without church backgrounds.





DOMINIC  
NEWSTEAD

For many years, Dominic ran SU holiday clubs in the Wirral. When he moved to Little Heath near Potters Bar in 2016 to become vicar

of Christ Church, there was scant mission to local young

people. So he reached out to leaders of other local churches – Anglican, Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, URC and Evangelical Free. The aim is to build a year-round mission programme, taking turns to lead activities, with volunteer support from across the congregations.

The SU holiday club is at the heart of this vibrant mission programme. Dominic says, ‘It’s a launch pad that opens doors into the community. Scripture Union’s regional staff helped us to get it off the ground and build a team with an excellent reputation which means that schools welcome us, and when we go into them, the children know who we are.’

.....  
“ Scripture Union’s regional staff helped us to get it off the ground ”  
.....

Last year’s holiday club had 80 children and 15 teenagers, supported by 67 volunteers. ‘The teens have their own teaching in small groups; we give them opportunities to develop leadership skills and the older adults mentor them,’ Dominic says. ‘By the time they are 18, they



are able to lead some activities. Having the opportunity to progress encourages them, and the younger children aspire to be like them. It’s the same approach that I took in the Wirral – by the time I left, we had 40 teenagers, some of whom were also very involved with other SU missions.’

## HELPING CHURCHES ADAPT

Coronavirus has brought new challenges this year, but your support has helped the churches to adapt.

Cath Hawes recently joined Christ Church as Children’s Outreach Worker. She says, ‘We’re very sad that we can’t offer our usual holiday club this summer, but we’re exploring alternatives.



CATH  
HAWES

‘Meantime, with SU’s help, we’re still managing to share the hope of Jesus with children and young people in other ways. Lockdown restrictions have made their lives really difficult, especially those moving to secondary school who face so much uncertainty this year. So we’ve been working with four primary

schools to get SU *It's Your Move* books out to 150 Year 6 children. We've also made a pre-recorded video for the schools to screen, to help the children explore their unique qualities and how they can use these to feel much more confident about moving on.

'We've been sharing SU's INspire videos with our youth group, who are mainly from non-church backgrounds, and we plan to use Rooted with them as well – the questions and activities will get them thinking and talking about faith. We've also used SU's safeguarding principles to ensure we maintain the highest safety standards as we move to doing mission digitally.'

Dominic says, 'Scripture Union has helped and inspired us to develop real credibility and the highest standards, whether we're doing mission face to face or online. We



share the same vision of working with children and young people not in church, and their local staff supported us to get the holiday club up and running. Cath has attended SU training and conferences which has given her new skills and also helped her to network with other mission workers.

'It's been a brilliant partnership. We look forward to it continuing so that together we can help many more children and young people to discover Jesus and develop an enduring personal relationship with him.'

.....  
“ Scripture Union has helped and inspired us to develop real credibility and the highest standards. ”  
.....

## HELP OTHER CHURCHES TO DEVELOP VIBRANT MISSION PROGRAMMES!

Your gift today will help us support more churches in their outreach work – giving them the opportunity to introduce more children and young people to Jesus.

You can donate by visiting [su.org.uk/give](https://su.org.uk/give)





Scripture Union

YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH  
2020

# Mission Report



## Captured within these few pages are just some of the highlights of God at work through Scripture Union over the past year.

I hope you find it encouraging to see the many opportunities children and young people have had to encounter Jesus through the Bible. Time and time again, the Word of God proves itself to be living and active, and it's our prayer that as the 95 discover its relevance today, they'll accept the invitation to a lifelong journey of faith in Christ.

While all these activities have been going on, we've also been working on a major strategic review. We're excited to be launching the resulting new mission framework in October, which will help churches to connect with the 95 and create ongoing and relevant discipleship opportunities for these children and young people.

We are truly grateful for your prayers and financial support. Without you, none of this would be possible.



**Myles MacBean**

National Director, Scripture Union England and Wales



### AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are all #Superheroes - the driving force behind much of SU's mission activity. There were **4,929** known opportunities for volunteer involvement: the equivalent of 4,610 working weeks or **98** full-time staff.



### REACHING THE 95!

This year, **3,900** people joined The 95 Campaign, helping to play their part in reaching the 95% of children and young people in England and Wales who don't go to church. The Campaign now has **11,750** members. If you haven't joined yet, sign up at [the95.org.uk](http://the95.org.uk)



### PARTNERS

Along with hundreds of churches, we've got **68** mission partners, with **5** new partners joining us this year. Through those partnerships, many hundreds of volunteers are involved in sharing the good news in a whole range of exciting ways. Between them they employ **115** staff.



### A BRAND NEW MISSION FRAMEWORK FOR YOUR CHURCH!

This year, we've been working hard to develop a brand new mission framework to help churches both connect and journey with the 95. We'll be revealing this framework and encouraging churches to get involved from October 2020.

**COMING  
SOON**



# New mission opportunities



We ran **189** new mission events during the year, working with local churches and other partners, in addition to **177** existing missions.

Through these **366** events, we had direct contact with nearly **37,500** children and young people – **88%** of whom were from a non-church background.



## THE GOOD NEWS FUND



We extended mission opportunities through the third year of the Good News Fund. **28** grants totalling **£27,000** were made to resource local churches and mission partners to go into their community and share the good news of Jesus.



## Holidays and missions

Our holidays and missions help thousands of children and young people to grow in their faith each year. This year, **2,253** children came to an SU holiday, with the Scripture Union Holiday Fund helping **169** of those children to attend where they may not have otherwise been able to. Thank you for your generous gifts that made that possible.

**1,692** amazing volunteers filled **2,102** volunteering opportunities. We also ran **4** brand-new holidays as part of a programme of **61** residential events: Centre Stage, Love All, Unlimited, Autumn Breakout.



### SOLID

Solid, our weekend residential experience held during July in the South of England, went from strength to strength, with over **800** children and young people attending with their church group or club. Over **50** churches were involved in this way. By the end of the weekend, more than **130** people had made a commitment to follow Jesus.



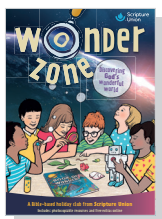
## DEVELOPING THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Even with decades of experience in mission with the 95, SU practitioners know we constantly need to research carefully, reflect biblically and observe culturally before putting new ways into practice. Then we share our understandings generously. This is the heart of thought leadership.

In particular, we work at understanding the cultures of Generation Z and Alpha, how we can best do mission with them, how we use the Bible effectively with them, and how we can help them grow in faith. Look out for our new **Revealing Jesus** publication, released in October 2020, which outlines the essence of our thinking so far.



## Resourcing the church



### WONDER ZONE

We launched our *Wonder Zone* holiday club, in partnership with Faraday Institute – giving children the chance to explore the wonders of the universe alongside the wonders of God. **1,110** copies of the holiday club resource book were ordered.



### IT'S YOUR MOVE

This year, over **124,000** copies of our *It's Your Move* booklet have been given to children taking the big step from primary to secondary school. We also developed some fantastic accompanying resources, including video stories, lesson plans and assembly ideas.

### ROOTED

Our Rooted model for mission continued to build momentum, helping many young people to engage with the Christian faith through shared interests, in a safe, nurturing environment.

**257** copies of the new print version of the Rooted Leader's Guide were sold, along with **1,500** copies of the newly developed Rooted Journal, providing young people with an opportunity to creatively reflect on who God says they are, and why they matter.





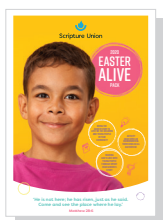
## DIARY OF A DISCIPLE: LUKE'S STORY AUDIOBOOK

The ever-popular *Diary of a Disciple* series is now available as a free-to-download audiobook.

**100** people have downloaded the book since it launched, and we hope many more will engage with these stories from the Bible in this new and widely accessible format.

## LOCKDOWN RESOURCES

At the end of this financial year, the COVID-19 crisis led us into lockdown. But, with your support, we were able to respond quickly by creating a whole suite of new material to help churches continue to connect with children and young people during this challenging time.



## EASTER ALIVE

**271** people downloaded the *Easter Alive* pack and accompanying resources to help them share the good news of Jesus' resurrection.



## LIGHT PARTIES

**2,330** people downloaded our resources to help them run a Light Party at Halloween.



## CHRISTMAS

Our new book, *God Became Like Me?* was gifted to over **165,000** children to help them engage with the real Christmas story, and reflect on how they are special in Jesus' eyes. Books were given as gifts in hospitals, through local food banks and at Christmas events run by our regional teams, churches and other partners.

**607** people also downloaded our free pack to help them run 95-focused Christmas events.



During the year, we developed our suite of resources to help churches explore issues of mental health and wellbeing with children and young people, whilst introducing the hope only Jesus can bring.

The resources are now available at [su.org.uk/mentalhealth](https://su.org.uk/mentalhealth)



# Guardians of Ancora

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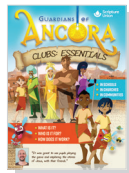
Our *Guardians of Ancora* Bible game app continued to help children engage with the Bible in exciting ways. During the year, there were **36,356** downloads across the world.

We estimate that *Guardians of Ancora* has had a staggering **1,485,000** players since it was launched in 2015. The game is now available in **five** languages with **two** further languages in development.

**13** global SU movements have become partners, using the game as a mission resource. A further **10** movements are considering this.

## ANCORA CLUBS

**3,065** goody bags have been ordered for children attending *Guardians of Ancora* clubs, along with **1,007** *Club Essentials* booklets (to provide ideas for those running a club).



# Mission through sport

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Mission through sport has been established in each region in England and in Wales, with some highlights coming from initiatives in the north east of England.



Game Changers was a stand-out programme, helping **28** young people from **11** churches on Tyneside to grow in their faith and serve God in activities around the area. The approach is being developed further this year.



**394** people downloaded *Sticks for Stumps*, our free resource to help churches reach out during the 2019 Cricket World Cup. We estimate that around **53,000** saw the accompanying campaign video.



# Supporting global partnership

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There are over **130** SU movements around the world working in around **120** countries, all of which are united by Scripture Union's aims, belief and working principles. During the year, we both supported and learnt from SU movements globally who are working with children and young people who are not in church.



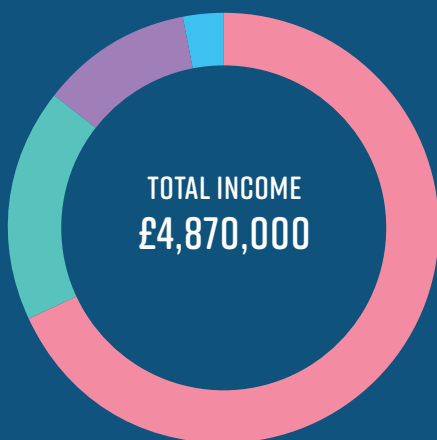


# Money matters

Your gifts make a huge difference and, for the year ended 31 March 2020, your donations and income from legacies totalled **£4,870,000**. As expected, expenditure was higher than income, largely because your past giving allowed us to invest **£559,000** 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 an **8:1** return.



Here's an overview of the money we received during the 2019/20 financial year, and the ways in which it was spent.



**£3,326,000**

Donations and legacies

**£853,000**

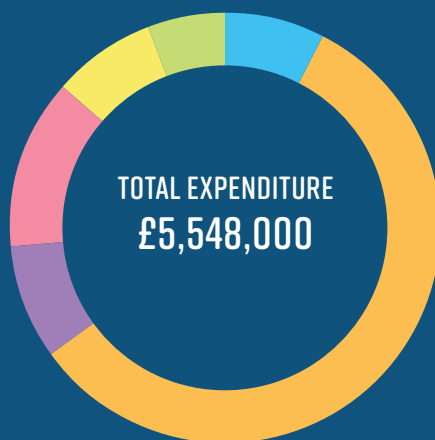
Publishing sales

**£554,000**

Holidays and missions

**£137,000**

Other, including investments



**£3,195,000**

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

**£722,000**

Commercial publishing

**£466,000**

Digital publishing

**£425,000**

Cost of raising funds

**£424,000**

International activities

**£316,000**

Advocacy

This is a summary of Scripture Union's financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2020, extracted from the full Trustee's 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 by contacting us on 01908 856135.

None of this success would have been possible without people generously giving what they could. If you supported us in that way, THANK YOU – this success is yours too.

**Could you give a gift and ensure even more is possible next year?**

**DONATE  
ONLINE AT  
SU.ORG.UK/  
DONATE**

# Thank you!

A young boy and girl are sitting on a grassy area with green foliage in the background. The boy, on the left, is wearing a red t-shirt with a white grid pattern and blue trousers. He is looking down at an open book he is holding. The girl, on the right, is wearing a black and white striped t-shirt and blue jeans. She is smiling and looking at a purple book she is holding. The background is a dense green hedge. There are some decorative elements: a dotted line of orange dots below the title, a small blue circle on the left edge, and a cluster of three overlapping circles (green, pink, and yellow) in the bottom right corner.

Thank you so much for all your gifts and prayers, which have helped to make everything outlined in this report possible. Thanks to your support, many children and young people have had the opportunity to grow in their faith this year.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
OCT 4

## SUNDAY 4

SU Serbia is grateful for the opportunity to run workshops for unchurched children and young people with disabilities. After watching a Christmas sketch, one 7-year-old said, 'I'm very happy I recorded the play so I can show mum and dad what happened on Christmas night.' Pray for the children and parents who heard the good news for the first time.

## MONDAY 5



This week we focus on the Development Hub which is designed to stimulate new thinking about approaches and resources for mission.

Please pray for the team under the leadership of Gemma Willis as they explore ways to increase their capacity and output.

## TUESDAY 6

Give thanks for the appointment of Leanne Sheppard to the team earlier this year as a Content Innovator, and pray for her as she settles into her new role that she may find satisfaction in what she does and that she may know God-given creativity.

## WEDNESDAY 7

Ask God to open up new opportunities for the Development Hub team as they explore partnership with other creative agencies. Pray that

partnerships will be fruitful in helping to identify the needs in church and society and finding effective ways of meeting them.

## THURSDAY 8

The SU Creative Collective initiative brings together staff, volunteers and practitioners to explore creative approaches to ministry to the 95. Pray for wisdom as we consider what the next few events might look like and the direction they should take.



## FRIDAY 9

Please pray for a healthy balance of work and rest for the Development Hub team as they strive to produce great new content. Ask God to give them the necessary thinking space and to provide refreshment and stimulation.

## SATURDAY 10

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire the Development Hub team as they explore new and innovative ways to connect with the 95 and that they may have the wisdom and discernment to know which ideas are the ones to pursue.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
OCT 11

## SUNDAY 11

Pray for Leadership Lab International, in which SU Global is a partner, as they develop virtual training opportunities for young leaders to help them develop online discipleship ministries.



call; pray that they will be able to offer the best possible outcomes for all our supporters.

## WEDNESDAY 14

Thank God for outside suppliers who, despite difficult times for their own operations, have been real partners with us and have enabled us to develop and improve our internal systems and our digital presence. Pray for us in our relationships with them.

## MONDAY 12

Local Mission Partner **Lightspace** in Grantham asks us to pray that schools work facilitators who were furloughed will be able to maintain their passion for the work. They also ask that we pray for their trustees as they try to steer a course through difficult decisions, and for wisdom in supporting teachers who are finding the situation challenging.

## THURSDAY 15

Local Mission Partner **COINS** in Newbury thank God for new ways to serve their schools with digital assemblies and that they have been able to continue one school's club over Zoom throughout the lockdown. Praise God for the way their three short films about transition came together so well.

## TUESDAY 13

Two new Supporter Care Assistants, Debbie Edge and John Cartwright, joined Jim Winning, (Supporter Care Lead) in March. The Supporter Care team are the first people supporters talk to when they



DEBBIE



JOHN

## FRIDAY 16

Many volunteers will have been disappointed not to be able to serve in the usual way during the summer. Pray for them in their disappointment and ask that they will be motivated to serve next year.

## SATURDAY 17

The SU Council will be meeting in some form today. Pray that as they seek to provide stimulus and inspiration to the movement, they will hear from God and that the ministry will be enhanced as a result.



# Prayers

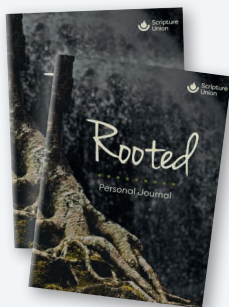
WEEK  
BEGINNING  
OCT 18

## SUNDAY 18

Ninety-five per cent of Christians in Canada say they have never been taught how to engage with Scripture. Pray for the trainers with SU in English-speaking Canada who conduct practical, interactive Bible engagement workshops to teach Christians several ways to engage with the Bible.

## MONDAY 19

Pray that as the *Rooted Personal Journal* comes into print and into the hands of young people, the truth of God's Word and his love for them will become clear in their lives.



## TUESDAY 20

A 'pop-up' version of Lifepath ran in Ponteland for the first time last year and a second is planned for today in partnership with two churches. Pray that whatever form it takes it will encourage children to think about the place that Jesus might have in their lives.

## WEDNESDAY 21

Pray for Stephen Vis, Director of Finance and Services, as he prepares for an Audit and Finance Committee meeting which will review financial progress and look at updating the forecast for the year. Pray for the

members of the committee (especially volunteer Treasurer Kim Hurst) as they meet later this month.

## THURSDAY 22

Mission

Enabler Jenni Whymark had been working with churches in the Portsmouth,



Gosport, Fareham and Havant areas planning a week of mission into secondary schools in July. Pray that ways of rescheduling this may be found.

## FRIDAY 23

South east Mission Enabler Lisa Jones had planned a non-residential event in May for children of primary school age from the Chinese community in Orpington. She is hoping that it may take place this half-term. Pray for all the practical arrangements.

## SATURDAY 24

Ro Clark, Chair of the **Wave** Local Mission Partner in Swanage, wrote to the regional office, 'During this unprecedented time it has been a source of support and joy to spend time together in fellowship and prayer each week. Thank you so much for being there for us all.' Thank God for all the mutual support that took place during lockdown.



## Rooted – supporting young people through tough times

.....

Last year, with your support we developed Rooted, a programme which enables Christians to journey with children and young people through life's ups and downs to help them reach their full potential. And, as SU Cymru's Support Worker Rachel Settatree reports, it was a lifeline to some young people during Wales' strict lockdown.



RACHEL  
SETTATREE

We'd been helping three churches in Haverfordwest and Broad Haven to set up our first Rooted hub in Wales, meeting

with local secondary school students in a church crypt or coffee shop to explore some of life's big questions.

.....  
“ It's so good that we've been able to keep connected with this group of young people. ”  
.....

Then lockdown came. It's been a time of great disruption, anxiety and loneliness for young people. We wanted to continue sharing God's love with them, even if we couldn't meet in person.

So, with appropriate safeguarding measures in place, we set up a group on social media. Each week, we share a photo of a Rooted Hub Card and discuss the topic, and what the Bible has to say about it. For example, we explored 'identity' and took it in turns to share our interests – keeping fit, climbing, manga drawing. It's been a great way of getting to know one another better!

Not all the young people have been able to join in online, so we sent out a *Rooted Personal Journal* and a bar of chocolate to everyone in the group. The journals help them to creatively and reflectively explore issues around identity, purpose, self-worth, wellbeing and healthy choices – just what they need at this disconcerting time.

One girl hadn't much engaged with the group before lockdown, but when she received her journal, she said that it was something she could really see herself using. Another girl was feeling overloaded, but refused to drop the Rooted group, saying 'Rooted is my church! I'll drop something else!'

It's so good that we've been able to keep connected with this group of young people when they're going through what may well be the toughest time of their lives.



## WHY NOT EXPLORE ROOTED AND HOW IT MIGHT HELP YOUR CHURCH?

Find out more about Rooted and how to use its flexible format in your situation at [su.org.uk/rooted](https://su.org.uk/rooted)

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
OCT 25

## SUNDAY 25

Please pray for God's wisdom and encouragement as SU Greece establish their family counselling and therapy centre, running workshops for parents and church leaders.

## MONDAY 26

Spanish is the second most-spoken language in the world and a Spanish version of *Guardians of Ancora* is in the early stages of development. Please pray for the project manager Julio Cesar in Bolivia, for partnering organisations across Central and South America and Europe and for all the finances, logistics and coordination to make this happen.

## TUESDAY 27

Join with Local Mission Partner **Lighthouse** in Crawley in praising God for his provision financially,

enabling them to continue working and supporting schools throughout the pandemic. Pray for wisdom as they consider mentoring children and young people who are struggling to engage with school.



## WEDNESDAY 28

The work of Local Mission Partner **GenR8**, working in Cambridge, relies heavily on volunteers. They are concerned that volunteer situations and priorities may have

been affected by the last few months, and so will limit future availability. Pray that they will be able to adapt and trust for the future.

## THURSDAY 29

SU has always had a culture of learning – reflecting on Scripture and being open to challenges to our current ways of working, putting new ideas into practice before sharing the results. We call this 'thought leadership'. Pray that this culture will always remain at the heart of all our mission activity.

## FRIDAY 30

Many staff from Local Mission Partners were furloughed last term. Pray for a smooth transition back to work in schools, churches and communities and that doors will remain open. **Doncaster Schools Work Trust** asks us to pray that workers will be rested, refreshed and ready to go when the schools reopen.



## SATURDAY 31

Pray for churches who are planning to run some sort of activity today to present Jesus as the Light of the World, asking that many may come to the Light for themselves.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
NOV 1

## SUNDAY 1

This is the global week of prayer for Scripture Union around the world. Resources for prayer can be found on the SU Global website [www.scriptureunion.global](http://www.scriptureunion.global). Join with others around the world in praying for SU ministry.

## MONDAY 2

The next SU Board meeting is on November 12. Pray for the staff Leadership team and Sue Winning, Company Secretary, in the busyness of finalising the relevant reviews and paperwork. Pray for the Board, that when they meet they may have a clear sense of God's direction.

## TUESDAY 3

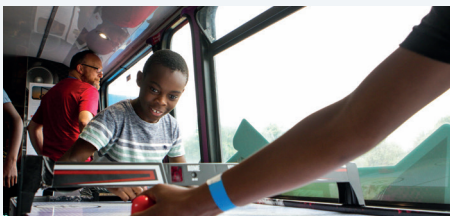
Neil Jackson, Mission Enabler in the north region is hoping to run a Diary of a Disciple workshop in a primary school in Colburn, in the hope that it may lead to a regular club. Pray for wisdom in timing in the light of COVID-19.



## WEDNESDAY 4

The SOLID festival has enabled many children and young people to encounter Jesus. Sadly, this year it had to be cancelled in its usual form but, like many other events, it went online. Pray for the young people

who attended, that it will still have had a big impact on their Christian journey.



## THURSDAY 5

Pray for ongoing work for the Finance team in replacing a largely paper-based records system with an electronic one, spurred on by the difficulties that lockdown caused. Their desire is to be more efficient so we can devote more resources to outreach.

## FRIDAY 6

Pray that the Digital Mission Innovation team (Sam Fowler, Toby Chant and Neil Jackson) will know God's direction as they look for ways of building on lessons learned during lockdown when a number of new tools for children's and youth outreach were created.

## SATURDAY 7

To reach the 95 we need to partner with many others who will help children and young people to explore Christian faith and grow in relationship with Jesus. Pray for Mission Enablers on the regional teams as they support and resource such people.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
NOV 8

## SUNDAY 8

SU in Western Australia is halfway through the first year of providing chaplaincy in schools. Pray this ministry would grow and flourish and that God would provide chaplains who love Jesus.

## MONDAY 9



Give thanks for the Scripture Union movements around the world

who are using *Guardians of Ancora* in their mission with children. Please pray for the newest English-speaking partners: SU Malawi and SU Botswana, as they find ways to use the app in their regions.

## TUESDAY 10

Local Mission Partner **Matlock Area Schools Trust** gives thanks for the livestream on Facebook and YouTube of a daily half hour broadcast which schools are using in collective worship. Please also pray for energy to continue this and for wisdom going forward to know how to reconnect in person with our local schools as they come out of lockdown.

## WEDNESDAY 11

Thank God for trusts and foundations who support the work of the movement. Please pray for them as they consider applications for funding

to enable new initiatives in reaching out.

## THURSDAY 12

Local Mission Partner **Chester Schools Christian Work** thank God for the positive response to online Bible-based collective worship videos, which they developed. Give thanks, too, for the schools that sent out video links, enabling them to deliver *It's Your Move* to every Year 6 pupil in their area.



## FRIDAY 13

**Christian Initiative to Schools**, a Local Mission Partner working in Letchworth, has produced an interactive resource for Schools called SPACE designed to help pupils think about their relationships with themselves, their community, their world and with God. Pray that it will achieve this.

## SATURDAY 14

Local Mission Partner **SU Ministries Trust** on the Isle of Man thank God that they are settling in to their new building and have been able to make good links with their new community. Thank God that technology has enabled them to connect with young people, and that the young people have chosen to stay connected.

# Bite-size stories

## SHINE: HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE OVERCOME THEIR FEARS

Shine equips young Christians to live for God at school and provides opportunities for young people to explore the Christian faith. This November's planned launch of a new Shine theme has been postponed until 2021.

Meanwhile, why not direct the young people to watch one of last year's Shine videos, on the theme of 'Fearless' – it's highly relevant to life in lockdown. [www.su.org.uk/fearless](http://www.su.org.uk/fearless).



## WE'VE TAKEN SUMMER ONLINE!

Our virtual Bake Off holiday proved to be such a hit that we took Summer Online. Over 25 virtual holidays and missions took place.

Kestrels sailing holiday was one of them: 49 team and 'crew' (holiday guests) met online each day to sing sea shanties, have Bible study and prayer, play sailing-themed games and make boats in their back gardens from household objects. Regular crew member Laurence says, 'Kestrels is a real booster to my faith. The crew and team are all very close, so, even if we couldn't be together, meeting up online was definitely the next best thing!'



## CHILDREN STAY STRONG THROUGH THE BLESSING OF SONG

Soul Children introduces children and young people to a lifelong relationship with Jesus through music and songs they can relate to. SU helped four choirs to launch last year in the UK. During lockdown, 18 children from Buckshaw's Soul Children continued singing together online!

Tim Uffindell helps lead the choirs. He says, 'In lockdown, many children are struggling with anxiety. One choir member said to us, "Please don't stop these things when we need it most" – so we carried on! We've also started having deeper discussions about faith, based on a Bible verse or a line from the song we're singing.'

'Singing together is great for mental health. It makes you feel good and it gives you a sense of belonging. It's been heart-warming and so encouraging to see the children grow more open and confident!'



# Sharing God's love in new ways

.....

During COVID-19 restrictions, digital technology has truly earned a place in the mission toolkit, keeping us connected to children and young people with whom we might otherwise have lost touch. It's likely to continue to play a significant role in the future, and SU Mission Enabler Toby Chant outlines some of the possibilities we're exploring, thanks to your support.



In Torbay, small black and white patterns placed on the side of basketball hoops are introducing young people to Jesus. These QR (quick response) codes can be scanned with a smartphone to access online basketball exercises and a bite-size message about faith. This scheme, which we're piloting with Christian sports ministry LoveSports, is being promoted through social media networks and emails from schools to parents. We can monitor how many times a QR code has been scanned and where it has been accessed from, helping us to measure results and learn what works best. Churches could use it for setting up 'treasure trails' out in their community, connecting with children and young people.

Digital tech could also persuade today's teens, with their short attention spans, to read scripture and pray daily. We're testing the idea using Instagram Stories. Instagram is many young adults' preferred social media platform, and Stories are 15-second live video clips. We screen three Stories in succession – a Bible verse and image, then a very brief talk or thought, then a prayer.

As we write, we're exploring Instagram Live to see if it is a suitable tool to reach out to teens, helping them engage with the Bible and faith conversations.

Digital mission won't replace face-to-face mission – nothing beats the value of building relationships and



sharing Jesus in person – but the immediacy, simplicity and low cost of digital tools like these could bring a whole different dimension to mission in the future, helping to strengthen relationships and enabling young people to explore faith in ways that suit them best, even when they're on the move.

### TRY IT FOR YOURSELF

If you have a smartphone, scan this example QR code with your camera app to watch one of the videos children may find through



the clues in their local area. This video is from our new *On The Trail* series.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
NOV 15

## SUNDAY 15

Pray for wisdom and creativity as SU Egypt seek to continue with their Bible publications and activities in the face of limited human and financial resources.

## MONDAY 16

Sue Clutterham, who works with Local Mission Partner **Archway** in five villages in Northamptonshire has been on furlough, but praises God that the lockdown has been a great opportunity to get to know one of the young mums very well. Pray for the Archway trustees as they adapt



the ministry to a different world, and for Sue who had been asked to do regular school assemblies this term.

## TUESDAY 17

Pray for the ongoing work of the Thought Leadership team as they help the whole movement think through issues of faith, mission, culture and Bible engagement in relation to the 95, in the light of changing times and trends. Pray for Terry Clutterham as he heads this and for Zoraida Smith as she coordinates the work of the team.

## WEDNESDAY 18

Local Mission Partner **Reach** in Reading gives thanks for the

appointment of their Ministry Director and asks us to pray for wisdom in the restructuring of the management and governance and for the best way to re-engage with schools work.



## THURSDAY 19

Working in North Wales, Local Mission Partner **Christians 4 Education** has been able to show love and kindness to schools and a local college throughout the pandemic in many small ways. Please pray that they can continue to encourage everyone to look to Jesus and find in him the One who brings peace.

## FRIDAY 20

**The Youth Net**, Local Mission Partner in Stafford, has delivered over 1,000 activity packs to existing youth groups and communities where they have strong links through their connect workers and community work. Pray that these packs will speak powerfully of God's love.

## SATURDAY 21

Today training takes place for new activity leaders. Pray for these leaders asking that today will be a time of encouragement and that they will have a deeper sense of God's call and his equipping.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
NOV 22

## SUNDAY 22

SU Austria has opened a small bookshop. Pray that this will have a positive influence in the area and that it will impact people in their walk with Christ. They plan small seminars with different Bible topics in the shop. Pray for good Ideas and that this will be well accepted.

## MONDAY 23

Local Mission Partner **Watford Schools Trust** gives thanks that local churches were willing to pay for *It's Your Move* books for Year 6 children. They have had a very positive response from the schools; this year they used the SU video and worksheets.

## TUESDAY 24

Pray for Local Mission Partner **Great Open Door** as they prepare their next assembly tour in Harlow on Thankfulness. Pray for the team and for open doors to deliver this assembly into the schools when the time is right.



## WEDNESDAY 25

Our supporter database has become a central part of our everyday operations, helping us stay in touch with you, but it needs to be replaced. The old platform has many limitations and will no longer be supported. Pray for wisdom and clarity as we plan to replace it in the coming year.

## THURSDAY 26

Chris Eales, Mission Enabler in the south west thanks God for great conversations with church leaders about our new mission framework. Pray that these will lead to lasting partnerships and identifying people who will join us in helping children and young people to grow in faith.



## FRIDAY 27

A new update to *Guardians of Ancora* was released in April 2020, allowing people around the world to play in one of the five languages available. Please pray for this extended reach of the app and heightened impact, as more children and families play at home.

## SATURDAY 28

Many churches are rethinking aspects of their work and mission. Pray for the Leadership team as they think about the strategic implications and for regional staff as they seek to support churches in reaching out to children and young people in new ways.

SAVE  
THE DATE

We're launching a brand new mission framework to help the church connect and journey with the 95.  
**And you're invited to be there!**



# REVEALING JESUS

**DISCOVER & CELEBRATE:**

WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

7:30PM

ONLINE

FREE

**Find out more:**

[su.org.uk/revealingjesusevent](https://su.org.uk/revealingjesusevent)