

Connecting you

Winter
2020

REVEALING JESUS

INTRODUCING
OUR NEW
MISSION
FRAMEWORK

IN THIS EDITION

- A new way for churches to connect and journey with the 95
- Give Jesus this Christmas – love and hope in uncertain times
- Summer of change – connecting with families in Newcastle



Scripture
Union

Contents

.....

4



Revealing Jesus

We are delighted to unveil our new *Revealing Jesus* mission framework – designed to help churches walk alongside the 95 on a lifelong journey of faith.

12



Christmas is coming

Find out how, this Christmas, you can give the gift of Jesus and share his love, comfort and hope in uncertain times.

16



Reaching children that other mission doesn't reach

Read about how *Summer of Change* opened up huge opportunities for Newcastle Christians to share God's love with families at a difficult time.

22



Introducing Faith Guides

Discover why Tabz, Hettie and Dave were so eager to partner with SU in the *Revealing Jesus* framework by signing up as Faith Guides.



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. If you have a

story for *Connecting You*, or a suggestion on how we could improve our service to you, please contact the editor: eddiem@scriptureunion.org.uk

For general enquiries Tel: 01908 856000
Fax: 01908 856111 Email: info@scriptureunion.org.uk
www.scriptureunion.org.uk

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

Helping the church reveal Jesus to the 95



.....
“Neither death, nor life... shall be able to separate us from the love of God.” Romans 8:38,39

In this edition of *Connecting You*, I’m delighted to be sharing our *Revealing Jesus* framework; Scripture Union’s new mission strategy to help churches reach the 95.

Revealing Jesus is the culmination of two years of work, pulling together theology, heritage, experience, research, and practical learning into a framework for an intentional, lifelong faith journey with the 95.

As you read more in this edition of *Connecting You*, you’ll see our continued focus on sharing God’s love with those children and young people who don’t yet know him. The youngest generations in society have been at the heart of SU’s mission throughout our 153-year history. Today those under 18 who aren’t connected with their local church number a massive 95%, and our work is needed more than ever.

Looking back over 2020, it certainly hasn’t been the year any of us planned for. As the impact of COVID-19 grew across England and Wales, the lockdown restrictions led us to the difficult decision to cancel our summer programme. But our tenacious volunteer teams were still able to live out the words of Romans

8:38–39, helping to plan and deliver over 30 online programmes.

‘And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.’ (NLT)

That’s why we’ve called our new mission framework *Revealing Jesus*. We’re committing again to mobilise the church to reveal Jesus to the 95, and to journey with them as they grow in faith. Read our interview with some of the first ever Faith Guides on page 22. Perhaps you could have Faith Guides in your church? Could you be a Faith Guide yourself?

Once again, thank you for your continued prayer and support.

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

Myles MacBean,
National Director, Scripture Union
England and Wales



The Revealing Jesus mission framework

Ever since the launch of The 95 Campaign, your support has helped us to encourage and resource churches to share the good news with the 95% of children not in church. Now, thanks to your ongoing prayers and gifts, we are delighted to unveil our new *Revealing Jesus* mission framework – bringing together all we have learnt over the last few years. We hope and pray that this new framework will provide real support to churches seeking to walk alongside the 95 on a lifelong journey of faith.

WATCH THE
REVEALING JESUS
LAUNCH EVENT
AT [SU.ORG.UK/
REVEALINGJESUS](https://SU.ORG.UK/REVEALINGJESUS)

Ninety-five per cent of a whole generation is a lot of people (it equates to around 12 million children and young people in England and Wales alone!). But there is hope.

While the 95 might not be going to church, research shows that they are interested in exploring the spiritual side of life. Many have questions about suffering, death, life and more. They pray (especially when things are tough) and lots of them do believe there's a God out there somewhere.

And this all provides us, the church, with a wonderful opportunity. The opportunity to demonstrate to these young lives that the Christian faith has relevant answers to their questions – and to begin to build authentic relationships with these children and young people that will help them discover and grow in faith.

The *Revealing Jesus* framework seeks to help churches embrace this opportunity – it's designed to help churches connect with the 95 and to be there for the long run, ensuring that children and young people have someone to walk alongside them on their whole faith journey. And at its heart is the desire to help the 95 to grow in their faith and express it in culturally relevant ways, once they've chosen to follow Jesus.

.....
“Revealing Jesus is about helping churches to be there for the long run”
.....


Revealing Jesus is not a programme or just another set of resources; it's a framework for churches to shape and structure an intentional, lifelong faith journey with the 95.

There are three main strands to the framework – the faith journey, Faith Guides and Grow Communities.

THE FAITH JOURNEY

Although each child and young person is different, and their contexts can vary wildly, our research and experience show us that most people go through the same stages as they become a Christian and grow as one: **Connect, Explore, Respond and Grow**. Through *Revealing Jesus*, we will be providing resources and support for all four of these stages, for those choosing to journey alongside the 95.
(Turn to page 7 for more on this.)

FAITH GUIDES

 We're not expecting the 95 to navigate this faith journey on their own, though, and that's where Faith Guides come in. Our research identified the importance of consistent, positive role models in the lives of children and young people (think back on your own faith story and we're sure you'll be able to name the older Christians who were an important part of that), and that's why we're looking to mobilise a network...

Continued over the page...

of passionate volunteer Faith Guides – commissioned by their church and supported by Scripture Union – who will dedicate themselves to journeying with children and young people from the 95 from the **Connect** stage, right through to **Grow**. Faith Guides won't need to be trained children's or youth workers, although they might be. They'll just need to be mission-minded and with a heart to take on that much-needed role.

SUPPORTING FAITH GUIDES

Faith Guides will have exclusive access to the online Faith Guide Hub, with specially selected digital and physical resources to help them develop in their roles and to create the best 'journey' for the 95. And Faith Guides will also benefit from practical support and training from their local SU Mission Enabler, including face-to-face and online discussion, prayer and advice.



GROW COMMUNITIES



For many of Generation Z, traditional church just doesn't work.

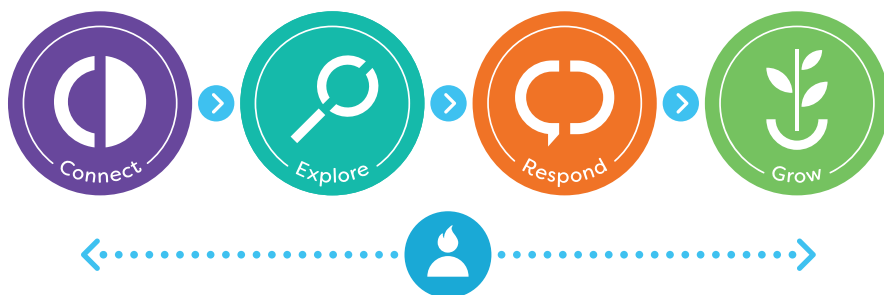
But we've seen lots of evidence that children and young people thrive in relevant and culturally appropriate worshipping communities that are designed around them, their needs and their interests. Our hope is that Faith Guides, and the churches that commission them, will

- work towards developing Grow Communities, where those they've been journeying with will have the opportunity to meet regularly with their peers to worship and grow together.
- Grow Communities will be peer-shaped, peer-served and adult-guided, with the children and young people setting the agenda along with their Faith Guides. And each and every Grow Community will look and feel very different because they'll be built with the children or young people they're serving. But whatever shape they take, we envisage them to be wholeheartedly centred on discipleship, ownership and relationship, with each other and with Jesus.

It's our prayer that through this framework, we'll see a generation of young people connecting with Christians in their community, and exploring what the Bible and the Christian faith has to offer. We pray, too, that it will help many of them to respond to Jesus and grow in faith. It's a familiar, Scripture Union commitment to the life-changing power of the gospel for children and young people, and a brand-new approach to sharing our faith in today's cultural context.

We're praying that God will raise up Faith Guides in churches across England and Wales who will commit to revealing the consistent, unchanging love of Jesus to the 95 because we know that in an ever-changing world, he remains the same yesterday, today and for ever.

THE FOUR STAGES OF THE FAITH JOURNEY



Connect

An opportunity for the Faith Guide to build relationship with the 95 and to start to introduce the Christian faith. A chance to meet the 95 with activities of common interest, to engage with their world in a relevant and reliable way.

Explore

As the relationship forms between the Faith Guide and the 95, and they begin to show more interest in the Christian faith, this stage is about offering opportunities to learn more together through engaging with the Bible.

Respond

As the children and young people explore, it's our hope and prayer that they will choose to respond positively to Jesus. This stage offers clear, tangible opportunities for children and young people to respond personally to what they are learning.

Grow

Once the 95 have responded, or while they are seriously considering it, they need time and space, within a supportive Christian community, to grow in their faith and to express it in worship. And that's why we're introducing Grow Communities.

Get involved

AS A FAITH GUIDE

If you're reading this and thinking 'I want to do that!', then we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch and we'll connect you with your local SU team.

AS A CHURCH

We'd love to see a Faith Guide (or five, or six) in every church across England and Wales, including yours! Contact us and we'll help you work out how to make this a reality.

BY PRAYING

By receiving *Connecting You*, you're already part of an amazing group

of people who support the ministry in prayer. Thank you! Please do continue to pray for the 95, for churches and Faith Guides and for the SU team.

BY GIVING

Supporting this work financially will mean we're able to recruit and train even more Faith Guides, create more resources and introduce even more of the 95 to this life-changing journey.

You can do all these things and more at su.org.uk/revealingjesus



WEEK
BEGINNING
NOV 29

Prayers

.....

Please pray for children and young people to discover Jesus and grow in faith through the mission framework.

SUNDAY 29

Thank God for the new framework and for the new collections we're publishing to resource it. Pray that he will use it to reach the 95 across England and Wales.

MONDAY 30

Pray for churches as they are planning for 2021 post-COVID. Ask God to envision them to build relationships with the 95 in their communities through becoming hubs for Faith Guides.

TUESDAY 1

We're really excited to be training new Faith Guides in this season. Pray for them as they prepare to accompany children and young people on their faith journey.

WEDNESDAY 2

Pray for the 12 million children and young people in England and Wales who aren't connected with

a church. Pray that they will take opportunities to **connect** with Faith Guides in their communities and start the journey.

THURSDAY 3

As children and young people start to **explore** the Christian faith with their Faith Guides, pray that they will be intrigued by what they are hearing about God's love for them.

FRIDAY 4

Join with us to pray that the 95 would hear the personal invitation for them to **respond** to God's love. Pray that this would be the start of a lifelong journey of faith.

SATURDAY 5

Pray that those who respond would continue to **grow** in their faith. Pray for Grow Communities as they start, that they would be safe spaces that facilitate authentic discipleship for these new Christians.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
DEC 6

SUNDAY 6

Elections are due to be held in Uganda in January. SU Uganda asks us to pray for peace during the run up and in the elections, and that God's will might be seen in the choice of leader.

MONDAY 7

Pray for regional team leader Simon Barker and the central regional team as they meet today to formulate future plans, asking that they may have God's wisdom as they seek the way forward at a challenging time.



TUESDAY 8

Please pray for Local Mission Partners **Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust** and **Watford Schools Trust** who are producing online Christmas lessons for their local schools. Pray that these will communicate clearly the message of Christmas and that the pupils will respond.

WEDNESDAY 9



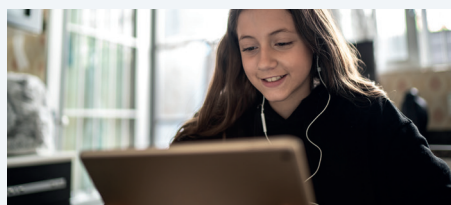
Some of our summer missions are planning outreach events in the run up to Christmas. Pray for creativity for the teams putting these together, that they will find new ways to share Jesus with those they had connections with in the summer.

THURSDAY 10

Christmas is normally a key time of year for Christian Union events and outreach. Please pray that no matter what restrictions are in place in schools and colleges, Christian students supported by National Mission Partner **Festive** will still be bold in sharing the meaning of Christmas among their friends.

FRIDAY 11

Thank God for all that we learnt over the summer about providing content in digital form. Pray that we may continue to find ways of communicating in the context of COVID-19, and that we may have the ability to be flexible in the light of changing circumstances and varying church situations.



SATURDAY 12

Pray that when they meet next Tuesday, Keren Mallinson (Director of Mission Development), Gemma Willis (Head of Development Hub), Richard Shaw (Head of Regional Mission), Richard Witham (Sports Mission Leader) and Jo Morley (Head of Mission Event Operations), will be wise as they consider mission and content opportunities in 2021.

This Christmas,
give Jesus – love,
comfort and hope
in uncertain times

.....



For millions of children and young people, this Christmas may not be a time of celebration, but of continuing fear, loneliness and uncertainty because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

We long for them to know just how much God loves them, that he can offer them comfort and strength – and we know you do too.

So please help us to share the Christmas gift that really matters – the good news of Jesus. Together, we can enable children and young people to find a strong foundation of hope and meaning that no amount of uncertainty in the world can undermine.

It's not too late to give!

Make a special Christmas gift at [su.org.uk/christmas](https://www.su.org.uk/christmas) and bring the true meaning of Christmas to life for children and young people. Thank you!





WEEK
BEGINNING
DEC 13

Prayers

Please pray for children and young people facing uncertain times this Christmas.

SUNDAY 13

Praise God for his extraordinary love for every person on earth, for longing so much for us all to be reconciled to him that he sent his own Son, Jesus, to be our Saviour. Take a few moments to consider what that means in your own life.

MONDAY 14

Please pray for God to draw close to children and young people who are fearful, lonely or depressed this Christmas, so that they sense his presence and know his comfort.

TUESDAY 15

Please ask God to prepare the hearts of children and young people to receive his wonderful message of hope this Christmas.

WEDNESDAY 16

Praise God that he continues to open up so many new opportunities and new ways for SU, our church and Local Mission Partners and volunteers to share his love, in spite of restrictions.

THURSDAY 17

Give thanks to God for his faithfulness, and that he will continue to provide all that we need – prayer, finances, volunteers – to share the good news of Jesus at this critically important time.

FRIDAY 18

Please pray for God to inspire our Mission Enablers, our church and Local Mission Partners to share the good news of Jesus with children and young people without church backgrounds, so that they can truly understand its significance for their lives.

SATURDAY 19

Please pray that through his Spirit, God will water the spiritual seeds that we sow this Christmas, to raise up a new generation of children and young people that choose to make Jesus lord of their lives.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
DEC 20

SUNDAY 20

SU Slovakia is thankful for the opportunity of creating new teaching resources during lockdown. Pray that the resources will continue to be helpful for children's workers. Pray too that their new website will be well used and will help to create a bigger pool of supporters.

MONDAY 21

Local Mission Partner **Engage** working in Woking gives thanks for the opportunity to support students through mentoring sessions at secondary schools. Pray for the team as they continue to adapt to new ways of working.

TUESDAY 22

Book of Wonders is designed to enthuse children with creation, to explore their place in the universe and to meet Jesus. Pray that children who receive it, perhaps as a Christmas present, will discover more about the love of Jesus through looking at the world.



WEDNESDAY 23

Thank God for his faithfulness and his provision and pray that we will be good stewards of the donations and legacies we have received. Please pray that at the end of a tough year our supporters would really know God's peace over the Christmas period.

THURSDAY 24

As we think about how best to relate to different cultures, pray that we may better understand how to make Jesus known to children and young people in our diverse society with all the challenges that it brings.

FRIDAY 25

As we celebrate the birth of the Saviour, pray that all those children who have received copies of the Christmas story book *God Became Like Me?* will read it and want to discover more about Jesus for themselves.



SATURDAY 26

The latest online resource for *Guardians of Ancora* is a 24-session programme on The Life of Jesus based on the Bible stories in the app, together with information and advice to help leaders get the most from the resources. Pray for those around the world using it and for the children who will hear the good news of Jesus in this way.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
DEC 27

SUNDAY 27

In Bangladesh the pandemic has taken away many sources of income and left many unemployed. Children have been deprived of food and young people left without hope for the future. Pray for SU Bangladesh as they seek to support these children and young people and for their safety as incidents of violence, abuse, rape and trafficking have increased during this time.

MONDAY 28

Local Mission Partner **Re:generation Harrow** is looking to appoint a secondary schools worker during 2021. Please pray that God will lead them to the right person.

TUESDAY 29

Local Mission Partner **Fleet and Crookham Churches Together in Schools** gives thanks for a well-received video of the *It's Your Move* lesson the team made and for the successful recruitment of two part-time schools workers and one intern. Pray that they may have the imagination and opportunity to bring the Christian faith alive for children in local schools.

WEDNESDAY 30



Please pray for Mission Enabler Lisa Jones as she partners with other organisations in the south east seeking to provide online training

events. Thank God for the well-attended online training events in September (Wellbeing in the new normal) and October (Online evangelism).

THURSDAY 31

Pray for Content Innovators Leanne Sheppard and Esther Calvert-Jordan working on content for the Faith Guide Hub to support Faith Guides in all four mission stages for



LEANNE

the 95 faith journey; Leanne on *Rooted Junior* material and Esther on *Go Wild* – pray that this material will be used more widely.



ESTHER

FRIDAY 1

Please pray that the Faith Guides in the south east who are being supported by regional team leader Ben Poch will be encouraged and equipped to journey with the 95, helping them to grow in faith.



SATURDAY 2

Give thanks that the Development Hub have been able to continue to produce content despite the changes in working arrangements for the team and various suppliers during lockdown. Pray that as conditions continue to change the staff may have the flexibility and imagination to respond.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
JAN 3

SUNDAY 3

SU Mauritius praises God for the changes in several young people receiving school support, a decrease in violent and aggressive behaviour and an increase in self-esteem and self-confidence. One young person has decided to follow Jesus. Pray for more leaders and carers to undertake this work.

MONDAY 4

The Mission Events team is starting to plan online gatherings in March for those who will be leading holidays and missions this year. Pray that although there is uncertainty about the programme later in the year, leaders will be inspired for the year ahead.



TUESDAY 5

Jane Webber of Local Mission Partner **Schools Christian Worker Project** in Oswestry and District used time when she could not go into schools to develop interactive lessons for the new Sex and Relationships Curriculum to offer either online or in person. Please pray that these will be well received and the important issues in this curriculum can be delivered in a balanced and godly way.

WEDNESDAY 6

Pray for churches who work alongside SU in reaching the 95 and have found the last year extremely challenging. Pray that they may have wisdom, strength and perseverance.

THURSDAY 7

Please pray for the Board members of Local Mission Partner **PSALMS** (working around Stroud in Gloucestershire) as they meet today. Give thanks for their time and dedication and pray that God's wisdom and grace will guide their discussions.

FRIDAY 8

Pray for Mission Enablers in the regions as they conduct pilot projects exploring ways in which the new mission framework (see page 4) might work out in a Local Mission Partner context, that God will help them to see clear ways forward.



SATURDAY 9

Local Mission Partner **COINS** who work in Newbury gives thanks for the creativity shown by volunteers, the openness of schools in the area and the Harvest Festival Assembly on YouTube. Pray for guidance in moving forward with more digital resources.



Reaching children that other mission doesn't reach

.....

Even when we are faced with immense barriers to sharing the hope of Jesus, God can give us incredible opportunities for mission. Through *Summer of Change*, a government-funded initiative spearheaded by secular charity StreetGames, SU enabled Newcastle Christians to connect with hundreds of children and young people who may otherwise never have had reason to interact with them.

Summer of Change aimed to support families at risk of food poverty over the summer. SU Mission Enabler Mark Oliver says, 'StreetGames were looking for local partners in Newcastle to deliver activities, so it offered us a means of taking God's love out into our communities.'



MARK OLIVER

In three areas of the city, Mark brought together churches and SU Local Mission Partner MINE and helped them to successfully bid to take part. After some basic training, over July and August the three teams made weekly visits to Tyneside's poorest homes, delivering food parcels and children's activity packs. Two teams also offered COVID-safe outdoor crafts and games. Mark and fellow SU Mission Enabler Geoff Brown joined the teams regularly to offer support and encouragement.

.....
“ It was great to have the opportunity to help families at a difficult time ”
.....

When the Heaton team of St George's URC and St Gabriel's knocked on doors, the families were initially apprehensive – but their faces lit up as volunteers gave them food and activity packs! Lexie, from St George's, says 'It was great

to have the opportunity to help families at a difficult time. They knew we were from the local church and several have stayed in touch.'

STREET CLUBS

In nearby Byker and Walker, Street Clubs were among the outdoor activities offered by MINE and St Thomas' church. MINE's Dave Johnson observes, 'We ran four clubs and the same children came each week. In these small groups, we were able to pitch the activities and faith discussions around their individual needs. Using SU's *Rooted* cards, we'd have a half time 'spiritual slot' where children discussed things that were important to them, such as keeping friends safe, mental health, and prayer. It worked really well.

'One group consisted of three children and their dad. The kids just loved the Bible stories – and although he wasn't a Christian, their dad understood the value of his kids learning Christian teaching.'



In the west of the city, a team from YFC joined the churches of St Mary's, St Michael's, and Holy Spirit, to organise outdoor games as well as distributing food and activity packs. Allison Harding, vicar of St Mary's and St Michael's, says, 'We knew parts of our parishes were deprived, but being part of *Summer of Change* helped us to uncover the full extent. On the last day, we bought McDonalds for the children – three of them rushed home to tell their mum not to cook them tea. It's so sad that they even knew about food poverty.

'Previously we've held outreach events at the church hall. Going out to meet children and young people where they are has made such a difference, especially with the very challenging kids. One group had vandalised Holy Spirit church – they knew that we knew, but when



we reached out they responded, chatting and joining in with games.'

Mark concludes, 'It's been great for Scripture Union to involve MINE and churches in *Summer of Change* and enable them to reach children and young people that they wouldn't otherwise have reached. We'll continue to help them deepen those connections and journey with them long beyond the summer.'



PRAY WITH US

Please pray for God to provide more opportunities for churches and Local Mission Partners to offer practical support and spiritual comfort to children and young people during the pandemic, and to equip them to be able to respond.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
JAN 10

SUNDAY 10

In Papua New Guinea, SU are receiving a very positive response on social media to their Scripture memory videos called 'WORDoutLOUD'. Pray that more people will participate in these Scripture memory videos so that they may grow in faith.

MONDAY 11



The Curtains Up! holiday would normally have a weekend reunion but are planning an online reunion

this week after a successful online holiday last summer. Pray that this will encourage the young people in their faith journey.

TUESDAY 12

With uncertainty about how the holidays and missions programme will look in the coming months, please pray especially for those who are stepping into leadership for the first time. Among these are Alison Clark in Hexham, Cath Hawes in Potters Bar, and Phil Maltby on the Kestrels holiday.

WEDNESDAY 13

Give thanks for the many 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 Trinidad and Tobago,

SU Uganda and the eight movements in Australia (ACT; New South Wales; Northern Territory; Queensland; South Australia; Tasmania; Victoria; Western Australia), as they find ways to use the app.

THURSDAY 14

Pray for Mission Enabler Sarah Davison as she continues to connect with Faith Guides in the north west, and for the young people she supports through Rooted Hubs asking that they may grow in understanding and faith.



FRIDAY 15

Please pray for the Regional Mission Team leaders as they meet today asking that they may know God's leading and may understand how best to implement the new *Revealing Jesus* mission framework.

SATURDAY 16

Pray for our Finance team (Dave Parsons, Alicia Wallace, Maureen Okwara and Tracey Bell) as they begin to plan how to move from our existing largely paper-based systems to an automated one. One of the pressures which made it hard for the team to work from home was the level of dependence on paper records which are stored at the national office.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
JAN 17

SUNDAY 17

SU Sweden recently launched the '10:14' app for mobile devices. It is a resource for family devotions, geared for young people aged 10–14 years and designed to take 10–14 minutes per day. The name also refers to Mark 10:14. Pray that many people will discover and use this resource.

MONDAY 18

Changes in schools because of coronavirus have required changes to Shine (the programme encouraging and enabling young people to share their faith). Filming of the material designed for last autumn was not possible, so the strong theme has been held over for this year; plans are in hand to produce some interim material. Pray for discussions to be held this week.



TUESDAY 19

Pray for south west regional team leader Margaret Lilley and the team as they meet with Mission Partner **South West Youth Ministries** today.



MARGARET
LILLEY

Pray that they may see how to maximise their resources to make Jesus known to the 95 in the region.

WEDNESDAY 20

Thank God for the continued opportunities, particularly assemblies, that Local Mission Partner **Christian Initiative to Schools** in Letchworth have had in schools despite the restrictions that have been in place.

THURSDAY 21

Local Mission Partner **GenR8** usually run their Xcellr8 residential weekend for children aged 8–11 in February. Please pray that whatever form it takes they will be able to share the good news of Jesus and help children to respond to him.

FRIDAY 22

Neil Jackson, Mission Enabler in the north east and Yorkshire, asks us to pray for Faith Guide William who is a skilled



NEIL
JACKSON

footballer. He is hoping to use this as a way of connecting with families in the area. Pray for the development of good relationships and a growing sense of community.

SATURDAY 23

Nova Street Team, supported by Mission Enabler Toby Chant, deliver street-based youth work, connecting with children and young people in Torbay and South Devon. Pray for the opportunity to connect with new groups of young people.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
JAN 24

SUNDAY 24

SU South Australia asks us to pray for the launch of 'My Tribe' in churches as a ministry of 'GENTS' (Grade Eight, Nine & Ten Students) Camp, helping men to become more involved in establishing a discipleship culture in their churches.

MONDAY 25

A number of schools have asked Trevor Ranger of Local Mission Partner **Synergy** for pre-recorded assembly videos or live online assemblies. This year's theme is 'What is God like?' and will explore the nature and character of God. Pray that these assemblies will engage the children.



TUESDAY 26

The planning team is working towards the Scripture Union Conference in May 2021; pray that they will produce a programme which will enable those who attend to see the opportunities created by the new mission framework and to catch the vision. Pray too for speakers and workshop leaders as they prepare material.

WEDNESDAY 27

Sue Clutterham of Local Mission Partner **Archway** (working in villages in Northamptonshire) is hoping to

reinstate the *Tea, Toast and Toys* groups when circumstances permit. Pray for wisdom as they organise these within restrictions and for new people to join the groups.



THURSDAY 28

Pray for Sue Winning as she pulls together the papers for the Board meeting on 4 February and for the Board as they meet, thanking God for the skills they bring and the time they make available to provide leadership to the movement.

FRIDAY 29

Local Mission Partner **Farne Churches Youth and Family Outreach** work in four primary schools; pray for the development of the work, for ongoing enthusiasm and motivation amongst their volunteers and for the trustees as they seek God for the future direction of the work.

SATURDAY 30

SU Ministries Trust, Local Mission Partner on the Isle of Man, has a residential course planned at the end of February for emerging leaders. Pray for the most appropriate way of running this and for the next generation of leaders on the Isle of Man.



Why we jumped at the chance to be Faith Guides

Faith Guides will play a vital role in building relationships with children and young people without church backgrounds, journeying with them long-term towards a vibrant, personal faith in Jesus. We spoke to three Faith Guides to find out why they've signed up, and what they hope it will mean for the children and young people they know.



TABZ AND HETTIE TABERNER

Tabz and Hettie Taberner lead SU Local Mission Partner Southport and Area Schools Worker Trust.

Tabz says, 'We already do a lot to connect with young people from outside the church and help them explore faith. Being Faith Guides will equip us to support them on the next stage, responding to Jesus and growing in faith.'

Hettie says. 'I love that we'll be part of a network of Faith Guides from across our area, collectively walking with children on a continuous faith journey all the way from primary through secondary school. I'm also really excited that young people will lead the development of Grow Communities, and shape what those look like, instead of us just trying to get them to fit in with traditional expressions of church.'

Dave Johnson of SU Local Mission Partner MINE in Newcastle, says, 'Traditional programme-style mission models worked well at a particular stage in church history, but rarely do so today.'



DAVE JOHNSON

'Being a Faith Guide gives me licence to try a more individual approach - to discern what's right for the child in front of me depending on where they're at, and to allow for the work of the Holy Spirit. It also gives me a toolkit of resources and support to respond accordingly. We started using this approach during Summer of Change (see p16) and it really does work.'

'People often believe that the early church grew overnight - but actually every Christian only brought 1.4 others to faith every ten years. So yes, I really think this deep, long-term and individual approach is key to new generations becoming followers of Jesus.'

BECOME A FAITH GUIDE

Although Tabz, Hettie and David are all SU Local Mission Partners, anyone with a heart for journeying alongside children and young people without church backgrounds can be a Faith Guide. In fact, we hope to see many kinds of people signing up to walk alongside the 95 in this way. If you're considering being a Faith Guide, go to www.su.org.uk/becomeafaithguide and fill out the form. We will then get in touch to start the conversation.

PRAY FOR FAITH GUIDES

Please pray for those who've already become Faith Guides, and pray that many more will feel called to step into this exciting new volunteer role.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
JAN 31

SUNDAY 31

SU USA were able to run 'PrimeTime' after-school clubs successfully on Zoom; pray for wisdom as to future direction especially on how and when to resume face-to-face meeting and for work on a new programme for ages 14–16 called 'PrimeTime Plus'.

MONDAY 1

Guardianes de Ancora (the Spanish version) may be live in Spanish-speaking countries around the world, by the time you read this! Producing the app in the pandemic has been challenging but the SU teams across Latin America, USA and Spain are eager to use it in their mission and ministry.

TUESDAY 2

Pray for Meg Stone and Fran Jenkins of Penuel Chapel in Roch, the first Faith Guides in Wales, as they look to build from



Connect and Explore to Respond and Grow type activities with the children in their outreach group. Pray for the team in Wales as they recruit and support more Faith Guides.

WEDNESDAY 3

With schools and colleges being their main place of work, Local Mission Partner **Christians for Education in North Wales** asks for prayer that the

regulations they need to keep won't be a barrier to delivering really good mental health support to the children and young people who otherwise would not know the love of Jesus.

THURSDAY 4

Join with Local Mission Partner **Contagious** in Alnwick in giving thanks to God for the appointment of new Youth and Schools Worker Jessica McArdle and the developments that they are seeing especially in ecumenical youth work in the area. Pray that they may see clearly how God would have them build on this.

FRIDAY 5

Pray for Local Mission Partner **Faith in Schools (Newham)** as they commission their RE resources designed to enable churches to deliver lessons in their local schools and for their plans to develop chaplaincy.

SATURDAY 6

Pray that the *Rooted Grow Journal* for young people starting on their faith journey will help them to grow in their relationship with God.



Prayers



WEEK
BEGINNING
FEB 7

SUNDAY 7

Please pray for the development of SU Estonia's campsite. They had two camps there last year but are still working hard to comply with some official demands that are difficult to fulfil. Pray for wisdom to make the right decisions, for obedience, faith and for God to work.

MONDAY 8

Pray that churches and other organisations who are making plans to use the new Easter story booklet to share the good news of Easter will be able to get it into the right places and that they may be able to build relationships which will in time lead to faith.

TUESDAY 9

Local Mission Partner **Christian Schools Workers Hastings** asks for prayer for God to open up more and greater opportunities to work with local secondary academies and that face-to-face JAFFA Clubs for primary schools will soon be possible.

WEDNESDAY 10

Thank God for *It's Your Move* which has been given to more than 1.6 million children since 2001. Pray for churches and other organisations as they make plans to use it this year to



reach out and give confidence to Year 6 pupils to make the move to secondary school.

THURSDAY 11

Mission Enabler Chris Eales is working with Local Mission Partner **Bodmin Youth Project**. There are a number of opportunities for mission activity; please pray that they may know God's guidance and see his provision.



FRIDAY 12

Pray that as writers of Bible Reading Guides work on notes for the first half of 2022 they will know God's inspiration. Pray that those who use the guides either in their printed form or on *Word Live* will draw closer to God and catch his heart for mission.

SATURDAY 13

Like others, Local Mission Partner **Matlock Areas Schools Trust** gives thanks for continued contact with schools through lockdown as a number tuned into the daily livestream produced by children's worker Michael Tinker and others took up the offer of Zoom assemblies.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
FEB 14

SUNDAY 14

SU Benin ask us to pray that they may be able to develop a better distribution method for their 2021 Bible reading guides. Pray also for the provision of a sufficient stock of the guides so they can reach the whole country.

MONDAY 15

Planning for the summer events programme is always challenging, but even more so in the current environment. Pray for the event operations team and for event leaders as they look to the summer.

TUESDAY 16

Pray for the north staff team as they seek to implement the new *Revealing*



Jesus mission framework, especially as they start to plan Edale Adventure holiday happening in the summer of 2021 and for Mission Enabler Sarah Davison as she plans the Rooted residential.

WEDNESDAY 17

Join with Local Mission Partner **Living Stones Educational Trust**, who work in Manchester, in giving thanks for good relationships with a school with a new head and deputy, creating new opportunities for face-to-face

work. Please pray for creative ideas for engaging with school and homework club families remotely.

THURSDAY 18

For several years SU England and Wales has sent teams to help with camps run by SU Hungary. These help young people with English and provide an opportunity to explore Christian faith. Pray for volunteer Moira Goddard who is co-ordinating the SU volunteer team to go out in July.

FRIDAY 19

Please pray for the All Together Now weekend for families who foster or who have adopted, due to run for the first time this June. Anita Hart, and John and Rachel Settatee are running it with Steve and Judy Hutchinson. Please pray that families who would benefit from being part of it will book in.



SATURDAY 20

Give thanks for the work of Welsh Local Mission Partners **Agathos** and **Gower Christian Youth Work** which sadly had to close last year. Pray that ways will be found to continue the work in Mold and on the Gower Peninsula.

Prayers

WEEK
BEGINNING
FEB 21

SUNDAY 21

SU Egypt is very excited to be working on a new translation of the New Testament, Genesis, Psalms and Proverbs into Colloquial Egyptian Arabic, the spoken dialect of more than 100 million people. The fact that the Bible is being written in this spoken-only dialect is groundbreaking. Please pray for wisdom and good progress.

MONDAY 22

Pray that Local Mission Partner **Christians in Schools Trust (Stockport)** will be able to maintain contacts that they already have if restrictions remain in place and that they will continue to develop links and partnerships with churches in the area.



TUESDAY 23

Thank God for Christian Trusts and Foundations who have continued to support the movement giving all they can to help at this time with funding, in some cases knowing they are facing a decrease in income due to COVID-19.

WEDNESDAY 24

Pray for the Project Team working on the new Supporter Care system which records our contacts, customer orders, volunteers, subscriptions and financial supporters, and is linked to

our websites and finance systems. Work started in January but will not be complete until September. Pray that the team will have enough time to concentrate on this important task amongst the pressures of existing commitments.

THURSDAY 25

Pray for the Finance Team as they prepare for the audit, finalising the year-end accounts and pulling together the necessary paperwork.

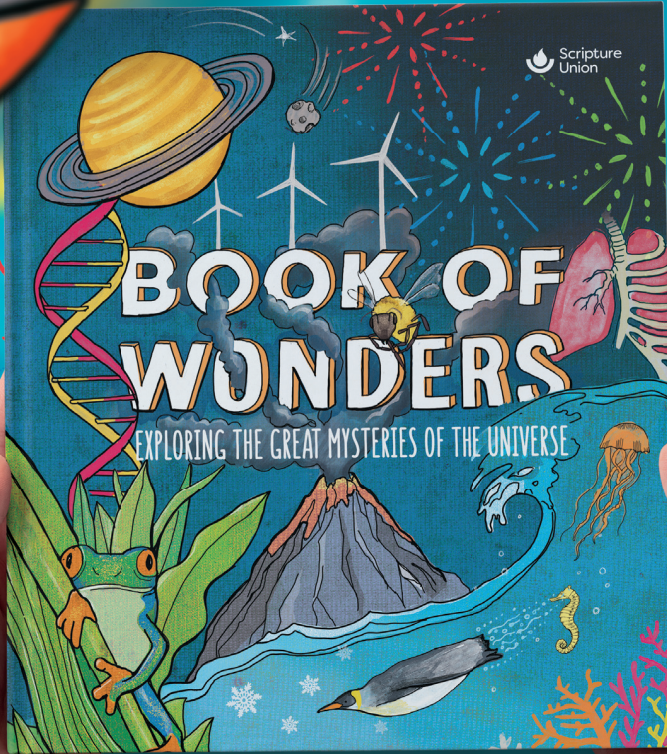
FRIDAY 26

Pray for Ydson Belony a new trainee in the south west based in Bristol. Ydson is from Turks and Caicos Islands and will be doing detached youth work and sports ministry in partnership with a church in Bristol.

SATURDAY 27

Please pray for the team of Local Mission Partner **YoYo** in York as they seek to bring the Christian faith alive in schools in fresh and creative ways and that they will be able to create new resources that communicate the Christian faith in accessible and inspiring ways.





“I didn't know there were so many different things in the body”

Amelia, aged 9

Ever wondered how your **eye works** or **what caused** the formation of the universe? Then **Book of Wonders** is for you!

Book of Wonders is crammed full of facts, figures and fantastic pictures of the **world around you** from **the greatest galaxies** to the **tiniest microbes** and the **God** behind it all.

ALSO AVAILABLE: *Book of Wonders Activity Book*

Take your *Book of Wonders* experience to the next level!! The *Book of Wonders activity Book* is packed with activities to help you to explore and find out about the world around you and the God who made everything.

