

# Connecting you

Winter  
2021

## IN THIS EDITION

- Helping churches in Wales reconnect with their communities
- Catching the Bible bug
- Celebrating a return to the beach – stories from the summer



Scripture  
Union

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Being able to meet in person again has brought new opportunities for churches to reconnect with their communities. Through your support, our team in Wales have been helping churches and Faith Guides to bring God's love and healing to their communities.

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## Catching the Bible bug

Alison Pickering shares how Scripture Union's *Diary of a Disciple* is opening up the Bible and getting children to read it regularly – even those with no church background. Now, through your support, we've developed a *Diary of a Disciple: Luke's Story Holiday Club* to help even more children discover Jesus!

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## Celebrating a return to the beach!

This summer things started getting back to a semblance of normality after an enforced year off, enabling hundreds of children and young people to encounter the God who loves them! Read about how our team in Polzeath made the most of the opportunity.

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## Reasons to be cheerful

Reaching out to children and young people during pandemic restrictions was a challenge but it wasn't all doom and gloom. We share some wonderfully positive stories from that time and some exciting opportunities coming up.



*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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# A light in the darkness



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**“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned”**  
Isaiah 9:2

The days are getting shorter and shorter and there’s a chill in the air. But while it may be a little darker outside, isn’t it such an encouragement to know that Jesus is the one true Light of the World?!

Back in October, it was amazing to hear of all the ways churches were sharing the light of Christ at Halloween, a time so often associated with darkness. Please do join me in praying for all the children and families who glimpsed something of his true identity this year, through *In Search of Light* family trails or the beautiful *Jesus Is The Light?* book. Pray that they’ll want to find out more about the hope Jesus offers, and that churches will find ways to deepen those connections.

Looking back still further, we have much to celebrate from the summer too. After a year of online events, we were so pleased to see over 20 of our holidays and missions returning to face-to-face activities, along with Lifepath school events taking to the road and many churches being able to run in-person holiday clubs again. Through all these activities and more we’re hearing so many stories of children and young people from the

95 discovering the hope we have in Jesus. You can read some of those stories in the articles in this issue.

With Christmas just around the corner, we have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and share that hope once again, as we remember the Light of the World being born as one of us. Please do join us in praying that the 95 will see that light and know God’s love personally this Christmas. As Isaiah prophesied, *“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.”* Let’s thank God for that light that we know and ask him again to reveal himself to those who are still in darkness.

Thank you, as ever, for all your support. Your prayers, gifts and time are vital in helping children and young people discover the light of Christ, all year round. May God bless you and your family this Christmas.

**Myles MacBean,**  
National Director



## Emerging into the light

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Finally, we can meet in person again! It's brought new opportunities for churches to reconnect with their communities, for people to reconnect with each other and to reconnect with God. Through your support, our team in Wales have been helping churches and Faith Guides to bring God's love and healing to their communities.



JOHN  
SETTATREE

‘Children and young people are suffering from a lack of physical exercise, food poverty and poor mental health,’

says John Settattree, who leads SU Wales. ‘So we teamed up with Salvation Army and other Christian organisations under the banner of *Let’s Reconnect*, helping churches and Faith Guides to put on sport and physical activities in their communities, offer food, and create opportunities for children and young people to talk about the things that are worrying them.’

Faith Guide Lox Busisa and his family moved to Haverfordwest from Kenya in 2017. Last spring, he began leading LifePoint Church based on a deprived local estate. ‘Being a Faith Guide has been invaluable,’ he says. ‘There was so much I didn’t know about the culture and regulations of working with children and young people here. SU know what they are

doing, and it’s so helpful to have their advice and support.’

Over the summer, Lox and LifePoint ran a weekly sports session in the local park for the community’s children. ‘It was in at the deep end!’ Lox laughs, ‘But with God’s help, and support and training from SU, it was brilliant. SU lent us equipment – we did activities such as mini Olympics and gave out drinks and snacks. All we did to advertise was put a sign up by the play park and word soon got around! Twenty-one families came the first week. Many of the kids had been stuck indoors during lockdown, and I think the parents really enjoyed seeing them playing outdoors again after so long.

‘We use Rooted Cards to help kids talk about their big issues. It’s so important to be real with kids,

.....  
“ It was in at the deep end. But with God’s help, and support and training from SU, it was brilliant! ”  
.....



to earn their trust. You can't rush making those connections. But now I know all their names, their schools, their interests! We're also sharing God's love through taking food boxes to local families who are struggling to make ends meet.

'I'm working with SU to ensure those connections stay strong now the children are back at school - and I'm so excited about all the possibilities that the future holds, and where God will lead this ministry next!'

## DOING THIS DIFFERENTLY



Another Faith Guide, Kerry Andrews is from St Edmunds, a traditional church in Crickhowell. She has led a youth group for

some years. She says,

'Currently we have around 15 young people who aren't from church families. We kept in touch with them during lockdowns using WhatsApp and Zoom. But the end of many restrictions gives us a chance to do things differently.'

.....  
“SU has given us real encouragement, fresh ideas and the confidence to put them into practice.”  
.....

'After Easter, we started meeting up again, playing sports and games out in the park. We got a grant from the council to get two shelters - our "den" - where we could be together and chat about anything that might be bothering them.'

'SU has given us real encouragement, fresh ideas and the confidence to put them into practice. For example, even though today's young people know little about the Bible, through SU we've learned you can talk about faith without it feeling like school, using Rooted Cards, film clips and so on. Some of our young people are starting to be more interested in exploring the Bible and using prayer-spaces, so we're including this at the end of our weekly meetups. During the summer, some have been bringing along friends. We're now looking for a bigger venue for when we resume inside!'

## MAKING CONNECTIONS

We'd love to connect with you if you've got the vision to connect or reconnect with the 95 in your area. Get in touch with your local SU team at [su.org.uk/heretohelp](https://su.org.uk/heretohelp) to start the conversation about how they can support you in mission.



WEEK  
BEGINNING  
NOV 28

# Prayers

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**Please pray for reconnections!**

## SUNDAY 28

Praise God for all those Faith Guides and churches that worked so hard to maintain connections with children and young people during all the ups and downs of the pandemic. Pray that he will renew their strength and bring a harvest from their endeavours.

## MONDAY 29

Give thanks to God that at last we can meet in person again, and for all the wonderful opportunities that presents for us to share Jesus with children and young people.

## TUESDAY 30

Praise God for inspiring SU, Salvation Army and other mission organisations across Wales to set up *Let's Reconnect*, to encourage churches and Faith Guides to reconnect with their communities and share his love with them.

## WEDNESDAY 1

Please pray that God will bless Lox, Kerry and other Faith Guides across Wales as they build relationships

with children and young people, and for those relationships to multiply and strengthen.

## THURSDAY 2

Please pray for the SU Wales team – John and Rachel Settatree, Helen Franklin and new Mission Enabler Jack Newbould – that God will bless their ministry and open doors to relationships with new churches and potential new Faith Guides.

## FRIDAY 3

Although 95% of children and young people don't go to church, many are open to faith. Please ask God to continue to resource and equip SU, churches and Faith Guides to connect with those children and share the good news of Jesus with them in ways they will understand.

## SATURDAY 4

With Christmas just a few weeks away, please pray for God to bless those Faith Guides and churches as they plan seasonal mission activities for children, families and young people in their communities.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 5

## SUNDAY 5

The Bible Bus run by Scripture Union Austria has been on tour again this autumn, giving young people an interactive engagement with the Bible. Pray that the young people who have visited the exhibition will continue to show an interest in the Bible.

## MONDAY 6

Local Mission Partner **Actios** working in St Neots has been looking to appoint a new worker and, all being well, someone will be in place by the time you read this. Please pray that the person appointed will settle in and be able to move things forward. Pray too for wisdom for the trustees as they plan for the future.

## TUESDAY 7

Pray for the Wales team as they meet together today to plan for the new year. Pray for them as they look to support Faith Guide churches this month in Christmas outreach events.



## WEDNESDAY 8

Please pray for the Mission Events team as they work on the website and booking systems in preparation for opening bookings for the 2022

holidays.

Pray that the technology works smoothly and that people will be motivated to book for the coming year.

## THURSDAY 9



Content Developer Leanne Sheppard and the rest of the team are putting the final touches to the *Seeking Jesus* Collection.

This is a new set of resources for Faith Guides working with 5- to 8-year-olds and their families in schools and communities. Pray that everything will be completed on time before Christmas.

## FRIDAY 10

Local Mission Partner **Stort Valley Trust** ask for prayer for growing relationships with schools in the Bishop's Stortford and Saffron Walden area, as they offer support, care and wellbeing services to primary and secondary communities through their chaplaincy service.

## SATURDAY 11

Pray for Rob Steward as he leads the SU North team. Pray for continued wisdom and blessing as he works with churches on Revealing Jesus, regional partnerships and with the staff team. Pray also for the planning of the new Easter residential (delayed for two years).



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 12

## SUNDAY 12

Pray for summer activities in Australia and New Zealand, especially for new camps in New South Wales, and for New Zealand's three 'E3' wilderness journeys from 8-17 December. Students in their last two years of school engage in outdoor activities in the backcountry, strengthen their connections with God, others, and creation, and develop leadership skills.

## MONDAY 13

Local Mission Partner **Hunsley Christian Youth Trust** partners with another local charity to deliver schools work through mentoring and Christian groups. Pray for the team as they meet with young people who do not feel valued that they may have wisdom and sensitivity and may show the love of Jesus.

## TUESDAY 14



Pray for Database Officer Meri Suokas as she helps others to become more familiar with the new supporter relations system and with their data needs, so that they can engage more effectively with supporters.

## WEDNESDAY 15

Thank God for the personal faith of each one of the Faith Guides. Ask God to deepen his relationship with

them as they share their own faith journey with the children and young people in their communities.



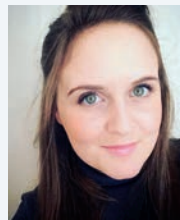
## THURSDAY 16

Pray for the health and wellbeing of our supporters, that during this advent time they will know the peace and presence of God and that his blessing would rest on them.

## FRIDAY 17

Pray for the team at National Mission Partner **Festive** as they seek to inspire and equip young people to live out and share their faith boldly whilst at Sixth Form and FE colleges. Please particularly pray for Christian Unions, many of which have lost momentum during the pandemic.

## SATURDAY 18



Pray for Mission Enabler Lucy Pearson as she returns to work after maternity leave. Pray for her as she starts to talk with churches about

Revealing Jesus and grows Rooted around the North of England.



## Catching the Bible bug

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Alison Pickering shares how Scripture Union's *Diary of a Disciple* is opening up the Bible and getting children to read it regularly – even those with no church background. Now, through your support, we've developed *Diary of a Disciple: Luke's Story Holiday Club* to help even more children discover Jesus!



ALISON PICKERING

Alison works for outreach charity The Urban Family in London. In partnership with four local churches, she runs weekly clubs

to introduce non-church children to Jesus. When the first lockdown of the pandemic came, Alison decided to set up an online club for them called *Live at Five*, based around SU's *Diary of a Disciple*.

'We got a copy of the book to each child,' says Alison. 'Soon, the children were vying with one another to read the day's passage to the rest of the group! They were so keen that *Live at Five* became a six-days-a-week session that also included prayer, worship songs and a game.'

'And children were reading *Diary of a Disciple* at home too - even children who weren't from church families were sitting down and

reading it cover to cover. Over the months, it became a habit for them - hopefully a habit that will last.'

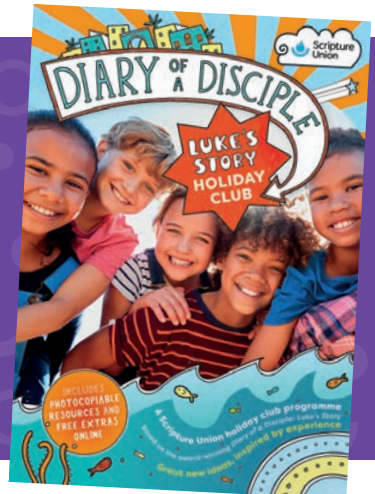
The *Live at Five* group grew from 15 families to 50, many from outside London. Alison says, 'Going online opened up the freedom for children to invite cousins or friends. Some of them moved schools the following autumn and invited their new school friends.'

One of the children was 10-year-old Ben. His family weren't Christians and he had never read a Bible. 'But he loved *Diary of a Disciple* and was at the club every day,' says Alison. 'And he was the first of the children to grasp that the Bible was relevant to his own life today.'

“ Now, Ben just loves Jesus, and wants his family to get to know and love Jesus too.”

### NEW *Diary of a Disciple: Luke's Story Holiday Club* resources!

Our new *Diary of a Disciple: Luke's Story Holiday Club* resources are aimed particularly at children who don't have a church background, helping them to catch the Bible bug! Find out more and buy your copy at [su.org.uk/diaryclub](http://su.org.uk/diaryclub)



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 19

## SUNDAY 5

Pray for the Christmas programmes being run by SU India, asking that through them many more children of other faiths would understand Jesus' love.

## MONDAY 20

In October and November, the North team met many churches on the 'I Don't Go to Church BUT...' tour. Pray for the continued follow-up from these conversations, that churches will be excited by the Revealing Jesus framework and that deeper and more effective relationships will form.



## TUESDAY 21

Local Mission Partner **CLIKS** (Christian Links in Keighley Schools) is looking to employ a worker. Pray for good candidates (full time, part time, job share, older or younger). Pray too for a consolidation of relationships with schools and plans to restart Open the Book.

## WEDNESDAY 22

Pray for the bedding in of the new supporter relations system which will involve changes to staff processes. Pray that the benefits will start to be felt through greater efficiency

and deeper relationships with supporters. Give thanks for Jim Winning (Supporter Care) and Dave Parsons (Finance) and their teams who have persevered through all the changes.

## THURSDAY 23

Please pray for all those children and families who attended our holidays, missions and day camps last summer, that they will hold onto the truth that they encountered, and that Jesus will be very real to them as they celebrate Christmas this year.

## FRIDAY 24

Local Mission Partner **Doncaster Schools Work Trust** gives thanks to God that the doors into schools are still open. Pray that in a Covid world God will lead trustees and team Linda Gardner and Dan Budhi to new ways of reaching children with the good news.

## SATURDAY 25

Pray that through the story and the colouring pages, the children receiving the *God Became Like Me?* booklet (and the Welsh version *Ac Fe Ddaeth Duw Fel Fi?*) will begin to understand that they are loved and special and that God sent Jesus to earth for them.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 26

## SUNDAY 12

In October and November SU Nepal held nine day camps for children, reaching around 900 children. Please pray for lasting fruit and that the children will continue to think about what they discovered of Jesus.

## MONDAY 27

Pray for the 'Question of Faith' days which Local Mission Partner **Southampton City Mission** will be leading in schools next term. Pray that as they share the importance of the gospel, seeds will be sown in the hearts and minds of children and staff.

## TUESDAY 28

Assistant Accountant Alicia Wallace returned to work in September after being away from work unwell. Pray that as she continues to catch up, she will have wisdom to prioritise and the energy to carry out the tasks.

## WEDNESDAY 29

Jill Warren, Content Assistant, asks us to pray for the three new resource collections for the Faith Guide Hub, which are due to become available at the beginning of 2022. Pray that they will be helpful and effective tools for Faith Guides as they begin a new year of sharing Jesus with the 95.

## THURSDAY 30

Each Grow Community is connected to a local church. Please pray for good relationships between the church and the communities as

they journey together.



## FRIDAY 31

Pray that the new worker with Local Mission Partner **Trobwynt** will be able to make good contacts with schools, churches and chapels which will enable them to help young people hear about Jesus.

## SATURDAY 1

As we enter this new year, pray for Scripture Union as we seek to refine the Revealing Jesus mission framework based on lessons learned to date. Pray that we'll be able to embed it deeper into all that the movement is and does, and begin to apply it to the hybrid online/offline world in which children and young people live.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 2

## SUNDAY 2

Please pray for the ongoing development for the Bible App being produced by SU Estonia. Pray that doors will open for international agreements, for professional help on a volunteer basis, necessary funds, and wisdom for content development.

## MONDAY 3

Give thanks for the relationships that have been developing and strengthening over the last year between the team in the south west, Faith Guides and Local Mission Partners. Pray that they will continue to encourage and challenge each other to reach out in new and exciting ways in their communities.

## TUESDAY 4



Please pray for Rachel Warwick, Director of Mobilisation, and the Mobilisation team as they share stories of what God

is doing through Scripture Union. Pray that he will use their work to inspire supporters to continue to pray, volunteer and give.

## WEDNESDAY 5

Please pray for the Board as they prepare to meet later this month. They will be looking at the budget for 2022–23 and setting objectives. Pray that as they think about the

agenda items they will sense God's leading and direction for the future of the movement.

## THURSDAY 6

As we launch our holiday programme for 2022, please pray that many children and young people will book. Please pray particularly for those who have missed two years of holidays or who have never had the chance to go on a holiday before, that they will overcome any nervousness or anxiety.

## FRIDAY 7

Mission Enabler Jenni Whymark asks us to pray for good relationships with Faith Guides, and wisdom in supporting them as they seek to reach the 95 using the Revealing Jesus framework. Pray especially for Faith Guide Dom DeBoo as he starts Youth Alpha this month, asking that the course will be well attended, and young people will come to know Jesus.

## SATURDAY 8



Pray that God will continue to reveal himself to the children and young people who meet regularly in Grow Communities to explore the Christian faith.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 9

## SUNDAY 9

Ethiopia is passing through many security challenges with the civil war. People leave their homes and go to the neighbouring towns or countries. Many women and children become victims of this situation. SU Ethiopia asks us to pray that the government will have wisdom and that God will bring peace.

## MONDAY 10



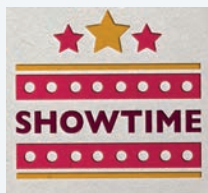
Please pray for Gemma Willis in her role as Head of Development Hub. Ask God to give her insight and wisdom as she makes

decisions about where to prioritise capacity and resources in developing new material for those working with the 95.

## TUESDAY 11

Pray for the new Showtime Collection of resources which will help Faith

Guides working with 14- to 18-year-olds to use drama to help young people discover Jesus, engage with the Bible, and have the opportunity to respond to God and grow in faith.



## WEDNESDAY 12

Please pray for Local Mission Partner **Christians in Stockport Schools** as they continue to grow their work

to employ a new member of staff. Pray for the Storytelling Workshops using *Diary of a Disciple* in many schools over a three-week period.

## THURSDAY 13

We are running online workshops for holiday and mission leaders to help equip them for the year ahead. Please pray that good connections will be made and that everyone will be inspired and excited for the coming year.

## FRIDAY 14

We thank God for the way in which he continues to meet our financial needs and rejoice in his faithfulness. Please stand with us in faith, as we trust God for our future needs.

## SATURDAY 15

Please pray for Jim Winning and the Supporter Care team (Debbie Edge and John Cartwright) as they navigate their way through the new supporter relations system. Ask God that they will be able to maintain the high standards that they have been aiming for and that supporters will be inspired by stories of what God is doing.



Jim, Debbie and John



## Celebrating a return to the beach!

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How we missed having holidays and missions in person in 2020! But thanks to your faithful support and with the determined efforts of many amazing volunteers, this summer things started getting back to a semblance of normality, enabling hundreds of children and young people to encounter the God who loves them!



At Polzeath Family Mission, SU Mission Enabler Toby Chant and others from the south west took on the organising, following on from former leaders Alison Withers and Matt Smith who stepped down after many years of faithful service.

‘It had its challenges!’ says Toby. ‘How do you plan when constraints keep changing? In the end, we decided to work within the existing restrictions as it was likely that these would be the worst-case scenario for the mission itself. However, that meant we could only accommodate 40% of the usual team, and half of that much reduced team was new. Thankfully the other half really knew the ropes!’

‘We also had to change the activities. We couldn’t do the usual afternoon stage show because it might draw a crowd. Instead, we set up sports and activities spread out in small groups across the beach. It worked really well, particularly as we wanted to focus on children and young people who don’t have a church connection. It meant that our team were able to chat with individual children and bring faith into the conversation naturally. We started building relationships that we can build on next summer, as most of the children and young people and their families come back to Polzeath every year.’

Each day started with Bible-based sessions for three different age groups. Toby says, ‘Initially, most of the children and young people coming to those sessions were from Christian families. But as we got to

know other children we met at the beach activities, we invited them too, so the numbers coming to hear more about Jesus grew during the week.

.....  
“ We wanted to focus on children and young people who don’t have a church connection. ”  
.....

### AN OPENNESS TO FAITH

‘Many of these children without church connections were so open to exploring faith. At one morning session we discussed the day of Pentecost and offered to pray for children individually. These youngsters wanted prayer too. On another day, we discussed God’s forgiveness. We invited the kids to take a stone from the beach, pray for forgiveness, and throw the stone far out into the sea as a sign that God would remember their sins no more. The children without church links took part just as enthusiastically as those from Christian families.





'They can also be open to further participation. One afternoon, our intern Matt was playing football on the beach with two teenagers from Bristol. As they chatted, they discovered one lad had a connection with Matt's family. Matt told them about the Bristol football project he's going to be setting up, and suggested they contact him. They have – and have said they'd love to be involved in that project longer term.'

The team were also able to strengthen links with Tubestation, the local beachside church which doubles as a café and art gallery.

“ The children without church links took part just as enthusiastically as those from Christian families. ”

A Tubestation volunteer was on the team and the 15 to 18s Bible sessions took place in the church garden, which was also where the church hosted a BBQ one evening. Toby recalls, 'They had an impromptu worship session. As I looked around, I saw a lad in his early teens – we'd met him on the beach, invited him to the Bible sessions and he had come every day. Now here he was, absolutely transfixed, his eyes closed as he drank in the words and music – perhaps discovering for the first time that God is real.'

### LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUMMER

If you'd like to volunteer to help on one of our 2022 holidays or missions, or to book a place for a young person you know, keep an eye out at [su.org.uk/holidays-events](https://www.su.org.uk/holidays-events). Details of next year's programme will be available soon after Christmas.

21

in-person holidays and missions took place this summer

474

children and young people came on holidays

Over 2000

children, young people and their families visited our missions



WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 16

# Prayers



Please pray for our holidays and missions!

## SUNDAY 16

Give thanks to God for Alison Withers and Matt Smith, for their many faithful years of service in leading Polzeath Family Mission. Ask him to bless them as they continue to serve him in other ways.

## MONDAY 17

Praise God for giving Toby and the Polzeath Family Mission team new opportunities this year to share faith with many more children and young people that don't go to church.

## TUESDAY 18

Give thanks to God that, in spite of the challenges, 21 SU holidays and missions were able to take place in person last summer. Please pray for those children and young people who came – for those who already know Jesus to grow in their faith, and for those who don't yet know him to be eager to find out more.

## WEDNESDAY 19

Give thanks to God for the opportunities for partnership

between Polzeath Family Mission and Tubestation, the local church. Pray that God will bless and strengthen that relationship.

## THURSDAY 20

Give thanks to God for all our amazing volunteer leaders and teams, who give so generously of their time, energy and enthusiasm so that a new generation of children and young people have the opportunity to encounter the God who loves them.

## FRIDAY 21

Praise God for the wonderful opportunities that trainees Ydson, Matt and Josh had at Polzeath Family Mission to learn to share their faith more boldly.

## SATURDAY 22

Please pray for SU's Head of Event Operations Jo Morley, her staff and volunteer leaders as they make plans for next summer's holidays and missions.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 23

## SUNDAY 23

SU Japan has an online group meeting for young people for 40 minutes on Sunday afternoons once a month. Pray that this will enable more young people to be nourished and sustained by God's Word during these difficult times.

## MONDAY 24

Please pray for the South East team as Josh Booth settles into his new role as Team Leader. As the team gather the Faith Guides across the region, pray that they would continue to be encouraged and equipped to share Jesus with the 95 in their local communities.

## TUESDAY 25

Gives thanks for Angela Feather, worker with Local Mission Partner **Farne Churches Youth and Family Outreach**, who has moved on to a new role. Pray for the appointment of a successor and for volunteers as they develop the work in schools and churches.

## WEDNESDAY 26

Give thanks for the growing impact of *Guardians of Ancora* and for the latest language version, *Guardianes de Ancora*. Praise God for the vision and hard work of SU global team member Davi Kruklis, project manager Julio Cesar Aliaga and their team in Bolivia in giving millions of children around the world the opportunity to discover



the difference Jesus can make, by having material in their own language.

## THURSDAY 27

Mission Enabler Toby Chant is excited about working with new Faith Guides in St Austell and Liskeard, and about relationships in Polzeath and Wadebridge that have come from the beach mission in Polzeath. Pray for him as he continues to develop the work in Cornwall.

## FRIDAY 28

Please pray that those who are stepping into leadership on holidays and missions for the first time this year will be inspired, equipped and supported as they take on these new challenges.

## SATURDAY 29

Local Mission Partner **Great Open Door** in Harlow thanks God for their assembly team (Angela, Andy, David, Pam, Paul and Jo). Pray that they will have the health and strength to continue the work. Pray for two new team members.

# Prayers

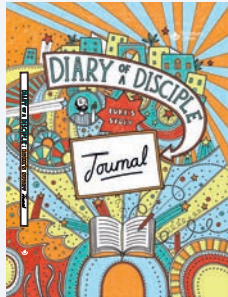
WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 30

## SUNDAY 30

SU Hong Kong will be celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. Praise God for his continual love, grace and provision for them, and his blessing throughout the years. Pray that they will be able to celebrate God's goodness in ways that glorify his name.

## MONDAY 31

*Diary of a Disciple: Luke's Story Journal* builds on the success of the original book and will help children engage more deeply with the Gospel of Luke. Give thanks for writer Gemma Willis and artist Emma Randall and pray that this will help children grow in relationship with God.



## TUESDAY 1



Please pray for Cornelia Wright, Major Donor Fundraiser, asking that she will be able to effectively convey the vision

and needs of Scripture Union with our partners in our mission to share the gospel with children and young people.

## WEDNESDAY 2

**The Bus Stop**, Local Mission Partner who work in north Yorkshire, have

been through a period of re-evaluation with the bus needing major work and changes on the team. Please pray for wisdom for the trustees as they seek God's way forward.

## THURSDAY 3

Pray that the young people who are part of Rooted groups will discover something of the love of Jesus as they explore together what faith might mean in their own situations.



## FRIDAY 4

Please pray for our team in the Central region, as they make plans for summer activities hoping they can restore those precious face-to-face relationships after a two-year gap and for opportunities to connect with new children and young people from the 95 through Faith Guides.

## SATURDAY 5

IT Assistant Dom Vis asks us to pray for the smooth running of the IT infrastructure and that in these days of increased threats of cyberattack, the system will remain secure and be protected from any compromise.

# Reasons to be cheerful

Reaching out to children and young people during pandemic restrictions has been a challenge! But there are some wonderfully positive stories to tell as well, and exciting opportunities coming up...





SAM  
FOWLER

### South East Regional Team

#### *IN SEARCH OF...*

'These SU resources enable children to learn about Jesus even during lockdowns. Churches download, print and display the posters around their community. Passing children and families can use smartphones to scan QR codes on each poster to access videos which help them to explore faith.

'And it's proving incredibly popular! Our Easter edition was *In Search of Easter*, and each QR code was scanned over 4,500 times. We're praying for even more engagement over Halloween and Christmas.'

Download free *In Search Of* resources to use in your community at [www.su.org.uk/insearchof](http://www.su.org.uk/insearchof)



GEOFF  
BROWN

### North Regional Team

#### *LIFEPATH ON THE ROAD*

'Restrictions meant we couldn't host Lifepath at Brinkburn Priory this year, so we took it on the road, visiting 500 pupils at 16 schools over 5 weeks! Despite the logistical challenges, it was a great success thanks to our dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

'The session began with a story of a character looking for the "God Sword". But it transpired that he should have been searching for God's Word, and we discussed why God's Word was important to St Cuthbert and to Christians today.

'Then we played a song, also on video – students in some schools were allowed to sing along. Workshops included prayer activities, crafts, a story and drama on video. One student commented, "I wish we could do year 4 again so we could do this again" – what an encouragement!'

# SHINE<sup>!</sup> INFLUENCERS



## SHINE

With schools now open and Christian groups getting back together, now is a great time to run *SHINE*, which equips young Christians to live for God at school and provides opportunities for students to explore the Christian faith. Our latest videos look at two key questions: Who is your biggest influence? And what would it mean to have Jesus as your greatest influence?

*SHINE* can be run any time of year, either in a school building or online. Find out more and access the resources at [www.su.org.uk/shine](http://www.su.org.uk/shine)



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
FEB 6

## SUNDAY 6

SU Sri Lanka has had to postpone events for children and children with special needs. Please pray that they will be able to run those programmes in the coming days. Pray too that their online ministry will reach many children and young adults.

## MONDAY 7

**The Pimlico Foundation**, an SU Local Mission Partner, aims to support and empower young people through clubs, mentoring, and a range of sports activities. Pray for good working relationships with schools, churches, police and the council.

## TUESDAY 8



Pray for continued inspiration and fresh creative ideas for Communications Assistant Chloe Shivraj as she works to effectively communicate the vision and mission of Scripture Union to a wide range of audiences in a variety of ways.

## WEDNESDAY 9

Pray for Susannah Quinn and Sue Hill as they make sure that all our volunteers are safely recruited and DBS checked. Pray that the process will go smoothly and that volunteers will be excited about the prospect of sharing the gospel with children and young people in the coming year.

## THURSDAY 10

Please pray for Faith Guides as they begin to use the SeeKing Jesus Collection produced by the creative team within the Development Hub. Pray for them as they reach out and start to connect with schools, communities and 5- to 8-year-old children and their families.



## FRIDAY 11

Local Mission Partner **Watford Schools Trust** covers an area with 57 primary schools. Pray for the two schools workers, Tricia and Johanna, and administrator Alison as they plan for the Easter term and for good preparation for Easter lessons, assemblies and prayer spaces.

## SATURDAY 12

Pray for the Digital Solutions team – led by Mark Green, Ian Gooding and Gill Russell – as they explore further possibilities for technical improvements, keep up to date with developments in technology and develop the understanding that will enable them to be less dependent on external suppliers.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
FEB 13

## SUNDAY 13

SU Finland is looking at different possibilities for new material for Bible reading. Pray that they will have wisdom to understand which materials would be most effective in helping people to read and understand the Bible.

## MONDAY 14

Give thanks for those who faithfully served Scripture Union as staff members and are now retired. Many maintain an active interest in the work and meet annually to pray. During the pandemic this has not been possible, although they have met twice on Zoom. Pray that ways may be found to meet in person later this year.

## TUESDAY 15

One of the core values of a Grow Community is to study the Bible together. Pray that the children and young people in these communities would discover more of the living God as they explore his Word.



## WEDNESDAY 16

Matt Farley has been Mission Enabler in the central region for just over a year. Continue to pray

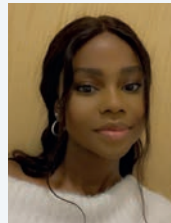


that God will open doors for the preaching of the gospel, for Matt and for the Faith Guides he works with.

## THURSDAY 17

Join Support Worker Tracy Jassal in giving thanks for the wonderful team of people she works with in the south west – staff, trainees, supporters, Faith Guides and Local Mission Partners. Please pray that Tracy will have continued good health and increased energy to enable her to be effective in her work.

## FRIDAY 18



It is a year since Nozipho Dube became our Trust Fundraiser. Please pray for continued wisdom and boldness in seeking trust income, giving

thanks for those who have given in the past year. Pray that Nozipho can continue to build relationships with trusts who support the work and make new connections.

## SATURDAY 19

Local Mission Partner **Lightspace** works in 16 primary schools in Grantham, using a variety of approaches including clubs, prayer spaces and Open the Book. Pray for more volunteers to maintain and expand the work.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
FEB 20

## SUNDAY 20

SU Russia praises God for the Teens' camp they held last summer, kayaking on the river, reading the Gospels, cooking food on open fires and learning to cope with difficulties together. Pray that the young people will continue to grow and for plans for this summer.

## MONDAY 21



Pray for Rachel Settatee, our new Safeguarding Manager, as she works hard to ensure that we are keeping everyone safe across all our events and activities.

## TUESDAY 22



Pray for the leaders of the holidays running over the Easter period as they prepare for the first physical holidays that they will have run since 2019. Pray for the teams to come together and have confidence as they pick up the work again.

## WEDNESDAY 23

Local Mission Partner **Impact Schools Team** is looking to appoint an additional part-time schools worker to cover Welshpool High School (North Powys) and the

primary schools that feed into it. They have funding in place but no worker. Please pray that they will find a suitable candidate.

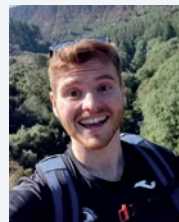
## THURSDAY 24

Please pray for everyone running *Guardians of Ancora* clubs and for Faith Guides using the resources in the Faith Guide Hub collection. Thank God for the many thousands of children who are encountering stories of Jesus through the app – and pray that there will be a lasting impact.

## FRIDAY 25

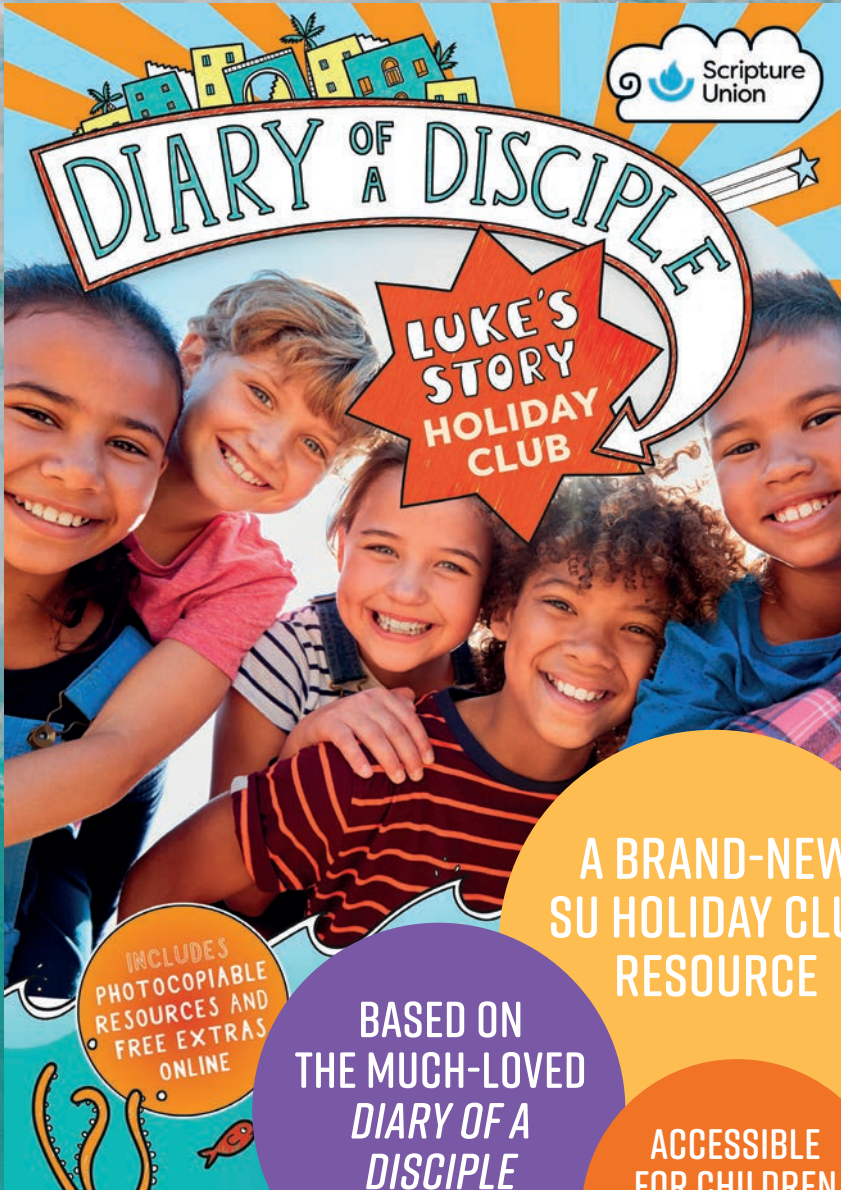
Please pray for Faith Guides using the new *Be More Micah* resource collection for 14 to 18s. Pray for the impact of the resources and that young people from the 95 will come to see – and share – God's heart for justice in the world.

## SATURDAY 26



Mission Enabler Jack Newbould has recently had the opportunity to share the Revealing Jesus mission framework with a chapel in

Llanelli that is primarily Welsh speaking. Please pray that God will help them see how it might enable them to reach their community.



Scripture Union

# DIARY OF A DISCIPLE

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HOLIDAY  
CLUB**

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FREE EXTRAS  
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