



Scripture Union

Chris's news and prayer update

February 2024

A Walk on the Wild Side

Luke 24:13-32 On the Road to Emmaus

I continue to be struck by the way that Jesus comes alongside the disciples in the middle of their crushing disappointment, rather than celebrating his resurrection in the city, and by the way that he remains hidden from them as he journeys with them. In the middle of the unexpected 'wild' twists and turns, he shows us that following him is full of mystery and the need to be dependent on him, rather than the five-year plan we'd like.

I shared from this passage when I spoke at the recent Events Leaders Conference in Bristol. It links with the 'Go Wild to Emmaus' resource, which I co-wrote. This resource can be used by families and groups to explore faith while out on a walk, and uses the experiential learning of Go Wild. It is a downloadable resource which can be found within the Easter Matters resources link: <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/resource/easter-matters>



Faith Guides

It's great to welcome Gill on board, a new Faith Guide based in Bournemouth. She and her church leadership have a passion for reaching out to children in their local school.

In my prayer letters going forward there will be a 'Faith Guide spotlight' feature. I'll be sharing, in more detail, on just one Faith Guide and a particular project I'm supporting them with. My first 'spotlight' is on Berno.

Berno

Faith
Guide
Spotlight



Berno is based in Swanage, Dorset.

The seaside town of Swanage is a magnificent destination for summer holidays, and plenty of people end up calling it home when they retire. This has created two types of communities within the town: those who have lived there all their lives, and those who have come to retire.

Berno Vierbergen is a Faith Guide who works through The Wave Youth and Children's Ministry, a SU Mission Partner, to help establish bridges between these two communities.

During the summer holiday in 2023, whilst helping at the local football club's summer camp, Berno discovered how young people's social connection as a football team improves their performance on the pitch.

A town meeting earlier in the year had also highlighted a lack of youth provision for those aged 14-17 in Swanage. This led Berno to having discussions with board members of the football club and the local council for funding. **Through the encouragement of his mission enabler and church leaders, Berno is aiming to set up a youth club at the football club, providing a solution to all the challenges highlighted. Creating a space to connect, he** will draw on the resources of those who've come to retire but still want to pass on their knowledge and experience.

Please pray for Berno as he works towards creating this space before Easter!

Go Wild



Go Wild Dartmoor: The 'Faith Guide Holiday' is designed for Faith Guides to bring their groups and be on team, giving the opportunity to carry on the faith journey during and after the residential. It is now in its second year and taking place in **September. Do pray for the gathering of a team, and for Faith Guides and young people to sign up.**

Go Wild Great Wood: continues in the May half-term.

Go Wild to Emmaus: the newly released all-age Easter resource.

Go Wild training retreats and another Go Wild residential: are in the plan and we hope to enable these to happen this year, potentially in the north region.

Summer Events

The summer will again see me making visits to support residential camps and missions. In recent years one of those mission highlights has been the Perranporth 360 beach mission, where last year I led a mini 360 for a few days, which was so good to do. It involved my whole family for a second time, not only my wife Ruth, but also my children Zachary and Charis. They are growing up fast, Zachary started secondary school last year and I'm keen to take any opportunity to do this ministry alongside them, so they can be a part of the adventure that mission brings. I am hoping that this will be possible again in 2024.



Stand with me

I hope you will be encouraged hearing about all that is going on. The work that I do is entirely funded by the generous gifts of faithful supporters. I am so grateful to all of you who support me and this work with your prayers and your giving.

To get involved please visit su.org.uk/chrise, scan the QR Code:
or phone 01908 856000



THANK YOU

Prayer points

Faith Guides

- Wisdom and capacity for me, as I get alongside our current Faith Guides and find new ones
- For fruitfulness in seeing young people journey towards Jesus (exploring, responding and growing in particular)

Fundraising

- Grateful thanks for our current supporters
- We would love to raise enough funds for a worker in the Dorset/Wiltshire area

Go Wild

- Preparation for the Go Wild Dartmoor residential in September, including recruiting a team, and gathering Faith Guides and their groups
- For new expressions and growth in how Go Wild is used elsewhere.

Thank you so much for your support
Chris



Get in touch

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