

Toby's News and Prayer Update Spring 2024

'As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him.'

Psalm 103:15,16 (ESV)

As I take time to think about 2024, it is increasingly apparent how much is changing. As a family we are just about to move house; in my work with SU I have just gone part-time; some Faith Guides I have worked with will now be supported by other team members; new Faith Guides and churches are coming on board; Polzeath Family Mission that I have led is being handed on to the good folk at United Beach Mission; a new Faith Guide holiday is on the horizon, and I am sure there is plenty more.

Whilst thinking about what is to come, it is also natural to look back reflecting on what has been, grieving what has been lost and celebrating what has been achieved.

I am generally a person who thrives in times of change - I enjoy the unknown, the potential and the possibilities. However, recently I have been reflecting that it is the things in my life which are constant that enable me to thrive. I can only live out my creative best when I know I am loved, that I am secure, that I am enough.

There are many people who ultimately enable us to flourish because of who they are and how they love us. I am blessed to have many of these people in my life. However, even on their best day they can let us down, just like on our best we can let them down. Yet to know the unchanging, unwavering, uncompromising nature of God, who is always constant, enables us to thrive in times of change.



Whether planning and dreaming, grieving and mourning, celebrating and cheering, reflecting and discerning...knowing the constant nature and love of God enables us to thrive.

Looking into the 366 days of 2024, let's remember what we have that is constant and allow the reality of the presence of God in our lives to be the foundation on which we flourish.

For more about how Scripture Union can support your church to reach out to the 95, you can visit our website: <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/Mission-support>



Exciting times in Dartmouth

Over the last few months I have loved getting alongside the Benefice of Dartmouth and Dittisham, to support them as they seek to reach out to the 600 children and young people that live in Dartmouth.

Their leadership team have committed to recruit a *Youth, Children's and Families Lead* in order to spearhead some new work and are well on their way to making this happen. The potential is huge, with one of the churches set right in the middle of a residential area, another right by the water, plus a field with lots of opportunity to explore using the outdoors.

I can't wait to work alongside a new Faith Guide, using *Revealing Jesus* as the blueprint and dreaming about how we can reach the children, young people and families in Dartmouth.

Please get in touch if you or somebody you know may be interested in how we could support them in their work to reach the 95.

Surf Break // 12th-14th July

I am thrilled to be part of running a new surf holiday in July aimed at Faith Guides bringing the groups of young people they are serving in their local context.

We recognise the importance of residential in the faith journey of children and young people and many of you will know SU from years and years of running holidays and missions – my introduction to SU was through a week-long residential in South Wales over 25 years ago.

Over the last year we have been creating Faith Guide holidays that specifically complement the *Revealing Jesus* framework and are aimed at those leaders doing year-round relational mission – tailoring holidays that serve their needs.

I can think of nothing better to do than spend time with young people on the coast, learning to surf; Surf Break will run from 12–14 July and take place at Menadue Farm, Tintagel for 13- to 18-year-olds. If you want to know more please get in touch.



What to pray for?

Your prayer and support is so valuable to me and the wider SU movement. Here are some things that are coming up that I would love you to pray for:

- **Dartmouth** – pray for wisdom and unity for the team at the Benefice of Dartmouth and Dittisham, as they employ their new Youth, Children’s and Family Worker.
- **Surf Break** – pray that spaces would fill up and it would be a real benefit to the ongoing work of the Faith Guides who bring their groups.



- **Faith Guides** – pray for the recruitment of new Faith Guides across the region, but specifically in the South Devon area.
- **Our Mission Partners** – for increased opportunity to work together effectively to reach the 95.
- **Our family** – as we move house and settle into a new area.
- **Polzeath Family Mission** – Margaret and I will be handing on leadership of PFM this year. We are thrilled that the baton is being handed to United Beach Missions (UBM). Pray for all those for whom PFM is a key part of their life and pray for increased Opportunity for the team to reach the 95.

Thank you for your continued support and prayer!

I hope that you have been inspired by the stories of the exciting work that is going on in the region.

If there are ways that you think I could support mission in your church, or others that you know, then please get in touch. If you feel you would like to partner in some way then also please get in touch.

I am really excited about the future of Scripture Union and that I get to partner with diverse expressions of the church to reach out to children and young people.

If you'd like to donate you can in a number of ways, either as a one-off gift or regularly by direct debit

- Visit: su.org.uk/tobyc
- Call 01908 856000 and use a debit card to make a donation quoting Toby Chant team support
- Use this QR code:



Thank you

Toby

If for any reason you would prefer not to receive my newsletter, then please don't hesitate to get in touch or email and we will remove you from our list.



Get in touch

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