

# Connecting you

Winter  
2024

## IN THIS EDITION

- Mission in the New Forest
- Soul Children choirs  
share Bible truths
- God is opening  
doors in Cornwall



Scripture  
Union

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## Did you know?

We're regularly adding to a new Scripture Union glossary to help give you a better understanding of some of the perhaps unfamiliar words and phrases used in Connecting You. Go to [su.org.uk/glossary](http://su.org.uk/glossary) to take a look.

### More about Scripture Union

Scripture Union is a Christian charity, providing opportunities for children and young people to explore the Bible, respond to Jesus and grow in faith. With an estimated 95 per cent of under-18s in England and Wales not part of a church, we help churches to step out and take the good news to them in exciting and culturally relevant ways. Visit [www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk) to find out more.



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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# Embracing the journey



**‘As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them’ (Luke 24:15 NIV).**

I wonder, if you were one of the disciples, how you would have expected Jesus to announce his resurrection – with a rending of the heavens, a fanfare of angel trumpets? I doubt you would have anticipated an appearance on a village lane that was so low-key that even the disciples did not recognise him!

In the story of the road to Emmaus, Jesus chose to reveal himself through ordinary things – he walked, he talked, he sat, he ate, he drank with the disciples. Eventually they recognised him and with hindsight realised that their hearts had been burning within them as he opened up scripture to them.

When we think about revealing Jesus to children and young people, it can sometimes feel like an enormous task. Yet it's so important to be there for them, even if it seems that nothing much is happening. I recall how the author CS Lewis rejected Christianity after the death of his mother. For many years he wandered in a spiritual wilderness.

But faithful Christian friends (including his fellow author JRR Tolkien) patiently journeyed with him and helped him resolve his misgivings. Since then, countless people have come to faith or found deeper faith through Lewis' literature. I'm so glad that his friends didn't give up on him, aren't you?

What are the ordinary ways that you can share the good news of Jesus with children and young people you know? How can you journey down the untrodden paths to reveal Jesus to the next generation?

I pray that God will help you to see and respond to the opportunities!

God bless,

**Dave Newton**

National Director,  
Scripture Union England and Wales





# Pioneering mission in the New Forest

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Faith Guide and trainee vicar Mel Osborne found herself in unfamiliar territory when she became Children and Families Worker for three parishes in the New Forest. But with help from SU Mission Enabler Jenni Whymark, she is making great headway!





MEL

There were no children or young people in Mel's churches, so she set out to engage with pupils at three

local primary schools.

She had lots of ideas but as this was her first role in children's ministry, she really wanted advice from someone more experienced on what might work well in this mission situation.

Fortunately, Mel was introduced to SU Mission Enabler Jenni Whymark and became a Faith Guide. 'It's been brilliant,' says Mel. 'I'll sound Jenni out on my ideas, and she'll connect me to useful resources or people who have done similar things. She mentors me, advocates for me, and prays for me. The Faith Guide training has given me new resources and confidence, and now I'm part of a network of local Faith Guides, I no longer feel so on my own.'

## AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

One challenge Mel has faced is how to find opportunities to connect with pupils within a very busy school curriculum. What has worked well is setting up 'ambassador' groups of eight children in each school who champion the Christian faith. 'They lead a worship assembly once a term, which they love. They get other children involved in a Christian justice activity – fundraising for water projects in a developing country, for example. They've set up permanent prayer spaces in each school with a prayer tree where all pupils can hang prayer or praise notes. There are also Bible-themed books and crafts. I've heard the children say, "That's Mel's space, it's our space." It's great they feel a sense of ownership!

“ I no longer feel so on my own ”



.....

## “They are hearing the good news of Jesus and we’re seeing God at work”

.....

‘These children aren’t always from Christian homes,’ Mel continues, ‘but they’re in the group because they want to be. They get their friends involved and learn about faith through leading the activities. As one young “ambassador” left to go to secondary school, she said “I’ve decided to give my life to Jesus. My mum’s not a Christian, but she says she’s OK with it if it makes me happy.” It made me happy too!’

Much of Mel’s work is pastoral. ‘I run arts and craft sessions – often Bible-based – which include children who might be struggling with home life or have special educational needs. It’s a safe space in which they can share their worries, and we can pray together and involve others in supporting them if needed.’

### A WIDER REACH

Working in schools has helped Mel connect with parents who don’t attend church. ‘They know that we pray for them and their children,’ she says. ‘But we want to forge closer connections so that they are supportive if their children want to follow Jesus, especially once the children leave for secondary school. We’ve got an after-school choir starting, so while the children are

singing, I plan to offer coffee and crafts to their parents and hopefully get to know them better.’

Mel concludes, ‘These parents and children don’t attend church. But they are hearing the good news of Jesus and we’re seeing God at work in a wider range of ways than might happen if the children simply sat in the church pews on a Sunday morning. With SU’s support, in faith we’re planting seeds of faith – and God is answering our prayers for those seeds to grow!’





WEEK  
BEGINNING  
NOV 24

# Prayers

Please pray for Faith Guides like Mel, and the Scripture Union Mission Enablers like Jenni, who support them.

## SUNDAY 24

Give thanks to God for blessing Faith Guide Mel with the courage and opportunity to share Jesus with children not in church.

## MONDAY 25

Please pray for God to give Mel clear guidance as she tests out new ways of building connections and relationships with both children and parents in her New Forest communities.

## TUESDAY 26

Praise God for SU Mission Enablers including Jenni Whymark and Revealing Jesus Pioneers including Eddie Howlett (see page 22) who provide such valuable support to Faith Guides working in a wide variety of contexts and with very different levels of mission experience.

## WEDNESDAY 27

Please pray for the children Mel is working with in the New Forest, that

they will have a deep experience of God's love, and that they will respond and grow in faith.

## THURSDAY 28

Please pray for those children Mel is working with who have come to faith, for their parents to be supportive of their decision to follow Jesus. Ask God to enable their faith to grow and mature as they move up to secondary school.

## FRIDAY 29

Give thanks for the way in which SU Mission Enablers are helping to connect Faith Guides together into supportive networks, so that they can share their experiences and spur one another on.

## SATURDAY 30

As new opportunities to share Jesus with the next generation open up in the New Forest, please ask God to bless Mel with more volunteers to help her.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 1

## SUNDAY 1

Pray that as they enjoy adventures in remote wilderness areas of Aotearoa New Zealand, the leaders and 48 young people on the 11-day E3 expeditions in December will make connections with each other, appreciate creation and, above all, their relationship with God will be strengthened.

## MONDAY 2

Pray for the team who have just started at SU Mission Partner **Ice** in Exeter – Sally Naylor, Doug Owen and Jess Warner. Praise God for the annual Narnia event for primary schools reaching 400 pupils. Pray for the team as they prepare Christmas assemblies and videos for primary and secondary schools.

## TUESDAY 3



Please pray for Mission Enabler Toby Chant in his work with the Benefice of Dartmouth and Dittisham. He is supporting team

members in this new Faith Guide church as they seek to make connections with young people, children and families during Advent and the Christmas period.

## WEDNESDAY 4

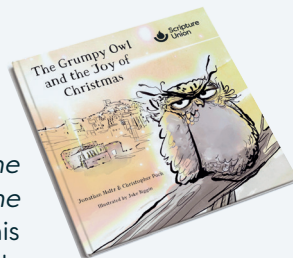
Bookings open for 2025 SU holidays this month. Pray that a good number of returning guests and new children



and young people will register so that they can have a great holiday with lots of fun and learn more about Jesus.

## THURSDAY 5

Pray for all the children who will receive copies of *The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas* this year. Ask God to help them discover the real meaning of Christmas as they read it.



## FRIDAY 6

Pray for Mission Partner **LightSpace Ministries** in Grantham. After saying goodbye to Jennie Fytche, the Schools Worker in post for six years who did an incredible job, they are seeking God for the direction he wants to take them this year to support the local schools.

## SATURDAY 7

Pray for Content Assistant Jill Warren as she works on *Daily Bread* for October–December 2025, and as she builds relationships with new team members in the Development Hub.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 8

## SUNDAY 8

Pray that the seven-day Emerging Leaders conference planned by Scripture Union Fiji this month on the theme 'Just Like Jesus' will empower and inspire each of the 300 plus young leaders from around the Pacific who will attend.

Pray for God to place good friends and strong connections in their lives.



## MONDAY 9



Rhian Evans

Pray for the SU Cymru team, Rhian (new team leader), Jack, Keefe and Sian as they support churches, Faith Guides and Local Mission Partners. Give thanks for all the money raised through Keefe's fundraising bike challenge to support the work of SU Cymru.

## THURSDAY 12

Give thanks for our supporters. Many have given for a considerable time and have a rich history with SU and a passion for reaching a new generation of children and young people. Pray that as they bless us, so God will bless and encourage them.

## TUESDAY 10



Please pray for Rob Steward as he leads the SU North team, asking that he will have an awareness of God's continued

leading as he seeks to make new connections and forge new partnerships to enable a growth in ministry, so that more of the 95 can discover God's love for themselves.

## FRIDAY 13

Mission Partner **Soul Children** run exciting choirs to connect with children (see page 16). Pray for their Christmas performances, that the choirs will grow and that individual choir members will meet Jesus for themselves.

## SATURDAY 14



Database Officer Meri Suokas asks us to pray for wisdom in improving the SU database and in streamlining processes to improve the digital experience for both staff

and supporters. Pray for discernment about priorities and managing available resources. Pray too for good relationships with external suppliers.

## WEDNESDAY 11

In 2023, 5.5% of 11- to 16-years-olds said they often or always felt lonely.



# Just being there

.....

From our youth, many of us can recall inspiring Christians who walked with us, cheered us on, and inspired us to find faith ourselves. SU Mission Enabler Lucy Pearson shares why it's essential to take on that same role of faithful journeying with the next generation.



We started our SU Rooted group in 2016 in our home. It's nothing fancy – we use Rooted cards as a basis for discussion over a cuppa, or just a chat. But the young people in the group call it their 'family'. They say, 'Your home is our safe space where we feel welcome and calm.' They feel they belong.

.....  
“ The young people call  
the group ‘their family’ ”  
.....

Like all long-term youth ministry, it ebbs and flows. Sometimes, young people stop coming, and you don't hear from them for ages. One girl had a complex home situation. She stopped coming for several years but now she's returned and comes every week. And one lad joined at the start, then left, then came back for a while and has now gone again! But he knows we're still here for him and I hope he'll return again in due course.

By contrast, Stuart joined the group at the outset and never left. His family were new to church and so he had a steep learning curve, but he decided to follow Jesus. Now he's 20 and a young leader, helping with sports ministry in the community. Of the Rooted group, he told me, 'I felt welcomed. I built friendships I couldn't before and it helped massively when I had problems. It helped me overcome fears, be myself, and brought me closer to God.'

It's so important that we make our youth ministry a safe, consistent space where young people can be who they are and have someone listen, pray and just be there for them. They may come and go, but in a world where there is so little that can be relied upon, let's commit to being there for them in the day-to-day, year in, year out. We need to journey with them through all the seasons of their lives.



## WHAT IS ROOTED?

Go to [su.org.uk/rooted](https://su.org.uk/rooted) to discover more about creating safe spaces for children and young people to explore who they are, why they matter and the difference Jesus makes.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 15

## SUNDAY 15

SU Serbia give thanks for the encouragement brought by their young volunteers who were once participants in the camps and are now stepping up to serve the next generation. Pray that they will be open to learning and growing in ministry during the activities and training organised over the coming months and that their enthusiasm and dedication will inspire others.

## MONDAY 16

Pray for the SU staff team in the north as they support many Faith Guides who are taking the Christmas message into schools. Pray for the trial of new ideas that will allow the pupils to explore at lunchtime a Bible story that they have heard in an assembly earlier in the day.



## TUESDAY 17

Pray for Mission Partner **Graceworks** in Romford as their worker Bradley moves on after six years with the trust. Pray for new staff member Dupsy as she joins the team.

## WEDNESDAY 18

Pray that Technical Services Assistant James Gregg will have wisdom in making decisions around ever-changing IT security in a world where new threats emerge and have to be countered. Pray for continued protection over Scripture Union's IT.

## THURSDAY 19

Pray that the staff in the Mission Events team, the event leaders, and all our volunteers will have a good rest and receive spiritual refreshment over the Christmas break in preparation for another year of service with SU.

## FRIDAY 20



In giving thanks for a wonderful Finance team, Assistant Accountant Alicia Wallace asks us to pray that, as they face challenges in

what can be a pressured environment, their contributions would make the lives of those they serve easier, helping the movement to use the resources God gives wisely.

## SATURDAY 21

Earlier this year, we changed our warehousing and distribution supplier for our printed products. Thank God for positive working relationships with the new company and pray that smooth working relationships and operations will continue.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 22

## SUNDAY 22

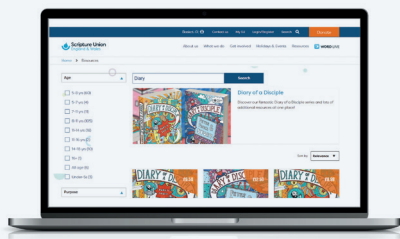
Pray that the Praise Camp taking place between Christmas and New Year in Basel and in which SU Switzerland is participating will be transforming for the 5,000 young people present as they meet with God.

## MONDAY 23

Please pray for Mission Partner **The Bus Stop** as they continue to develop their activities to help churches in the Diocese of York who don't yet have youthwork to 'jump-start' their work with children and young people.

## TUESDAY 24

Give thanks for the progress over the last few months as our Digital and Development Hub teams have worked together to create a new resources area on the website. Pray that, as hoped, it will open up the Revealing Jesus framework in fresh new ways, showcasing the resources that are available.



## WEDNESDAY 25

As we celebrate the coming of Jesus today, pray for all those children and

young people who have yet to experience the wonder of God stepping into our world to show his love and bring hope. Pray that churches will have fresh vision to share that good news with the 95.

## THURSDAY 26

Give thanks for the Mobilisation team who have worked hard all year to ensure that there is good communication with our supporters and volunteers and that they all feel valued. Pray that as they take a break over Christmas, they will gain fresh energy and vision for a fruitful year ahead.

## FRIDAY 27

Over 20% of 8–16s in the UK suffer with their mental health and most commonly anxiety. Pray for wisdom as we continue to journey with children and young people in the daily reality of this, and as we create space for them to meet Jesus in the midst of their challenges.



## SATURDAY 28

Please pray for our National Director Dave Newton, as he looks ahead to 2025 and all the potential it holds. Pray for wisdom, vision and clarity in this next season as we seek to extend our mission to reach the 95.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
DEC 29

## SUNDAY 29

Pray for the Regional Workers of SU Scotland as they set up Local Ministry Hubs for each of the high schools and primary schools across Scotland, gathering local Christians to pray for schools and explore ways in which they can serve them.

## MONDAY 30

A few months ago, the South West team took 24 hours away to pray, plan and give thanks for all the work they are supporting in the south west (which is seeing young lives changed as a direct result of their support of Faith Guides). Join the team in giving thanks for God's guidance and what they see him doing.

## TUESDAY 31



Mission Enabler Jenni Whymark has moved from the south east region to the central region. Pray that she will quickly make new connections and that

she will have wisdom in knowing which doors to push.

## WEDNESDAY 1

Pray for Chris Clark, village worker for Mission Partner **Coniston Christian Fellowship**. Ask for God's help as he seeks to share the good news of Jesus through clubs, schools work, and community involvement, working alongside the Parish Council to support warm spaces and to

respond to the needs of villagers.

## THURSDAY 2

Pray that as the new Revealing Jesus resource centre goes live on our website, it will result in many more people benefiting from our resources and framework as they aim to help the 95 meet Jesus.

## FRIDAY 3



Pray for Gemma Willis in her role as Head of Development Hub. Ask God to help her navigate the changes in the team during a time in which many systems are also changing.

## SATURDAY 4

Mission Partner **The Sports Factory** uses sport and fitness as a way of introducing people to Jesus. Pray that this ministry will grow and develop across Norfolk and beyond. Pray too for the team as they take a group they have been working with to Centre Parcs this January for sports activities and to look at who Jesus is.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 5

## SUNDAY 5

Pray that God will prosper the Bible engagement programme planned by SU Tanzania to reach primary and secondary schools in two of the country's regions – Manyara and Arusha.

## MONDAY 6

Jim Winning leads the Supporter Care team as they seek to serve all of Scripture Union's supporters. Pray for Jim and the team as they learn new processes and adapt to changes following the appointment of new distributors for our printed resources.

## TUESDAY 7

Applications for SU holiday and mission volunteers open this month. Last year there were over 1,200 volunteers giving up time (and sleep!) to serve children and young people. Pray for people considering serving this summer. Pray that the right people will come forward.

## WEDNESDAY 8



Pray for SU's Finance Controller, Craig Macpherson. Ask for wisdom as his team develops the systems to allow managers to have the best available financial information to hand, enabling them to effectively plan for future ministry and ensure good stewardship of our resources.



## THURSDAY 9

Pray for Mission Partner **Great Open Door** in Harlow as they start rehearsals for a new 40-minute programme in schools. Please pray for script development, robust props, suitable costumes and line learning. Pray that each delivery will shine with God's love so that every child will respond positively.

## FRIDAY 10

As we enter another year, pray that our Bible reading guides will continue to serve readers. Ask that through them, readers will gain new insights and find daily comfort and challenge, growing in their relationship with God and serving him effectively.

## SATURDAY 11



Pete Croall is the Mission Enabler for Berkshire, Essex and Hertfordshire. Please pray that his connections with Faith Guides will strengthen, so that he can continue to provide effective support to them as they reach out to children and young people.



# Songs that stir the soul

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How do you get a generation of young people without church connections to engage with Bible truths and the hope that Jesus offers? As some churches are discovering, thanks to your support, Soul Children could be the answer!



RACHEL

Soul Children is a community choir concept from Norway which introduces children and young people to faith through

singing music they can relate to. Christian musician Chip Kendall brought the concept to the UK and Soul Children UK is now an SU National Mission Partner.

‘I first heard about Soul Children in 2019 through a friend,’ recalls Rachel Harris, Children and Youth Co-ordinator at Buckshaw Village Church. ‘He was so excited! I less so – I was already so busy, and Soul Children felt too glitzy for our little church. But God changed my mind and finding a venue and volunteers

“ Soul children felt a little too glitzy for our church but... ”

happened so swiftly that I felt he was blessing this new venture.

‘We did a term of singing and loved it. Then lockdown came!’

But the choir kept going and currently has 25 children and young people aged 8 to 16. Rachel observes, ‘I love that Soul Children works in any context, for children of a wide range of ages and singing abilities, and whether or not they have a church background. While we have a musician co-leading the choir at Buckshaw, choir leaders don’t need to be musical as Soul Children provides the option of karaoke-style



tracks to sing along to. And, while the songs are the glue that hold everything together, we also include dance and games for variety.

## SOUL CHILDREN AND REVEALING JESUS

‘As a Faith Guide, I welcome how well Soul Children works with children at different stages of faith, all within the one group! The music makes the connection, the lyrics help children explore faith, and they can respond by worshipping God through the song rather than just performing it.

‘It also helps grow faith; each half term we learn one song really well. The faith-based lyrics are thought-provoking, and we get the children to reflect on what the words mean to them and how they might help them make sense of this complex world. The older children help lead those discussions (with supervision) because explaining the lyrics to the younger ones really helps them to think through what they believe too.’

The Soul Children group has gone so well that Rachel is hoping to encourage new choirs in the area in partnership with Blackburn Diocese. She’s now such a passionate advocate for Soul Children that she has become a Trustee on the Soul Children UK charity board!

‘Soul Children helps put faith in the hearts of children and not just their heads,’ Rachel says. ‘They carry on singing and reflecting on the songs all week.

‘One time, we were reflecting on a song called “We are the light”; it talks of Jesus being the light of the world, but also that we can be light too. We asked the children how could both of those things be true? One ten-year-old girl started bobbing up and down with excitement and blurted out, “He’s in me, so I’m the light because he’s shining through me!”

‘Being part of our Soul Children group had enabled her to understand that profound gospel truth. It was a moment that made my own heart sing with joy!’



## WANT TO BE PART OF THIS?

Chip Kendall, founder of Soul Children in the UK, says, ‘We currently have eight Soul Children choirs with more in the works, and we’d love to set up even more choirs across the country. Please visit [www.soulchildrenuk.com](http://www.soulchildrenuk.com) if you’re interested.’



WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 12

# Prayers

.....

Please pray for Rachel, Chip and the children who are drawing closer to God through Soul Children community choirs.

## SUNDAY 12

Give thanks to God for the wonderful gift of music and the way in which it can bring people of all ages together so well!

## MONDAY 13

Praise God for inspiring the development of Soul Children in Norway, and for enabling Chip Kendall to bring the concept to the UK.

## TUESDAY 14

Give thanks to God for the wonderful way in which Soul Children songs – both music and lyrics – are proving to reveal Jesus to children, particularly those without church backgrounds.

## WEDNESDAY 15

Please pray for the children in the Buckshaw Village Church Soul Children choir, that they will

continue to enjoy taking part in practices and performances and grow in their understanding of God.

## THURSDAY 16

Ask God to bless Rachel and Chip Kendall as they seek to encourage more churches across the country to start up Soul Children choirs.

## FRIDAY 17

Give thanks to God for the incredible variety of ways he is using to connect Faith Guides with children and young people including music, drama, arts, Rooted cards, sports and gaming!

## SATURDAY 18

Please pray that children with busy lives will have more opportunities and spaces to be able to connect through creative arts with the God who loves them.



# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 19

## SUNDAY 19

Pray for SU USA as it changes its contact management system asking for a smooth implementation. Pray too for the possibility of collaborating with Valley Forge University on expanding the use of their property.

## MONDAY 20

Pray for the staff team in the south east as they work with Faith Guides to build on the missional opportunities that came over Christmas. Pray that more churches will use those seasonal opportunities to spark intentional relationships with the 95 which will lead them on a journey to faith in Jesus.

## TUESDAY 21



Pray for Chloe Shivraj, SU's Safeguarding Manager, as she nurtures and develops a safeguarding culture

within the movement. Pray that policies will come to life, high-quality training will be delivered and a kingdom mindset will continue to develop towards those children and young people we serve.

## WEDNESDAY 22

The Scripture Union Retirees Network provides opportunities for fellowship for retired members of staff and volunteers. Pray for the networks' management group as



they plan a day in May for former members of staff and volunteers to meet, hear news of SU's ministry and pray together.

## THURSDAY 23

Join Tracy Jassal, Support Worker for the team in the south west, in giving thanks for the continuing development of relationships between herself, the staff team and their Mission Partners. Please pray for new connections to be made, as she endeavours to assist potential new Mission Partners who are wanting to reach out to the 95.

## FRIDAY 24



Pray for Jordan Cousins as he takes over from Jenni Whymark as Mission Enabler in the south east. Pray that he will quickly build the

relationships with fellow team members, Mission Partners and Faith Guides needed to serve effectively.

## SATURDAY 25

Pray for Mission Partner **Hunsley Christian Youth Trust** at the start of the new term. Pray especially for their new assistant worker Michael as he settles into his role with the trust.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
JAN 26

## SUNDAY 26

SU Laos gives thanks for the recent youth leader retreat. Pray that, as training on effective Bible reading ministry and leadership principles continues, these youth leaders will grow in their ability to lead others and to serve as strong examples of faith.

## MONDAY 27

A revised edition of *It's Your Move*, the guide for children moving to secondary school, is published this month. Pray for churches and groups who give this out in their local schools and communities, that they will find ways of sharing Jesus' love as they distribute the book.



## TUESDAY 28



Pray that SU's Young Leaders Enabler, Rachel Blake, will have wisdom as she seeks to widen the reach of the young leaders'

development programme. Give thanks for the many young people who come back, and pray we can encourage more young people to come as young leaders.

## WEDNESDAY 29

Sadly, the threats to our systems and data are real and it becomes ever more difficult to protect ourselves.

It's a core part of the Digital Solution Team's work that they make new and existing systems as secure as possible. Pray that the team will remain vigilant and focused.

## THURSDAY 30

Pray for Mission Partner **Cynllun Efe**. Ask for God to bless their work with children, young people and families, mainly within the catchment area of the Gwyrfaï and Peris valleys and the surrounding areas in the county of Gwynedd, north Wales.

## FRIDAY 31

The central region has links with SU Hungary and organise teams to share with SU Hungary in the Frontline Hungary Summer Camps during July. At these camps, young Hungarians come to improve their English skills and to learn about Jesus. Pray that volunteers will come forward for the English team.

## SATURDAY 1



Supporter Care Assistant John Cartwright asks us to pray that the final moves to integrate our technical systems with our

new warehouse supplier will be completed quickly and smoothly. Pray that this will lead to faster delivery of orders and subscriptions.



# Revealing Christ to Cornish children

.....

A top retirement and holiday destination, Cornwall is also home to 74,000 children and young people. God is opening doors to enable many more of them to hear about Jesus, as our Cornwall-based Revealing Jesus Pioneer Eddie Howlett explains.





Cornwall has a strong Christian history – there’s a myth that Jesus was brought here as a child on a visit by his

uncle, a tin merchant,

and there is evidence of early Christian settlements at Bodmin and Tintagel. John Wesley preached here over 30 times and there were several Methodist revivals. More recently, many new evangelical and charismatic churches have been planted.

Eddie observes, ‘There is huge support for SU – the locals know us through long-established beach missions at Perranporth and Polzeath. However, there is not much awareness of the other work SU does. I want to change that. My goal is to train and support a network of Faith

Guides right across Cornwall, so that thousands more children and young people get to encounter Jesus!

‘However, there are a few challenges. This is a very rural area, the churches tend to be quite small and thinly stretched, and the internet and mobile phone connections are pretty sporadic!

‘But there are also great strengths. For example, Cornish churches work across denominations to an extent I’ve not seen elsewhere. That’s helped me to make cross-denomination connections very quickly. And thanks to a lovely SU supporter who introduced me to the circuit superintendent of the local Methodist church, the Revealing Jesus framework is being rolled out across all 20 churches in that circuit! I’m also in discussion with another four Methodist circuits.



‘When I moved here at the end of 2023, there was one Faith Guide and one local mission partner (Bodmin Youth Project). Since then, nine more people have become Faith Guides and lots more have signed up for Mission Support. I’ve also been invited to mentor the mission ministry trainees from SWYM (South West Youth Ministries) using the Revealing Jesus framework.

‘So there’s been a real surge of interest and I’m running to keep up with all God is doing here!’

## LOOKING AHEAD

There are more plans in the pipeline too. Eddie says, ‘CreationFest (an annual Christian festival), SWYM, YWAM and Bible Society already host a joint event once a term for young people, mostly those without church connections, to introduce them to Jesus. Now I’m working with them and we’re planning a youth leaders’ breakfast for churches across the county which will take place at least once a year. I’ll hold workshops there to help equip those churches to connect with children and young people in their area, and help them explore, respond and grow in faith.’

“ I’m running to keep up with all God is doing here!”

Already, in just a few short months, Eddie’s work is starting to bear fruit in the lives of children and young people. Last April, he helped Bodmin Youth Project to run a three-day American Sports camp. ‘We wove the good news of Jesus into the sports activities,’ Eddie comments, ‘and of the 17 young people we connected with, 7 went on to do Youth Alpha through the churches, which was so encouraging!’



## CHURCHES IN OTHER AREAS URGENTLY WANT OUR SUPPORT - WILL YOU HELP?

Thousands of children and young people still aren’t getting to hear the good news of Jesus. We urgently need the resources to place additional Revealing Jesus Pioneers like Eddie in Wales, Central and South East regions. Each one can support up to 20 Faith Guides to journey towards faith with over 100 more children and young people a year. Please, if you can, make a gift at [su.org.uk/support](https://su.org.uk/support).

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
FEB 2

## SUNDAY 2

Give thanks for the first camp with deaf children, organised by SU South Africa and led by Phumi, staff worker with deaf children and young people. Pray for the growth and success of this ministry.

## MONDAY 3

Mission Partner **The Pimlico Foundation** is looking for a full-time youth worker. Please pray that they will be successful in recruiting the right person to enable the charity's work to continue to grow and develop. Pray too for their new community outreach projects.

## TUESDAY 4

The Digital Solutions team provides appropriate technology to support our Revealing Jesus strategy, including websites, cloud services and other IT. Pray for Technical Services Manager Ian Gooding as he plays his part in keeping our infrastructure secure and cost

effective while meeting the needs of staff, supporters and users.

## WEDNESDAY 5

Pray that the training workshops for holiday and mission teams taking place this month will equip team members to plan events which will be fun, safe and effective in introducing children and young people to Jesus.

## THURSDAY 6

Thank God for the administration staff who work quietly and efficiently behind the scenes in the Development Hub, ensuring that SU's resources are produced to high standards and on time.

## FRIDAY 7

Pray for the Scripture Union Board of trustees as they meet today, giving thought to the budget for the next financial year. Pray for wisdom and that they will have a clear understanding of God's priorities for the mission of the movement at this time.

## SATURDAY 8

Pray for Mission Partner **Impact Schools'** three part-time workers – Darren Mayor, Huw Ellis and Cara Garton – as they go into 30 primary and 3 high schools in North Powys doing assemblies. Pray that the Christian message will be thought-provoking and well received.





# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
FEB 9

## SUNDAY 9

Give thanks that more children have attended the SU Ghana camps this year than ever before and pray that each child who attended will continue to know God's love. Pray too for the provision of sites for future camps – an increasing challenge – and for funding to develop a multipurpose hall as part of the first phase of their campsite project.

## MONDAY 10



Pray that as Ruth Anderson, Sports and Faith Hub Coordinator, looks to complete the *Half Time* sports resource she may know God's

inspiration and help and will be able to produce a resource that helps grow the kingdom of God among the 95.

## TUESDAY 11

Around 30 per cent of all children in the UK are living in relative poverty. Pray for the local church as many of them continue to meet the practical needs of these children and families in their communities. Pray for discernment and creativity as we also seek to reveal Jesus to these children in a relevant way.

## WEDNESDAY 12

Pray that more volunteers will be called to start their journey as Faith Guides in Wales this year. Pray for wisdom for all the SU Cymru staff in



knowing how to manage their time working with others and as they look for effective ways to reach children and young people for Jesus in Wales.

## THURSDAY 13

Pray for Mission Partner **Hope Pembrokeshire** as they work with children, young people and families. Pray for them as they organise outreach clubs, activities and events for different ages, meeting the needs of the local community.

## FRIDAY 14



Pray for Mission Events Coordinator Heidi Beckham as she finalises the accounts for last year's missions, so that budgets can be prepared for this year (a key part of ensuring good stewardship and proper accountability).

## SATURDAY 15

Pray for Rooted junior lesson workshops that are rolling out across primary schools in the north. Pray that as children explore their spiritual journey at their own pace they will meet with Jesus.

# Prayers

WEEK  
BEGINNING  
FEB 16

## SUNDAY 16

Pray that new programmes initiated by SU Taiwan including the *Little Master of Golden Verses* and the *Children's Bible* animations will continue to inspire parents, children and church groups to engage with God's Word.

## MONDAY 17



Pray for Paul Folland in his early days as Head of Mission Events Operations. Pray that he will be able to support the smooth running of the missions and holidays programme, giving children and young people fantastic opportunities to connect with Jesus.

## TUESDAY 18

Thank God for the way in which he continues to meet our financial needs and for the supporters who give so generously. Pray that God will provide the funds to enable the ministry to grow so that more of the 95 can hear the good news of Jesus.



## WEDNESDAY 19

Please pray for Mission Partner

**Southampton City Mission's** first day conference on 1 March at Above Bar Church in Southampton. As a City Mission they are very excited to be able to bring teaching, training, discussion and equipping to those working with children, young people and adults.

## THURSDAY 20

Pray for the many millions of children in England and Wales who don't go to church, and don't yet know Jesus. Pray that churches will be inspired, equipped and empowered to step out and reveal Jesus to them effectively, relationally and impactfully, right where they are.

## FRIDAY 21

As work starts on the first issue of the 2026 Bible reading guides, pray for all who are involved in their production. Pray that although the work is being done many months ahead, writers and editors will be able to apply Scripture to the needs and context of readers.

## SATURDAY 22

Please pray for Rhian Evans who has been settling into her new role as National Mission Co-ordinator for Wales since October. Pray for wisdom and guidance as she leads the Scripture Union Cymru team and works to develop SU's mission in Wales along with local mission partners.

# So hungry for God's Word!

.....

Dave Newton reflects on the visits he made to some of our holidays and missions over the summer...

'At one holiday, a teenage girl came racing across the field waving her yellow Bible, wanting to ask me a question about Isaiah.

I answered her question as best I could, then I asked her, "How come you're reading Isaiah?" She said, "Well I've read the New Testament, so I thought I'd better read the Old Testament, and this is where I'm up to."

So, then I asked, "How long have you been a Christian?" Judging from the state of her Bible, which was clearly well used with lots of scribbles in the margins, I presumed she had been following Jesus for some time.

She told me she had come to faith three months previously and had been given the Bible at her baptism six weeks ago! What a huge encouragement it was to meet a young person who was so hungry for God's Word!

Scan the QR code or head to [su.org.uk/summer24](https://su.org.uk/summer24) to read more of Dave's reflections and enjoy some wonderful photos.

