

Geoff's news and prayer update

March 2026

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth (Psalm 121:2).



Help when needed

The last six months have been both exciting and very challenging at the same time. It has been a time of change and adjustment both personally and within my work. I have attempted to outline some of those changes and challenges below.

The verse above has become very special to me recently as it is such a great reminder about where our help comes from. And the one providing that help is well able to do so as he is the 'maker of heaven and earth'.

Looking back

Stamfordham Holiday Club

During the summer I helped to lead the holiday club once again. We had a great time exploring stories from the book of Daniel. Since the summer we have also run three 'Holiday Club Extra' events. At the last one in January as a team we commented how this model is working so well. We now see the same children and young people throughout the year and it is great to see them developing their understanding of the gospel – as well as asking some fantastic questions.

Please do pray that the children and young people we see throughout the year would continue to come along and want to find out more about Jesus. Please also pray for all of the planning and preparation of the Extra events in March and June and the holiday club in July.

Young Leader Development

Back in August (which seems a very long time ago now) we had four young people serving at Young Leaders at Edale Adventure. It was so good to see them stepping up this year and taking a more active role in delivering part of the programme for the children. It was a privilege to support them in this and to see their confidence and faith grow as they did so.



I was also involved in the brand-new young leaders weekend away in November. We took 13 young leaders away to a residential centre in Birmingham and had great fun helping them develop their leadership and Bible handling skills.



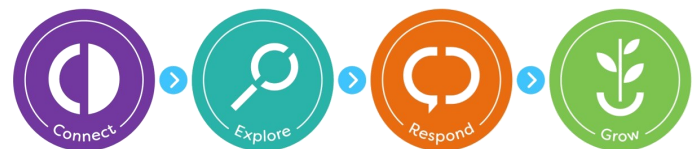
Young Leaders at Elevate creating an Old Testament washing line timeline

They also took part in some outdoor activities including archery, climbing and 'tubing' (sliding down a dry ski slope in a large rubber ring).

Please pray that each of these young leaders would continue to grow in their faith, make an impact in their own communities as disciples of Jesus and seek out opportunities for service. We are also looking to expand the young leader programme at Edale this summer, so please do pray for wisdom and provision as we do this.

Supporting Faith Guides

One of my key local responsibilities is to support a growing number of Faith Guides. This usually involves meeting up with them and providing opportunities to reflect on their work and consider how they can grow their impact in reaching out to children and young people outside of the church. We then discuss how they can help those they are working with to move along the Connect, Explore, Respond and Grow journey. I might also support them as they begin something new and offer practical help in the early stages.



As a team we are also helping a group of Salvation Army Faith Guides as they develop their mission activities.

Please pray that I would be able to support all of the Faith Guides well and have wisdom as I help them to reflect on their work. Please also pray that I would know how to offer this support to more churches.

Retreat on Lindisfarne

The big challenge that I faced in the autumn was the passing of my dad. He was unwell for a short period and died at the end of October. This was obviously very hard for us all. However, we are so grateful that we were able to see the Lord's hand of provision, comfort and care for us in so many ways.



One example of this was the four days that I was able to have on Holy Island at the beginning of December. This had been planned for months, but was incredibly timely. It was a great time to rest, reflect, grieve, walk and pray. I was particularly struck by this plaque I discovered on the tiny St Cuthbert's Island, adjacent to the main island.

Looking ahead

New Role - National Schools Lead

The other significant change that has taken place in the last few months is that I have been asked to take on new responsibilities as the SU National Schools Lead. This is a two day per week role and is all about helping many more churches across England and Wales develop impactful connections with schools. There are three main areas of focus:

Training: Already I have coordinated our online schools work training and have updated all of the training materials. Over time, I will be developing a greater range of training opportunities to equip those going into schools.

Resources: I will also be working with our Mission Resources team to ensure that we continue to have a range of high-quality, relevant and appropriate resources for use in schools, of which Shine Films are a great example.



Networking: I will be liaising with other organisations who are involved with schools ministry to make sure that churches are making the most of the opportunities that they have to connect with their local schools.

I am really excited about this role and feel that it fits very well with my skills, experience and passions. It is, however, very daunting.

Please pray for wisdom as I develop these three areas as well as juggling my other responsibilities, both locally and regionally.

Family news

As previously mentioned my dad died in October and this has had a big impact on us all in the time since. We were very grateful that Joel, Rose, Hannah and Ben were all able to visit dad during October and had some special moments with him.

In January, Joel started a new job as a design engineer at Rolls Royce in Derby. He is thoroughly enjoying that. Rose is also enjoying her job at the small CofE primary school.

Hannah and Ben are getting married in Gateshead on 30th May so things are very busy for them with loads of planning and preparation to do. Hannah will also be looking for a new job for September.

Sarah's work continues to be busy but rewarding and she has enjoyed welcoming some new coaches to her team this term.

Please pray for us as we support my mum at this time. Please also pray for Hannah and Ben as they plan their wedding and that everything would come together.

Supporters Evening

We recently held a really enjoyable evening for people in the North who support the work of SU through prayer and giving. If you'd like a recording of this, please contact me using the email address below.

THANKS
so much for
your ongoing
support

Prayer



Please use the pointers throughout this letter as you pray for the work I am involved with. Additionally, to ensure you have up-to-date information to guide your prayers, please visit this page from time to time: www.su.org.uk/GeoffB

Thank you – your support is enormously appreciated.



Geoff Brown, Mission Enabler

24 South Hill Road, Gateshead,
Tyne and Wear, NE8 2XZ

E: GeoffB@scriptureunion.org.uk

T: 01908 856016

W: www.su.org.uk/GeoffB

Scripture Union

www.scriptureunion.org.uk

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

T: 01908 856000 **E:** info@scriptureunion.org.uk