

SUMMER 2026

# CONNECTING YOU



Scripture  
Union

## A NEW DAWN

Hope in the Forest of Dean

## ELEVATE

Equipping young Christians to speak boldly

## GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

40 years of schools ministry impact!



## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

21-27 June

### SUNDAY 21

Thank God for the volunteers leading lunchtime groups in schools in New South Wales. Ask him to stir curious hearts among students, encourage bold and respectful conversations and strengthen volunteers as they faithfully share the good news each week.

### MONDAY 22

Pray for Craig McPherson as he leads the Finance team. In particular, pray for a new process for managing holidays and missions' expenses that they're working on with the Holidays and Events team. Pray that this will make the running of these key events smoother and enable swifter financial reporting.

### TUESDAY 23

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Pray for Content Editor Jill Warren Ellis as she works on *Daily Bread* April–June 2027 (finalising the content, checking the detail and ensuring that it goes to press on time), and as she works on some exciting new resources for children and young people.



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28 June - 4 July

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Pray for Lead Researcher Sarah Holmes heading up the Taking the Pulse research project, aiming to hear from as many voices as possible about their experiences of ministry

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**PLUS** don't miss our pull-out summer event planner – helping you pray for SU holidays and missions.

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*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: [su.org.uk/connectingyou](http://su.org.uk/connectingyou). If you have a story for *Connecting You*, or a suggestion on how we could improve our service to you, please contact the editor: [eddiem@scriptureunion.org.uk](mailto:eddiem@scriptureunion.org.uk)

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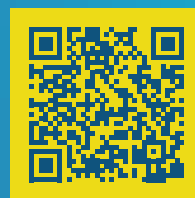
## DID YOU KNOW?

We've been doing this for generations! SU's mission is far from new – we've helped churches reach children and young people for over 150 years.

From camps to mentoring, holiday clubs to digital resources – everything we do is Bible-based, gospel-driven, and shaped by faith in Jesus.

What began in London in 1867 has grown into a global movement across more than 120 countries.

[su.org.uk/history](http://su.org.uk/history)



**#DISCOVERSU**

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## SU GLOSSARY

Not sure what some of the terms used in this magazine mean? Take a look at our helpful glossary at [su.org.uk/glossary](http://su.org.uk/glossary)

# DEPENDABLE SERVANTS DEPEND ON JESUS



I hope you like the fresh new look for *Connecting You*. While things may have changed here, our mission remains firmly the same – **to reveal Jesus to the next generation** – because knowing Jesus changes everything!

And wherever, however that takes place – in a small rural church, on a windswept beach, at a local school – we are reminded of the simple but profound truth Jesus teaches us: ‘Apart from me you can do nothing’ (John 15:5).

Yet when God’s people persistently pray, serve and step forward in faith, even small acts become seeds of the kingdom, helping to raise up a new generation with a vibrant faith in Jesus.

We see it in the quiet perseverance of our growing number of Faith Guides, working week in week out to reveal Jesus in their setting. We see



**APART FROM ME YOU CAN  
DO NOTHING.”**

JOHN 15:5

it in the many SU staff, local mission partners and volunteers who have served, sometimes for decades, echoing Paul’s encouragement: ‘Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord’ (1 Corinthians 15:58). We see it in the joy of holidays and missions, where volunteers discover afresh that ‘the harvest is plentiful’ (Luke 10:2). And we see it in young leaders rising with courage, just as Paul urged Timothy: ‘Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young’ (1 Timothy 4:12).

As we give thanks for all God is doing among us – and for every supporter who prays, gives and encourages – we hold onto the promise that his Word never returns empty (Isaiah 55:11). My hope is that these stories inspire us to keep stepping forward in faith, confident that God multiplies every offering, every prayer and every act of love for his purposes.

God bless,

Dave Newton, National Director

# A NEW DAWN IS COMING

Faith Guide Jonathan Kear is passionate about helping more children and young people discover Jesus, grow in faith and make him known to others in the beautiful Forest of Dean. While there are many challenges, Jonathan believes there is also real reason for hope.



**‘I’ve lived in the Forest of Dean for much of my life. Sadly, as in many rural areas, churchgoing has drastically declined since the 1990s. Around 100 mostly small churches now serve 88,000 people.**

Many congregations are ageing and struggling simply to keep the church going, let alone do outreach. Each year, another church closes; therefore many feel they’re competing to avoid being “that one”.

In 2019, Jonathan was invited to lead Forest New Life Church in Parkend. With around 35 members, it was a larger than average church for the area, but at the time had no children or young people. The congregation were earnestly praying for this to change.

Jonathan helped them to start a Wednesday toddler group. ‘Now, we welcome 40 children a week, with about 120 families connecting each year,’ says Jonathan. ‘There is no formal faith content, but our helpers chat about faith when opportunities arise – such as when a dad asked why we don’t celebrate Hallowe’en.

‘However, many mums stop coming when they return to work after maternity leave. For them, we started a Saturday group, followed by the option of staying on for “Baby and Toddler Church” with Bible-based songs, stories and simple crafts. Most of the 20 families stay, which is really encouraging.

‘Few of the parents have a church background, yet they’re dancing with their children to the songs. One mum told me her toddler calls it “Great Big God Church” after a song we sing! And parents are asking for links to online song videos we use, because their children want to sing them again at home.



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CONNECTING EACH YEAR.”**

**JONATHAN**



‘We include a prayer activity – we give everyone a little silk petal and pass a basket around into which they drop the petal and say a little prayer. It’s not just the children who take part – parents are praying out loud and thanking God. I hope that they’re learning to pray together at home too.’

‘God has opened doors to us that other churches dream about!’

### WHAT NEXT?

Many of the Saturday toddlers will soon start school, so Jonathan is working with his SU Mission Enabler Jenni Whymark to explore what activities to offer them next. ‘She can access the knowledge and experience of the whole SU network, so having her advice and support is great.’

Jonathan also has a wider ministry across the Forest of Dean. He hosts monthly prayer breakfasts to encourage church children and youth workers. ‘Our visiting speakers include Scripture Union – many of the churches use their materials and because they know and love SU, it helps forge that unity we so need.’

With a group of local churches, he also helps bring together young Christians from across the area. ‘Often, there may be only one or two in a church. They need to feel part of something bigger so we hold monthly events. For children, we have “X:site”, formerly an SU event, now run by us. For teens we have a worship event called “Branch” – young people come from up to 15 miles away and bring friends along too.’

‘We are seeing God’s Spirit at work in the next generation. Light dispels darkness – and I believe we’re beginning to see dawn touching the tops of the trees.’

**“  
GOD HAS OPENED DOORS TO  
US THAT OTHER CHURCHES  
DREAM ABOUT!”**

**JONATHAN**

We would love to support you, just like we support Jonathan. Complete the simple form at [su.org.uk/chat](https://su.org.uk/chat) and we’ll arrange for someone from your local team to be in touch to chat about how we can help.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

24-30 May

**Please pray for Jonathan and other Faith Guides in rural areas who face particular challenges in revealing Jesus to children and young people.**

### SUNDAY 24

Praise God that, through Jonathan and the Forest of Dean churches he works with, young Christians are growing in faith and children whose families have no church connections are learning about Jesus.

### MONDAY 25

Resources and volunteers in small rural churches are often thinly spread. Please pray for God to guide Faith Guide Jonathan in how best to spend his time as he reveals Jesus to children and young people.

### TUESDAY 26

Jonathan is hosting a holiday club later this summer. Please pray

for more volunteers to help, and that many children will attend, both those with and without church connections, and learn more about God's love for them.

### WEDNESDAY 27

Praise God that even in the smallest rural churches, he is present and able to do more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work in us (Ephesians 3:20).

### THURSDAY 28

'I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name' (Revelation 3:8). Please pray for God to encourage those in rural churches and to renew their strength even when there are setbacks.

### FRIDAY 29

Give thanks to God for Jenni Whymark and other Mission Enablers for the support and encouragement they are able to give to those Faith Guides in rural areas who might otherwise feel very isolated.



### SATURDAY 30

Please pray for God to raise up Faith Guides in many more rural churches, so that children and young people in those areas don't miss out on learning about Jesus.

# FOR YOUR PRAYERS

31 May-6 June

## SUNDAY 31

Pray for the June camps being run by SU Tanzania asking for more volunteers with hearts to serve and work together for the sake of the gospel and for strong partnerships with local churches.

## MONDAY 1

Pray for National Mission Partner **Festive** as they support Christians in further education and sixth forms. Give thanks for summer rest and mission opportunities and pray for God to open new doors for successful recruitment of new students into the network.

## TUESDAY 2

Pray that God will give Donor Relations Officer Aaron Hayford wisdom as he develops new ways to grow financial support for Scripture Union and that God will help him build strong, healthy relationships with colleagues and supporters.

## WEDNESDAY 3

Thank God for all the volunteers who give their time and energy to serve on events, missions and holidays helping children and young people to discover Jesus' love. Pray that God will guide them as they prepare to serve this summer.



## THURSDAY 4

*Leap of Faith* (for primary ages) and *Step of Faith* (designed for 12-16s) are new, freely available assembly resources developed by the Mission Resources team and SU schools' specialists. Pray that they will be widely and effectively used and will help pupils to see that there is another dimension to life.

## FRIDAY 5

Pray for Fi Messenger, Children and Families worker with Mission Partner **Archway Trust** in Northamptonshire, and the volunteers and Flourish leaders as they work in village schools and run activities, craft clubs, prayer spaces, holiday clubs and toddler groups.

## SATURDAY 6

Pray for Holidays and Missions Coordinator Claire Baines as, along with the rest of the Holiday and Missions team, she supports serving volunteers as well as the children and young people who attend events (and their parents). Pray that this will result in well-run events across the summer, enabling many to grow in faith.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

7-13 June

### SUNDAY 7

Thank God for the new opportunities presented by the Glen Cairn campsite which has passed into the care of SU South Africa. Pray that God will give wisdom, and it will be a place of blessing to many.

### MONDAY 8

Pray for Mission Partner **GenR8** as they support schools and churches across Cambridgeshire and North Hertfordshire. Give thanks for the 14 Permanent Prayer Spaces and ask God to bless Siân, Janet, and local volunteers. Pray for strong partnerships between churches and local schools.

### TUESDAY 9

Pray for churches preparing to use the *Kingdom Builders* resource to run holiday clubs this summer. Pray that as they explore stories about Jesus and his kingdom from Matthew's Gospel,

many children will learn more about Jesus and come to trust him.

### WEDNESDAY 10

Pray for more churches to hear about Scripture Union and the outreach and discipleship support our teams and resources offer them. Ask that our marketing messages will reach the right people and will encourage new and deeper connections.

### THURSDAY 11

Thank God for our supporters who are so generous with their prayers and financial support. Pray that the current fundraising campaign will be well received, and that supporters will understand the needs and be moved to give generously.

### FRIDAY 12

Mission Partner **MAST** in Matlock give thanks for their new worker Rachel. Pray for the establishment

of stronger links with local churches so that the good relationships made with children through Collective Worship and Walk through the Bible might lead to lunchtime or after school clubs.

### SATURDAY 13

Amplify Academy trains and empowers young people to share faith with their peers. Pray for Regional Mission Support Worker Emma Price as she works on processing bookings for the 2026/27 cohort. Pray that the programme of residentials and small groups will give them new confidence to share Jesus.





# ELEVATE: EQUIPPING YOUNG CHRISTIANS TO SERVE

The first Christians ‘spoke the word of God boldly’ (Acts 4:31) – and it was key to establishing the early church. Rachel Blake, SU’s Young Leader Enabler, hopes that *Elevate*, our new training weekend, will help raise up a new generation of young Christians to do the same today.

Many young people who discover Jesus can't wait to share him with others. It's vital that we invest in them so they can do that well. They can come as team on our holidays and missions and learn leadership skills – and we've designed Elevate to enhance that learning.

We piloted it last November in Birmingham; 13 young Christians met up with SU staff who would train and equip them. At the young leaders' request, we focused on knowing how to hear God, how to use the Bible well with children and young people, and knowing your identity, plus optional sessions on topics such as leadership challenges and communication. We did archery, tubing and climbing too to help them bond as a group, which they did really well.



Pray for young Christians learning leadership skills on this summer's SU holidays and missions, and for more young leaders to sign up (they can use it towards their gold Duke of Edinburgh award).

[su.org.uk/youngleaders](https://su.org.uk/youngleaders)



Look out for our next fundraising appeal towards the end of June, sharing stories from young leaders and inviting you to support this vital work.

Here are some of the key things young leaders told us they learned from *Elevate*:

- **'...God can still use us despite our imperfections and differences.'**
- **'...God can speak to us in more than just big visions and dreams.'**
- **'To hear God, spend more time with him and get familiar with his voice.'**
- **'God has plans and a purpose for each one of us.'**
- **'Take the bad clothes (bad habits) off then put on the new clothes (qualities) God wants; don't put on the good habits without taking off the bad ones.'**
- **'God is always willing to answer – it just might not be straight away or in the way you expect.'**

One young leader reports that when a friend had said, 'I don't know how to hear God speaking to me', she got out her notes from *Elevate* and said, 'Well let me show you; I've got a whole list'!



**GOD HAS PLANS AND A PURPOSE FOR EACH ONE OF US."**

# FOR YOUR PRAYERS

14-20 June

## SUNDAY 14

SU Singapore is relaunching the Basic Youth Ministry Training this year. Pray for wisdom for the trainers and that every participant might be strengthened and equipped for effective and faithful youth ministry.

## MONDAY 15

The team in the north of England have a heart to multiply the number of churches catching the vision of revealing Jesus. Pray that they will make the right contacts, see growth and experience increasing depth in regional partnerships.



## TUESDAY 16

Please pray for Revealing Jesus Pioneer Kate Cope as she supports Faith Guides in the

Nottinghamshire area, helping them discern how best to disciple children and young people without church backgrounds. Pray that the Faith Guides will have growing confidence as they serve their local communities.

## WEDNESDAY 17

The Forge is a new mentoring programme, developed in partnership with M10. The Forge aims to equip men in the church to walk alongside lads in their communities, supporting them as they explore faith, life and purpose. Pray that this will result in lasting transformation in the lives of young men.

## THURSDAY 18

Pray for Marketing Officer Eric De Souza, asking God to give him creativity, clarity and wise strategies as he communicates SU's mission and promotes resources

for ministry. Pray that his work will foster genuine engagement, open hearts and build lasting connections.

## FRIDAY 19

All Together Now which begins today is a residential weekend aimed at families with fostered or adopted children. Pray that through fun activities, making new connections and cheering one another on they will learn about Jesus, as families.

## SATURDAY 20

Mission Partner **Doncaster Schools Worker Trust** gives thanks for expansion of the primary schools work involving Linda Gardner, Helen Acton and Ellie O'Leary. Pray for *It's Your Move* sessions with Year 6 children, and for secondary schools worker Dan Budhi as he hosts a team of interns for two months.

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## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

5-11 July

### SUNDAY 5

Pray that as the trustees and senior staff team of SU Isle of Man review the outcomes of their recent research, God will give wisdom and clarity in shaping their strategic plan for the next 3-5 years and that the assemblies being delivered in over 20 primary schools will inspire and plant seeds of faith.

### MONDAY 6

Rob Steward has recently stepped back into a full-time role as Regional Team leader in the north. Pray for insight, clear thinking and guidance as he leads the team, and helps grow ministry in the region, developing new contacts and building new relationships.

### TUESDAY 7

Each year we safely recruit over 1,000 volunteers by taking references, obtaining police clearances and

checking application forms. Pray that all will go smoothly as the Missions and Events team process the final volunteer applications for the summer.



### WEDNESDAY 8

Pray that Database Officer Meri Suokas will be able to turn complex data into clear insights that help guide decision-making and ensure that we use our resources effectively – all so that more children and young people can hear the good news of Jesus in ways that fit their context.

### THURSDAY 9

*So, What Next?* is a resource for children and young people who have made decisions to follow Jesus. Pray that the three

different age-related publications (from age five to teenage) will help readers develop a growing relationship with Jesus.

### FRIDAY 10

Pray that the work being done in partnership with Grace Foundation to develop the *Schoolswork Foundations* course will result in many churches being trained and resourced to minister effectively in secondary schools. The project, which launches this autumn, brings together practical experience, an understanding of the current context and proven resources.

### SATURDAY 11

Pray that in a world of increasing IT security challenges, Technical Analyst James Gregg will know God's protection and wisdom as he manages our IT security and ensures compliance to Cyber Essentials Plus.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

12-18 July

### SUNDAY 12

Pray that new Bible workbooks produced by SU in German-speaking Switzerland will reach those who are new to the Bible, and help them grow in faith. Pray too for God's direction as they consider their vision for an interactive Bible experience.

### MONDAY 13

Pray for the final two months of the south region's mission equipping course in partnership with South West Youth Ministries (SWYM). Pray that the participants will apply learning with wisdom and courage and for Anna and Prince as they lead the course.

### TUESDAY 14

Mission Partner Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust thanks God for the *It's Your Move* lessons with Year 6 pupils this term and for churches who sponsor *It's Your Move* books. Pray that the

books will help pupils moving to secondary school to navigate the move successfully as they discover how Jesus can help them.

### WEDNESDAY 15

Pray that as the Board meets today, the trustees and Leadership team will together have a clear sense of what God is saying and understand his direction. Pray that they will know the most effective ways of ensuring that the movement complies with legal requirements and conforms to best practice while keeping the focus on mission.

### THURSDAY 16

Pray for Sports Mission Pioneer and Activate Coordinator Koko Koleni. Ask that he would know God's leading, that opportunities to reach those who have never heard the good news will increase, and that more of the children and young people

he works with would encounter Jesus through the Bible.

### FRIDAY 17

Pray for our first holidays that begin soon – Submerge, Lager Advance and Great Wood Experience. Pray that through the activities, the friendships and the engagement with the Bible young people will have a life-changing encounter with Jesus.



### SATURDAY 18

Pray that the volunteers presenting RE lessons with Mission Partner **Faith in Schools in Newham** will help pupils, many from other faiths, to explore what it means to live as authentic 21st century Christians.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

19-25 July

### SUNDAY 19

Pray for the many Vacation Bible School programmes that will be run by SU India asking for guidance for the leaders and volunteers, that all will be kept safe and that many children and young people will meet Jesus in new and life-giving ways.

### MONDAY 20

Pray for the beach missions at Sutton on Sea and Minnis Bay, and at Abersoch, Nefyn and Criccieth on the North Wales coast. Pray for meaningful conversations with the children, young people and parents who engage with the missions in any way.



### TUESDAY 21

Pray for Assistant Accountant Alicia

Wallace as she administers gifts earmarked for other SU movements around the world, liaising monthly with workers from other countries. Pray for continued good communication and that the gifts will benefit the ministry of other movements.

### WEDNESDAY 22

Pray for Mission Partner **Regeneration's** *It's Your Move* school transition workshops in July across Harrow, supporting pupils as they move to secondary school. Pray that the sessions will encourage and reassure the children and that God will grant them favour as they connect with schools.

### THURSDAY 23

The central region provides catered villages for Faith Guide groups and small youth groups at the DTI and Limitless Festivals (29 July-10 August). This year, they are adding

pitch side seminars in sports ministry to the programme. Pray that these events will result in some starting a journey with Jesus and others growing in faith.

### FRIDAY 24

Pray for Prince Laryea, Regional Mission Team Leader in the south, who faces a busy season of travel, visiting and encouraging churches. Pray for energy, safe journeys and for new doors to open for mission and ministry among children and young people.

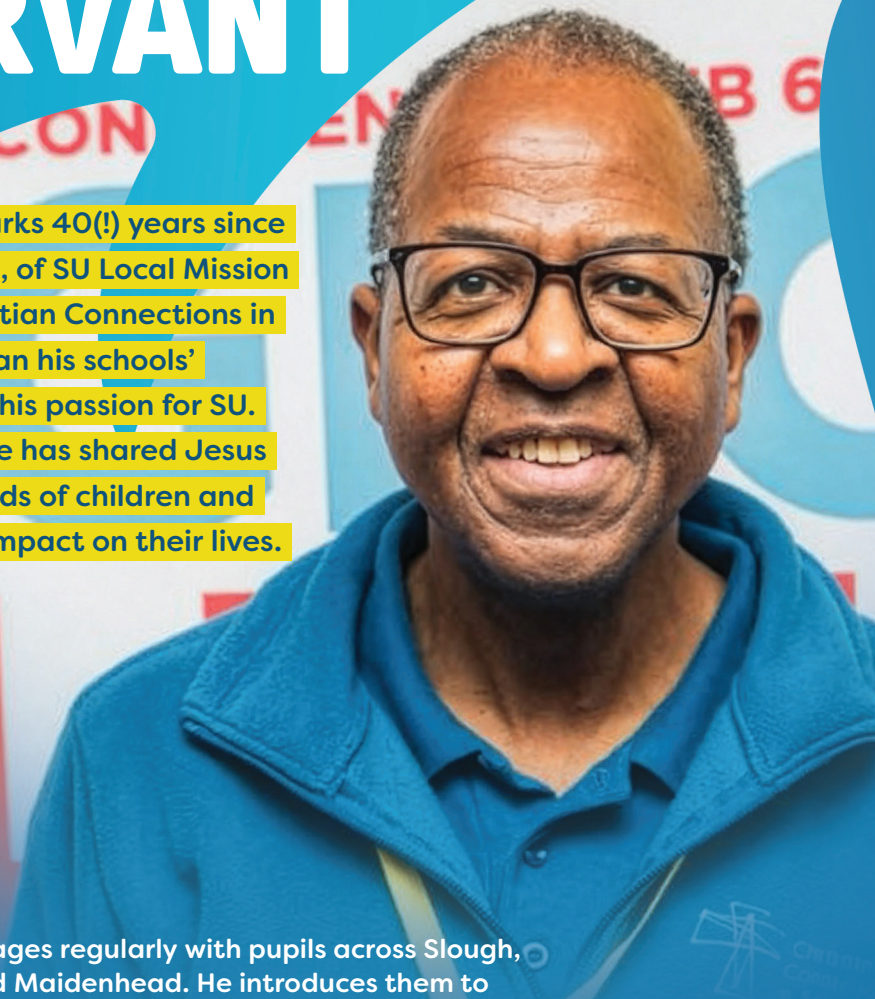
### SATURDAY 25

Pray for Scripture Union's Local Mission Partners in their work to serve children and young people asking that God will strengthen their mission, guide their projects, and bless their efforts to reveal Jesus, responding faithfully to local needs.

# GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

This June marks 40(!) years since Wayne Dixon, of SU Local Mission Partner Christian Connections in Schools, began his schools' ministry and his passion for SU. Since then, he has shared Jesus with thousands of children and had a huge impact on their lives.

Wayne engages regularly with pupils across Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead. He introduces them to Jesus through *Christmas Unwrapped* and *Easter Cracked* presentations and in the summer term he uses SU's *It's Your Move* to help Year 6 pupils transition from primary to secondary school. He also does assemblies, RE lessons and 'Hanging Around Ministry', chatting to pupils and staff at proms, events and in the common room.



# IN 2025 ALONE, WAYNE REVEALED JESUS TO OVER 3,400 CHILDREN IN MORE THAN 50 SCHOOLS!

## KEY MILESTONES

**Early life (1970s):** ‘As a child, I loved sport – so when London City Mission (LCM) invited me to their midweek sports-based club, I went! It was my first connection to faith, and so I try to relate to pupils through their interests too.



‘At LCM’s New Year’s Eve service in 1976, I decided to follow Jesus. Soon after, my parents split up. I blamed God, but a caring Christian couple listened and didn’t judge me, which had a huge impact. That’s why I started “Hanging Around Ministry”, to do the same for staff and pupils – and of course I’ll talk about Jesus, if there’s an opportunity! At a prom recently, a lad asked what advice I’d give him – I said “Consider Jesus”.’

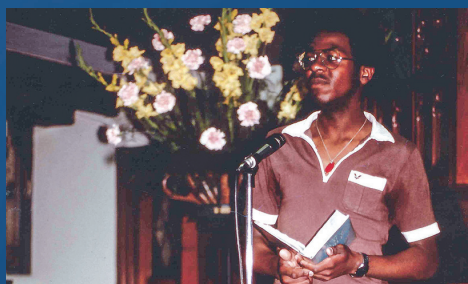


**1980s:** ‘I’d been going through the motions of faith, but that changed at Spring Harvest 1983. Back home, I joined a church, got baptised and went on my first SU sports holiday. Then I came to Slough to do a business studies course – and never left!

“**AT LCM’S NEW YEAR’S EVE SERVICE IN 1976, I DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS. SOON AFTER, MY PARENTS SPLIT UP. I BLAMED GOD, BUT A CARING CHRISTIAN COUPLE LISTENED AND DIDN’T JUDGE ME, WHICH HAD A HUGE IMPACT.”**

WAYNE

‘In 1984, I was invited back to the SU holiday to help on the team. In 1986, I did my first school assembly. I felt God calling me to schools ministry, so I contacted SU and started with them in 1988.’



**1990s:** ‘The Zach Rap is born! Three pupils I knew wrote it after I related Zach’s story (Luke 19:1–9), as part of a series I do on “People Jesus met”. I’ve performed the rap in schools, churches, town centres and at Spring Harvest.’  
To watch it, scan the QR code on the next page.

**2000–2020s:** Wayne’s vibrant ministry in schools continues and shows no signs of slowing down! In February 2026, Wayne was awarded the Long Service Award at the Hand in Hand children’s ministry conference, in recognition of his dedication to revealing Jesus to the next generation.

Our National Director, Dave Newton, described Wayne’s long ministry as ‘nothing short of inspiring’, and we agree – let’s thank God for faithful

servants like Wayne and ask God to raise up even more people like him.

**Wayne’s favourite Bible verse:** ‘Luke 23:34 where on the cross Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” I’ll share that verse in schools to highlight how different Jesus is, the incredible grace he showed. That moment was so pivotal – without Jesus’ death and resurrection we would have no purpose, no hope, no eternal life.’

**Across generations:** ‘I often hear from the pupils of today how their parents recall knowing me from their own school days!’

**What I love about my work:** ‘I get to share God’s love with young people, many of whom have no connection with a church.’

“

**FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING.”**

LUKE 23:34



## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

26 July - 1 August

**Please pray for all who give faithful long-term service to God through Scripture Union, helping to reveal Jesus to a new generation.**

### SUNDAY 26

Praise God for blessing and directing Wayne Dixon's life – from first hearing the gospel as a child and finding faith as a teenager to his long ministry revealing Jesus to school pupils and staff across Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead.

### MONDAY 27

Please pray for the thousands of children and young people with whom Wayne has shared Jesus over the decades. Ask God to give them continued opportunities to explore faith, respond and grow in their understanding.

### TUESDAY 28

Please pray for God to continue to bless Wayne's ministry as he prepares to connect

with new groups of pupils at the start of the academic year in September.

### WEDNESDAY 29

With so many of the next generation being open to exploring faith, please pray for God to raise up more faithful servants like Wayne with the same passion 'to preach the gospel where Christ was not known' (Romans 15:20) so that more children and young people might develop a vibrant faith in Jesus.



### THURSDAY 30

Praise God for all who faithfully serve him through Scripture Union – staff, trustees, volunteers, Faith Guides and Local Mission Partners. Give thanks for how God has

blessed each person with unique skills, gifts and opportunities to reveal Jesus to the next generation.

### FRIDAY 31

Please pray for all the volunteers helping on SU holidays and missions this year. Whether they have been assisting for years or are on a team for the first time, ask God to bless them as they show children and young people what it is to live a life of faith.

### SATURDAY 1

Please ask God to renew the strength of all serving him through Scripture Union, so that they can continue to share Jesus with children and young people who so need to know his love.



Scan to  
watch The  
Zach Rap

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

2-8 August

### SUNDAY 2

Pray that God will guide the expansion plans of SU Canada (English-speaking) particularly the development of sports clubs. Pray for meaningful and fruitful partnerships with local churches in every province across Canada.

### MONDAY 3

As we enter the busiest month of the year for missions and holidays, give thanks for those events that have finished and pray that the seeds sown will be watered and grow. Pray for the events to come asking for strength and wisdom for volunteers and for genuine encounters with Jesus.

### TUESDAY 4

Please pray for Rachel Warwick (Director of Mobilisation) and the team as they consider how best to build on the strategic work they have invested in over

the past two years. Ask that this will lead to stronger engagement with a greater number of churches, ultimately enabling more children to discover Jesus.

### WEDNESDAY 5

Please pray for Spot and Make the Difference, Activ8, Great Dayz, Lager and Unlimited holidays - with 200 guests and 60 volunteers out on events this week, ask God for safety and pray that communities will form in which the love of Jesus can be shared.



### THURSDAY 6

Thousands of newly created Bible-reading guides for 8 to 11s are being given out through the summer. Pray that the children

who receive them will enjoy reading the Bible, learn from it and develop a desire to read more.

### FRIDAY 7

Pray for Mission Partner **Wildfire Youth Project** as they prepare to launch a two-year Youth Work Trainee Programme across Winchester in September, partnering with SU and Westminster Theological Centre. Pray that God will send the right applicants and prepare both them and the existing Wildfire team for this new venture.

### SATURDAY 8

Next week The Real Thing, Livewires, Lager 2, Boundless, and Edale Adventure will all be taking place. Pray that the presence of God would be felt by all leaders and guests as they learn together and that many will grow in faith or find faith.

# THE POWER OF PRAYER IN REVIVAL



**God is drawing the next generation to seek him, and SU Central Team leader Dom Conidi shares an important reminder that prayer is fundamental.**

Chris came to one of SU's 'Revival Ready' webinars where we shared stories of young people without church backgrounds being drawn to visit churches without understanding why, and how churches should respond.

Chris was excited by the stories. But she was also disappointed. She had already prepared gift packs (a chocolate bar, a copy of Mark's Gospel, SU's *So, What Next?* booklet and other literature) to give out to young people turning up at her church. But so far, no young people had come.

The Sunday after our presentation, Chris was leading intercessions in the church service, so she included some prayers for young people to turn up at their church.

The next afternoon, Chris and two friends were doing a Bible study in church when four teenage boys turned up! Chris recalls, 'They said they just felt compelled to come in! I said, "Well we've been praying for

you, and we've got a pack ready for you." The boys were visibly moved by this.

'They were asking questions like, "What is your favourite verse in the Bible?" They had a cuppa with us, and we asked them if they would like us to pray for them and they were very keen. Two of them prayed out loud as well, thanking God for making them so welcome and for bringing them to their second home!'

God is moving in young people's hearts. If your church is ready to welcome them but is yet to see any, try praying more deeply and specifically for them to come in.

## How your church can prepare for 'turner uppers'



[su.org.uk/revivalready](https://su.org.uk/revivalready)

Download free resources to help your church respond to the spiritual stirring in the next generation.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

9-15 August

### SUNDAY 9

Pray that God will give SU Hungary insight and clarity as they work on a new camp book and the book will bear lasting fruit in effective ministry to children and young people.

### MONDAY 10

Pray for Lucy Pearson as she steps into her new role as Rooted Lead across England and Wales, developing resources to help children and young people explore faith at their own pace through Rooted 'conversation spaces', and providing training across regions.

### TUESDAY 11

Pray for Support Worker Grace Webber amid the busyness of summer activities, asking that she will be able to provide effective support to the Wales team as they develop more Welsh-language resources to help churches reach children and young people in Wales.

### WEDNESDAY 12

Pray for the Faith Guide and Mission Partner training programmes that Jenni Whymark (Central Region Mission Enabler) has put together. Pray that people will attend the sessions and leave better equipped and inspired to put things into practice in their ministry. Pray for Jenni as she juggles this and her day-to-day work.

### THURSDAY 13

In just a few short weeks, children will be going back to school. For some, this brings fear and anxiety. Pray for children as they mentally prepare to return – especially those starting new schools. Pray that they'll discover Jesus and the hope he brings through those running Christian clubs and assemblies.

### FRIDAY 14

Join the team in Wales in giving thanks for the beach missions

in North Wales at Abersoch (finished last week), Criccieth and Nefyn (finishing today). Pray that the children and their families who took part, whether from the local area or holidaymakers will continue to reflect on what they experienced and heard.



### SATURDAY 15

Pray for ka'zoo and ka'zoo 2, The Track and Wide Open holidays which start tomorrow. These events cover a range of activities and are an amazing opportunity for more young people to discover Jesus for themselves. Pray that teams will have sensitivity and clarity in presentations and conversations.

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

16-22 August

### SUNDAY 16

Praise God for the growing momentum of SU Ethiopia's work among students and for the evidence of his clear and powerful work among students through the faithful training, encouragement and pastoral care of staff members.

### MONDAY 17

Thank God for a growing sense of unity in the Fundraising team (Aaron Hayford, Annie Clifton, Kathy Brooks and Simon Tuck). Pray that God will guide their work, open new opportunities, and help them to serve faithfully together with integrity.

### TUESDAY 18

Jim Winning heads up the Supporter Care team which has seen changes over the last year and has recently introduced a new payment system to help supporters. Pray for Jim as he oversees the ongoing

implementation and that it will bring real benefits.

### WEDNESDAY 19

The *Stepping Stones Illustrated Bible* aimed at children aged 4 and above will be published in early autumn, making a great Christmas present. Pray that many copies will be given and read and will give children a lifelong love of the Bible.

### THURSDAY 20

Give thanks for the work of Mission Partner **Cadwyn Teifi** in Tregaron in primary and secondary schools. Ask God to guide them as they support pupils and staff, strengthen community relationships, and build partnerships with local chapels and churches.

### FRIDAY 21

Pray that God will guide and strengthen Director of Mission Resources Mark Griffiths as he speaks

with churches, equips Mission Enablers and Faith Guides and leads the team creating resources to help children and young people meet God. Pray that the tools created will be used by the Holy Spirit to open hearts and awaken faith.

### SATURDAY 22

Pray for the final events of the summer season. Escape in log cabins in Somerset starts today; running next week are Mallards and Mallards 2.0 sailing on the Norfolk Broads, and our new events Bridgwater and Bridgwater 2 teaching young people about creative ministry and worship. Pray that Jesus would be revealed in all they do.



# THANKS TO YOU...

Mark Griffiths, SU Director of Mission Resources, is grateful for your generous support for last autumn's appeal, raising funds to develop SU Bible Reading Guides for children.



'We asked for your help so we could produce and give out free two-week guides to the thousands of children attending events this summer, to get them into the habit of reading the Bible regularly. We also wanted to develop a 365-day Bible-reading guide for children to then buy to continue with their Bible-reading journey.'

**'Thanks to your generosity, we can now go ahead!** These Bible-reading guides will really help children to grow closer to God.'

Thank you too for sharing your favourite Bible verses and why you love them – here are some of those we received:

- Proverbs 3:5,6 **'...shows me the best way to live my life.'**  
(John) **'It encourages absolute trust in the Lord...and the promise of his directing and guidance...'**  
(Maurice)

- John 16:33 **'We do have troubles, heartaches, pain and fear, but we can rely on Jesus; he is always with us and will sustain us.'**  
(Marion)
- John 3:16 **'The joy of living, knowing that eternal life lies ahead.'**  
(Ann)



**JOIN US IN PRAYER!**

Send us an email at [fundraising@scriptureunion.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@scriptureunion.org.uk) if you'd like to attend our monthly 30-minute online prayer meetings. Join with SU staff and other supporters to pray for SU's work and the young people we serve.