

AUTUMN 2026

CONNECTING YOU



Scripture
Union

WHEN PRAYER CHANGES EVERYTHING

New life in Stockton

THIRSTING FOR JESUS

A student-led movement
in school

FROM PITCH TO PRAYER

Faith through sport

**YOU MADE
THIS POSSIBLE!**

Read this year's
mission report

CONTENTS

Keep on keeping on! 4
When numbers dwindled, one church prayed...and saw an unexpected surge.

Small steps in schools 10
From assemblies to playground conversations, Faith Guides are discovering simple ways to help children explore faith.

Thirsting to hear about Jesus 16
A school prayer walk vision becomes reality as teenagers lead a growing Christian Union.

A precious celebration 21
Congratulations to long-term SU supporters Elspeth and Edwin Payne who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary!

Thanks to you... 25
Former pro footballer Koko Koleni shares how simple moments on the pitch are opening up faith conversations.

See centre pages for this year's Mission Report!



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. If you have a story for *Connecting You*, or a suggestion on how we could improve our service to you, please contact the editor: eddien@scriptureunion.org.uk

For general enquiries:

Tel: 01908 856000

Fax: 01908 856111

Email: info@scriptureunion.org.uk

scriptureunion.org.uk

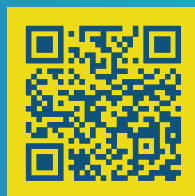
Published by Scripture Union, Trinity House, Opal Court, Opal Drive, Fox Milne, Milton Keynes, MK15 0DF

DID YOU KNOW?

Scripture Union's vision is to see **a new generation with a vibrant faith in Jesus**. That's why we work through churches, volunteers and partnerships to **reveal Jesus to the next generation**, creating opportunities for children and young people to explore, respond and grow in faith.

su.org.uk/about

su.org.uk/about



#DISCOVERSU

SU GLOSSARY

visit su.org.uk/glossary to discover what frequently used terms such as 'Faith Guide' mean.

GOD IS AT WORK, SOMETIMES UNSEEN

As I have been reflecting on the stories in this edition of *Connecting You*, I have been struck by two threads running quietly through them.

The first is deeply encouraging: an openness among children and young people to faith. After many years when it has felt as though interest in faith is fading, these stories suggest something of a turnaround – young people who are curious, responsive and willing to engage with Jesus. Whether it's a Christian Union filled to overflowing or a children's group suddenly filled with new faces, there are clear signs that God is at work, drawing young people to himself.

Alongside this, however, is another important thread – perseverance through disappointment. Sometimes the mission to reveal Jesus to the next generation takes prayer and persistence despite the sense that little is changing, sometimes for years. Then suddenly there is a shift.

Such stories remind us that God's work is rarely rushed. Often, he is at work beneath the surface long before anything becomes visible to us. What can feel like delay or discouragement may, in fact, be part of his deeper purposes unfolding.

Across these accounts, we see a simple but profound pattern: people continuing to trust God and take the next step in faith – and discovering, in time, that he has been at work all along.

As you read these stories, I hope you are encouraged. Let us never grow weary of revealing Jesus to children and young people, because the spiritual harvest may be just around the next corner!

God bless,



Dave Newton, National Director



LET US NOT BECOME WEARY IN DOING GOOD, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP."

GALATIANS 6:9 (NIVUK)

KEEP ON KEEPING ON!

Children and young people today are more open to faith than previous generations. But if your church is not yet seeing a surge in numbers, here's a story to encourage you: in Stockton, one of Lydia Gurney's children's groups seemed on the point of closure, but then the church prayed...

'We'd started an online group for our church children during Covid lockdowns,' says Faith Guide Lydia. 'We called it Rooted Kids Club as we initially used SU's *Rooted* resources. Later, that group became two: we kept an online group for Bible study (now called Kids Life Group) at the children's request and Rooted became an after-school club based at our church. But numbers dwindled as the children grew up and moved into other church groups, to the point where some weeks nobody came.

So we prayed into the situation – and our prayers were dramatically answered!

“

**SO WE PRAYED INTO
THE SITUATION – AND
OUR PRAYERS WERE
DRAMATICALLY ANSWERED!”**



‘The very next week, 17 new children with no connection to our church turned up at Rooted saying “We hear you run a club – can we join?” Some have brought their friends, one mum brings a carload of kids, and there’s a dad who walks here, gathering up children from across the estate on the way.

CREATING A SAFE SPACE

‘Rooted is a safe space where the children can relax, have fun and choose what activities they want to do, such as crafts, football or reading. The main challenge is how to introduce them to Jesus, given that they range in age from 5 to 12 and mostly have no church

background. But my SU Mission Enabler Neil Jackson is helping us work that through. For now, we pray with the children at the end of sessions as that can include them all.’

Lydia’s church already has some pathways in place for when the children are ready to go deeper in exploring and responding to faith. ‘Some have already joined our Boys’ Brigade and Girls’ Brigade groups. We’ll invite children from all our groups to our annual church weekend residential. Any Rooted children who aren’t ready for that level of worship and Bible study can come on SU’s Launchpad holiday which is aimed more at children without church backgrounds and is led by Neil who they all know because he comes to Rooted occasionally.’



HELPING CHILDREN GO DEEPER

But, as Lydia discovered, children with no church background may jump right in to exploring faith! 'One mum found us through social media – she said her 9-year-old was interested in the Bible and could she join the online Bible study group? So, her daughter came to Rooted where we gave her a Bible, and she's at our online Kids Life Group, the only child not from a church family. She prays and asks great questions. She's stopped coming to Rooted as she's moved away, but she's continuing the online group. And, because I'm part of SU's north region Faith Guide network, in time I should be able to link her to another church near her new home.'

Lydia and other Faith Guides around Stockton already meet up regularly and support one another. 'It's so

encouraging, knowing you're not on your own!' she says. 'When we get together, the ideas really flow.'

The group of Faith Guides, along with those from several other Tees Valley churches, also unite in summer for a programme of holiday club outreach facilitated by Neil from SU, reaching out to reveal Jesus to many more local children and young people who may be ready to hear about faith.

YOU'RE NOT ON YOUR OWN!

Want a story like Lydia's?
Discover how your local SU
team can be there for you
by arranging a conversation:
su.org.uk/chat

**IT'S SO ENCOURAGING,
KNOWING YOU'RE NOT
ON YOUR OWN!"**



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

23-29 August

Please pray for Lydia and other Faith Guides as we celebrate the seventh anniversary of Revealing Jesus!



SUNDAY 23

Praise God for all the young people now coming to Rooted Kids Club at Faith Guide Lydia's church. Please pray as she and SU Mission Enabler Neil Jackson seek to find ways to reveal Jesus to this very diverse group of young people, so that none miss out on the opportunity to explore and respond to his invitation to follow him.

MONDAY 24

Following the Tees Valley holiday club initiative in the summer, please pray for the churches involved, that

God will guide them as they plan follow-up activities for the children and young people with whom they have connected.

TUESDAY 25

Lydia was one of the first people to become a Faith Guide, back in autumn 2019! Give thanks to God for her service in revealing Jesus to the next generation, and for the 600+ people who have committed to become Faith Guides in the years since.

WEDNESDAY 26

Give thanks for the new openness to faith amongst children and young people in this generation. Please pray for more churches to recognise the season that we are in, and to make plans to reveal Jesus to the next generation in their community.

THURSDAY 27

Please pray for those Faith Guides who see

little evidence locally of children and young people wanting to engage with faith and feel discouraged. Ask God to give them grace to persist, and to bless their faithfulness with encouragement.

FRIDAY 28

Please pray for Faith Guides as they reveal Jesus to a generation with little or no knowledge of Jesus or the Bible. Help them to find the right words to be able to explain God's love so that children and young people can discover how knowing Jesus changes everything!

SATURDAY 29

Praise God for the means to produce the free *Reveal* Bible Reading Guides for children, which have been distributed at events this summer. Please pray that they will enable a new generation to really engage with Scripture.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

30 August-5 September

SUNDAY 30

Pray that the Young Entrepreneurship Programme run by SU Africa Community Groups in Nigeria, from 7-11 September, will inspire young people with purpose, bold faith and vision.

MONDAY 31

Pray for Mission Partner **Future Vision** in Sudbury – for the new chaplain, Sandy, joining Liz in schools and for Arabella leading Open the Book. Pray that their ministry will have an impact and for good relationships in every school community in which they serve.

TUESDAY 1

Shine Films (a partnership between SU movements in the UK and Ireland, Jesus Film project and Crown Jesus Ministries) produces videos enabling young people to share Jesus with their peers. The new series, 'Way, Truth, Life', has

a focus on Jesus and is accompanied by a guide containing session plans, activities, games and Bible studies. Pray that this will help many young people to talk about Jesus.



WEDNESDAY 2

Thank God for all the stories of young people encountering Jesus over the summer events. Over 48 events (with 4 to go), we have seen 1,500 children and young people attend holidays and festival villages, with a similar number at beach missions. Pray that every seed sown will bear fruit.

THURSDAY 3

Give thanks for the use of our resources during the summer –

for the wide reach of our *Kingdom Builders* holiday club material, the number of Year 6 children engaged through *It's Your Move* and the many pre-school children reached through *Getting Ready to Go*.

FRIDAY 4

Mission Partner **Groundbreakers** are seeking to extend the team as the demand for work in schools increases. Pray for financial support for Andrea who is currently volunteering in schools in Bury and ask that churches in the area would catch the vision.

SATURDAY 5

Please pray for Mission Enabler Pete Croall based in Luton as he works across Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Pray that he will be able to make the right connections to enable the next generation to see how amazing the gospel is.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

6-12 September

SUNDAY 6

Pray for the SU Hong Kong meeting for children's leaders on 12 September with the theme Hope.

Pray that pastors and leaders from different denominations will be refreshed, encouraged and reinvigorated for their ministry.

MONDAY 7

Pray that God will strengthen the work of all our Mission Partners in schools, churches and communities, providing resources, unity and wisdom and enabling them to guide young people towards Jesus and grow lasting faith.

TUESDAY 8

Pray for courage and clarity for Safeguarding Manager Chloe Shivraj as she navigates complex safeguarding situations. Pray that she will continue to lead in developing and sustaining a healthy culture with safeguarding at the heart of all we do,

shaping how we lead, serve and care for others.

WEDNESDAY 9

Pray that as a new term starts, the new assembly resources (*Step by Step* for Primary and *Leap of Faith* for Secondary) will be well publicised and that they will be used in many schools helping children and young people to explore Christian faith.

THURSDAY 10

The Forge is a year-long mentoring resource equipping men to walk alongside lads, helping them explore how Jesus and the Bible shape character and faith through topics like resilience, relationships and money. Pray they will see Jesus at work in daily life and have faith ignited and character shaped by him.

FRIDAY 11

Please pray for Jordan Cousins (Mission Enabler for Hampshire, Surrey and West Sussex) as he gathers Faith Guides together next Thursday for a retreat day at the start of the new academic year. Pray that they will be refreshed, encouraged and will know God's way forward.



SATURDAY 12

Pray that all the children and young people who heard the message of Jesus at holidays, missions and holiday clubs across the north of England will continue to grow in faith. Pray for the SU staff team in the north as they continue to support the churches where these were held.

Doing assemblies or RE lessons is a great way for churches to connect with pupils in local schools. But how do you then create opportunities for those children to explore faith and respond to Jesus without it involving a lot of extra work? Faith Guides and SU Local Mission Partners (LMPs) have discovered it can be easier than we might think.

SMALL STEPS IN SCHOOLS

One morning after Mary Butt had led an assembly, a boy came and asked for advice on a family situation. Mary, from LMP Groundbreakers, says, 'He and I chatted, then the staff member who had stayed behind with me suggested it would be great to give all the pupils a similar opportunity. The Head agreed, and now I go out into the playground after assemblies so children can speak with me.

'After I did an assembly on forgiveness, one girl came and asked, "Why should I forgive someone who has really upset me?" We talked about how we feel better when we forgive even if the other person



doesn't apologise and explored some ideas on how to put things right. I later discovered that she had been carrying this burden for two years!

MAKING SPACE FOR DEEPER CONVERSATIONS

Some Faith Guides have shared a Bible story in an assembly, then have invited children to explore it more deeply at lunchtime or after school, using SU's free resource *Story Explorers*. This led one pupil to comment, 'I've never really been bothered about God, but it really made me think about him.'

In secondary schools, Faith Guides have used lunchtime or after school screenings of Shine Films (which SU helps to produce).

There are currently four series, each with three episodes that focus on issues to which teenagers can relate, helping to spark discussion and opportunities to explore the difference that Jesus makes.



ONE SMALL STEP – THAT'S ALL WE MIGHT NEED TO TAKE, SO THAT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CAN EXPLORE AND RESPOND TO JESUS AND DISCOVER HOW KNOWING HIM CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING."

RESOURCES GALORE



You'll find loads of resources like *Story Explorers* – many free – at su.org.uk/resources



For more on Shine Films visit su.org.uk/shine.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

13-19 September

SUNDAY 13

Today and tomorrow see the last two days of East, West and South Asia Community Group meetings in Thailand which started last Thursday. Pray that God will guide them as they come to final conclusions.

MONDAY 14

Pray for Mission Events Co-ordinator Heidi Beckham and the events team as they review a new expenses app, used for the first time by event leaders this summer to manage expenses. Ask God that technology like this will make everyone's job easier, and free up more time for frontline work.

TUESDAY 15

Pray for Tolu and Ben of Mission Partner **CLiKS** in Keighley as they serve in the local schools through collective worship, prayer spaces and seasonal events, asking that they will help

young people discover God's love and the difference he could make in their lives.

WEDNESDAY 16

Please pray for God's guidance and wisdom for the fundraising team as they collate and share stories with our supporters. Ask that they will find the best ways to encourage supporters, and inspire them to pray and to donate. Pray that God will guide them as they prepare to serve this summer.



THURSDAY 17

Pray for Supporter Care Assistant John Cartwright as he deals with the administrative

details of processing gifts and responding to supporters. Pray for the smooth running of all the different computer software and hardware systems that enable this to happen.

FRIDAY 18

Our 2027 Easter and Summer Events are now open on our website for people to book in and secure a place for all the fun next summer. Pray for the Mission Events team as they dream and plan for new events to open next summer.

SATURDAY 19

Pray for the in-person schools ministry training in South Wales. Ask that it equips more people to go into schools and share the gospel, and ultimately creates more opportunities for young people to encounter Jesus.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

20-26 September

SUNDAY 20

Pray for the Child Protection Training being run by SU Eswatini, asking that God will give wisdom to the trainers so that strong safeguarding systems and a culture of care might be established across all ministries.

MONDAY 21

Pray for the continuing work of Mission Partner **Hope for the Valleys** in South Wales and that Ilan Tricker's links with schools and youth clubs will lead to stronger relationships and more effective outreach. Pray that their work will draw many young people and families to know Jesus Christ.

TUESDAY 22

Pray that the Mission Resources team will have unity, clarity of vision, creativity and effectiveness in every area, as it settles into its new shape with a focus on research, innovation, physical

and digital resources, speaking and conferences.



WEDNESDAY 23

Join Head of Mission Event Operations Paul Folland in giving thanks for the work of the volunteers on our events this summer that reached so many children and young people. Pray for wisdom as he leads the team in planning for next year, looking to create more opportunities to reveal Jesus.

THURSDAY 24

In his role as National Schools Lead, Geoff Brown is really keen to see more churches engage with their local schools. To encourage this, he is developing some new Schools Work training courses. Please

pray for wisdom as he prepares the content and then promotes these courses.

FRIDAY 25

Pray for Young Leaders' Enabler Rachel Blake as she works on resources that Faith Guides can use with young leaders including a journal and Bible reflections. Please pray that the resources will help and encourage the young people to step out and reveal Jesus to those around them.

SATURDAY 26

Pray that the Scripture Union movement – which extends far beyond the staff team to include many volunteers, young leaders and supporters – will be united to reveal Jesus to the next generation and will see incredible impact in the coming months.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

27 September-3 October

SUNDAY 27

Pray that SU Timor-Leste's Happy Wednesday children and youth programme will foster friendships through sports and activities and that many children and young people will come to know and follow Jesus through the sharing of the gospel.

MONDAY 28

Pray for Mission Enabler Matt Farley as he works on the Mission Sparks podcasts. Pray that more people will discover the series and would be sparked into mission in their own communities. Ask that an interactive and supportive community would form around the content of the podcasts.

TUESDAY 29

Trustee Sandra Morris invites us to join her in giving thanks for God's faithfulness and for those who faithfully serve SU – reaching those who

desperately need to hear they are accepted and loved by God. She also asks that we pray for guidance, and protection of everyone connected with SU.



WEDNESDAY 30

Mission Partner **SASW** in Southport are seeing an increase in young people engaging in churches and wanting to explore more. Pray that they will be able to equip the churches to work together to point those in the community to Jesus and lead them into lasting relationships with him.

THURSDAY 1

Last summer over 1,000 volunteers joined our events. Today the volunteer website for

the 2027 events opens. Pray that people would be inspired to bring their talents and time to serve young people through our missions, holidays and events.

FRIDAY 2

The schools work foundation course will be promoted during the autumn with the first group of participants starting their training early next year. Pray for effective promotion and that there will be a good uptake with many being better equipped to serve in schools.

SATURDAY 3

Pray for a new worker to join Rachel and the youth and children's volunteers of Mission Partner **Ignite** in Alnwick. Pray that as they start planning to host the Life Exhibition in January, schools will sign up and they will have enough volunteers to run each day.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

4-10 October

SUNDAY 4

Thank God for the growing momentum of *Timelanders* interactive children's Bible reading material produced by SU USA. Pray that it will continue to increase its reach and impact as marketing efforts expand.

MONDAY 5

Pray for Fundraising Innovation Lead Simon Tuck as he seeks new ways to inspire supporters and build partnerships for SU nationwide. Pray for wisdom and resilience as he looks for new opportunities to strengthen connections and enable growth, expanding impact and bringing encouragement to communities across the country.

TUESDAY 6

Please pray for Dave Newton, our National Director, asking for wisdom in decision-making, clarity in direction, energy with

his often-demanding schedule, and continued passion for the gospel.



WEDNESDAY 7

Please pray for the many children and young people who feel they have no one to talk to (research suggests as many as 59% of over-16s feel this way). Ask God to help them be seen and heard, and to raise up adults who will create safe, welcoming spaces for real conversation.

THURSDAY 8

Back in May, former members of staff and SU volunteers gathered for the Scripture Union Retirees Network Conference. Give thanks for this faithful group, and for such an

inspiring and prayer-filled time, with current members of staff sharing how God is at work through SU today.

FRIDAY 9

Please pray for Mission Events Co-ordinator Sue Hill this autumn, as she ties up admin details for this year's holidays and missions and finalises volunteer event entries for next year – the old favourites, innovative new ones and any emerging opportunities for mission.

SATURDAY 10

The south region is promoting their Ignition project designed to recruit and train 100 new volunteers into youth ministry across the south. Please pray that as it launches many will be inspired to join and that many more young people will hear the good news as a result.



THIRSTING TO HEAR ABOUT JESUS

Ten years ago, church youth worker Ellie Payne (now director of Wildfire Youth Project) began visiting a Winchester school.

As she walked the corridors, she had a vision of young people earnestly seeking God. This year, that vision became a reality – in a sudden and unexpected way!

Wildfire, an SU Local Mission Partner, now regularly brings a double-decker bus to the school to host drop-in sessions, courses and mentoring for pupils. But back in 2016, Ellie was just starting out. She recalls, 'I was doing a prayer walk round the school and had this vision of young people praying and seeking God and worshipping him. I kept praying into it, but nothing seemed to happen.

'Then recently a young person asked us if we'd heard about the new Christian Union...

'We hadn't! So, I popped my head in and introduced myself to Alex and Dan, two of the three teenagers who had started the CU two months previously having only recently come to faith themselves. Their faith is fresh, vibrant and infectious – and now there are 80 young people representing every school year, sitting anywhere they can, thirsting to hear more about Jesus!

'We stay in the background but support the CU however we can, coming to sessions, bringing snacks and Bibles to distribute, providing resources. And, of course, we and the boys' own churches are praying for them.'



A MOVEMENT LED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

Alex's faith journey began when, curious about the Bible, he bought himself a copy to read. He started going to church and was baptised and confirmed a year later. He says, 'I noticed many people had similar stories of coming to faith or were trying to explore it. We thought it would be a good idea to start a Christian Union and enlisted the help of one of our teachers who let us use his classroom. We wanted to create a space where people could talk, learn about Jesus and pray as a community.

'It requires complete trust and obedience to God if we want our CU to grow – after all, it is the Holy Spirit that turns and draws hearts to God. So, we must pray for others, that they might find the peace brought by following Jesus.'



THERE ARE 80 YOUNG PEOPLE REPRESENTING EVERY SCHOOL YEAR, SITTING ANYWHERE THEY CAN, THIRSTING TO HEAR MORE ABOUT JESUS!"

Dan became a Christian the summer prior to starting the CU. He says, 'I was thinking about a church sermon where they spoke about not letting your fire for Jesus go out. My brother had started a CU and thought it would be helpful for Christians to be able to meet up in school, talk about their walk with God and learn more, and to invite others to learn about Jesus too.'

'I've learned a lot – to incorporate time for questions as that's key to getting people involved; make sure it's accessible for those who aren't Christians while not watering down the gospel; and ensure they all feel loved, whether that's through being heard or it just being a safe space for them to speak their mind about God.'

The three teenage founders of the Christian Union will be leaving school soon but have already successfully handed over its running to the next year group.

Around half the pupils at the CU are not from church families and, as CU sessions are only 20 minutes long, they may have many unanswered questions. Ellie says, 'Wildfire and local churches are discussing what they might offer alongside the CU without detracting from it, to give these young people opportunities to explore faith more deeply and, we hope, respond to Jesus.'

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

SU is here to encourage and support Local Mission Partners like Wildfire – local groups or organisations that share our vision and values while working in their own communities. Partners receive tailored support from SU to help them respond to local needs and ensure even more children get to discover Jesus. su.org.uk/partners



IT REQUIRES COMPLETE TRUST AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD IF WE WANT OUR CU TO GROW"



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

11-17 October

Please pray for Ellie at Wildfire and for all our Local Mission Partners across England and Wales.



SUNDAY 11

Give thanks to God for giving Ellie the vision ten years ago of the school filled with young people praying and seeking God, and that it is now being fulfilled in an extraordinary way.

MONDAY 12

Praise God for what he is doing in this school, working through young Christians new to faith! Please pray for the three boys who started the Christian Union as they move on from school, and for the young people who have taken on leading it.

TUESDAY 13

Please pray for the young people coming to the Christian Union. Ask God to open their hearts and reveal Jesus to them, and discover how they can find life in all its fulness through following him.

WEDNESDAY 14

Pray for the SU Board as it meets today asking that God will give them a clear sense of the future he has for the mission of SU. Ask that they'll get a clear sense of priorities and the faith and vision to step out into what he has prepared for the movement.

THURSDAY 15

Please pray that a desire to seek God spreads further afield, beyond the young people at the Christian Union to those in the wider community. Ask God to inspire the local churches to be ready to help them explore faith, respond and grow.

FRIDAY 16

Give thanks to God for the faithful service of SU Local Mission Partners across the country. Ask him to continue to bless all they are doing in their communities and with their local churches to reveal Jesus to the next generation.

SATURDAY 17

As SU relaunches the Mission Partnership Scheme to support Local Mission Partners, please pray that more missional projects will hear about the programme and its benefits and join the network, so that ever more children and young people get to encounter Jesus.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

18-24 October

SUNDAY 18

Pray that as SU Finland commit to the renewal of the Bible reading notes *Hetkinen* and the associated website, God will give wisdom in every change, so that these resources may become more accessible and enable more to grow in faith.

MONDAY 19

Pray for Revealing Jesus pioneer Ian Kent as he develops work in new areas of the north-east and establishes relationships with new networks of churches. Pray for opportunities to create new partnerships and for more churches to catch the vision of revealing Jesus to the next generation.

TUESDAY 20

Pray that churches across the country would use our Light Party resources to celebrate Jesus joyfully this All Hallows' Eve. Pray that many children and families

would encounter the light of Christ in fresh and meaningful ways.

WEDNESDAY 21

Please pray that Company Secretary Sue Winning will have clarity and wisdom in her work, as she supports the trustees, Council and Leadership Team, and helps provide strong foundations for SU's mission.

THURSDAY 22

Pray for Mission Partner **Brighton and Hove City Mission's** Youth and Children project, as they work in partnership with the local church. They are seeking to impact children and young people across the city with assemblies and specially designed Christian projects requested from schools.



FRIDAY 23

Please pray for young people who are turning to technology instead of people for support. Many are seeking advice from AI rather than trusted relationships. Ask God to lead them into meaningful, life-giving connections, and to equip Christians to listen with care, compassion and patience.

SATURDAY 24

Please pray that Mission Enabler Janine Parkinson will be able to help a new Faith Guide in the Chesterfield area who is new to faith and is keen to share this new-found faith with young people and work in local primary schools.

A PRECIOUS CELEBRATION

Congratulations to Elspeth and Edwin Payne in Lowestoft who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary! They generously commemorated it with a gift to Scripture Union, with whom they have a long association.



‘As children, Edwin and I both used SU Bible reading notes,’ recalls Elspeth. ‘I vividly remember that in the front they had a promise, a command and an example to follow. Every day that helped with finding something useful in the Bible passages we were studying.’

‘After Edwin and I married, he was Sunday school superintendent at the Brethren Church which we attended. He then led Sunday school for ten years at the Baptist church where we are now. We also helped run holiday clubs with over 100 children and always used Scripture Union resources, which were excellent.’

For two decades, the Paynes helped organise an annual Scripture Union Children’s Day. Elspeth says, ‘The church would hire a school so we could have sports activities in the

grounds and devotional times and games inside. Churches from all over the area, right up to Norfolk, would bring their children to it.’

Edwin and Elspeth have finally stepped back from doing children’s work themselves, but their church is still involved with SU. ‘Our youth and children’s workers use the Revealing Jesus framework and SU resources, so that’s really good,’ Elspeth says. Meanwhile, she and Edwin continue to support SU through prayer and giving. She says, ‘**We feel it’s so important for the next generation to learn and hear about Jesus.**’

Thank you, Edwin and Elspeth, for your Anniversary gift and for all you have done – and continue to do – to enable children and young people to develop vibrant faith.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

25-31 October

SUNDAY 25

Pray that more young people will be drawn to serve God through the ministry of SU Gabon. Pray that God will stir their hearts with passion, raise them up with purpose and establish them as faithful servants.

MONDAY 26

Pray that as the central team see children and young people being open to explore the Bible and prayer, they will be able to equip the churches they support to reach out to these children and young people.

TUESDAY 27

Pray for Mission Partner **Artless**. They are touring with their stage show *Prodigal* – a modern retelling of the parable through live cinema – and for their conference for Christian Creatives, 'More than the Art'. Pray that Jon and Chris will always be in step with God's will and never lose

the heart of reaching people with the gospel.

WEDNESDAY 28

Please pray that Fundraising Manager Kathy Brooks will know God's guidance and wisdom as she leads the Fundraising team, and that they would have creative inspiration as they produce materials to encourage and inspire people to support SU's mission.



THURSDAY 29

Thank God for all the young people and leaders who attended Amplify Young Evangelist academy this month. The young people now receive regular mentoring as they begin the practical work of sharing Jesus with their friends. Pray for great stories and moments of God encounters as they go.

FRIDAY 30

Pray for Sports Mission Pioneer Sarah Bowey as she encourages churches and volunteers in the north of England. She seeks to provide them with the confidence to break out of their walls and help them grasp the vision of Holy Ground – adopting community spaces and doing regular sessions of games and fun to reveal Jesus to the next generation.

SATURDAY 31

Pray for Mission Partner **Reach** in Reading asking for protection and good health for their workers, Sarah, Anne and Aaron – and their families. Pray that they will see responses in the Christian Clubs and that as they sow seeds in RE lessons pupils will engage.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

1-7 November

SUNDAY 1

This week is SU's Global Week of Prayer. Pray that as various groups and individuals pray around the Word, they may have faith and confidence and will see God work in response. Further details can be found on the SU Global website.

MONDAY 2

As the Mission Resources team shape plans for 2027, pray for discernment and wisdom, asking that they would pursue *God ideas*, not just good ideas – choosing resources that will have deep and lasting missional impact.

TUESDAY 3

Pray for Revealing Jesus Pioneer Nic Findlay and the churches she supports across Merseyside. Pray that churches would go beyond simply connecting with schools and have the courage to start new spaces in schools for

children and young people to explore faith.

WEDNESDAY 4

Pray for Trevor Ranger working for Mission Partner **Synergy Christian Trust** in Wiltshire. He will be continuing a series of assemblies in 13 primary schools about the people Jesus met. On 15 November he will be leading a Café Church gathering in Bradford-on-Avon near Bath.



THURSDAY 5

Please pray for Rooted as we continue to create spaces where young people can explore wellbeing, faith and honest conversation through workshops, journals and retreats. Pray that the impact of

the Rooted Retreat weekend during the autumn term would continue to bear fruit.

FRIDAY 6

Mission Enabler Jack Newbould has transferred from south Wales to north Wales; pray for Jack and his family as they settle into a new community. Pray for Jack as he explores how to best support churches in the north, and for the continuation of the work in churches he supported in the south.

SATURDAY 7

Give thanks for the group of people who serve on SU Council, drawn from a variety of backgrounds and bringing different expertise, as they meet today. Ask that God will lead as they help the movement discern what God is saying about mission in today's world.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

8-14 November

SUNDAY 8

Pray that SU Korea will have wisdom and grace as they undergo a season of ministry innovation and reorganisation. Pray for a smooth transition and that a strong foundation for faithful and fruitful ministry in the next 50 years will be laid.

MONDAY 9

Pray for Bex Jignasu as she seeks to build strong relationships with Mission Partners across England and Wales. Ask God to grant clarity as she supports trustees, strengthens systems, nurtures collaboration and helps partners deliver faithful, life-changing ministry to children and young people.

TUESDAY 10

Mission Partner **Bodmin Youth Project** are delighted to have a new part-time paid member of the team, Molly. Pray for her as

she connects with the young people, thanking God for all their groups. Ask God to provide more volunteers for all their activities.



WEDNESDAY 11

Pray for the development and impact of resources confirmed for 2027 including *Diary of a Disciple (John)*, *Stepping Stones Illustrated Bible*, and *Reveal: 365 Days Bible Reading Guide for Children*. Pray for wisdom and creativity for those working on them and that these resources would help children engage with Scripture in life-changing ways.

THURSDAY 12

Today, spend time giving thanks to God

for the faithfulness of our supporters, whose prayer and generosity sustain this mission and make this vital work possible.

FRIDAY 13

Please pray that God will continue to open doors in schools, churches and communities across England and Wales. Ask that simple, everyday moments would lead to meaningful conversations, and that many children and young people would be drawn to explore who Jesus is and the difference he can make in their lives.

SATURDAY 14

Please pray for wisdom for South Region Team Leader Prince Laryea as he looks back on the year and seeks God's direction as he begins to set priorities and direction for next year. Pray that God will provide all the resources needed.

THANKS TO YOU...

Through your generous giving,
we're delighted to introduce
the newest member of
SU's Mission through Sport
team: Former professional
footballer **Koko Koleni!**



Koko's childhood dream of becoming a pro footballer came true when he was selected to train at Manchester United Academy and then to play professionally for Morecambe.

But in his debut game, he sustained an injury that ended his footballing career almost before it had begun.

Koko held onto 2 Corinthians 5 verse 7: 'For we live by faith, not by sight' and God blessed him with the opportunity to use his footballing skills alongside his faith. Koko now works for SU's Mission through Sport team and also with Activate, a partnership of churches led by St Peter's in West Molesey, long associated with SU. Already he's seeing spiritual fruit.

A SIMPLE STEP THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

For several years, St Peter's had run weekly football sessions for local teens. However, the church had struggled with how to get the group on to exploring and responding to faith.

Koko used some Mission through Sport team tactics. Right at the end of one football session, he led the boys in a prayer 'huddle' which he assumed would last a few minutes.

But they were there for over half an hour!

Koko says, 'The lads absolutely loved it, some of them praying and speaking out about Jesus for the first time! We've continued that every week. It's led to natural faith



**THE LADS ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT...
SOME OF THEM PRAYING FOR THE
FIRST TIME."**



“
**THEY'RE INTERESTED
IN WHAT'S GOING ON,
AND REALLY
EXPLORING FAITH.”**

conversations while we're playing too, and they're constantly asking questions. The presence of the Holy Spirit is really special. Some of the boys now come to church. For those who can't (because churchgoing isn't part of their family's culture), they're always asking, "What did you learn this Sunday?"

'They're interested in what's going on, and really exploring faith, taking the first steps of learning about Jesus and getting to know him.'

It seems that Koko has found his true vocation! Please pray with us that through him Jesus will be revealed to many more young people.



SCORE BIG WITH YOUR OUTREACH

The SU Sports team are passionate about helping you and your church discover just how simple it can be to use sports, games and physical activities to share the good news of Jesus with the next generation. Discover how: su.org.uk/sport

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

15-21 November

SUNDAY 15

Pray that God will give SU Serbia wisdom to discern the right projects to meet the needs of children and families and pursue them effectively so that his love may continue to be shared through this ministry.

MONDAY 16

Pray for the Wales team as they undergo changes with Jack moving north. Pray for the new Mission Enabler in the south as they settle into the role and that the team would continue to maintain strong and supportive relationships with churches across Wales.

TUESDAY 17

Please pray in response to the growing reality of loneliness among children and young people. As connection becomes harder to find, ask God to inspire churches and volunteers to notice those who feel isolated, build genuine

relationships, and help many discover their sense of worth and belonging in him.



WEDNESDAY 18

Pray for the Elevate event taking place at the end of the month. Twenty young leaders from our summer events will gather to reflect on those moments of ministry and how their leadership can continue to grow within their home, school and church contexts.

THURSDAY 19

Pray for the Board of Trustees of Mission Partner Gobaith Môn in Anglesey, asking that they would be equipped and resourced to meet the administrative

demands of running the trust and be inspired and have wisdom on how to grow the schools and youth work across the island.

FRIDAY 20

Please pray for Content Editor Isaac O'Brien in Mission Resources as he works on bigger, more complicated and more demanding projects. Please pray that these resources will ultimately land in the hands of children and young people and be a source of light and encouragement for them.

SATURDAY 21

Pray that our Christmas resources *The Little Shepherdess* (including the theatre production) and *Robin's Christmas Song* would clearly communicate the message of Jesus, reaching children, families and churches with hope, joy and truth this Christmas.

YOU'RE INVITED!



Did you know that every month we hold a 30-minute online prayer meeting, open to supporters like you? SU supporter Joy Alcock explains why she loves being there.

'It's nice being there with others – anyone can pray, not just staff. You get to know a lot more about what's going on currently at SU and the prayer needs. The last meeting concentrated on sports in Wales. So, when a trainee priest at our church said he'd got an idea of doing football on some waste ground, I was able to tell him that SU has a team that could help, and he's going to find out more.

'I've been involved in Scripture Union since I was a child when I used to get the Bible notes. Later I helped at various house parties back when it was CSSM. That was over 60 years ago.

'At church, I still help with a toddlers group each Thursday. We tell Bible stories using little woollen puppets. The children love it, and I think some of the parents are hearing those

stories for the first time too. We do crafts, sometimes using ideas from SU publications, so the children have something to take home – it's lovely when a parent tells me how their child enjoyed playing with it for ages!'

We're delighted that Joy comes to our online prayer meetings – and we'd love you to join us too whenever you can!

Please email hello@scriptureunion.org.uk to find out more.

FREE COPY OF OUR NEW 'REVEAL' BIBLE NOTES FOR CHILDREN!



Joy mentioned how she used SU's Bible notes as a child. Thanks to your generous giving to our recent appeal, we've now produced Bible notes for a new generation!



To get your free sample, please visit:
su.org.uk/reveal-sample