

GEOFF'S NEWS AND PRAYER UPDATE

AUGUST 2026



Renewed Strength

'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.' Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

A couple of months ago Sarah and I were feeling very stretched on many fronts and were feeling tired and weary. It was an enormous encouragement to us, therefore, when God brought the above verse to our attention four times over a period of 24 hours. We were so grateful for the reminder of his presence, help and strengthening. The past few months have gone by very quickly and it is exciting to see all that God has done in and through the things that I have been involved with.

LIFEPATH BRINKBURN

At the end of June we welcomed 577 children (from 20 Northumbrian Primary Schools) to Brinkburn Priory. A fantastic team of 56 volunteers ensured that the children had a brilliant day exploring the life of St Aidan and the difference that following Jesus made to him.



A great day. Everyone goes above and beyond to make a memorable experience for all. Thank you. (A teacher)

The children learn a lot but in such a fun way. They also comment how much they enjoy the 'reflective' time. (A teacher)

Absolutely loved it. (A pupil)



Please pray for all of the children who came to Lifepath that they would continue to consider what following Jesus is all about.

STAMMFORDHAM HOLIDAY CLUB

Throughout this year we have run Holiday Club Extra events and had great fun exploring the Easter story (March) and exploring the Gospel through games and sports (June). At the end of July we ran two days using SU's 'Kingdom Builders' resource and looked at what the kingdom of God is and who is the King of that kingdom. It was great to see many of the children and young people who come regularly to the 'Extra' events.

Please pray for all the children who came in the summer to remember all that they learnt and that they would come to the 'Extra' events planned for next term.

REGIONAL GATHERING

At the end of April almost 70 Faith Guides, Local Mission Partners and SU staff gathered in Leeds for two days of worship, teaching, training, networking and fellowship. Many of those who came commented just how much they had appreciated the opportunity to step aside from 'normal life' and be refreshed and equipped for ministry.

Please pray for all those who attended to continue to be inspired and equipped for all that they are involved with in the coming months.

SUPPORTING FAITH GUIDES

I have continued to help Faith Guides develop their mission to children and young people. This looks different in every context, but here are a few examples of the sort of things I'm involved with:

- I helped my church in Gateshead to start a new, weekly after school club. Whilst numbers were small, we are hoping and praying that this will grow and develop.
- I supported a Faith Guide as she ran a Christian Union in a secondary school.
- I met with many of my Faith Guides to talk through their next steps in mission. It is so encouraging to hear many stories of children and young people hearing about Jesus.

Please pray that all the churches that I work with would know God's leading and equipping as they seek to reach out to children and young people who don't know him.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS LEAD

During the past few months we have run our **Introduction to Schools Ministry** training course online a couple of times. It is so good to know that many churches are now better equipped to reach out to children and young people. We now have plans to run this in person in four separate locations around England and Wales in September. This is quite a step up but we are seeing a growing demand for our training. I have also spent a lot of time updating and refining the materials for all these courses.

We are also working with a partner to develop a brand new course (**Schools Work Foundations**) that is designed to help churches better engage with secondary schools. This will launch in the autumn with the first cohort being trained and coached in spring 2027.

I have also been initiating, with a few other organisations, a new Schools Worker Network. So far we have had two online gatherings. Each time there is a real buzz and excitement about the opportunities that currently exist in schools.

Please pray that each of the courses that we run next term would be well attended and that all those who attend would be inspired and equipped. Please also pray for me as I seek to write and develop content for the new foundations course.

FAMILY NEWS



Hannah and Ben's wedding was the most amazing, Jesus-centred day and we are so grateful to God for the way that everything came together. In June, Sarah and I were able to join them to visit Ben's grandparents in Kerala in India to celebrate their wedding. This was an incredible trip with so many happy memories.

Joel and Rose continue to enjoy their engineering and teaching jobs respectively. Sarah has now completed her seventh year as a Personal Development Coach. We are all looking forward to some time off over the summer.

Please pray for Hannah and Ben as they settle into married life and for Hannah as she looks for a new job. Please also pray for Joel, Rose and Sarah to know the Lord's strength and equipping for each day.

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: su.org.uk/GeoffB



THANK YOU!
YOUR SUPPORT IS
ENORMOUSLY
APPRECIATED.

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