WINTER 2026

CONNECTING YOU

Scripture Union



OPENING DOORS TO JESUS

Nearly 1,000 children explore Christmas

WHEN DOORS OPEN, GOD MOVES

Stories of faith in local communities

IS THE NEXT GENERATION INTERESTED?

Our latest research reveals the answer

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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. 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

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DISCOVER SU

Scripture Union exists to reveal Jesus to the next generation.

We help everyday Christians grow their outreach to children and young people beyond the church, creating opportunities for them to discover Jesus and grow in faith.

Because knowing Jesus changes everything.

SU GLOSSARY

Find out what we mean by terms such as Faith Guide and Mission Partner at **su.org.uk/glossary**

Scripture Union

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WHERE MIGHT SAYING 'YES' LEAD?



A church opening its doors. A teacher creating space for spiritual conversations. A mentor journeying with a young man. A grandparent sharing faith with a child.

The stories in this edition of *Connecting You* are not primarily about programmes, events or resources. They are about people who have said 'yes' to God's invitation to share the hope of Jesus with the next generation.

Running through all these stories is a simple truth captured in Jesus' words:

'...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven' (Matthew 5:16, NIVUK).

You'll read about churches in Thanet opening their doors through Christmas Unwrapped, welcoming more than 1,000 pupils to encounter the Christmas story in fresh and engaging ways.

You'll meet a maths teacher helping pupils ask life's biggest questions through a lunchtime Bible Explorers club.

You'll also hear about Worry Workshop, helping primary-aged children with practical tools for wellbeing, and The Forge, where young men find guidance, encouragement and hope.

And, as Christmas approaches, you might say 'yes' by gifting one of our beautiful new Bible-based books to introduce a child in your life to Jesus.

Whether through a conversation, a school visit, a mentoring relationship or a creative resource, God uses ordinary acts of faithfulness to make his love known. As you read these pages, I hope you'll be encouraged by what God is doing and inspired to play your part.

God bless,



Dave Newton, National Director

"...LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN."
MATTHEW 5:16 (NIVUK)

UNWRAPPING THE BEST GIFT!

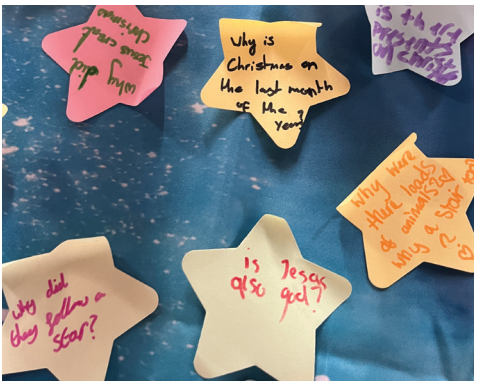
Rhodri Walters, team leader of SU Local Mission Partner ACTS Thanet, shares how they used our *Christmas Unwrapped* resource to introduce nearly a thousand children to Jesus, the best gift of all.

'We want every child in Thanet to hear the good news of Jesus from someone who believes it to be true,' Rhodri says. 'Christmas provides the perfect opportunity.

'Last December, with support from our SU Mission Enabler Lisa Jones, our Primary School team and church volunteers led a series of 90-minute Christmas Unwrapped workshops at various church buildings. Over several weeks, we welcomed nearly a thousand pupils from seventeen schools! Some of the children knew the Christmas story, but others didn't. So, we tried to present it in new ways and challenge some misconceptions to ensure that it was a fresh and fun experience for all of them.



‘It was very child-led and interactive – they shared their hopes for Christmas in our prayer spaces, asked questions about the Nativity and took part in a quiz which involved investigating what the Bible says about it. Then they decorated biscuits to eat on the way home as they ponder the challenge we left them with: “Who do YOU think Jesus is?”’



“IS JESUS ALSO GOD?”

One teacher at the workshop observed, ‘It turns the children’s attention towards Jesus as the very centre of Christmas.’ Another said of the format, ‘Great choice of activities, engaging and interactive. Good quizzes and relatable.’

“WHY IS JOSEPH NEVER KNOWN AS JESUS’ REAL DAD?”

“I WILL GIVE LOVE AND HOPEFULLY RECEIVE CHOCOLATE.”

Rhodri, who is also a Baptist minister, says, ‘Often churches don’t have the resources to do schools work themselves. Being able to host schools and pupils in their buildings and involve their volunteers in Christmas Unwrapped has really encouraged them and shown them how open schools can be to the message of Christmas being shared with their pupils.’

“I HOPE THAT PEOPLE KNOW JESUS AND KEEP KIND AT CHRISTMAS.”



DOWNLOAD THE RESOURCES

Download the *Christmas Unwrapped* workshop resources at **su.org.uk/unwrapped** to run your own session.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS
FOR THE CHILDREN IN YOUR LIFE

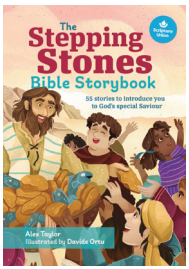
These three new SU books bring the Bible to life for children with or without faith backgrounds and would make lovely Christmas gifts they'll treasure for years to come.

ROBIN'S CHRISTMAS SONG



This beautiful hardback based on Luke 1–2 follows Robin on a quest to find songs to bring life and music back to Old Gloomy Wood. He meets Mary, Zechariah, angels and old Simeon, all singing for joy about a Saviour. Who is this Saviour who inspires song – and where can he be found? Written by SU's Joanne Gilchrist and illustrated by Bekah Grace. **£7.99**

THE STEPPING STONES BIBLE STORYBOOK



Takes children aged 7–11 through the grand narrative of the Bible in 54 engaging stories. Each one also features questions, links and extra Bible verses to encourage children to explore and think more deeply. Written by Alex Taylor. **£16.99**

HAVE EWE HERD?



An imaginative tale of a young shepherdess who wants to be part of the most wonderful true story ever: the birth of Jesus! Based on the 'pant-ivity' by 4Front Theatre, one of the UK's leading Christian theatre companies. **£32.50 for a pack of 10**

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

You can order copies now on our website at **su.org.uk/resources** or call us on **01908 856000** weekdays 9am–5pm.

Order by 17 December to be sure of delivery before Christmas.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

22-28 November

Please pray that every child and young person can get to know Jesus better this Christmas!

SUNDAY 22

Please pray for the children across Thanet to come to know and trust Jesus and to grow in faith and understanding of all that means for their lives.



MONDAY 23

Praise God that ACTS Thanet and Thanet churches have built good relationships with so many local primary schools. Please pray that God opens doors to them working with secondary schools too.

TUESDAY 24

Please pray for the teachers and staff in schools across Thanet. Give thanks for their support for the ministry of ACTS Thanet and local churches.

WEDNESDAY 25

Ask God to bless and sustain all church volunteers who give so generously of their time so that children and young people can learn how much he loves them.

THURSDAY 26

Please pray for more volunteers to come forward and help, as the ministry to introduce Thanet's next generation to Jesus continues to grow.

FRIDAY 27

Pray for SU Local Mission Partners and churches preparing to reveal Jesus to children across the country this Christmas. Ask God to make children and young people really receptive to hearing about Jesus, the best gift of all!

SATURDAY 28

Give thanks for the SU team that develop new books to help the next generation to learn about Jesus in language that they understand. Please pray that many people will gift one to a child they know, to start them on a journey towards faith.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

29 November-5 December

SUNDAY 29
Pray that the participants in the Silent Weeks being organised by SU Austria this month will hear God's voice and grow in relationship with Christ. Pray too that their large-scale activities involving Lego and wooden blocks will attract many who would not normally visit a church.

MONDAY 30
Pray for Mission Partner **Soul Children** as they welcome young people into joyful communities of music, faith and friendship. Pray that every choir will become a safe place where hope grows, gifts flourish and lives are drawn towards Jesus and transformed by his love.

TUESDAY 1
Steve Hutchinson served for many years as a Children's Evangelist and his wife Judy was very much his partner in ministry. Sadly, she died in June. We know that she is with the Lord, but please pray for Steve, their sons Gareth and Mark, and their families.

WEDNESDAY 2
Thank God for those who have already registered for a Scripture Union holiday next year and pray for those still thinking about booking.
Pray that some will see Christmas as a great opportunity to give a child or young person the gift of an SU holiday.

THURSDAY 3
Our new resource *The Grandparents Guide to Passing on Faith* is built on rigorous research which shows the significance of grandparents on young lives. Pray that it will be effective in helping grandparents who want to see their grandchildren impacted by the gospel.

FRIDAY 4
Pray for the work of Mission Partner **LightSpace Ministries** in Grantham. Pray that there will be lasting results from the October half-term holiday club and that children will continue to think about what they heard and experienced.

SATURDAY 5
Please pray for Revealing Jesus Pioneer Kate Doogan as she continues to work with her current Faith Guides and connects with new churches in Merseyside and Cheshire. Pray that through training she is running in Cheshire and the Wirral she will be able to make new links.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

6-12 December

SUNDAY 6
Pray that the Pacific Islands Community Group and Young Leaders gathering this month will strengthen fellowship and collaboration, and equip young leaders with wisdom, courage and a passion to serve Christ and influence their generation.

MONDAY 7
Pray for the thousands of children across Wales who will hear the gospel through festive experiences that churches offer to their local schools, such as *Christmas Unwrapped* and *Open the Book* (or Datlapio'r Nadolig and Agor y Llyfr as they are known in Welsh medium schools).

TUESDAY 8
In addition to working as PA to the Director of Mobilisation, Zoraida Ali-Smith is taking on additional responsibilities within the Fundraising team. Pray that she will have the wisdom and skills to make a really effective contribution.

WEDNESDAY 9
Pray for continued financial provision as we trust God to meet our needs, create new opportunities and guide us. Pray that we may have wisdom and discernment in every financial decision and be faithful stewards of the resources God entrusts to us.

THURSDAY 10
Pray for North Team Support Worker Sarah Howard Smith as she organises next year's team gatherings. Ask that God will guide the preparation, and will use these times of prayer and planning together to build unity in the team and enable them to discern God's direction.

FRIDAY 11
Pray for Mission Partner **Sports Factory's** Glow Sports events this winter. Ask that those attending glow-in-the-dark activities will have fun, build relationships and hear the good news of Jesus. Pray that people invited to Christmas events would come, encounter Jesus personally and respond to his love.



SATURDAY 12
Mission Enabler Neil Jackson has been working with several Faith Guides in the north to help them build new connections with children and young people in schools. Pray for the Faith Guides who are seeking opportunities to start new clubs in their local schools at the start of a new year.

TEACHER CREATES FAITH TOUCHPOINTS IN SCHOOL

Coming on SU holidays strengthened Naomi's* faith as a child. Now she is a teacher and, as a Faith Guide supported by SU, she is finding ways to share Jesus with children at her primary school.

'The school is secular, but they do have hymns and prayers in assembly, and celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter,' Naomi says. 'And when I asked to start a lunchtime Bible Explorers club, they were very supportive.'

Naomi teaches maths and recently became Head of RE too 'so I can help shape the RE curriculum'. With her busy schedule, she's found it works best to keep Bible Explorers short, and prepare for each session in the half hour beforehand while the children are eating lunch.

'The children choose the Bible story which then I'll either narrate, or we might watch a video version. Then they love re-enacting it through drama or by building Lego models. I never force belief on the children, but leave them with a question to ponder, such as "Who do you think Jesus is?"

A PICTURE OF HOPE

'We end with "Catching God" time (that idea came from my SU Mission Enabler Jenni who is supporting and encouraging what I'm doing). During two minutes of silence, the children draw or write about whatever God pops into their minds.

'One timid boy said, "I've only drawn a bird," as if it wasn't as good as writing something. I explained that God speaks through pictures too and asked what he thought the bird meant. He said, "hope".

'I shared that story at church, and the next hymn was "Jesus Christ,

**Name changed*



my Living Hope". When I told the boy, his face lit up – it confirmed to him that God had inspired his drawing!

> **"HIS FACE LIT UP – IT CONFIRMED TO HIM THAT GOD HAD INSPIRED HIS DRAWING!"**

'All the children are very excited about Bible Explorers and invite their friends along too. On the last day of term when school was finishing at lunchtime, the children asked me if we could have the club at morning break so they didn't have to miss it!

COULD SU SUPPORT YOU TOO?

Naomi's story shows what's possible when local Christians are supported and encouraged in mission. If you'd like help, advice or encouragement for your own ministry with children and young people, connect with your local SU team at **su.org.uk/chat**

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

13-19 December

SUNDAY 13
Give thanks for the teenagers who attended SU Northern Ireland's Making Your Mark event in October. Pray that they will continue to be inspired and equipped to be salt and light in their schools and through their SU groups in the year ahead.

MONDAY 14
The North team has recently appointed two new staff workers, Mission Enabler Sophie Sharples in Manchester and Revealing Jesus Pioneer Barney Podbury in Newcastle. Pray that they will have many exciting new opportunities to work in churches in those areas.

TUESDAY 15
Pray for Mission Partner **The Bus Stop** as they work across North Yorkshire, helping churches in isolated and deprived communities reach young people. Pray for new workers and volunteers to nurture teenagers as they explore life and faith and inspire creative, prayerful ministry that transforms lives.

WEDNESDAY 16
Pray for Mission Enabler Lisa Jones as she encourages churches to reach children and young people, especially in the follow-up to the Minnis Bay Mission which has such an impact in Thanet. Pray for more volunteers to help her with this.

THURSDAY 17
As we approach the shortest day, the Holidays and Missions team are thinking back to the amazing testimonies they heard from the summer. Pray that all those who experienced Christian community, who made new friends and who discovered more about Jesus will continue to grow.

FRIDAY 18
Central Region Team Leader Dom Conidi has been working on a partnership between SU and Prayer Spaces in Schools. Give thanks for its launch, and pray that churches and schools will be inspired to help the next generation engage with the Bible, deepen their understanding of Jesus and develop lasting faith.

SATURDAY 19
Give thanks for our 2026 Christmas range: *Robin's Christmas Song, Have Ewe Herd?, God Became Like Me?, and The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas.* Pray for a good reception for these publications – some old and some new – as they communicate the powerful story of the incarnation.



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

20-26 December

SUNDAY 20

Thank God for the holiday camps already held by SU Malawi and pray that the two remaining camps next month will impact many lives, encouraging young people in their faith and equipping them to live for Jesus.

MONDAY 21

Pray for Chris Clark as he serves children, young people and families in Coniston through Mission Partner **South Lakeland Christian Trust**. Give thanks for the churches working together in outreach. Pray for fruitful relationships that will draw many children and families closer to Christ.

TUESDAY 22

Please pray for wisdom and favour as we launch The Forge on 26 January. Pray that churches will use this new mentoring resource to build strong relationships with teenage boys, helping them grow in faith and navigate life's challenges. Pray for lasting impact as young people discover their identity and purpose in Christ.

WEDNESDAY 23

Pray for Director of Mission Richard Shaw as he relaxes with his family over Christmas and prepares to plan with the Missions team to grow our mission presence across England and Wales. Pray too for the work he leads with our partner New Wine at the February conference.

THURSDAY 24

On this Christmas Eve, pray for more children and young people to have opportunities to discover Jesus. Ask God to prepare places where they can encounter him, and to provide faithful volunteers, generous partners and courageous leaders. Pray that a new generation will discover the wonder of Emmanuel, God with us.

FRIDAY 25

Pray that all those children and young people who have encountered the message of Christmas in some way, whether through a presentation in school or church, through literature or at an SU event, will reflect on it today and want to explore further.

SATURDAY 26

Christmas is the only time of year when very little sports mission takes place, so pray that the sports team will get some much-needed rest and come back refreshed and ready to continue to reveal Jesus through sport, physical activity and fitness.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

27 December-2 January

SUNDAY 27
Pray that the participants in the New Year's Eve retreats run by SU Germany in Rügen and Bavaria will encounter Jesus deeply and be strengthened and equipped for the year ahead.

MONDAY 28
Scripture Union Trustee Malcolm Forsyth asks us to pray that the trustees would have unity, wisdom and discernment as they consider strategic, financial and other issues, and as they support Scripture Union's leadership team in delivering key current activities.

TUESDAY 29
Pray for wisdom for Director of Finance and Services Sharon Esnard as she finalises the budget for the next financial year. Join her in giving thanks for the Finance, Digital Solutions and People and Culture teams within her directorate. Pray that she will lead them well as they support the growth of Scripture Union's mission.

WEDNESDAY 30
Pray for Adam Norton, worker for Mission **Partner Hunsley Christian Youth Trust**, serving faithfully in local schools, especially through a forgiveness initiative. Give thanks for funding supporting a local youth club and pray for more opportunities to share Christ with young people across South Hunsley and West Hull.



THURSDAY 31
Pray that many copies of our new *Stepping Stones Illustrated Bible* will find their way into the hands of children up and down the country, and will communicate the love of God through the wonderful Bible narrative and captivating illustrations.

FRIDAY 1
Pray for wisdom for Senior Data Manager Gill Russell as the Data team navigates an ever-evolving digital landscape. Pray that God will guide their decisions as they improve systems and processes, helping to strengthen SU's mission while keeping data secure.

SATURDAY 2
Pray for Mission Partner **Exeter ICE** as they begin a new term, running a range of activities sharing God's love with young people in the local schools. Pray that young people will feel loved and valued, and that the team will have energy, wisdom and the Holy Spirit's guidance in every assembly, club and project.

WORKSHOP HELPS CHILDREN COPE WITH WORRY

Many children and young people struggle with anxiety, but schools-based provision tends to focus on teens. So, SU's Rob Steward has created *Worry Workshop* to help primary age pupils understand and manage their everyday worries and develop more confidence and resilience.

'It's fun and interactive – we start with asking the children questions: "What is worry?" "Is it wrong to worry?" "Does everyone worry?" Then we ask what kind of things they feel help with worry. Their ideas have included going for a walk, talking to a friend or adult, or indeed to God.

'We do a dramatic retelling of the story of Jesus calming the storm, and ask, "What's that got to do with worry?" One child said, "My tummy feels a bit like that storm when I'm worried about things." We explain that the disciples went to Jesus with their worries, and that we can too.

'Next, we do crafts – the children make plasticine boats and have to try and get them to float on water. They also make calm jars: plastic jars filled with water and glitter. As the children shake their jar and watch the glitter settle, they can calm themselves by taking a deep breath and counting to five or by saying a prayer. They can take their jars home to help them cope with worries in future.

'Finally, we explain how gratitude really helps with worry and ask them to think of what they are grateful for, and to thank God if they like.

'Teachers who sat in on *Worry Workshop* felt it was really gentle but effective with practical, helpful coping strategies, and said the children really enjoyed it!'

Worry Workshop is a great way for churches to connect with local primary schools, whether used on its own or alongside Rooted, Story Explorers or prayer spaces in schools. Download it free at su.org.uk/worry.





FOR YOUR PRAYERS

3-9 January

SUNDAY 3
Pray that the partnerships being formed by SU Côte d'Ivoire with sister organisations, media partners and local churches will be marked by peace, understanding and a shared desire to serve God and will result in more effective mission in the country.

MONDAY 4
Pray that Gifts Administrator Allison Highton will have speed and accuracy in processing the generous donations made by supporters, as well as wisdom and clarity when looking for any improvements to current procedures.

TUESDAY 5
In January, those who lead Scripture Union missions and holidays will gather for a time of learning, planning, team conversations and worship. Pray for a great time of connection, preparation and refreshing, and that all they learn and plan together will help more children and young people encounter Jesus through events in the year ahead.

WEDNESDAY 6
Pray for Head of Marketing and Communications Eddie Nock as he leads the team in helping more people connect with Scripture Union's mission. Pray that he will help people understand the difference they can make in the lives of children and young people and inspire them to get involved.

THURSDAY 7
Pray for Mission Partner **Graceworks** in Havering, asking for faithful volunteers, finances for an additional staff member and more open doors in schools. Pray that their ministry will flourish, bringing hope, care and God's love to children, families and communities.

FRIDAY 8
Pray for the Mission Resources team, led by Mark Griffiths and including researchers, content creators, innovators and support staff, as they embark on a new year with all its opportunities. Pray for unity, clarity of vision, creativity and effectiveness in every area.

SATURDAY 9
Pray for Sports Team Leader Mark Oliver as he leads an expanded team. Pray for safety in travelling to support team members and for his family while he is away. Pray that the team will continue to bond and be united and energised to do all that God has for them in 2027.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

10-16 January

SUNDAY 10
Thank God for the increase in Bible sales and the holiday camps in France and pray that their impact will continue to transform lives, especially amid the nation's climate and economic challenges. Pray that the staff team will be encouraged despite a decrease in staffing levels last September.

MONDAY 11
Pray for new South region Mission Enabler Loretta Balogun as she settles into her role. Pray for great connections, a sense of belonging and for clarity around how she is called to minister across the movement (specifically in the East of London where her work will be focused).

TUESDAY 12
Pray for Sarah Davison as she leads innovation and transformation within the Mission Resources team. Ask God to give her wisdom in identifying the ideas and opportunities that will have the greatest impact on children and young people, and creativity as she helps shape new resources.

WEDNESDAY 13
Give thanks to God for the wonderful supporters he has placed around us. Through their generosity, encouragement, prayers and faithful partnership, they play a vital role in helping us reveal Jesus to children and young people. Thank God for them and for his faithful provision.

THURSDAY 14
Pray that Mission Resources Administrator Tanya Pencheva will know God's wisdom, guidance and strength as she supports the team and oversees the administration of our Bible Reading Guides across print and digital formats.

FRIDAY 15
The SU Retirees Network is not holding a conference this year. Pray that, despite this, those who have served Scripture Union faithfully over many years will be able to maintain strong relationships, support one another and continue to pray for the current work of the movement.

SATURDAY 16
Join Mission Partner **Great Open Door** in thanking God for opportunities to share his story through school assemblies in Harlow and pray that these presentations will continue to be well received by children and staff, creating meaningful engagement with the good news of Jesus in the local schools.



IS FAITH RELEVANT TO THE NEXT GENERATION?

Our latest *Taking the Pulse* research says yes – but its author and SU Lead Researcher Dr Sarah Holmes says it also highlights that churches need to change if they want children and young people to take faith on board.

In a fast-changing world, research helps us keep pace with the next generation's attitudes to faith, and what we might need to do differently to help them explore, respond and grow.

Taking the Pulse surveyed adults – children's and youth ministry practitioners, congregation members, parents and grandparents (we'll be seeking the views of children and young people over the coming year). But the striking conclusion from their responses is that while faith is very relevant to the next generation, the church is less so. And this is the view of the very people who are doing the sharing of faith.

THE CHALLENGE FACING CHURCHES

If churches truly want children and young people to consider faith, they need to make the church a place where the next generation are valued, have a voice, and feel they belong. And SU can help churches become that 'spiritual home' to the next generation.

TAKING THE PULSE – KEY FINDINGS:

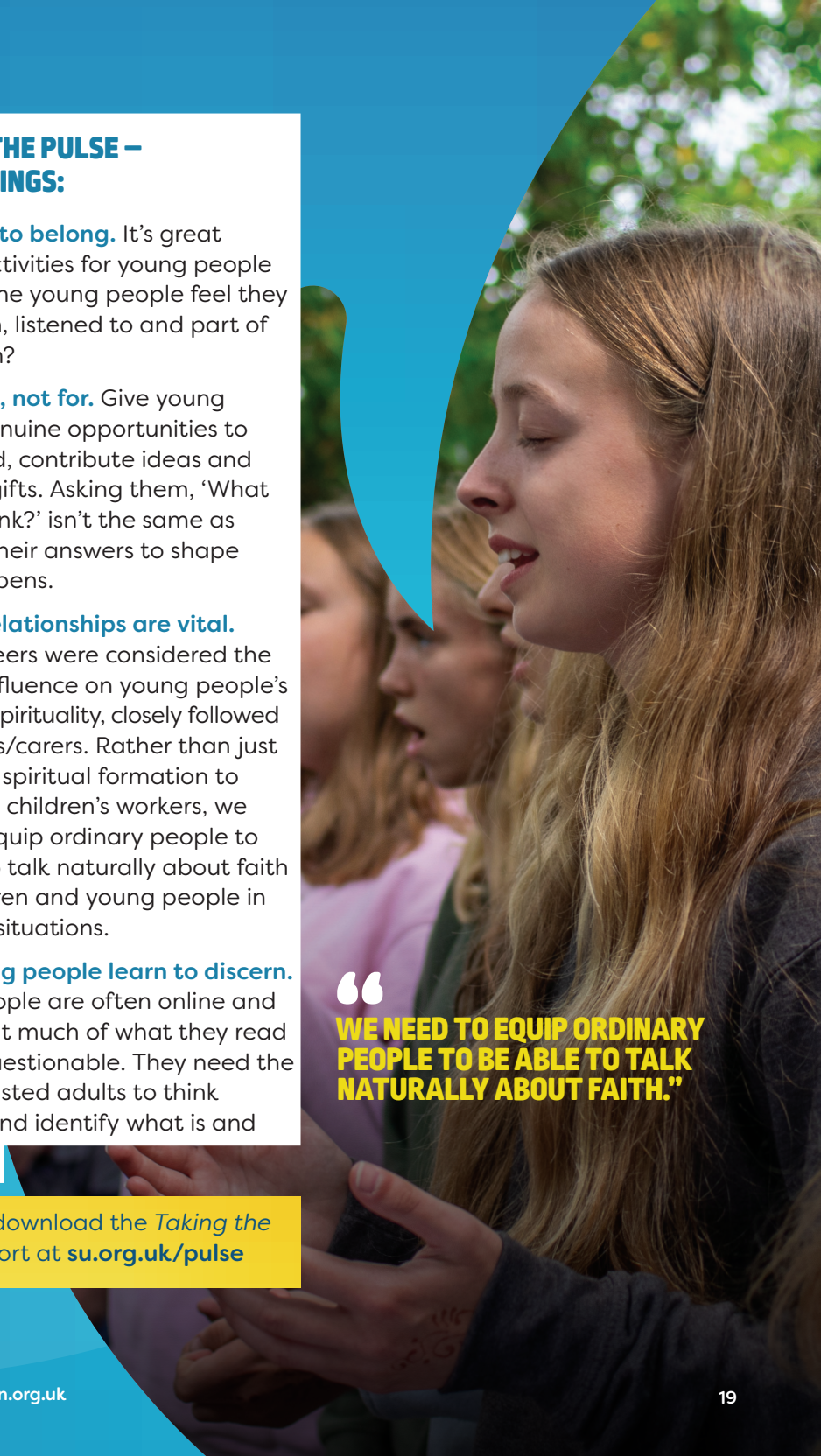
The need to belong. It's great to offer activities for young people – but do the young people feel they are known, listened to and part of the church?

Build with, not for. Give young people genuine opportunities to serve, lead, contribute ideas and use their gifts. Asking them, 'What do you think?' isn't the same as allowing their answers to shape what happens.

Trusted relationships are vital. Friends/peers were considered the biggest influence on young people's faith and spirituality, closely followed by parents/carers. Rather than just outsource spiritual formation to youth and children's workers, we need to equip ordinary people to be able to talk naturally about faith with children and young people in everyday situations.

Help young people learn to discern. Young people are often online and aware that much of what they read there is questionable. They need the help of trusted adults to think critically and identify what is and isn't true.

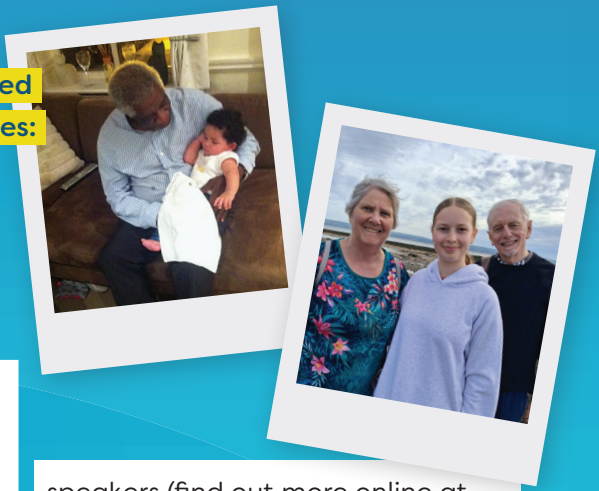
You can download the *Taking the Pulse* report at **su.org.uk/pulse**



"WE NEED TO EQUIP ORDINARY PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO TALK NATURALLY ABOUT FAITH."

GRANDPARENTS:
A KEY ROLE IN FAITH FORMATION

Previous research Sarah did at Liverpool Hope University[1] uncovered a missed opportunity in our churches: grandparents and grandparent figures often feel ill-equipped to nurture faith in the children and young people around them.



Not much has changed, according to our latest *Taking the Pulse* research: 49% of the Christian grandparents surveyed were getting no support from their church.

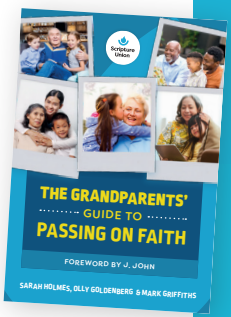
Imagine the difference if we changed that!

Taking the Pulse highlighted the value of relationships – and older Christians therefore have huge potential worth in helping the next generation discover and embrace faith.

We need to recognise, equip and encourage them.

That's why Scripture Union is supporting the growing movement to champion Christian grandparents. In October, we co-hosted the 'Christian Grandparents Conference', where Sarah was one of the speakers (find out more online at christiangrandparents.co.uk).

Sarah is also one of the co-authors of *The Grandparents' Guide to Passing on Faith*, with a foreword by J John. This practical guidebook will help Christian grandparents (both biological and spiritual!) to share their faith naturally, confidently and lovingly with the children and young people around them. It's available now at **su.org.uk/grandparents** (for £12.99)



[1]Holmes, S.E. (2022), *Excluded or Part of the Team? Investigating the Role of Grandparents in Christian Faith Nurture, Review of Religious Research.*

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

17-23 January

Please give thanks for research and the amazing value it can have in helping us reveal Jesus to the next generation.

SUNDAY 17

Give thanks to God for all those who took part in SU's *Taking the Pulse* survey – for the part they play in revealing Jesus to the next generation, and for sharing their views and observations for the research.



MONDAY 18

Praise God for the survey's encouraging confirmation that faith does seem to be very relevant to children and young people today!

TUESDAY 19

Please pray that churches read and act on the survey findings, so that the children and young people they connect with feel that they are valued, have a voice, and belong.

WEDNESDAY 20

Give thanks to God for Sarah Holmes, for the research skills and insight she brings to our team. Ask him to inspire and guide our future research to get to the heart of what mission needs to look like for the next generation.

THURSDAY 21

Please ask God to guide SU as we consider how to apply the findings of *Taking the Pulse* in developing new resources and support for churches.

FRIDAY 22

Praise God that older Christians have such a valuable part to play in helping children and young people to explore faith, respond to Jesus and grow. Please pray that our new book *The Grandparents' Guide to Passing on Faith* will really help them to fully embrace that vital role.



SATURDAY 23

Please pray that God will give every ordinary Christian a deep desire and the confidence to share Jesus with the children around them, whether through organised events and programmes, or simply in everyday life and conversations.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

24-30 January

SUNDAY 24
Give thanks for the successful start of SU Angola's youth environmental ministry and the children's clubs during the school holidays, which provide opportunities to guide children in God's truth and the care of his creation.

MONDAY 25
As the Mission Resources team begin shaping plans for 2027, pray that God will give them courage to focus on the things that matter most. Pray that they would pursue God ideas, not just good ideas, choosing resources that will have deep and lasting missional impact.

TUESDAY 26
Please pray for Central team Support Worker Racheal Chapman as she supports the Central team through, among other things, prayer newsletters, Faith Guide registrations, communications and training event administration. Pray particularly for preparations for SU villages at Limitless and DTI this summer.

WEDNESDAY 27
The Sports Mission team is looking to make big plans for the European Championships in 2028, making the most of this incredible missional opportunity around the biggest sporting event since London 2012. Pray for them as they seek God in this and look to establish exciting, ambitious and deliverable plans particularly around the host cities.

THURSDAY 28
Pray for Mission Partner **The Pimlico Foundation** as they support and empower young people in Pimlico through clubs, mentoring, schools work, sports, arts activities and local partnerships. Pray that young people and families will feel valued, supported and part of positive local communities.

FRIDAY 29
This spring, SU Cymru will be gathering young leaders (15- to 18-year-olds) from churches across South Wales to develop leadership skills, explore giftings and encourage one another in Scripture and prayer. Pray for this new generation of leaders and the church's investment in developing them.

SATURDAY 30
Pray for Assistant Accountant Susannah Quinn as she studies accountancy and learns new procedures within the finance team. Pray that she will be able to provide excellent support to teams across the movement as they manage their budgets.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

31 January-6 February

SUNDAY 31

Pray that God will guide the preparation of the upcoming Bible Meditation Seminar with the churches in a country where Christian activity is restricted. Pray that it will equip many people to meditate on God's Word and grow as faithful disciples.

MONDAY 1

Pray for Mission Partner **Southampton City Mission's** Conference on 6 February as it encourages people of all ages into local mission and to make the most of every opportunity. Pray for Schools Team Leaders Ellie, Joyce, Reuben, Charis, Teresa and Duncan as they visit schools this term.

TUESDAY 2

Pray for Mission Events Coordinator Karen Quinney as she processes the volunteer applications for Easter Holidays and plans for her own involvement in the SU Bake Off and Create Holiday.

WEDNESDAY 3

Pray for the SU Board as it meets today. Pray for good discussions, unity of purpose and confidence in the decisions they make as they help shape the future of the ministry.

THURSDAY 4

The *Diary of a Disciple* books have helped many children enter the stories of Luke and Acts in a fresh and innovative way. Pray for the development of the next *Diary of a Disciple* book based on John. Pray for Alex Taylor as he writes and for Emma Randall as she illustrates. Pray that this series would continue to help children engage with Scripture in life-changing ways.

FRIDAY 5

With Easter Scripture Union holidays now only six weeks away, pray that the Mission Events team will know God's strength, support and energy as preparations continue and workload increases.



SATURDAY 6

Pray that God will bless the work of Mission Partner **Cynllun Efe** as they share the gospel of Jesus with young people in the villages around Llanberis. Pray that God will provide a new worker of his choosing to serve in this ministry faithfully and effectively.

SU IN ACTION

WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE WANT MORE



With help from SU's Mission through Sports team, Faith Guide Barry Watkin turns public spaces on a Tyne and Wear estate into Holy Ground, playing casual team sports with young locals and chatting with them about Jesus.

Over several weeks, they discussed what it means to love your neighbour, but the young people had more questions than could be answered in the sessions.

Barry says, 'We told them they needed to read about and experience Jesus for themselves, and one of the lads said, "We need Bibles!" The following week someone from church came and explained how to use the Bible, and we gave each young person their own copy. They were so excited!

'Soon afterwards, one lad stayed behind and asked us to pray for a serious issue in his life. He later told us how much better he felt.

'We're seeing these young people change week by week as they grow in understanding the good news of Jesus. It's wonderful. We give thanks to God!'

RELIVE THE SUMMER!

Bring some summer cheer to a winter's day – take a look at our gallery of photos from last year's SU events.



Be part of next year's story

Holiday bookings now open
su.org.uk/holidays

Find out about being a volunteer:
su.org.uk/volunteer

FORGING A POSITIVE PATH

Right now, young men are searching for direction, confidence and a sense of purpose... but too many are finding it in the wrong places and getting drawn into toxic models of masculinity based on aggression, strength and control.

That's why SU has partnered with charity M10 to develop The Forge, a mentoring resource that equips ordinary men in the church to walk alongside teenage 'lads' in their community, have honest conversations rooted in Scripture and be positive role models for them.

Sarah Davison, SU's Research and Innovation Lead, says, 'The Forge includes five short videos to prepare mentors, so no youth work experience is needed.

'Groups meet monthly for 1.5–2 hours and explore topics such as relationships, money management, dealing with conflict, self-awareness and what it means to be Christ-like. Activities, games and videos help spark discussion, while eating together creates space for deeper conversations.'

To find out more, visit **scriptureunion.org.uk/theforge**

A NEW PRESIDENT



Scripture Union's President chairs the Council, a group of volunteers and leaders who help shape the movement's spiritual vision and future direction. After nine years in the role, Penny Boshoff will be stepping down this November.

Penny says: 'It's been a joy to serve Scripture Union's Council, and to see how the Lord is blessing and growing SU's Revealing Jesus strategy. What a privilege to work together for Jesus' kingdom!'

We thank God for Penny's faithful service and all she has contributed to the life of the movement.



WELCOME, CLARE

We're delighted to welcome Clare Walker as our new President from 14 November. Clare has served SU over many years, both as a volunteer and trustee. She says: 'It feels like a God-given opportunity to give back to the movement in a new way. Please pray that I'll be able to effectively serve both God and the movement I love so much through this role.'

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

7-13 February

SUNDAY 7
Pray for God's faithful provision and guidance as SU Botswana develops its campsites. Pray that these spaces will become places where lives are transformed as people meet with God.

MONDAY 8
Pray for children and young people facing anxiety, loneliness and uncertainty. Ask that they would know they are valued and loved, and that through the people God places around them they would discover hope, purpose and the peace that comes from knowing Jesus.

TUESDAY 9
Revealing Jesus Pioneer Anna Brinkley is pioneering a surf outreach camp in North Devon with Christian Surfers UK in October. Please pray for the preparations: for the right team, creative content and lots of interest from young people. Pray that God will use the camp to draw many young people closer to him.

WEDNESDAY 10
Pray for the Central Region team as they encourage and equip churches to support children and their parents through the significant transitions of starting and leaving primary school. Pray that they will demonstrate Christ's love in practical ways, offer encouragement, hope and pastoral care, and open doors for the gospel.

THURSDAY 11
Mission Partner **Impact Schools**, which works across Mid Wales, currently has two part-time workers, one of whom is due to finish in the summer. Pray that God would provide the right person to join the team, enabling them to continue supporting schools effectively and building strong relationships with pupils and staff.

FRIDAY 12
Pray for Content Creator Joanne Gilchrist as she faces the challenge of working on Christmas resources while enjoying the spring season. Pray for creativity and the ability to think into a different season of the year and capture the meaning of Christmas.



SATURDAY 13
Please pray for the churches, schools and community groups using *Rooted* resources to create safe spaces where children and young people can be heard, valued and supported. As many face loneliness and uncertainty, pray that these conversations will build connection and belonging and help young people discover their identity and purpose in Jesus.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

14-20 February

SUNDAY 14
Pray for the preparations for SU Papua New Guinea's 60th anniversary celebrations, asking that this milestone will testify to God's faithfulness and bring him glory. Pray for God's protection over all students and young people attending SU events and prayer gatherings.

MONDAY 15
Please pray for Technical Operations Analyst Olamide Folaju as he works behind the scenes to ensure that technology supports and strengthens the ministry of Scripture Union. Pray for insight and patience as he helps improve processes, supports users and enables teams to work efficiently.

TUESDAY 16
The Schoolswork Foundations course, which we are developing with Grace Foundation, aims to equip churches to engage really well with secondary schools. It was launched in November and the first group will be starting in the spring. Pray for a good number to sign up.

WEDNESDAY 17
Pray for Mission Partner **Hope Pembrokeshire** as they support children and families across their community. Ask God to strengthen staff and volunteers, provide wisdom, compassion and resources, and open opportunities for lasting transformation.

THURSDAY 18
Pray for children and young people as they think about their future, relationships and identity. Ask that God would encourage those who are struggling, strengthen those carrying heavy burdens and help many discover the love, acceptance and new life found in Jesus.

FRIDAY 19
Pray for the Bible Reading Guides for Young People that are now in preparation, and for Anna Leadbetter as she writes this resource. Pray for the fundraising team as they raise the funds to distribute the guides free of charge, and that they will be ready for this summer's festivals and beyond.

SATURDAY 20
Please pray for Web and Digital Content Officer Angela De Souza as she helps shape our digital communications and develops the content plan for a new website. Pray that this work will help more people connect with Scripture Union's mission and create new opportunities for children and young people to encounter Jesus.



LEAVE A LEGACY OF FAITH

For generations, faithful supporters have helped children and young people discover Jesus through Scripture Union. By leaving a gift in your Will, you could continue that impact long into the future.

After providing for your loved ones, even a small gift can help create opportunities for future generations to explore faith and encounter Jesus.

You can write your Will for free through our partnership with Farewill, with no obligation to leave a gift to Scripture Union.

Find out more at **su.org.uk/legacy**

Scripture Union