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PRAYER LIFE

THE SCRIPTURE UNION PRAYER DIARY



JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2010

One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They will tell of the power of your awesome works, and I will proclaim your great deeds. Psalm 145: 4-6


**Scripture
union**



THE NATURE OF A SERVANT

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:5)

In just a few weeks, thousands of volunteers will swing into action – on the beaches, in church halls, in school halls – as our summer programme picks up pace. There will be thousands of opportunities to share Jesus – thousands of activities designed to exhaust (always a vain hope in my experience!), entertain and enthuse children and young people in our holidays and missions across England and Wales as a part of that sharing.

But this year, as every year, the one thing more than any other that will make an impact on those children and young people is the lives of the team members: their character, their love, their attitude towards those in their care. So as you pray over the coming months please pray

that their attitude will be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant (Philippians 2:6,7).

Indeed let us pray for all those engaged in Scripture Union ministry over the coming months that we might be able to say with Paul: I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. (Philippians 3:10). We rejoice in your partnership in the gospel through your prayers. Your role in prayer is even more vital than those who will exhaust themselves for the gospel this summer. Thank you.

Keith Civval





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our vision is to see every community having a vital Christian witness to children, young people and families. As we pursue this in many different ways, pray that God will lead us to the right approaches and that we will see a new move of God in England and Wales.

SUNDAY 30

This weekend Helen Franklin is working with the Cromer Mission team on ways to explain the cross to children. Pray for her and the team, and for all the work that will go on over the next few weeks as mission and holiday teams prepare for the summer. Ask God to give them the right motives, good practical skills, sound biblical understanding and a longing to see him at work.



Cromer Mission

MONDAY 31

Today is the final day of the 'Big Church Day Out'. Scripture Union is leading family activities for those attending, including sports, treasure hunts, games, kite-making and a fun family Bible quiz. Pray that this will be a means of drawing families closer to one another and to God, and that many will find new ways of encouraging one another in their faith.

TUESDAY 1

Two holidays started yesterday: SUrival for 11 to 14s, led by Hannah Edmunds and Phil Kerslake (to 3 June), and Great Wood Creative Arts Camp aimed at children in Year 6, led by Graham Mann-Smith (to 4 June). Pray that on both holidays the children and young people will have a good time and meet God.

WEDNESDAY 2

The SU International Publishing Group is meeting in Bletchley today and tomorrow, representing a number of countries around the world. Among the agenda items will be the development of a new web-based initiative to help children engage with the big story of the Bible. James Burden, Publishing Team Leader, is representing England and Wales. Pray that the discussions will lead to clear and workable ways to move forward together.

THURSDAY 3

Midlands staff worker Colin Draper is leading a brand new holiday club at the Methodist Church in Bulwell in Nottingham. Pray that it will lead to many children discovering what Jesus can mean to them, that the church will be encouraged in its vision for working with children, and for an ongoing fruitful relationship with the church.

FRIDAY 4

In February the Scripture Union office in Haiti was relocated to St-Marc, a city approximately 100 km from Port-au-Prince. With the help of gifts from other SU movements they have been supporting refugee camps and hospitals in the St-Marc area, providing and distributing humanitarian aid. Pray for the success of this work in rebuilding lives and for people to find their hope in Christ.

SATURDAY 5

In the East region, staff worker Steve Whyatt is coordinating five teams of volunteers who will be visiting over 100 primary schools in Cambridgeshire and King's Lynn during June. They will explore the theme of bullying in a 30-minute presentation using sketches, songs, puppets and a Bible story. Pray for safety, good relationships with local churches and schools, a clear message and good responses from children and staff.



COUNT ME IN

Throughout this summer around 2,000 volunteers will be working with children and young people on SU holidays and missions. Thank God for their willingness to give up their valuable time. Pray that they will find God working through them as they prepare and that others will come forward to fill any remaining vacancies.

SUNDAY 6

Tomorrow Steve Hutchinson, Church and Community Worker in the Midlands region, starts a programme of evenings for parents whose children will be starting school soon. He'll be distributing copies of *Get Ready, Go!* paid for by local churches. Further evenings will take place on 9, 10 and 16 June. Pray that this will build relationships between churches and schools.



Get Ready, Go!

MONDAY 7

Gill Marchant, East Regional Team Leader, and Steve Whyatt are involved with delivering training in schools work to students at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. Ask that God enables them to enthuse these students, and that more students training for ministry will catch a vision for children's and youth work, particularly in schools.

TUESDAY 8

Scripture Union consists of over 120 national movements grouped into seven regions. The directors of each of these regions meet together every few months to think about international initiatives including developments into new areas and to look for ways in which developments in one part of the world can help shape activity in others. As they meet today pray that the Spirit will inspire their thinking.

WEDNESDAY 9

The managers in both our Publishing and Field departments will be spending time together today looking at the development of our Ministry Delivery strategy. Building close links between these departments is one of our key goals. Thank God for the way in which our publications reflect the expertise gained through our hands-on work with churches and schools, and pray for new ways of making this even more effective.

THURSDAY 10

Our schools work in Wales is undertaken in partnership with the Christian Council for Schools in Wales. Tonight they will be holding their AGM. Ask that God will guide them as they look towards the future and pray for schools worker Matt Lewis as he visits schools, running assemblies and lessons, and supporting Christians in school.

FRIDAY 11

A new *Lifepath* took place in Sudbury on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Pray that the children who attended will continue to think about the themes they explored. Ask God to go on revealing himself to them and to bring others across their paths who will reinforce the messages that they heard.

SATURDAY 12

Today Colin Draper is involved in training others in creative use of the Bible with children. Pray for him – and all those who are always looking for ways of helping children to make sense of the Bible and apply it to their lives. Pray too for all those who will be using the Light material tomorrow – that they will inspire the children and young people in their groups.



OUT IN THE REGIONS

Scripture Union's work is delivered through seven regional teams. This is still a relatively new way of working. Continue to pray that each team will be able to build good relationships with churches, encouraging and resourcing them for work among children and young people, and inspiring Christians to engage with the Bible.

SUNDAY 13

On Monday and Tuesday, Scripture Union volunteers will host two days at Liverpool Cathedral designed to help children prepare for secondary school. Pray that God will use these events, and the *It's Your Move!* book, to prepare the children for the new challenges and opportunities they will face, and that they will learn to trust him.



Karen Hodges

MONDAY 14

Lifepath has proved an extremely valuable way of attracting children from local schools to an event which helps them to see the Christian faith through the lives of Christians of earlier ages. Lifepath in Upminster starts today and runs until Wednesday. Pray that as the children encounter God at work in the lives of the Wesley brothers, they will see how he can work in their lives too.

TUESDAY 15

The South East team including staff, associates and affiliates are meeting today. Pray that as they plan together they would have a clear sense of God's leading and a strong sense of working together as a single team. Pray too for Karen Hodges, Schools Worker in the East region, as she gets involved with a 'Pray for Schools' event in Leicester, encouraging more people to pray for schools.

WEDNESDAY 16

Vicki Backpool, Team Leader in Wales, has a challenge unique to her region – that of communicating in two languages. Pray for her as she takes a Welsh exam on Friday and that her improving Welsh will help her to grow in effectiveness. On Saturday she is involved in a training event in Cardiff. Pray too for training events for school Christian Union leaders taking place in north-east Wales today and north-west Wales tomorrow.

THURSDAY 17

SU Spain asks us to pray for new cooperative initiatives with **La Semilla de Trigo** (Grain of Wheat) involving joint training days and ministry presentation events. Next year this partnership is expected to extend to children's camps involving KidsGames and Godly Play. Pray too for a small committed team of volunteers who are planning a children's Bible-reading project based on the Descubre printed materials.

FRIDAY 18

Alison Dayer is the Development Worker in the East region who also has a special remit for work with under-fives. From 21 June to 6 July she will spend two afternoons each week using a reflective approach to Bible storytelling, helping children in reception classes to engage more fully with the stories through discussion and art. Pray with Alison that she will be able to develop this approach further and encourage others to use it.

SATURDAY 19

This evening, **X:site** takes place in Gloucester and **The Max** in Bristol. Let's ask God to bring along large numbers of children and to give the teams at both events wisdom and sensitivity as they show the love of Jesus in a range of ways. These events provide an ideal opportunity for children without any church background to hear the good news. Pray that many make responses.



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Prayer was fundamental in the life of Jesus and lies at the heart of all our work for God. But it can easily be sidelined in our busy lives. Take the opportunity to pray for all staff, associates and volunteers, that even in the midst of busy lives they will always give priority to prayer.

SUNDAY 20

With the summer rapidly approaching, pressure mounts. Pray that the Ministry Support Services Manager, Dave Cooper and the administrative team (which is smaller than it was last year) will be able to deal efficiently and speedily with team applications. Pray that the new online system, which is due next year and which will streamline this procedure, will come in on time and on budget.



Lifepath maypole

MONDAY 21

Three Lifepath events take place this week, in Malvern, Jervaulx and Leicester. Pray that as the children look at the life, work and prayer of the monks who committed their lives to serving God in earlier generations, they will see something of the way in which prayer can lead us to God today.

TUESDAY 22

Today the staff at Queensway House will be meeting to pray. Staff in the regions will be making opportunities to pray either today or at some other time during the week. These gatherings for prayer build our sense of dependence on God and enable us to be the means through which he works. Pray that as we come together, we will experience God's presence and pray with faith and expectation.

WEDNESDAY 23

The accomplishment of Scripture Union's vision involves not only the staff team but also many enthusiastic and gifted associates and volunteers. This week will see the final preparations for the launch of a new Scripture Union associate trust in Preston and Leyland with a vision day that takes place today. Pray that God will speak clearly and show the next steps.

THURSDAY 24

In the Solomon Islands, Bible School curriculum resources are being translated into the local Pijin language. Wendy Rayner (SU South Australia and Pacific Region) is coordinating this project. Initial drafts have been extremely well received and there is much anticipation for the finished product. Please pray that the project will be completed in good time and well used by churches in the Solomon Islands.

FRIDAY 25

The Abersoch beach mission team are meeting together this weekend to prepare for the summer. They will plan the programme, build relationships, improve their practical skills, look at the Bible together and pray. Ask God to prepare each member of the team in his own way so that when they meet for the mission they will be ready practically and spiritually. Please also remember in prayer other teams who will be preparing around this time.

SATURDAY 26

Give thanks to God for all those who pray regularly and give faithfully to support the work of Scripture Union. As the latest appeal drops through letterboxes this week, pray that God will stimulate more prayer and more giving, and that as God's people resolve to give, they will find that God encourages and bless them.



MOVING UP

It's Your Move! has been an enormously effective way of helping churches build links with schools and helping children prepare for the move to senior school. To date, well over a million copies have been distributed. Give thanks to God for this success story, and for the revised edition which has been produced for this year.

SUNDAY 27

This is a key period for visiting schools to distribute copies of *It's Your Move!*, often in the context of an assembly or special presentation. SU staff, associates, volunteers and many local schools workers and church leaders are involved. Let's pray that they will have real wisdom and sensitivity in the presentation and that children will be engaged.



X-site fun

MONDAY 28

Scripture Union in the north-west is involved in an evening event being run with The Message in Greater Manchester, to enthuse and equip churches to serve their local secondary schools. Pray for Team Leader Richard Witham as he works alongside other agencies – that the work of God's kingdom may be greatly enhanced by partnership and that more will be achieved as a result.

TUESDAY 29

A new associate worker, Richard Saunders, began his role with Butcombe and Blagdon Youthwork Trust back in April. Emma Kendall, Development Worker (Schools) in the South West region has been working closely with this new trust over the past few months and there is excitement and great anticipation about what God has in store for these communities. Ask God to make this a reality.

WEDNESDAY 30

Since September 2009, there has been a significant revival of the SU work in Tchad with over 3,000 French Bible reading notes being distributed. They do not have any staff at the moment. Thank God for the committee members who are providing leadership and pray for funds to enable them appoint the needed staff and for the right people to come forward.

THURSDAY 1

Scripture Union is one of the agencies behind Spree Wales which takes place this weekend. The aim is to provide a secure environment in which around 600 children and young people aged 8 to 15 can meet with God. Teaching sessions will enable some to dig deeper into the Bible and others to ask questions and discover more about Christian faith. Pray that many will look back to this weekend as a decisive point in their lives.

FRIDAY 2

The Canal Turn @16 holiday led by Hannah Winfield starts today and runs until Monday. It gives students who have finished their GCSEs the chance to unwind, have fun, explore what it means to be a community, and enjoy interactive, thought-provoking sessions enabling them to go deeper into God's Word and what it is saying to them. Pray that the Bible will speak to them in life-changing ways.

SATURDAY 3

Pray that at the three **X:site** events taking place today (Sheffield, Keighley and Birmingham), God will speak to the children who attend through the love, lives and words of the volunteer team members. In Newbury, there is an event called Shoemakers at which SU will be presenting resources and providing support, encouragement and guidance to those working with children and young people in local churches.



A DIVERSE MINISTRY

Scripture Union pursues its calling in many ways, through work in schools, churches, communities and publishing. This diversity is both a great strength and a challenge. Pray that those in the leadership team will continue to have a clear sense of where God is leading.

SUNDAY 4

Last Friday saw the publication of a number of new titles. Four new *Bible Friends* board books. Pray for parents, carers and children as they share these books together. Pray too for the impact of the *All-Age Service Annual Volume 4*, *SUBstance* Volume 7 and the *Soul Survivor / Scripture Union* resource for new Christians.



SOLID Youth Festival

MONDAY 5

Starting today, **Canal Turn @18** gives an opportunity to those leaving school and preparing for university to meet with current students and members of the UCCF team to explore some of the practical issues of living for God as a new student. Pray for leader Nigel Butcher and ask God that the short break will prove a real help to these young people.

TUESDAY 6

Many staff and supporters observe the first Tuesday of every month as a day of prayer and fasting of the ministry of SU – why not join them? You can find further details on the SU website. Also today, the Midlands regional team, staff and associates will be meeting together. Pray that this will prove to be a positive time of building relationships and that they will really hear from God during the day.

WEDNESDAY 7

Summer in Israel is very hot. So please pray for energy for Ora Guler and the SU camp leaders as they teach children from the Bible and give them a really good holiday. (The sea is a few miles away so cooling breezes from there would be very welcome as well!) Pray too for the ongoing work in Bible clubs and the possibility of day camps at festival times.

THURSDAY 8

The **SOLID Youth Festival** is a joint venture of Scripture Union, Arise Ministries, the Chelmsford Diocese, the Girls' Brigade in England and Wales and Viz-A-Viz. Around 800 young people from East London will come together this weekend in an environment which includes worship, sport and the opportunity to hear what the Bible says about a range of topics. Pray for safety, good weather and spiritual growth among the young people.

FRIDAY 9

Scripture Union England and Wales is looking for a new National Director to replace Keith Cival who stands down at the end of September. The process is well under way. Pray that the person of God's choice will be found, that he or she will be able to start in good time and will quickly be able to supply strategic and visionary leadership to the movement.

SATURDAY 10

Wayne Dixon, Development Worker (Schools) in the South East region, is involved in a 'Love Your Local School' event in Orpington. This is being run in partnership with the Baptist Union and aimed at church leaders and others wanting to get involved with their local school. Pray that many will catch the vision. Pray too for the **X:site** events happening this weekend in the north-east, Milton Keynes, Newbury, and Havering.



HERE COMES SUMMER!

In just two weeks, summer holidays and missions will be well under way. As teams put the finishing touches to their programmes and prepare for the Bible sessions they will lead, pray that God will inspire them so that they in turn will inspire the children and young people.

SUNDAY 11

By now all the teams for the summer activities should be complete. But there are always one or two posts to be filled and occasional emergencies as people are forced to change their plans at the last minute. Pray for Simon Barker, Volunteer Ministry Team Leader, and Clare Luxton, Volunteers Coordinator, as they make sure that every detail is covered.



MONDAY 12

The summer is not just about Scripture Union-run events. Many staff and associates will be supporting, encouraging and training churches who will be running their own activities. Scripture Union holiday club material, especially this year's **Rocky's Plaice** based on the life of Peter, will be used in churches across the country. Pray for a lasting work of God in the lives of children and young people this summer.

TUESDAY 13

SU Chile is overloaded with the high demand of attention required by children and parents suffering from post-earthquake trauma. They have three centres in the city of Santiago where assistance is provided; a fourth centre was seriously damaged and has had to close down. Thank the Lord for the willingness of the volunteers to serve after the disaster and for the openness of the NGO network to work in cooperation.

WEDNESDAY 14

The Scripture Union Board, comprising volunteer Trustees and the Leadership Team, meets this afternoon. They will be joined for the first time by newly-appointed trustee Clare Walker, who has been on the Council for some years and leads a Scripture Union holiday. Ask that they will be given wisdom by the Holy Spirit as they seek to discern God's way forward for the Movement.

THURSDAY 15

Shine is a new holiday which will enable those with disabilities and able-bodied young people to work together. Running from today until 19 July, it is the result of a partnership between Scripture Union and Through The Roof. Pray not only that all the participants and leaders will have a great time but that other ways of working together will emerge as we consider what God wants for the future.

FRIDAY 16

Scripture Union has been working with the Keswick Convention to provide the children's work for many years, and will be doing so again this year for the next three weeks. The first week starts tomorrow and will be led by Tom Putt. Pray that the children – most of whom come from Christian homes – will grow in faith and that some will begin to see what God wants for them in the future.

SATURDAY 17

Three more **X:sites** take place today: North Wiltshire, Swindon and South Wiltshire. Alice Langtree, our Additional Needs Consultant, writes; 'At the last X:site my little autistic friend brought along another child with ASD – both from unchurched families. They both enjoyed hearing about Jesus.' Praise God for stories like this and pray that he will bring a great variety of children to these events, and that those with special needs will be accepted by others.



SUMMER ACTION AND SAFETY

With around 7,000 children and young people plus a further 2,000 team members active across the summer and most involved in outdoor activities, we need to pray for safety. Pray for the right preparation, wise decisions and careful oversight of all activities. Many miles will be travelled, so pray that God will keep everyone safe on the roads.

SUNDAY 18

Today Helen Franklin, Midlands Regional Team Leader, is preaching at St Paul's, Harborne. Such preaching engagements are a valuable opportunity to present the work of Scripture Union, but they're also valuable for listening to the church, helping us to develop approaches that will meet their needs better. Pray for all who preach on behalf of Scripture Union.



Beach Mission

MONDAY 19

SU Scotland's youth website Ignite is used daily by about 120 young people – all of whom have been on SU camps. However, the website is currently being upgraded so that membership can be offered to all young people in secondary SU groups. Pray for these technical changes to take place smoothly, and for many more young people to make use of this excellent resource.

TUESDAY 20

This week sees the start of the busy summer programme with all its opportunities to see children and young people meet Jesus for the first time or to grow in faith. Many can tell of how over the years the missions and holidays have been key in their Christian life. Pray that a good number will look back to this summer in the same way. Over the next few weeks, we're changing the format of daily prayer to ensure everything is covered in prayer.

REST OF THE WEEK

Faith Adventure, led by Andrew Smith, is for young men aged 14 to 17 and runs from July 23 to 25. It brings together Christians and Muslims, aiming to create an environment of mutual understanding in which they can gain a better understanding of Jesus.

Four holidays run from July 24 to 31. **The Ultimate Challenge** for 12 to 14s, led by Gill Cammack, takes place in Shropshire and offers a wide range of physical and spiritual challenges. Kathryn Clark and Clare Walker lead **Llan-M**, at Llanmadoc in South Wales for 12 to 15s. **Harriers B** on the Norfolk Broads offers sailing action to 16 to 18s. **Training In Action**, led by Nick and Debbie Scott is designed to help 16 to 17s learn how to serve God more effectively.

Lagger Advance for 11 to 15s runs from July 24 to 27. Led by Steve and Judy Hutchinson it takes place under canvas at the Lagger campsite in Gloucestershire. Prayer for good weather is always appreciated!

The beach mission at Minnis Bay always attracts a large number of children and young people and is well supported by local churches. It runs from 24 July to 7 August and is led by Avtar Hunter-Singh. The second week of Keswick starts on 24 July, led by Colin Draper.



SUMMER ACTION – AND SPIRITUAL IMPACT

While we aim for all those who come on holidays and attend missions to have a good time and plenty of fun, the most important thing is that they discover something new about God and their relationship with him. Pray that teams will have this at the forefront of everything that they do.

SUNDAY 25

This week sees the start of three beach missions: Overstrand, led by Kevin Moore, runs from 25 July to 1 August; Aberystwyth led by Hannah Nelson from July 26 to 30; and Southwold which runs from 31 July to 14 August, led by Ed and Anna Bowerman. Graham Mann-Smith will be leading a mission at Morden Park in South London (26–30 July). Saturday is also the start of the third week at Keswick which continues until 7 August, again led by Colin Draper.



Sailing Holiday

REST OF THE WEEK

Frontline teams working with Scripture Union in Eastern Europe travel throughout the summer. Teams undertake a variety of activities with children and young people and discover that they gain as much as they give. Pray for the team in the Czech Republic from July 31 to August 7.

Several holidays start this week. **Chattabox** is led by Andy Saunders and is based at Moorlands College near Bournemouth. It is designed for 8 to 11s and runs from July 25 to 31. Great Wood camp in Somerset is the base for **GWX**, a holiday for 10 to 12s led by Andrew Downing (July 25 to 31).

Action Replay for 11 to 14s runs from July 25 to 31 under the leadership of Polly Honeychurch and Martyn Fearn. **Submerge** is for the same age group, runs from July 25 to 31, based on the SU Bible notes of the same name. It has a strong Bible emphasis and is led by Meg Thompson and Richard Bolam.

Camps for 8 to 11s take place throughout the summer at the Longbarn campsite in Kent. The first runs from July 25 to 31 with Tim Lewis leading.

Impact, led by Simon Barker, offers 10 to 13s a short break (July 26–30) in Berkshire with an action-packed programme and the opportunity to discover more about God. **Soul in the City** based in Havering from 27 July to 2 August challenges young people aged 14 to 24 to become involved in projects in the community.

Bitesize caters for 8 to 11s and is led by Matt Hamilton from July 27 to 31. **Curtains Up** is aimed at budding performing artists in the age range 13 to 17. Led by Em and Matt Rogerson and Alex Taylor, it runs 27 July to 3 August.

From 30 July to 4 August, Richard Shaw will be leading **SU @ Soul Survivor Stafford**. Two sailing holidays run from 31 July to 7 August: **Mallards** for boys aged 11 to 14, led by Vicki Savage and Tristan Booth; and **Harriers A**, for 14 to 16s led by John Boughton and Helen Hawes. **Falcons Adventure** in Kent and led by Nigel Butcher and Sarah Kemp from 31 July to 7 August is for 13 to 17s.

The 15- to 18-year-old participants in **On Your Bike** will be cycling along the Devon Coast Path under the leadership of Peter Nuttall from 31 July to 4 August. **Geared for Growth** prepares those 16 and over for leadership. Led by John Stephenson it runs from 31 July to 6 August. The second Longbarn holiday runs from 31 July to 7 August for 8 to 11s.

SATURDAY 31

Pray for Scripture Union Board in Bangladesh, Ravi Navaratnam (Regional Director for Scripture Union in South Asia) and Janet Morgan (CEO of Scripture Union International) as they prayerfully plan out strategy for the future of Scripture Union Ministry in Bangladesh which at present has no staff. Pray especially for a visit by Ravi and Janet in August.



SUMMER ACTION – AND RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are at the heart of all Scripture Union's activities. Often children and young people point to the love they receive from the team as a major influence on their lives. Pray for excellent relationships between the children and young people, and that they will relate well to team members – particularly over the summer.

PRAYER THIS WEEK

Eight missions start today for two weeks (although Hexham runs for only one): **Abersoch** (leader Helen Franklin); **Hexham** (David and Martha Flavell); **Nefyn** (Dave Bartram); **Perranporth** (Anthony Hall); **Polzeath** (Alison Withers); **Port St Mary** (Evelyn and David Stewart); **Sheringham** (Tony Burton); and **Sutton on Sea** (Liz Boland).



'God Loves You'

SUNDAY 1

REST OF THE WEEK

Also, **Cromer** mission (Hannah Beal) runs from August 2 to 14, **Felpham** (Jane Weavers), August 2 to 7 and **Criccieth** (Andrew and Alison Bradley) August 7 to 21. Pray for stamina for the teams and for good numbers of unchurched children and young people to attend

Three holidays for 8 to 11s run from August 1 to 7: **X:Claim!** (Salisbury, led by Dave and Anna Massey), **MAD**, with an emphasis on the performing arts (Surrey, Gordon Innes and Daniel Sedgewick) and **Spot The Difference** (Bakewell, Steve and Nicola Clarkson). Also running across the same period are: **Great Dayz** at Great Wood camp, aimed at 9 to 11s and led by Chris Hammersley; **Footlights**, another holiday with a performing arts theme, for 10 to 13s and led by John Orchard and Lois Durrant; and **The Maze**, which takes place in Brackley, is designed for 12 to 15s, and led by Jo Morley and Dave Williams.

Under canvas, Steve Hutchinson leads **Lagger** 1 for 8 to 11s, from August 2 to 6 and the third **Longbarn** holiday for 8 to 11s, led by Tim Lewis runs August 7 to 13.

Frontline teams will be based in Slovakia from August 5 to 15, and in the Czech Republic from August 7 to 14. One challenge facing these teams is communicating against the background of language differences. Pray that despite this, their love for Christ will be evident to all. Over in Eastern Europe, from August 7 to 21, Gill Cammack will be leading the **Challenge Belarus** holiday with a group aged 16 and over working on a building project at the SU campsite. There will be many challenges in a country that it not always sympathetic to Christian witness.

The great majority of the summer activities are led and staffed by volunteers. In addition to praying for the activities organised by Scripture Union, we should remember that field staff and associates will also be supporting church-based activities with training, leadership and resources. Lisa Jones, for example, will be leading **Rocky's Plaice Holiday Club** at Union Church, Heathfield, Sussex from August 2 to 6. Pray that this and other staff involvement in similar events will help the church to see possibilities for the future.

SATURDAY 7

Scripture Union in Belgium has much to praise God for. The first session of their new training course for children's ministry started in February. Fifteen students have enrolled on the course for two years which involves five Saturdays a year. Pray that these young people, eager to learn how to teach children in their Sunday schools, will learn valuable new skills.



SUMMER ACTION – AND SMALL GROUPS

Much of the spiritual input on both holidays and missions takes place in small groups. These enable children and young people to explore the Bible and ask questions at their own pace. Pray for wise and sensitive leadership of these groups.

SUNDAY 8

Missions at Abersoch, Nefyn, Perranporth, Polzeath, Port St Mary, Sheringham, Sutton on Sea and Cromer their second week. Pray that the team members will have physical stamina, emotional strength and spiritual freshness. Pray for the relationships that are being built with children, young people and their parents, and the missions will make a positive impression on others on the beach.



Enjoy the Walk

REST OF THE WEEK

Sunday sees the start of a number of holidays. **Activ8**, for 8 to 11s takes place in Brackley, runs until 14 August and is led by Steve and Helen Carlson. Covering the same period and catering for the same age group are **Ka'zoo**, led by Pete Brown in Rugby and **One Hundred %**, in Surrey led by Sue and Keith Cival. As with all our holidays, there is a varied programme with the emphasis on discovering more about God in a fun environment. Younger children who may be away from home for the first time can find it a little overwhelming. Pray that they will all integrate fully.

Livewires for 12 to 15s, runs in Salisbury until 15 August with Mark White, David James and Steven Ackroyd as leaders and offers a range of electronic- and computer-based activities with a creative edge. **Step Out**, also aimed at 12 to 15s is a regional holiday in the north-west aiming to build on contacts made throughout the year. It finishes on 14 August. **8** in Havering led by Richard Shaw and Fiona Norcross attracts 10 to 13 year olds from local schools and churches and runs from August 8 to 12, hosting a mix of Christian and non-Christian young people.

The Real Thing takes place at Great Wood camp, caters for 13 to 15s, runs until 15 August and the leaders are Amy and Jon Chambers. **Coniston Adventure** for 14 to 18s and led by John Lambert centres on outdoor activities until 14 August. Aimed at 11 to 16s, **Fusion** is based in Sedbergh runs under the leadership of Andy Sykes, and Chris and Megan Wareham, concluding on 13 August.

The national **X:site** holiday draws children from **X:site** events around the country, giving them a similar experience in a residential context. It runs in Bakewell from August 9 to 13; aimed at 8 to 11s, led by Lianne Smith. **Get Real**, a holiday for 14 to 17s led by Clare Jones, Julia Bullworthy and Wayne Dixon, is based near Cirencester and offers a wide selection of sports between August 11 and 17.

SU @ Soul Survivor Shepton Mallet gives 15 to 17s an opportunity to attend the festival from August 11 to 16 and to reflect on what they are learning and experiencing. **Transmission** in Norfolk is led by Phil and Liz Bellamy, Jon and Tamzin Cotterell, aimed at 13 to 16s runs from August 14 to 21. Longbarn 4 also runs from August 14 to 21. And the third week of Frontline in the Czech Republic starts on Saturday.

SATURDAY 14

The SU Africa region is working with SU Ethiopia to start a children's ministry in the country. Thank God for the recent training conducted for potential children's workers and pray that the ministry will start on the right foundation and grow in the coming years.



SUMMER ACTION – AND COMING TO FAITH

Every year many who come on Scripture Union activities are not yet Christians. Others think they are but during their time with us discover that they have not really entered into a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Pray that many will find Christ this summer and will go on deepening their faith in him.

SUNDAY 15

PRAYER THIS WEEK

Starting on Sunday and running until 21 August at Market Rasen, **J-Zone** caters for 8 to 11s and is led by Jo Bailey. For 13 to 16s, **Helter Skelter**, based in Brackley and led by Matt and Rachel Bell and Sarah Maltby, runs from August 15 to 21.



Holiday Clubs

REST OF THE WEEK

While most of Scripture Union's holidays are run nationally, some are run regionally and aim to consolidate work done at other times during the year. One of these, The Hub, aimed 15 to 18s, is based in Keswick between August 15 and 20 and is led by Geoff Brown.

Full On! (August 16–22) is for 9 to 11s, based in Salisbury and led by Clare Luxton and Clare Walker. The **It's Your Move!** holiday, like the book of the same name, is aimed at those moving from junior to secondary school; led by Ray Ellis, it takes place in Berkshire from August 16 to 20. The programme at **Wide Open**, for those aged 13 to 19, led by Jan Simmons and running at Great Wood from August 16 to 20, is specially designed to appeal to those with learning difficulties. **Lagger 2**, led by Steve Hutchinson, is on at the Lagger campsite from August 16 to 20 and is for 8 to 11s. **Xplore**, is a north-east regional holiday based in Keswick for 9 to 11s led by Jo Harries and running from August 16 to 20.

CheckMate, aimed at 11 to 15s, and led by Kevin Moore has a strong chess theme which is used to present Christian truth. It runs in Bedfordshire from August 17 to 20. **Transformers**, for 14 to 18s who want to improve their creative skills in video, photography, computer programming or music, runs from August 20 to 28 led by Andrew Collier and Neil Roques and based in Surrey. **X-Stream** leaders Will Gould, David Wilson and Sarah Bird help 8 to 10 year olds discover God in the atmosphere of the Great Wood camp site between August 21 and 25.

During the summer, many churches will be running holiday clubs using Scripture Union material. The potential impact of such events is great, but it becomes harder and harder to attract and retain children in today's world where there are so many other attractions. Pray that all such events will have an influence on the communities in which they take place and that God will bring many to faith.

SATURDAY 21

The Pacific Region is planning a conference in Vanuatu in December to provide intensive training to key leaders in youth and children's ministry. The planning team is headed by Sam Emery (Pacific Islands Coordinator), and includes several other staff members from the region. In the run-up there will be programmes to equip Pacific Islanders to train others. Pray for good preparation, attendance and for participants to be equipped and encouraged.



SUMMER ACTION – AND GROWING IN FAITH

Follow-up is all-important. Many of the children who have been on Scripture Union activities during the summer have Christian support networks but many do not. Pray that God will continue the work that he has started and that all would find other Christians who can come alongside them and support them.

SUNDAY 22

Although the bulk of summer activities are over, four holidays start today. **The Track** (for 15 to 17s, until 29 August) is led by Peter Fryatt. **X:site** Leeds, led by Jan Fennell finishes on 26 August. Longbarn East End, is for 8 to 11s and led by Geoff and Sarah Felton (finishes 28 August). **The Great Adventure**, for 11 to 14s, is led by John Stephenson until 27 August.



Holiday Club creativity

MONDAY 23

Matt Lewis, staff worker in Wales, is leading a holiday club as part of the 'Soul in Dinas' social action week, and Midlands-based Colin Draper is leading another at a church in Spalding. Both have had busy summers – pray that they will be able to communicate the good news of Jesus clearly in ways that are understood by those who attend.

TUESDAY 24

For many young people, the time spent on a Scripture Union holiday this summer will have been a high point in the year. They will have encountered God in the company of others and in an environment where they can be honest and can feel supported. Not all will have the same level of support when they return home. Pray that God will help them to remember all they have learnt and continue to experience his presence.

WEDNESDAY 25

Pray that churches will be able to build on the work that has started in the summer. Ask God to give leaders the wisdom to know how to disciple young people who often face considerable difficulties in living for Jesus, and the patience to hang in with those who can sometimes seem awkward.

THURSDAY 26

The All In! holiday for 9 to 13s, takes place at Great Wood from August 26 to 29. It is led by Lisa Tagg and James Kewley and has a programme designed for those with learning difficulties. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity for the team as they build relationships with the young people and that all may experience a real sense of God's presence in a range of ways.

FRIDAY 27

For those children and young people who have been on holidays or attended missions and who do not have any Christian background or support, it would be very easy for what they have discovered to be lost. Please pray that God will lead them to places where they can find encouragement and continue their journey with him.

SATURDAY 28

SU Cambodia has just been through a change of leadership with Long Sitha taking over as the new team leader on 1 April. Pray that the changes will go smoothly, that the work among children will not be disrupted. Pray also about the desire to reach to out to the young teens and for the provision of a new staff worker who can concentrate on this ministry.



TELLING THE STORY

We praise God for all he does through Scripture Union. There are many stories to be told and this is the responsibility of the Ministry Promotion team. Pray that they may have integrity, grace and wisdom as they honour God by sharing the news of what he is doing.

SUNDAY 29

The last holiday of the summer is the Family Bible Holiday at Great Wood, led by Terry and Sue Clutterham which starts tomorrow and runs until Thursday. It is aimed at families with secondary-age young people. Pray that it will prove to be a time when families grow closer to one another and to God, as they enjoy his creation and spend time looking at the Bible together.



Great Wood

MONDAY 30

Pray for *'Fun in the Sun'*, a mission event on Margate Sands mobilising the churches in Margate to reach out to the local people and visitors – many from other faiths. It aims to empower local volunteers to engage with their community through the local church, care for the children and families on the beach by providing good quality fun and games, and help families to engage with the Bible through an interactive talk.

TUESDAY 31

Pray for Communications Manager, Sarah Coe, as she works on the next edition of *The Life* which will come out in the autumn. Pray that she will be led to the right stories and that, as she works with freelance writers and designers, it may come together smoothly and communicate powerfully, leading to more supporters becoming more deeply involved through praying, giving and volunteering.

WEDNESDAY 1

The Year – which combines an overview of Scripture Union's financial position and an outline of the way in which the ministry has progressed over the previous year – is an important means of informing supporters and potential donors. Pray that the next edition, covering SU's financial year 2009–10, will enable readers to grasp the situation and to respond in appropriate ways.

THURSDAY 2

Bible Sunday (celebrated by many churches on 24 October) is a good opportunity to remind Christians of the importance of the Bible in their lives. Many Christians do not have any regular pattern of looking at the Bible. Pray that as materials for this year are prepared, they will stimulate many to renewed contact with the Bible and a determination to live by it.

FRIDAY 3

On 16 October, our next appeal will go to our supporters for whom we give thanks as partners in the gospel. Much thought and prayer goes into this in advance, with the aim of ensuring that supporters are informed and inspired to pray and to give. Please pray for Marketing and Fundraising Manager, Kate Beaton, as she puts this together – that she would know the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

SATURDAY 4

In Mozambique there have been encouraging developments in SU ministry since the appointment of a new National Director last year. However there are legal restrictions which currently bar SU from raising support locally. Pray that as the committee works with lawyers to overcome this, a solution may be found and that adequate funds may come in to enable the work to continue to grow.



NEW TERM - NEW OPPORTUNITIES

As a new school year starts, children and young people face many challenges and opportunities. Pray that Christians in schools – pupils, teachers and support staff – will live clearly and positively for Jesus in a tough environment and will make a difference to those around them.

SUNDAY 5

Scripture Union aims to resource and encourage many others who go into schools to take assemblies or lessons. From today until 9 September, Scripture Union schools work training is taking place on the Isle of Man for gap-year volunteers working with the Scripture Union Ministries Trust on the island. Pray that they will be adequately equipped for the year ahead.



New term for pupils

MONDAY 6

Pray for all those moving into secondary school. Many of them will have received a copy of *It's Your Move!* and we know from years of experience how helpful they will be finding it. Praise God for all that has been achieved through this book and ask that those who have received it this year will think more deeply about the way in which God can be involved in their lives.

TUESDAY 7

Christian groups in schools are a lifeline for many young Christians, providing support and encouragement. They are also an invaluable way of making Jesus known to others. Thank God for the high-quality resources that are available on the *SchoolsLive* website and pray for Geoff Brown as he heads up the team producing new material for use in secondary school groups.

WEDNESDAY 8

The material for junior groups on *SchoolsLive* is coordinated by Margaret Lilley who works with a small team. Pray for continued freshness as they look to produce new ideas. Pray too for those who edit the material and ensure that it appears on the website in an accessible form which makes it easy for group leaders to use it.

THURSDAY 9

It is not only in schools that September signals a fresh start. For many churches it marks the start of changes as new programmes start after the summer break. Pray for the groups who will be using *LightLive* this Sunday as they see how God worked through Paul in Corinth. Ask God to help them to be inspired to see how he might work through them too.

FRIDAY 10

There is a Schools Workers' Conference in London today involving a number of different agencies. This gives the Scripture Union staff an opportunity to meet up with others to share fellowship, exchange ideas and gain fresh inspiration. Pray that many will be encouraged and equipped in new ways as a result of today.

SATURDAY 11

Scripture Union in Sri Lanka thanks God for the all work that has gone on with children and families affected by the 2004 tsunami. All the temporary camps have now closed and the children are now in permanent accommodation but the work with them continues. Pray that it will continue to bear fruit and for SU Sri Lanka as they plan for new ministries with youth in the near future.



CHILDREN IN CHURCHES

Throughout the summer, the publishing team have been reviewing *Light and LightLive* ahead of important decisions at the end of October. Pray that the right direction will be found for this valuable resource and for those currently writing and editing material.

SUNDAY 12

X:site seeks to work with groups of churches in a town or area, providing a place where children can meet in larger numbers than are possible in many churches. For those children who feel that they are in an isolated minority, it can be very encouraging to see large numbers of Christian children. Pray that this will be true for the Havering event, which takes place today.



Boys relaxing

MONDAY 13

For some, a summer of active service has come to an end. Others are already looking ahead to next year. Pray for all the planning that will take place for next year's programme and especially for next year's holiday club material, *Mission: Rescue*, currently in the final stages of production and for the long-range thinking going into the material for 2013.

TUESDAY 14

The whole SU staff team is meeting today in Northampton. This is an opportunity to take time out to hear from God and to plan for the future. Pray that in the discussion and the conversations God will be present and that staff will leave inspired and encouraged, and with fresh enthusiasm for the work to which God has called them. Field staff will be continuing to meet for the next two days.

WEDNESDAY 15

The *Top Tips* series provides practical help for those working with children and young people in a brief and easily-accessible format. Three new titles have been especially welcome and are now being reprinted: *Sharing Bible Stories*; *Encouraging Faith to Grow*; and *Communicating God in non-Book Ways*. Pray that these will reach those who need them and that many will be more effective in ministry as a result.

THURSDAY 16

For the last few years we have been asking how we can be more effective in our ministry to boys and young men, and how we can support churches in this important area. The results of a research project reveal some exciting ideas, pointers to good practice and ways forward (a report can be found on the SU website). Pray for Richard Witham as he takes this project forward.

FRIDAY 17

By October, there should be a new brand feature on *LightLive*, especially for small groups with a large age range. This is being created in response to heartfelt requests from leaders who struggle to manage the practicalities of this type of group. A new *Top Tips* book and training support on this topic are also planned.

SATURDAY 18

SU Malawi has adopted a five-year plan with the aims of improving corporate governance, generating adequate finances for the ministry (always a challenge), improving communication with supporters, developing staff (hard when there is often not enough to pay salaries) and becoming more focused in their ministry. Pray that God will help them to move forward and provide all the resources that they need.



INTO THE BIBLE

Scripture Union's vision is that every Christian engages seriously with the Bible and grows in their faith. Thank God for the growth of WordLive, now with 24,000 regular users. Pray that the team will continue to develop new ways of helping people of all ages into the Bible both in print and digitally.

SUNDAY 19

Darren Hill, Senior Creative Developer, asks for 'guidance and wisdom as we seek to develop *WordLive*, moving it from a static presentation of Bible notes, images, video and audio into a Bible engagement community.' This is in response to the way that web-based material is currently moving, and requires the input of considerable, thought, energy and technical expertise.



MONDAY 20

New developments are being planned for children's and young people's Bible reading publications to ensure that they meet the needs of this generation. These will use a variety of media. Pray for Creative Developers Maggie Barfield (Children) and Alex Taylor (Youth), as they aim to finalise the initial concepts by the end of this month – and that God will guide their thinking.

TUESDAY 21

On 1 October a new series of books called *Dark Chapters* will be published. It aims to help young people wrestle with some of the difficult stories in the Bible. Pray that they will help young people grow in their faith, and increase their understanding of the Bible. Pray that the slightly different approach will be appreciated by bookshops, leaders and, above all, young people.

WEDNESDAY 22

Substance is a Bible-based, interactive group resource for 14 to 18 year olds. Since the first volume was published in 2008 it has established itself as a leading resource for this age group. We give thanks for all those young people who have come to a better understanding of their faith as a result. Pray for its continued ministry as Volume 8 is published on 1 October.

THURSDAY 23

Next year we'll be launching, in cooperation with others, *e100*, a programme of 100 readings from Genesis to Revelation designed to give an overview of the Bible. Pray that all will be ready for the launch and that many churches will decide to use it as a way of increasing biblical understanding. Pray most of all that it results in an increased desire to engage with God's Word.

FRIDAY 24

Today the annual meeting of the Scripture Union International Council starts in Nairobi, Kenya. The guest speaker, Dr Douglas Carew, will lead sessions on the growth, changes, and challenges of the church in Africa and the role of the church in shaping society. Reports will be received from the Regions and from the International staff. There will also be discussion of issues effecting SU ministry and plans for development.

SATURDAY 25

Today we have another opportunity to pray for an *X:site* event – this time in Gloucester but drawing children from a wider area. Take the time to pray both for the event and for all the work that goes on in the background. Pray for Alison Peace as she handles the team update forms, asking that these will be returned in time for forthcoming events.



PRAYER AND VISION

This week is designated as a week of prayer within Scripture Union, with various prayer events happening around the country. For details, visit the Prayer section on our website. As we come together to pray, we ask for God to guide our prayers by his Spirit.

SUNDAY 26

For a number of years the Scripture Union International staff team has been working with several organisations in the Middle East and some Gulf states. For Clayton Fergie (International Youth Ministries Coordinator) this has included partnering with an Egyptian organisation. Please pray for Clayton as he hopes to involve other Scripture Union people in this, later in the year.



Ian Marsh

MONDAY 27

Starting next month, the South West regional team will be running their second training tour in the region – taking in venues in Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. Pray for them in the final stages of planning and preparation, asking that through God's guidance what they prepare will meet the needs of those who attend.

TUESDAY 28

In the autumn, Maidenhead churches are putting on 'Christianity Awareness Week' in up to five Maidenhead secondary schools. Helping lead is Christian band LZ7, headed up by someone schools worker Wayne Dixon first knew as a pupil! Thank God for stories like this, and pray for the final preparations for this event as schools are approached and young people invited.

WEDNESDAY 29

Steve Whyatt, staff worker in the East region, is setting up the GenR8 Trust to develop primary schools work in the region. The vision is to give every primary school pupil the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus, to ensure that every primary school receives regular Christian input and to build links between church and school. Pray that many in the region will catch the vision and give support.

THURSDAY 30

Tomorrow a new Scripture Union school retreat day 'LifeMatters' is being run in Liverpool for Year 7 pupils as part of their transition into secondary school. Thank God for the many opportunities that are still open for work in schools, and pray that through events like this young people will be encouraged to think more deeply about the meaning of life.

FRIDAY 1

Pray for the SU Board as they meet this afternoon. It will be the last for Ian Marsh as Chair. Give thanks to God for his faithful and wise leadership over the years and for the time that he and other volunteer Trustees give to providing overall leadership and direction to the Movement. Ask God to continue to guide as we move into a new era and as a new Chair takes over.

SATURDAY 2

The Council consists of around 50 people, mainly volunteers, drawn from a wide range of backgrounds but all with a deep understanding of, and commitment to, Scripture Union. Pray that as they meet this weekend, God will use the variety of experience, perspective and insight to give a positive sense of direction for the future.