

SHINING AS STARS



On Pray Day - Tuesday 17 November, Pray for Schools is encouraging everyone to pray for their local schools.



We've put together these resources and you can also use our Ten Ways to Pray for Schools <https://www.prayforschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/TWTP-for-Schools-Online-v4.pdf> as you meet with others with a heart for your local schools or if you're praying on your own.

You're warmly invited to join us online!

Celia Bowring and Jane Newey will host two Zoom Pray Day Sessions on Tuesday 17 November

- **9.30am - led by Lisa from SU and Bev from YFC**
- **5.30pm - with Ebony from Prayer Spaces in Schools and Toni of Chaplaincy Central**

Just turn up to one or both by pre-booking on Eventbrite using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pray-for-schools-pray-day-tickets-126814209715>

In addition Worcester Diocese is hosting an afternoon Zoom Prayer session at 1.45pm - which will include Julie of Open the Book. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pray-for-schools-tickets-120157792191>

Inspired by Scripture Union's 'Shine in Schools' initiative, <https://www.shineinschools.com> we're focusing on young people in schools who follow Jesus; the opportunities they have, the pressures they face and organisations supporting them.



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Jesus is the source of all light and He told His followers: -

‘You are the light of the world, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.’

He wants our good deeds to bring glory to the Father and for the good news of the gospel to be made known to everyone.

Let’s constantly ask the Holy Spirit to fill every one of us so we can shine for Him and pray for one another to walk in the light of His love as children of God.

You may like to watch this video of Matt Redman’s beautiful song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SrPqkEnhOA>

‘Shine’

Lord we’ve seen the rising sun, awakening the early dawn,
and we’re rising up to give you praise.

Lord we have seen the stars and moon, see how they shine,
They shine for you, and You’re calling us to do the same.

So we rise up with a song, and we rise up with a cry.
And we’re giving you our lives.

We will shine like stars in the universe,
holding out Your truth in the darkest place
Jesus we’ll be living for Your glory.

We will burn so bright with Your praise O God,
and declare Your light to this broken world.

We’ll be living for Your glory.

Like the sun so radiantly sending light for all to see,
let your holy church arise!

Exploding into life, like a supernova’s light,
set your holy church on fire!

We will shine.



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These verses from Philippians 4 encapsulate what it means to live for Christ.

**Do everything without complaining or arguing.
Then you will be innocent and without anything wrong
in you.**

**You will be God's children without fault.
But you are living with crooked and mean people
all around you.**

**Among them you shine like stars
in the dark world.**

You offer to them the teaching that gives life.

Philippians 2:14-16 (International Children's Bible)

This takes courage, faith and persistence.

**And it's a particularly challenging ask for young people at school, who
may face opposition of many kinds.**

It means speaking and living out the truth with love and grace.

This may cost them relationships, reputation and lead to rejection.

**They will need to walk close to Jesus and trust Him
for everything they need.**

And if they fall, to ask Him to help them get back up again.

So let's pray.....



SHINING AS STARS



PRAYING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR SCHOOLS

What an encouragement to know there are so many Christian young people in the UK, some brought up in the church and others from other backgrounds, with a passion for justice, truth and love. They are the church leaders of tomorrow, but God is using them today!

Good Shepherd, please inspire and lead Christian young people at school to walk in the light. Bring these young believers together to encourage each other in their day-to-day lives and to grow in their faith through praying and reading the Bible together. Please bless any initiatives they are planning and open the doors to share Jesus with others. During this Covid crisis especially help them to reach out to others. Amen.



Young people need our prayers for those affected by mental health and other issues. This is Anti-Bullying week. There is so much uncertainty and anxiety around the Covid situation with many having mental health problems and difficult relationships – on and off-line.

Lord our Healer, we pray about the pressures on young Christian people, particularly through this difficult time. Help them, and all children and teenagers, to seek support if things get tough; with family problems, worries about classwork and exams, relationships on and offline, mental health issues and any other difficulties causing them to be anxious and sad. Amen.



In schools across the country hundreds of Christian fellowship groups regularly bring young people together; these are catalysts for evangelism and discipleship. Supported by church children and youth workers, teachers, chaplains, and organisations like Scripture Union

Father God, thank You for every individual who is working through a local church or with an organisation, in youth ministry. Please cause them to come into contact with young people who are in need of care and support at this time – we know You are constantly moving in our lives and bring about amazing encounters. Grant encouragement, perseverance, love and peace as they come alongside young people. Amen.

