

Newsletter

Summer Term

2021



Over the last few weeks, I have enjoyed my daily walks along the canal watching the swans and their new family of 12 cygnets. The attentiveness, dedication, and commitment to protecting these tiny beings and nurturing them into young swans is remarkable. It made me think of parents and their love for their children, and likewise teachers and schools' workers and their relentless commitment to those in their care. It has been a long hard year and we pray that God will have held you all close. Psalm 95 v7 says "For he is our God and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." And Psalm 91 v4 "He will cover you with His wings". Sometimes all we need is just one touch from the King, our Lord Jesus Christ, and we pray that you will receive his love this summer.



Our **prayer zooms** have been going well and it is lovely to meet people from so many parts of England and Wales and pray together. New relationships and links have been made especially in Wales and we need a team to help us accomplish our vision. Our next Welsh prayer zoom is on Thursday 9th September. Please let us know if you prefer lunchtime or early evening. Email wales@prayforschools.org

We are holding two zoom events before the end of term. The first on **Friday 16th July at 12.30** when we will be looking and praying for transitions in schools. We will be joined by Lisa Jones from Scripture Union and Lizzie Harewood from ACT. Book your place on [Eventbrite](#). The second is on **Tuesday 20th July at 1.45pm** when we will be joining Open the Book and praying with story tellers from around the country for their schools and the volunteers who tell the stories. [Eventbrite](#).

It's Your Move continues to be a great book for the transition from primary to secondary school. It is lovely to hear so many prayer groups, churches, school and youth workers donate these to their local schools. See page 4 and read about what YoYo in York have been doing on page 5.

It's been encouraging to hear about the **Prayer Walking** which has taken place. Read CYO's story on page 2. The OIKOS app is a great help and you can find out more about it in the newsletter or on the website https://hopeforeveryhome.org/Groups/359717/The_Prayer_App.aspx

Ephesians 5 v2 encourages us to "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"

For those who like to plan ahead, the **Back to School with God** resources based on John 21, "the Boat and the Breakfast" are available on the SU Scotland website <https://www.suscotland.org.uk/bsg>

Education Sunday is on the 12th September and I look forward to seeing the resources shortly. The theme is "A Word in Season" (see page 6)

Lastly we pray that you will have a well-deserved rest and a great summer holiday. We hope that you can join us at one of our events or meet with your local Christians and pray for schools. *Jane*

Jane Newey and Claire Wall, PFS England and Wales Coordinators,
england@prayforschools.org and wales@prayforschools.org





Over the years we've prayed for and encouraged prayer for schools and colleges around Colchester through termly prayer gatherings, a week of online resources to get people praying for schools and this year, prayer meetings via Zoom.

From time to time we have also prayer walked. God doesn't necessarily hear our prayers more clearly when we prayer walk, but I do believe that we can hear God's heart more clearly. There's something powerful about recognising how He is already at work in the place where we're praying and inviting us to be part of His mission among those people.

On one occasion we had approached a school about starting chaplaincy. We had worked with them for many years, and had the right person lined up for the role. But to move from being visitors to having someone who was clearly identified as chaplain working in the school each week was a big step up and had to be approved by the governors. We asked a few people to pray and for a few weeks prior to the decision I decided to prayer walk around the school, asking God to open the door wider. I was delighted when the Governors approved the idea and a year later one of the deputy heads declared himself to have moved from being a sceptic to being a convert about having a chaplain in the school.

Several years ago Christian Youth Outreach (CYO) undertook a sponsored walk around all ten of the secondary schools and the two FE colleges of our town. We invited people from local churches to join us along the route to pray with us for a specific school. There was patchy take up but where people did turn out to pray or walk with us it was fun, affirming and inspiring.

We had hoped to repeat the idea as a prayer walk last year but realised that not many people feel able to walk 19 miles in a day, no matter how prayerful they are. It also felt as though the scale of the activity, all the secondary schools and colleges in a day, seriously overwhelmed the purpose - to encourage people to pray for their local schools. So the idea was re-invented as a series of shorter, slower walks in different parts of the town that could take in more schools including local primaries. This made it more achievable for more people, and the smaller area covered each time had the potential to engage local Christians more meaningfully.

We did this during May, joining with thousands of others around the country who were praying for schools at about the same time. It was exciting to get out to walk with others and to pray for our schools. And I'm excited to hear and see what God might go on to do in revealing his blessing, grace and peace among these communities, their staff and children.

CYO Colchester is a community of people, both staff and volunteers, working in Colchester schools and FE colleges. Our work encompasses chaplaincy, mentoring and a wide range of projects that support the pastoral, spiritual and faith development of children and young people.

We've been helping young people to explore prayer through our prayer spaces in schools since 2008 and regularly encourage local Christians to pray for schools in lots of different ways.

<https://www.cyocolchester.org.uk/>

Tim Abbott, Director, CYO

Our Prayer Walking Video is also available to watch and download

<https://www.prayforschools.org/prayers/assortedprayers/>

Or direct on You Tube <https://youtu.be/KjRGg9AHibA>





Prayer Walk 21 and OIKOS

What are you planning to do this summer? There are lots of things we can't be certain of. Where can we travel? What will the weather will be like? When can we sing again in church?

Hope for Every Home has an idea that we can certainly all take part in – on our daily walk or on a virtual walk from our own home, or just while we are out and about this summer. "Any walk, real or virtual can become a prayer walk," says Sammy Jordan, project leader for Hope for Every Home.

Hope for Every Home, part of HOPE Together, has recently launched OIKOS, a new prayer walking app, as part of Prayer Walk 21. You can find the app free in your app store under OIKOS Outreach or on the Hope for Every Home website [Hope for Every Home : The Prayer App](#)

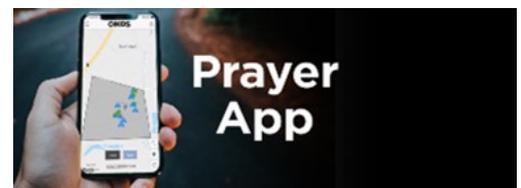
During Covid and lockdown, God has taken his church out of the building, reconnected people with their local communities and mobilised us through our daily walk. Now the invitation is to turn the daily walk into a prayer walk. Over the next year the Prayer Walk 21 challenge is to pray for the people in every street, every road, and every lane in the UK.

Sammy says, 'We don't want this to be an extra thing for people to do, but part of our every day; as we go to the shops, to school, to work, on a walk, to the park, to see a friend...and even on holiday! As you pray for your local school could you also pray for the street it's on and pin a prayer on the OIKOS app?'

The OIKOS app is simple to use. To pin a prayer, use your finger to move the map to where you want to pray and tap the screen. You can also pin a 'share' when you have shared faith through a caring action, an invitation, or a conversation for example.

Praying for every street, every road, every lane in the UK is huge but it starts with each of us stepping outside our front doors and praying as part of our day to day. There are resources available on the Hope for Every Home website to support you, including a great one from Pray for Schools, and some designed to help families prayer walk together this summer. [Hope for Every Home : Resources](#)

So, as part of Prayer Walk 21, download the OIKOS app. Pray as you walk your local streets praying for schools, and get your friends involved too!





Revealing Jesus to children and young people

Have you heard about the new Revealing Jesus Mission strategy from Scripture Union to reach the 95% not in contact with church.? As I hope you will know, in recent years SU have been focussing their energies on the 95% of children and young people who don't regularly attend a church. On the back of this, they have recently launched their Revealing Jesus strategy which looks at how churches might reach out to these children and young people through a four-fold approach of **Connect, Explore, Respond and Grow**.

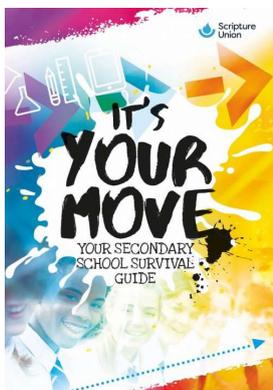


The idea is that churches would appoint (volunteer) **FaithGuides** who, with Scripture Union's support and resources, would be a catalyst for mission in their communities and help the children on their spiritual path to a place where they can grow and be nurtured. The good news is that this scheme is free (though SU is always willing to receive any donations to its ministry!) and will provide a place where these Faith Guides can share and grow together which will be to their benefit and to the church.

Faith Guides will commit to be there for the long run, helping children and young people find and grow in their faith. And through the development of Grow Communities, they'll provide relevant and meaningful opportunities for those they've been journeying with to meet regularly with their peers, to worship and grow together.

Here are some links to find out more : <https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/revealingjesus>

<https://youtu.be/qcuSIqCG88I> and <https://youtu.be/tuBrGx75ujo>



It's Your Move has been given to over 2 million children across the UK each year since 2001, as part of a programme helping them make the transition from primary to secondary school.

This revised edition features all-new real-life story, profiles and articles, more interactive elements and an updated design.

It's Your Move is made up of helpful information and advice for children moving schools. Also included are real-life stories of children who are about to make the move and those who have made it in the recent past. There are puzzles, quizzes and places to personalise the book through doodles, signatures, photo pages etc.

Photos from Spelthorne Prayer Group who give out hundreds of *It's Your Move* every year!





We asked YoYo (York Schools and Youth Trust) about what they have been doing...

Time to move.

It's time for us to move the 1740 "It's Your Move" books out of our Administrator's garage!

We are coming to the end of this academic year, and what a crazy one it has been! So, the season for finishing off and preparing for something new begins. As Christian Schools' Workers it is such a privilege to head into primary schools across York and support Year 6 students as they prepare to move to secondary school. We hear about their excitements and their fears, and can share our belief that God loves them and is with them in this move, and in every move.

We have many highlights in these lessons. One of them is partnering with Year 7 students to put together a video of interviews about their experiences to use in our lessons. Another is that we are always keen to partner with local churches as we work with schools, and many local churches around York gift the wonderful Scripture Union books to the Year 6's in partnership with YoYo's "It's Your Move" lessons.

Alongside this local church partnership, our various rhythms of prayer as an organisation support and inspire our work with students and schools in this transition time, from our own personal prayer life, weekly Zoom prayer meetings attended by YoYo supporters, monthly prayer letters, a monthly teacher's prayer space, and a week of prayer for YoYo in May.

Throughout this year YoYo has experienced God inspiring and lifting us through prayer and partnership with amazing supporters as we have found ways to bring our Christian Faith alive in schools in and out of lockdowns. So, this year we pray in faith that God guides the logistics of distributing these wonderful Scripture Union books into the hands of 1740 Year 6 children across York before their move to secondary school, and pray that they will experience God's blessings and provision during this time of moving on.

Photos from YoYo Trust—Boxes in the garage, plus Suze and Andy about to deliver an IYM session

<http://www.yoyotrust.org.uk/>





This year has been an extremely challenging year for schools, and those who work and study in them - not to mention parents, grandparents, and churches! Let's pray blessings for the new school year:

This September why not hold a **Back to School with God Sunday** service? The 2021 theme is **The Boat and the Breakfast**, exploring **John 21:1-14**. Discover how Jesus met with Peter and his friends in their everyday lives, reminding them of his presence and providing for them. It will lead your congregation to appreciate Jesus' loving presence in challenging times, and his desire for us to seek his presence often.

See <https://www.suscotland.org.uk/bsg>



The date for Education Sunday this year is **12th September** and the theme is "A Word in Season". The readings are Isaiah 50.4-9a, Psalm 116.1-8, James 3.1-12 and Mark 8.27-38. The Free Churches Group Moderator, and Free Churches President of Churches Together in England, Revd Dr Hugh Osgood, has written the introduction and this, along with other resources, will soon be available on the CTE website (The Free Churches Group co-ordinates Education Sunday on behalf of CTE).

<https://www.prayforschools.org/education-sunday/>

If you, or someone you know, has a gift for writing prayers, we'd love to include them in the resources. Prayers should link with the theme of education, and/or with one of the Bible readings. They may be in any form and we'd be particularly pleased to include prayers from children and young people. Please send your prayers to sarah.lane.cawte@freechurches.org.uk

PAIS and Schoolswork UK are holding a second national day of prayer on **Tuesday 28th September** "Our hope is that our prayers would lead to breakthrough, that our prayers would lead to favour and that our prayers would lead to us taking action!"

Pray for Schools are keen to join in with this and plan to host a national prayer zoom.

Do please let us know if lunchtimes or evenings are best. Email england@prayforschools.org



Do you have
a **heart**
to **pray** for the
young people
of **Wales?**



to see '**every school a**
prayed for school?'

We need more volunteers to help with:
social media **admin** **organising**

please email us wales@prayforschools.org

Pray for Schools Wales is a partnership between:



CARE, Initiatives in Christian Education (ICE), Prayer Spaces in Schools, Urban Saints, Open the Book, Festive, Scripture Union, Youth for Christ.