

Newsletter

Summer Term

2022



As the holidays approach, I pray that you have had a good year. There have been many challenges and we continue to pray for the mental health of school staff and our children and young people.

We pray that this summer you will have a chance for rest and recuperation. Maybe gathering round the kitchen table playing games or doing crafts or hobbies. See our article on page 3 about the kitchen table project. Or perhaps like me you love the outdoors and can enjoy our lovely countryside.

Psalm 23 says, *The Lord leads us beside still waters and restores our souls.*

Can we be a "Mary" this summer and sit at the feet of Jesus? (Luke 10 v38 and 39). As Phil Togwell (Prayer Spaces in Schools) writes in today's Lectio 365 (27/06/2022) <https://www.24-7prayer.com/lectio-365/> "the gospel writers describe Mary at the feet of Jesus on three occasions"

In Luke 10 "she sits at His feet listening to Him and learning from Him. In John 11 v 32, Mary's brother Lazarus has just died and she falls at Jesus's feet overwhelmed with grief. And then a little later she anoints Jesus' feet with expensive perfume and wipes them with her hair (John 12 v 3)"

Phil writes "I learn from Mary that whatever we have been through or are experiencing the best place to be is at the feet of Jesus."

As we go on this incredible journey, we all need someone like Paul to pray for us. In the first chapter of Colossians (v9,10,11) Paul writes

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.

We can also pray these verses for those who work in our schools. As we prepare for the new school year let's fix a time to pray with others perhaps using some of the resources available, on one of the dates mentioned below.

This year, Back to School with God Sunday's theme is God's Golden Rules, helping us to love God and our neighbour (See page 4). Education Sunday is on 11th September (resources available shortly) and the National Day of Prayer for Schools is on 22nd September (see page 5)

We pray that you will have a well-deserved rest and a great summer holiday.

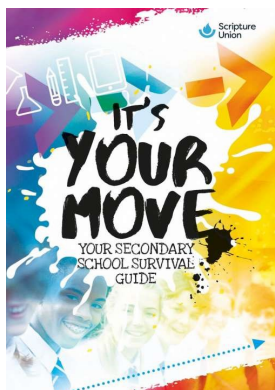
Jane

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Photo from YoYo schools team



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. Available in English and Welsh

<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/its-your-move>



A couple from the YoYo team getting ready for an assembly in one of their schools

Many of our prayer groups already give this great resources to their schools. Why not join them? Perhaps your church would buy the books and you could distribute them?

Spelthorne Schools Prayer Group have donated 927 Scripture Union books to 12 of their schools this year ... follow them on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/spelthorne.schools.prayer/>

and see what they have been doing—photos below

YoYo, Yorks Schools and Youth Trust also distribute "It's Your Move" books to their schools and take assemblies helping the children think about their next school. <http://www.yoyotrust.org.uk/>

Let's join with Spelthorne Schools Prayer Group and pray:

"We pray the books will prove a useful information resource as well as an encouragement for the children & parents to know that God will be continuing to care for every one of the children who will either be starting school for the very first time in Reception or moving onto Senior School in September"

Photos from Spelthorpe Schools Prayer Group





The **Kitchen Table Project** is part of Care for the Family, and supports mums, dads, carers and grandparents in nurturing faith in their children. They write, *we're delighted to be connecting with Pray for Schools, and so thankful for the prayer support you provide to children and their significant adults up and down the country – thank you so much for all you have invested in them over this academic year. As we head into this holiday time, there are some things we'll be praying specifically for, and we'd love you to join us:*

Home

A warm affirming family where children feel safe, loved and accepted gives a secure foundation for faith to grow. Let's pray for homes and families this summer. What are the pressures and challenges parents in your community might be facing? Pray that they have opportunities to have fun and enjoy being together as families, and that relationships are strengthened.

Be real

There's no such thing as a perfect parent, and we can pray for parents to feel empowered to take their children on the journey of faith with them, wherever they're at on that journey themselves. What are the challenges that parents in your community might face in terms of modelling faith to their children? Pray that parents will grow in their own faith and discover ways to show that to their children.

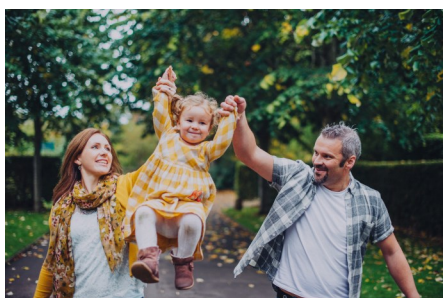
Be Intentional

Finding ways to involve God naturally in everyday life encourages children to know and love him. This might be noticing something in creation at the park, thanking God before a meal, or saying sorry when we get things wrong! What are the challenges parents might face in trying to point to God throughout these summer days? What are the opportunities that they might not have during term time? Let's pray for parents to be encouraged by the many moments they have over the summer holidays to point their children to God.

Belong

Involving children at church and building relationships with others helps them feel they belong to God's family. What are the challenges to connecting with families over the summer? What are the opportunities to connect in small ways? Let's pray for those wider relationships to be strengthened in new ways over the summer, and for the church community to support and encourage families over these coming weeks.

To find out more about Kitchen Table Project and Care for the Family, please visit:
<https://kitchentable.org.uk/>





Back to School with God Sunday takes place in late August or September. For those new to Pray for Schools here is some further information

Back to School with God resources are produced by SU Scotland for you to hold **a special Sunday all-age service to mark the start of a new school year**, on a date that suits you. The aim is to facilitate the church family coming together to pray for children, young people and school communities.

The vision of Back to School with God is to:

- ☐ remind children, young people, teachers and other staff that they go back to school with God
- ☐ demonstrate that the church family values them, prays for them and cares about their daily life at school
- ☐ challenge Christian pupils and staff to live out their faith in the school context, supporting any Christian witness in the school (such as an SU Group or similar)
- ☐ raise awareness among the church family of the ongoing need for prayer for local schools.

The **2022 theme is God's Golden Rules**, exploring the Bible story found in Luke 10:25-37 where an Expert in the Law asks Jesus a question about how he receives eternal life, and who is his neighbour. 'Love God' and 'Love your neighbour' could be called 'God's Golden Rules' and this is explored through the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The Bible teaching is applied to everyone, not just to the school context, with a particular challenge to consider our motives in helping others, and to actively consider who might need our help. The service ends with a time of prayer for children, young people and local schools. Everything is provided for an all age service—simply register and download the resources suscotland.org.uk/bsg





11th September

Education Sunday this year is **11th September** <https://www.prayforschools.org/education-sunday/>
The resources will be available shortly.

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. 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

Could you arrange a service on Education Sunday? Some churches just include a time of prayer to commission their teaching staff and children and young people for the new school year.

You are warmly invited to join the [Centre for Chaplaincy in Education](#) for the 3rd Annual Online Commissioning Service for Chaplains in Schools and Colleges on Education Sunday,

4pm on 11th September 2022



This event celebrates and recognises the enormous contribution made by chaplains within their school and college communities and seeks to affirm and encourage them as they begin a new academic year.

Join together with leading church dignitaries from all denominations along with Education Leaders, Diocesan Directors of Education, and school pupils from across the UK, to celebrate chaplaincy in education. Together we shall commit ourselves to serve God and the communities to which He has called us. This is a family service and all are welcome. **Register [here](#)**

National Day of Prayer for Schools 22nd September

The [National Day of Prayer for Schools](#) is happening again in 2022!

This will be our 3rd year in a row seeking to mobilise groups of faith filled Christians all over the UK to pray for the schools in their community.

The date is **22nd September 2022** and Pais Movement will be working again with the awesome people at Youthscape to help make the day happen. Here are a few ideas



1. Join the early morning prayer Zoom. Aiming for 7am so that any school staff can also join us for 30 minutes of prayer.
2. You can host your own in person or online prayer meeting on the day
3. Arrange a prayer walk in your community to pray for your local schools
4. Film a one minute prayer video that we can use as part of the day.

"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!"