

Newsletter

Spring Term

2023



At a recent church prayer meeting we were focusing on praying for our children and young people. On page 4, I have reproduced the really helpful resource that we used. Link to prayers [here](#)

It was useful to pray specific verses over our children and think about their individual needs. This verse from Philippians 4v6 spoke to me. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* We can pray these verses over the children in the different classes even if we don't know their names. And *"the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4 v7

This year we are joining Thy Kingdom Come (18th to 28th May) as we pray for our local schools. Can you pray for 5 children and 5 teachers this May? That they may "see You more clearly, love You more dearly and follow You more nearly day by day." Details on page 3 and on our [website](#)

We are continuing to pray for Chaplaincy in our schools and have fixed a date of **Tuesday 23rd May** for a Prayer Zoom at 1pm. Anyone is welcome to join.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/praying-for-chaplaincy-in-schools-tickets-574496533597>

PFS Wales is continuing to hold twice termly prayer zooms gathering people from different denominations and regions of the country. These are bilingual and we have Welsh language and English break-out rooms. **The next PFS Wales Prayer Zoom is on Thursday 23rd March at 12.30pm.**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pray-for-schools-in-wales-prayer-zoom-tickets-569182679717>

Growing Faith would love to invite you to apply to be a participant on the Strategic Leaders' Programme launching in April 2023. Full of rich professional learning and development opportunities, chances to connect with other inspiring leaders and fully engage with Growing Faith, this programme promises to guide you to greater impact! See poster on page 6 for more details.

Do let us know any answered prayers and please email if we can help at all.

Jane

Jane Newey & Andy Hughes

PFS England & PFS Wales

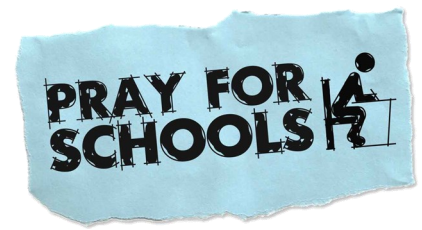
england@prayforschools.org AHughes@saintygymuned.org

For Scotland email: prayer@suscotland.org.uk



YOUTH
FOR CHRIST





Pray for Schools has been hosting termly Prayer Zooms focusing on Chaplaincy and it has been great to get to know some chaplains.

Tim Abbott shares about the chaplaincy team in Colchester and how it developed:

"We had just run our first prayer space in Colchester Sixth Form College and one of the things we noticed was the number of students who dropped in not just to explore the prayer activities but also to sit and chat with members of the team. In my debrief meeting with the deputy principal I commented that there was a need among students for 'a youth work style of chaplaincy'. Her response was immediate and enthusiastic so Kathryn became our first chaplain in the college. Her experience of working with teens and young adults in detached settings and in schools brought the ideal mix of pastoral care and spiritual input. As well as engaging students around the public areas of the site, providing support, signposting to help and sometimes praying with them, Kathryn provided input to some of the curricular areas, ran Christmas and Easter projects, headed up our prayer spaces there and advocated for students of faith, including establishing the first college prayer room.

Our next chaplaincy post was in a secondary school where one of our team had been mentoring students. We approached the head and offered a wider remit, to offer pastoral and spiritual support for the whole school community one day a week. The offer was received warmly and Amy's role changed to being the school chaplain. One of the things we learned through Amy was the importance of availability or presence, not being over constrained by a schedule but having time for any in the school who needed an opportunity to talk about life, struggles, joys and faith.

Kathryn and Amy's work helped us to better shape our understanding of chaplaincy and we came to define it in terms of pastoral support, spiritual development and availability. To this we added that from our perspective it was only really chaplaincy if the school called it chaplaincy. This distinction made the role clear in the minds of others in the school and we found our relationship changed from that of being visitors to belonging, being perceived as part of the school team, even though our chaplains were employees of CYO.

With these two settings established we offered chaplaincy to two more schools who gladly welcomed the additional support and the spiritual life they gained. Over the next few years more schools and colleges welcomed chaplains so that by September 2021 we were delivering or supporting chaplaincy in eight out of the ten secondary schools and both FE colleges, none having a religious character.

Tim Abbott is GB Team Leader, Prayer Spaces in Schools and Pray for Schools Steering Group member



Our next Prayer Zoom for
Chaplaincy is on

Tuesday 23rd May at 1pm

Sign up [here](#)



This year we are encouraging individuals and prayer groups to join in with Thy Kingdom Come and commit a time to praying for your local school.

Pray during Ascension and Pentecost

- **Meet with your local school prayer group**
- **Host a prayer event with churches in your area**
- **Include prayers for schools in your church service**
- **Prayer Walk around the local schools**
- **Pray on your own using Thy Kingdom Come resources**

Why not [pray for 5 children that you know](#)—maybe using the prayer from Richard of Chichester

"That they may see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day."

Pray for [5 teachers that you know](#) at church or from the local schools

Pray for [a Christian you know](#) who visits a local school

Pray for [5 schools in your area](#)

This year's focus is on prayer and living the kingdom.
How can we go that extra mile to love and serve in our schools?

Thy Kingdom Come have provided loads of resources to encourage us as we pray.

See the Thy Kingdom Come [website](#)

*Father, please pour out Your blessings upon our whole school community so that everyone grows in the knowledge of Your truth, love, wisdom and peace.
In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*



12 POWERFUL VERSES

TO PRAY AND POUR OVER OUR CHILDREN

Strength

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. - Philippians 4:13

Courage

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9

Peace

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. - Philippians 4:6

Provision

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. - Phil. 4:19

Direction

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Protection

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." - Psalm 91:1-2

Joy

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. - Psalm 16:11

Compassion

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. - Ephesians 4:32

Justice

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. - Isaiah 1:17

Wisdom

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. - James 1:5

Hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. - Romans 15:13

Love

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. - 1 Corinthians 13



PRAY FOR SCHOOLS

www.prayforschools.org

10 WAYS TO PRAY
FOR SCHOOLS

Have you used our **Ten Ways to Pray for Schools** pdf? Download a copy [here](#)

See www.prayforschools.org/prayers/assorted prayers

From teaching staff to vulnerable children, the resource provides ten short prayers for schools with Bible verses.

SAVE THE DATE!

29th
September

National Day of Prayer for Schools

Friday 29th September 2023

Join us as we pray for
the schools in our nation

Youthscape



Scripture
Union



YOUTH
FOR CHRIST



PAISMOVEMENT



PRAY FOR SCHOOLS



CARE
FOR WHAT
YOU BELIEVE



YOUTH
FOR CHRIST



Scripture Union



Free
Churches
Group

ACT



Our Vision—Every School a prayed-for School.

Pray for Schools c/o CARE, 53 Romney Street, London SW1P 3RF



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

growing
faith

STRATEGIC LEADERS' PROGRAMME

Launch Tuesday 25th April 2023

£499 (+ VAT)

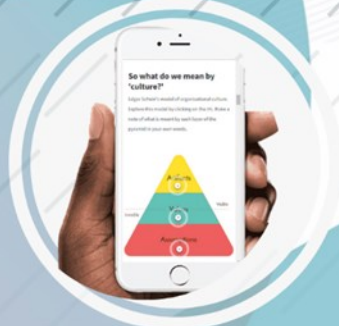
[Apply here](#) or scan the QR code below:



Closing date: Friday 17th March

Got questions?

stephen.beamond@churchofengland.org



If you are a church, school or parachurch leader; a chaplain, or are training for ordination, we at Growing Faith would love to invite you to apply to be a participant on the Strategic Leaders' Programme launching in April 2023. Full of rich professional learning and development opportunities, chances to connect with other inspiring leaders and fully engage with Growing Faith, this programme promises to guide you to greater impact!

“Really thought-provoking online videos, interviews and content so far. Definitely highlighting the real-life issues and what needs to be worked on. Easily accessible. Looking forward to the next session online.” Programme participant (Children and Families Pioneer)

“After just one session, I was already sharing with my manager ways we can bring about a culture change in our organisation. The course brings a variety of voices into the learning in a very professional way with questions to pause and reflect upon after each session. I already feel enriched and am looking forward to more as well as learning and collaborating with others.” Programme participant (Parachurch leader)

“I am profoundly encouraged by the emergence of this programme.” Bishop Jonathan Frost