

Mission Support



We're here to inspire and equip you in mission!

- Want help getting started in outreach to children and young people?
- Need a little boost to the great work you're already doing?
- Would you value help getting your church on board with the vision?

Then sign up today to receive regular inspirational emails, full of great content to help you make the most of the **Revealing Jesus mission framework** in your context.



Mission Sparks

Looking for simple and practical ideas for mission but don't have time to wade through heaps of information? Our monthly *Mission Sparks* series is just what you need!

These easy-to-digest, bite-size slices of inspiration will be delivered straight to your inbox each month as just one of the benefits of your monthly Mission Support update. Sign up for Mission Support to get *Mission Sparks* and much more.

Feel-Good News research

We're so excited to let you know that our latest research report, **Feel-Good News**, is now available for you to [download for free!](https://su.org.uk/research) It can be found here: su.org.uk/research

This research, carried out in partnership with Youthscape, shares the findings of a survey of 1,000 teenagers across the UK, capturing their responses to five gospel-based statements we wrote in an attempt to identify what might sound and feel like 'good news' to this generation.

We hope that this will help us all understand more about young people's worldviews and inform our conversations with them about God and faith.

Can you help us?

We are so grateful that so many people continue to support Scripture Union with prayer and by giving.

We do not want to add any additional burden to you at this time, but if you are able to provide any financial support, it would be much appreciated, as we seek to continue to share God's love with

children and young people across England and Wales.

THANK YOU
so much for
your ongoing
support

Please pray with us for God to meet these needs. If you do feel able to give head to: www.su.org.uk/RobS where you can set up a direct debit or make a one-off donation or call 01908 856000 and a colleague can take a donation over the phone. Thank you!



Get in touch

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Scripture Union

North Team Prayer Newsletter Spring 2024

'This really is good news!'

As I write this, we have just finished celebrating Easter. How awesome it is to pause and remember all that it means to us as Christians! Just last week I had the joy of sharing the Easter story with 20 Year 3 children from a local school. Some knew the story, many did not but what a privilege it was to see their responses as we journeyed through the events of Holy Week. As the session closed, two children spoke up, one saying 'Wow, this really is good news' and another commenting 'If Jesus rose from the dead, that means I should believe everything else he said too'. I left that workshop marvelling again at the truth and power of the message of the gospel.

Just a few weeks earlier, I worked alongside a local church to enable them to take 12 young people away for a weekend residential. As well as the late nights, campfires and activities, it was incredible to see two young people become Christians! Again, the power of the gospel changing lives!

As Team Leader for SU in the north of England, I have the privilege of hearing stories like that over and over again as we work with churches whose heart is to reach children and young people not in church. I lead an amazing staff team across the

north who support and coach these churches as they seek to connect with the 95, explore the Bible, give opportunities to respond and create spaces where discipleship can happen. If your church has a heart to reach children and young people with the good news of Jesus, we would love to talk with them about how Scripture Union can support you. Please do get in touch!



And lastly, before we share some of the stories from the region, again I want to thank you for your financial giving and prayer! Each time I write this letter, I am amazed and humbled by the response. Your ongoing support is making such a difference.

Rob North Region Mission Team Leader

Baptism in the sea



After a holiday club event at one of our Faith Guide churches, last summer, some of the leaders got chatting to some of the young

leaders (most of whom are not yet Christians) about who they think Jesus is.

On the back of this, we have been running the SOUL Course (Christianity Explored for young people) online since January for these young people. As a result one of the young people **wants to get baptised** and this is likely to happen in June in the sea! It's so exciting to see such fruit.

As a team, we work across the region with Faith Guide churches to help them reach out to children and young people in their local areas. Here are a few examples of what we do.

-  Local Mission Partners (LMPs)
-  Faith Guide Churches

Recently one of the team went to support a Guardians Club in Penrith. The volunteer is planning to start up another club (maybe a *Diary of a Disciple Club*). We are looking forward to being able to support the church in this endeavour. We will continue to meet to dream and envision together around Revealing Jesus while introducing her to *Diary of a Disciple*, which will provide a level of continuity as the church reaches out into the community.



On a Saturday recently, a few of our team supported a Faith Guide church in running 'Sport in a Day', a one day Explore/Respond sports space focused on the life of David. It was such a good day and great to see three Faith Guide churches bringing their young people together. We're hoping 'Sport in a Day' can become a bit of a model going forwards that we can use to help young people explore more about Jesus and respond to who he is through engaging in sport. We are thankful to God for perfect weather on the day, fun was had and no injuries!

It was great to be at the New Wine Leaders Conference to share about *Rooted*; lots of churches were keen to hear more and Lucy is now working alongside them to set up *Rooted* hubs in their communities.

A Liverpool Faith Guide has been wanting to connect with her local primary school. Together we're working on two assemblies and *It's Your Move* before the end of the school year to help her get a foot in the door. She has already been working hard at this relationship, it's great to see her take some really practical steps forwards. Alongside this, she is setting up a 'Pray for our School' stand at the back of her church to help the whole church to feel more involved. The Faith Guide is going to ask for prayer points from the school for the stand. She lamented that there aren't more volunteers wanting to get involved in what she's doing so we're hoping that this prayer stand will bring about a bit of culture change within the church.

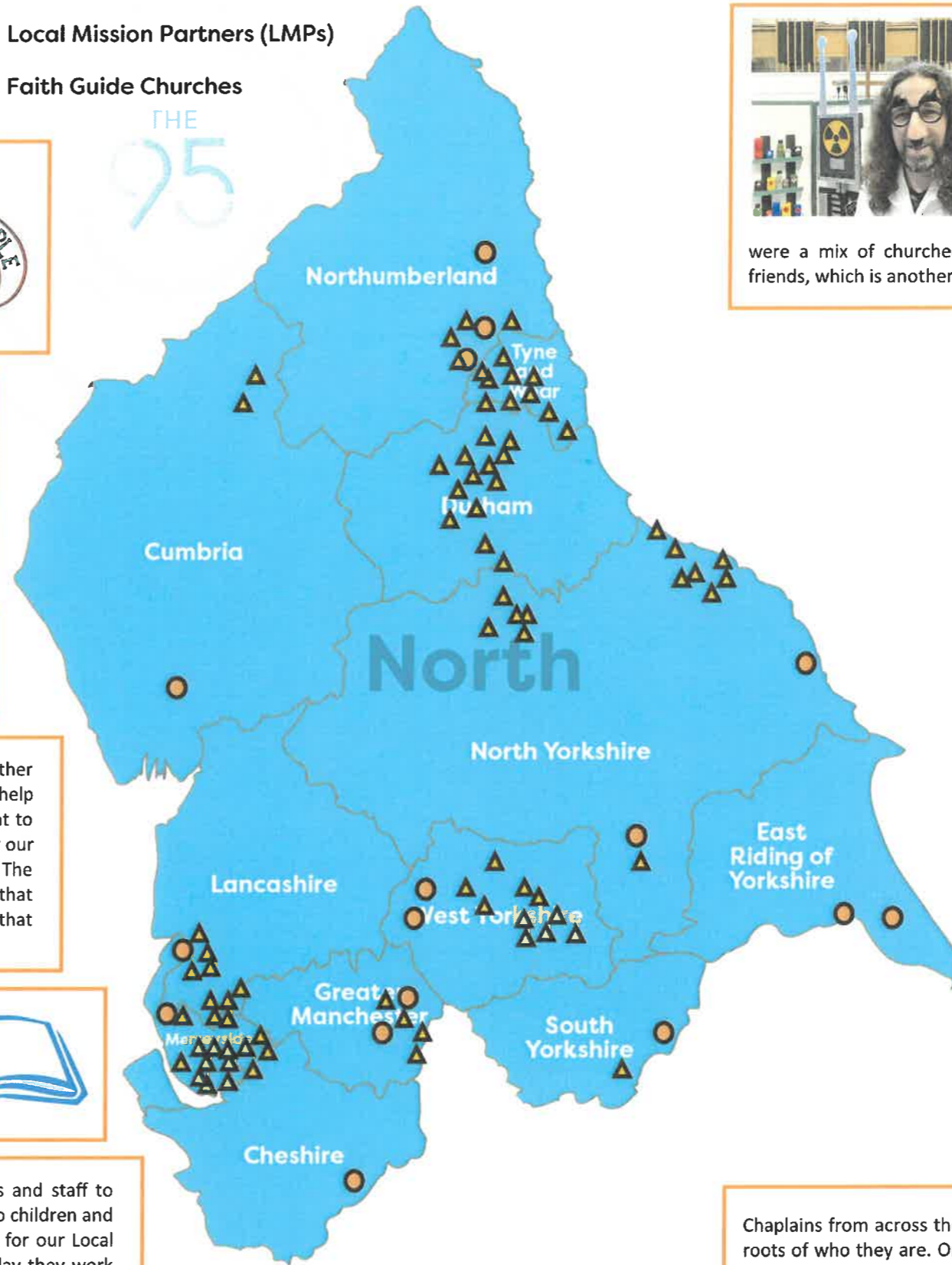
At the end of last year, one of our Faith Guides got some Good News Funding from Scripture Union to provide some Bibles for her *Rooted* community. She sent this message: 'Had some amazing feedback. They are loving their Bibles. Constantly reading, adding their favourite things and taking them to school with them. How amazing!'



This month we are gathering in Leeds with over 50 Faith Guides, Local Mission Partners and staff to celebrate all that God is doing in the region and explore how we can continue to reach out to children and young people in our local contexts. Please pray for us as we meet together. Please pray for our Local Mission Partners (LMPs) and Faith Guides in various towns and cities in the north. Each day they work with thousands of children and young people in local schools and communities.

Last term we worked with a Faith Guide church locally to pioneer a new, short-term community that meets after school. The children loved coming and exploring the Bible. As a result, this has now become a regular gathering. It has been wonderful to help set this up.

Over the summer we have various residentials and missions happening in different parts of the north. Please do pray that many would hear about Jesus as a result of the work. In June, we are facilitating two Faith Guide residentials where local churches bring children and young people to go deeper in their faith!



In the recent holidays one of the team supported a local Faith Guide church in running a holiday club. This church love our holiday club resources and have been using them for several years. This year they used the *SU Wonderzone* material, so the whole week had a science theme. Around 40 children attended the holiday club, as well as a number of young leaders. It was great to see these older young people engaged in serving others, and sharing their own faith with the younger children. The children who came were a mix of church and unchurch, but some who came last year brought their friends, which is another thing to celebrate.

Story Explorers is a new idea one of our team has been trying out in schools nearby, along with a couple of his Faith Guides. Recently in their morning assembly, the children heard the story of Jesus being anointed with perfume and they then explored it at lunchtime with 'Guess the pong', grab the shoe, lots of 'I wonder' questions and a chance to reflect. The children engaged really well and they loved exploring the story.



During the Easter holidays one of our Faith Guide churches held their, now regular, Holiday Club Extra events. Twenty-four local children came and explored the Easter story in more depth. A highlight was the Year 5s and 6s taking the role of Easter detectives and going round interviewing characters about what happened after Jesus died. They had some great interactions with Mary, some Roman soldiers, Peter and Thomas and some chief priests. It was a really fun way to explore what happened and then to hear from the team the significance of Jesus' resurrection.

Chaplains from across the north have been creating safe spaces for pupils to explore the roots of who they are. One pupil shared that the *Rooted* workshops and *Rooted* journals have helped him during the school week and the Bible verses helped him feel peaceful.



At a Faith Guide church in Durham they have invested in floodlights for their estate Mission Through Sports project we have been supporting them with. Recently when one of our team was at the session, one of the young people said 'Wow these are what we need; we play out here in the dark all the time.' The lights provide a way for the team to continue their Mission Through Sport sessions and allow the team to continue being a consistent presence on the estate. What a testimony of Gods promise to us that he never leaves us, even when the darkness closes in!