

Week of Prayer for Children & Young People: 2–8 July 2023

What is the ‘Week of Prayer for Children & Young People’?

Statistics and stories from around our diocese and beyond, reflect that churches can find it difficult to connect with children, young people and their families. Perhaps you once did but no longer have the resources or energy required. Perhaps you don't know where to start. Perhaps you are working with children, young people or families but know there are so many more you aren't reaching and are acutely aware of the challenges that young people face. In all cases praying for children and young people in our communities is something we can all do and is a great place to start.

From 2–8 July 2023, we are setting aside a diocese-wide week of prayer for children and young people, their families and their schools, and would love you and your church to join us. The Go Team have created this simple resource, with a theme for each day, to guide us through the week whether praying on our own or with others.

Schools, colleges and universities in our diocese will also be encouraged to join the Week of Prayer, especially through chaplains and local church links.

How to get involved?

Email the Go Team (goteam@bathwells.anglican.org) to say you are joining our Week of Prayer so we can map where churches and schools are praying. Then take a look at the Prayer Guide we have put together and feel free to share it with your church or group so everyone can join in. We would love to hear what you are planning and how it went.

We will also be posting each day's theme and prayer prompts on Instagram and Twitter @GoTeamAdvisers and there will be a short prayer video from a young person or youth leader for each day, which you will also find on YouTube and Facebook @bathandwells.

Day one (Sunday)

Young people where you live

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. (Matthew 18: 1-5 NIV)

Today, we pray for...

- Young people you know, in your family, neighbours and those connected to your church.
- Young people you don't know but see around in your local community.
- Local schools and colleges, youth clubs and uniformed organisations.
- Those not in education or training and those seeking employment.
- Those appearing in the local news, for positive and less positive reasons. For the children and young people behind the headlines and the statistics.

Pray for 5 young people you know

Make a list of five young people you know and commit to praying for them throughout this week.

Day two (Monday)

Identity and opportunity

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (Psalm 139: 13-16 NIV)

Today, we pray for...

- The well-being of children and young people as they grow, develop and reach their potential.
- Young people struggling with identity and where they fit.
- Young people navigating change, looking to the future and next steps.
- Young people exploring calling to Christian ministry and other vocations.
- More opportunities for young people with disabilities, from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, and lower income families.

Pray for 5 young people you know – continue praying for the 5 young people you wrote down on day 1 that they might know their identity in Christ.

Day three (Tuesday)

Big issues

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-7 NIV)

Today, we pray for...

- A better understanding of what really matters to children and young people so we can better support them.
- Help and support for those suffering with anxiety and poor mental health.
- Greater understanding of the complex issues faced by many young people daily.
- Young voices to be heard in shaping our churches and communities.
- Young activists who are passionate about changing the world for the better.

Pray for 5 young people you know – continue praying for the 5 young people you wrote down on day 1 that they might find peace in God in the Big Issues they encounter.

Join in prayer with others from across the nation!

Each Tuesday at 13:00, the Vision & Strategy team at the Church of England are hosting a 20-minute online prayer meeting to pray for under 18s and a doubling of the number of children and young disciples. Register here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/praying-doubling-number-children-and-young-active-disciples-church>

Day four (Wednesday)

Growing faith

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. (Ephesians 3: 16-19 NLT)

Today, we pray for...

- Christian young people living out their faith every day, that their faith may grow deeper.
- Young people who are seeking hope and meaning, that they might find faith in Jesus and the support of other Christians.
- More opportunities to connect with children and young people who are searching for something more.

- Youth groups, CUs and gatherings such as Movement Worship Nights where young people come together.
- For the many youth camps, events and festivals happening this summer including Satellites which is taking place at the Bath & West Showground in August.

Pray for 5 young people you know – continue praying for the 5 young people you wrote down on day 1 that they might grow in their faith.

Day five (Thursday)

Homes

We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders... So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands. (Psalm 78: 4 & 7 NLT)

Today, we pray for...

- Relationships between parents and other family members in households with young children and teenagers.
- Homes where the financial pressures are great.
- Young people who are fostered or adopted, live in care or are leaving care.
- Young people who face homelessness, sofa-surf or live on the streets.
- Young parents and young carers.
- Christian parents seeking to live out their faith as part of everyday family life.
- Christian children and young people whose parents don't yet know Jesus.

Pray for 5 young people you know – continue praying for the 5 young people you wrote down on day 1 and for their home life.

Day six (Friday)

Schools

Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and all the people. (Luke 2: 52 NLT)

Today, we pray for...

- Children and young people in schools and colleges across our diocese.
- All those who will be transitioning to new places of education this summer. Those starting school for the first time, moving to a new school or moving to college or university.
- Young people awaiting exam results and next steps to be confirmed.
- Young people who find school challenging and for those supporting them.
- Young people being home educated.
- All who work in education: Headteachers, teachers, support staff, governors and chaplains.
- Positive partnerships between schools and churches, as well as between multi-academy trusts and our diocesan education team.

Pray for 5 young people you know – continue praying for the 5 young people you wrote down on day 1 and for their education.

Day seven (Saturday)

Churches

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12 NIV)

Today, we pray for...

- Children and young people who are part of churches across our diocese, serving in different ways and belonging to congregations and youth and children's groups.
- All those who work with children, young people and families through churches and youth organisations, paid workers, clergy and volunteers.
- A new crop of workers with a heart for young people to be raised up in our churches and communities.
- Our churches to be better equipped to welcome children, young people and their families and help them grow in faith.
- Space for young people to serve local churches using their creativity, understanding of technology and current trends, as well as their passion for justice and climate action.

Pray for 5 young people you know – continue praying for the 5 young people you wrote down on day 1 that they might have a positive experience of church and play a part in God's family.

Additional resources

- Check out the daily prayer videos on the Diocese of Bath & Wells YouTube channel (available during the Week of Prayer 2–8 July 2023). Feel free to share with others and use them to inspire your prayers.
- Why not ask young people in your church or community to write or record their own prayers based on the theme of each day?
- Take a look at this short spoken-word video called ‘the truth about youth’ from Rowan Austin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3DSNfcQ240>

- The Church of England produced this prayer guide as part of Thy Kingdom Come which follows similar themes and the bold commitment to ‘double the number of children and active young disciples in our churches’ [Praying For Young Disciples | Thy Kingdom Come](#)
- Every Tuesday at 13:00, the Vision & Strategy team at the Church of England are hosting a 20-minute online prayer meeting to pray for doubling the number of children and active young disciples by 2030. All are welcome to join (via Zoom): [Register here](#)

- Try ‘OMG! Prayers for Teenagers by Teenagers’ by Martha Dommett & Eleanor Herbert: <https://www.kevinmayhew.com/products/omg>
- Check out our issues-based Bible Chat Mats aimed at 11-16 year olds: [Bible Chat Mat: Series 3 - Bath and Wells Diocese](#)
- Watch this video from The Way UK with young adults talking about their experience of prayer: [DO BRITISH STUDENTS EVER PRAY? - YouTube](#)
- And this call to the church to hear to what young people are saying about climate change: [BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE | WE ARE TEARFUND - YouTube](#)

- Check out this short video from Pray for Schools about prayer walking around your local area: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjRGg9AHlbA> plus a variety of other ideas when praying for young people and schools here: <https://www.prayforschools.org/prayers/assortedprayers/>
- For ideas for praying creatively with young people, check out these prayer activities from Prayer Spaces in Schools: <https://prayerspacesinschools.com/>

Growing Faith conversations

We believe that a change of culture that seeks to place children, young people and families at the heart of all our mission and ministry in the church is vital, and as part of our Growing Faith work we have put together a set of question cards called ‘Growing Faith conversations’ designed to be used as discussion starters by PCCs and ministry teams. Do get in touch if you’d like a copy.

Contact the Go Team

Drop us an email or tag us on social media to let us know you're joining in the Week of Prayer for Children & Young People. We'd love to hear from you!

And as you pray through the week, do let us know if there are particular things that God is showing you. We'd love to pray with you and support you in what might be possible in your locality.

Email goteam@bathwells.anglican.org

Follow @GoTeamAdvisers on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

Website <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/children-young-people/>

Or contact your archdeaconry's Go Team Adviser...

- Tony Cook, Bath Archdeaconry tony.cook@bathwells.anglican.org
- Cheryl Govier & Ruth Slade, Wells Archdeaconry
cheryl.govier@bathwells.anglican.org / ruth.slade@bathwells.anglican.org
- Andy Levett, Taunton Archdeaconry andy.levett@bathwells.anglican.org



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