

Newsletter

Summer 2015



The Summer term has nearly finished and the holidays are in sight. The Summer is a chance for us to spend time with our family and friends and perhaps go on holiday or just rest at home. God longs for us to spend time with Him and he promises to refresh us. Isaiah 40 v31 says that "those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength".

Feeling relaxed and refreshed we will then have the energy for the new school year and whatever God is calling us to do. Why not get the school year off to a great start with a "Back to School with God" service at your local church, supporting and encouraging all those involved in Education? SU Scotland has produced excellent 'Back to School with God' material. This year it is based on Peter, as he takes his **first steps** in following Jesus, falls **out of step** by denying him, then **gets back in step** and goes on to serve him even more than before. There is an all age talk plus loads of resources on the website. <http://wp.me/P3Ezfr-cG>

We have just produced a resource pack with details of our partner organizations and friends. This can be downloaded and used as a reference guide. <http://wp.me/P3Ezfr-8i>

Do let us know details of your prayer meetings and events and we will add them to the website and publicise on Facebook and Twitter. This year why not encourage Home Intercessors too? Ask members of your local church to pray for the local schools and perhaps give them a sheet of prayer requests. Last year many individuals took to Prayer Walking around their local community. Is this something you could do? Watch our video and plan a date. <http://wp.me/p3Ezfr-GR>

This last year we have had over 175 new groups registering—a warm welcome to all these groups. Please pray for them over the coming months.

Our partners Prayer Spaces in Schools have two conferences in the Autumn—details on Page 4. Why not go along and be encouraged by what's happening?

Wishing you a relaxing summer *Jane Newey PFS England Coordinator*

Back to School with God 2015

More information about praying for your local school can be found at prayforschoolsscotland.org.uk



First Steps



Out of Step



Back In Step





Light in our Schools

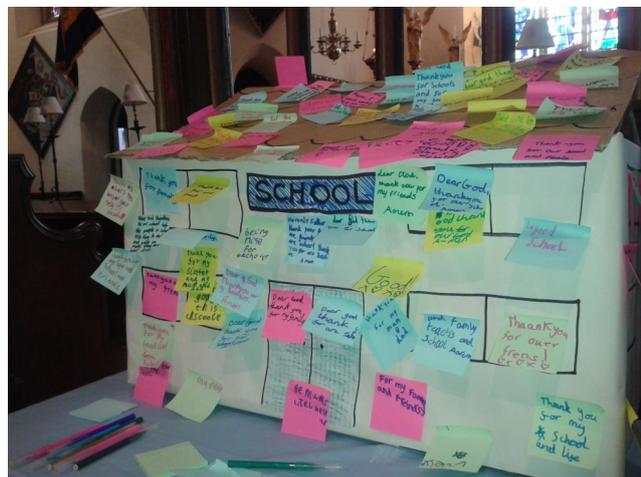
During May and our Pray for Schools fortnight prayer groups met all around the country. Many groups used the theme of Light and we had some great photos. I led some prayer groups during Lent and found using different coloured candles a real focus.

Andy Levett from Tone Deanery in Somerset tells us what happened in his area.

As part of the national initiative Pray for Schools Fortnight, Tone Deanery churches were focussing prayers for their local schools, something that has now become an annual event. Sunday services in many of the churches included special prayers for schools, and clergy and lay leaders were provided with ideas and resources that could be used in the service to give a helpful focus on their own local schools; as well as remembering education on a national and international scale.

Prayer Stations

The first of two special Prayer Days during the fortnight was hosted by St Mary's Church in Bishops Lydeard and involved nearby Bishops Lydeard C of E Primary School. Led by Youth & Children's Work Coordinator Andy Levett, a team of church volunteers set up a variety of prayer stations that people of all ages could use to express prayers for schools locally, as well as prayers for children around the world.



Creative Activities

Classes from the school visited the church throughout the day and as Rector and Rural Dean, Rev Matthew Tregenza writes: "Pupils were encouraged to explore the different creative prayer activities and from the comments received, they enjoyed it enormously. It was also a good opportunity for members of the St Mary's congregation to be involved in supporting our young people on their spiritual journey."

The following week it was the turn of St John's Church in Wellington to host a second Prayer Day, where Christians of several denominations joined together to pray for the schools in the town and surrounding area. During the day, children and staff from St John's Primary School across the road came into the building to add their own prayers, and at lunchtime the choir from Court Fields School, the town's secondary school, gave a very special performance to those who were visiting the building – ending their concert with a rendition of Livin' on a Prayer by Bon Jovi!



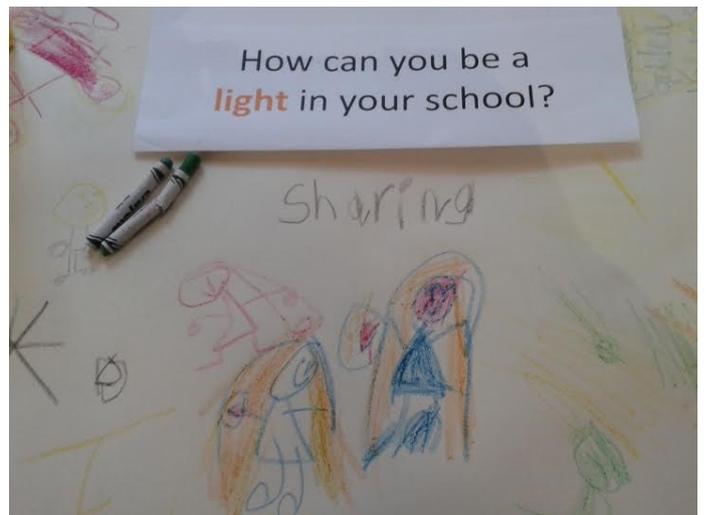
Telling our schools that we care and pray

Team Rector Tim Treanor, who invited the school choir to take part in the day, reflected on another very positive day: *"Pray for Schools day brings attention to the life of our local school communities. It is great to welcome many people of all ages, including governors, teachers and pupils. Not only do we pray for schools, adults and children have the opportunity to create prayers together."*

Echoing that, Andy Levett has been encouraged by the way that Pray for Schools Fortnight has become an important point in the calendar for the churches in Tone Deanery: *"Not that we only pray for schools in May, far from it, but that it gives us the opportunity to tell our local Headteachers and school communities that we care and that we do pray for them. To involve them in those prayers seems to be a very natural thing to do, and something that has been much appreciated by the staff we've had feedback from."*

"Just wanted to say thank you for the lovely activities in church today! The teachers all commented about how much they enjoyed it and children were talking about it all afternoon." (Teacher & RE Coordinator at Bishops Lydeard School)

The ideas used in Tone Deanery's Pray for Schools Fortnight are available to be shared with others looking to pray for their schools and run similar events. Please contact Andy Levett by email andyjlevett@btinternet.com.



A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN...



Back to School with God 2015



Resources to run an all-age church service to pray for and support your young people and school community at the start of the school year.

Download resources and register at suscotland.org.uk/bsg

Available from May

This year we are learning from Peter as he takes his first steps following Jesus, falls out of step, and finally gets back in step...

It was the first time I had done it and the first time for the church too. Thank you for a fabulous programme! We will definitely be doing it again next year.

A number of the schools said how much they appreciated the interest and prayer support of a church.

First Steps



Out of Step



Back In Step



Prayer Spaces in Schools

2015 Day Conference

keynote input from fantastic speakers / local networking and ideas-sharing / masterclass workshops / story-telling and latest news / coffee and cakes...

LEEDS : SAT 26th SEPT / LONDON : SAT 3rd OCT / 10.30am-5.00pm
tickets : **£20** info : www.prayerspacesinschools.com/dayconf