

Week of Prayer

for young people
with young people
their families and
their schools & colleges

3 - 9 July 2022



Why pray for young people?

Over the last two years the Go Team have been acutely aware of the need to support churches to better engage with young people. We recognise that some churches already do this incredibly well and they can be a fantastic resource to others. We also concede that for many churches, engaging with children and young people is a real challenge.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact across all generations, not least those who are older or more vulnerable. We are also acutely aware of the disorientating impact for many young people as they struggle emotionally, physically, mentally, educationally, and for some, spiritually. It would be impossible to think the church has the answers, the expertise or the resources to meet every challenge that young people currently face. However, the church could be a sanctuary for reflection or prayer or provide safe, welcoming spaces to meet and chat with others. Some churches might also be able to provide a listening space for young people and their families to air their concerns, fears and questions.

Before we consider what we might be able to offer, let us first pray for this generation; hearing what God might be saying to us, followed by a time of listening to young people and hearing their voice.

What is the 'Week of Prayer for Young People'?

During the week of 3–9 July 2022, we are planning a focussed week of prayer for young people, their families and their schools. The Go Team and some of our colleagues will be praying together from 12.00 to 12.30 each day and we would love churches across the diocese to join us. This could be at the same time as us or at a time that best works for you and your church. We would love churches across the region to join us in prayer from wherever you are. Prayers can be online or in person, silent or spoken; it is up to you and your church. The only thing we ask is you pray for young people.

Schools, colleges and universities in our Diocese will also be encouraged to join the Week of Prayer, especially where there are Chaplains or other local Christian leaders involved.

How to get involved?

It's very simple, just 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 across the region. Then, take a look below at the Prayer Guide we have put together for each day and feel free to share it with your church so everyone can join in. This acts as a guide to get you started but be as creative as you like! 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.

Suggested guide

Day	Theme / Bible Focus	Suggested things to pray for
Sun 3 July	An opportunity to remind congregations that across the Diocese we are praying for young people this week. Email this guide to church members or have copies for people to take home. It would be good to include prayers for young people in your Sunday service, even if your church is not able to fully take part in the Week of Prayer. You could also share the first prayer video via social media and encourage others to do the same.	
Mon 4 July Y	Young People Luke 18: 15-17 People brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."	Pray for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people in your communities or those linked to your church or local youth organisations such as uniformed movements and other groups. • The well-being and mental health of young people. • Young people known to you who are struggling or having a tough time. • Young people/young adults in the nearest schools, college or university to where you live. • All who will be transitioning to new places of education this summer (primary to secondary, middle to upper, secondary to further education, further education to higher education/university). • Those who will be transitioning out of education into employment. • Youth organisations such as The Children's Society, Youthscape, YMCA, Movement, South West Youth Ministries, Scripture Union and Youth for Christ.

<p>Tue 5 July</p> <p>O</p>	<p>Opportunities Acts 2: 17</p> <p>In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.</p>	<p>Pray for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For young people who have struggled with breaks in education and much uncertainty in the last two years, pray it will not harm their future opportunities. • For young people who are seeking work in this difficult climate. • Young activists who are passionate about changing the world for the better. • New and exciting opportunities for young people that may not have been possible or considered before the pandemic. • Young people/young adults exploring their calling, some to ordination and other ministry roles. • New opportunities in education for young people. • Young people moving into independent living, especially those leaving the social care system. • More opportunities for young people from under - represented groups, those with disabilities, women, the under privileged and those from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups. • Opportunities for young people to serve local churches with social media, technology, music, their passion for justice and climate change.
<p>Wed 6 July</p> <p>U</p>	<p>Understanding 1 Timothy 4: 12</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Pray for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A better understanding of what really matters to young people so the church can better support them. • Youth voice to be heard in shaping the way. • Adults and the church to better listen and understand what it is like for this current generation growing up in the 2020s. • Greater understanding of some of the complex issues that many young people face daily. • Greater understanding of the well-being and mental health crisis amongst young people and young adults. • Understanding of how issues of race and discrimination affect young people.

<p>Thu 7 July</p> <p>T</p>	<p>Team 1 Thessalonians 2: 7b-8</p> <p>Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.</p>	<p>Pray for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All those who work with children, young people and their 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. • Headteachers, teachers, support staff, governors and chaplains in our schools, colleges and universities. • For those currently in training or considering a call to work with children and young people. • For trainees, degree students and staff at South West Youth Ministries (SWYM) and other training institutions.
<p>Fri 8 July</p> <p>H</p>	<p>Home Colossians 3:21-22 (Amplified Bible)</p> <p>Fathers [parents and carers], do not provoke <i>or irritate or exasperate</i> your children [with demands that are trivial or unreasonable or humiliating or abusive; nor by favouritism or indifference; treat them tenderly with lovingkindness], so they will not lose heart and become discouraged <i>or unmotivated</i> [with their spirits broken].</p>	<p>Pray for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships in households living with teenagers. • Those young people who live in dysfunctional homes or where domestic violence is present. • Young people who face homelessness, sofa-surf or live on the streets. • Young people living in homes that struggle financially. • Young people living in the social care system or about to leave care. • Young people who are fostered or adopted. • Young people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes, including those arriving in the UK from Ukraine. • Young parents especially those on their own. • Young carers who care for sick parents or siblings. • Christian parents seeking to live out their faith as part of everyday family life. • Christian young people whose parents don't yet know Jesus.
<p>Sat 9 July</p>	<p>Gather online or in person with others in your church or small group to see if God has been saying anything to your church during the Week of Prayer about how you might better serve and support young people, their families and their schools.</p>	

Additional resources

- Check out the daily prayer videos on the Diocese of Bath & Wells YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/diocesebathwells>) recorded by young people for each day of the Week of Prayer. 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?
- There is also this short spoken-word video called ‘the truth about youth’ from Rowan Austin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3DSNFCQ240>
- Have you seen the Mapping the Landscape research recently launched by South West Youth Ministries? <https://swym.org.uk/mapping-the-landscape/>
- And also the Burning Down The House research by Tearfund and Youthscape? Check out this video – a call to the church to hear to what young people are saying about climate change: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlzkvDhqPVA&t=45s>
- Try ‘OMG! Prayers for Teenagers by Teenagers’, a book of prayers by Martha Dommett & Eleanor Herbert from Clevedon: <https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/books-for-teens/youth-and-teen-devotional-and-gift-books/prayer-books-for-youth-and-teens/omg/>
- And check out the brand new issues-based Bible Chat Mats aimed at 11-16 year olds that we are launching at the end June: <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/supporting-children/youth-children/resources/bible-chat-mat/>
- 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/>

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 young people. We’d love to hear from you!

Email goteam@bathwells.anglican.org

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

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



Living the story. Telling the story.