

Week of Prayer

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

13 - 19 June 2021



Why pray for young people?

During 2021 the Go Team want to intentionally support churches to better engage with young people aged 11+. 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 teenagers 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 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 13–19 June 2021, the Go Team are planning a focussed week of prayer for young people. The Go Team will be praying together (online) for an hour each day between 12.00 and 13.00 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 (safely), silent or spoken; it is up to you and your church. The only thing we ask is you pray specifically for young people aged 11+.

Secondary schools, colleges and universities in our Diocese will 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 June 13	Remind the congregation that you will be praying for young people aged 11+ 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.	
Mon June 14 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"> • The well-being and mental health of young people as we emerge out of the pandemic. • Young people in your communities or those linked to your church or local youth organisations such as uniformed movements and other groups. • Young people known to you who are struggling or having a tough time. • Youth organisations such as The Children's Society, Youthscape, YMCA, Movement, South West Youth Ministries and Youth for Christ. • The young people/young adults in the nearest secondary schools, further education college or university to where you live.
Tue June 15 O	Opportunities Acts 2: 17 In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and	Pray for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for young people to meet with their friends outside of school where they can socialise and re-build their confidence.

	<p>daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those young people who have struggled with enforced breaks in education, 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. For those on Ministry Experience Scheme placements exploring their vocation. • New opportunities in education for young people. • 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. • Those who have had to wait to take driving tests or music grades.
<p>Wed June 16 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 to grow up in 2021. • 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 June 17 T</p>	<p>Transitions Jeremiah 1: 7-8</p> <p>But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command</p>	<p>Pray for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

	you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people transitioning into independent living, especially those leaving the social care system. • Those transitioning between groups such as uniform age groups and children’s groups to youth groups.
Fri June 18	<p>Home Colossians 3:21-22 (Amplified Bible)</p> <p>H Fathers [parents and carers], do not provoke or irritate or exasperate 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 or unmotivated [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 in refugee camps desperate for a new and safe home. • Young parents especially those on their own. • Young carers who care for sick parents or siblings.
Sat June 19	Either individually or together, gather online or in person (safely) 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 aged 11+, their families or their schools.	

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 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 new book by Martha Dommett & Eleanor Herbert: <https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/books-for-teens/youth-and-teen-devotional-and-gift-books/prayer-books-for-youth-and-teens/omg/>

- 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://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/topten>

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/>



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