

WEEK OF PRAYER: MONDAY 11th – FRIDAY 15th APRIL

Please join with us this week in thanksgiving and prayer for all of the branches, leaders and staff workers, seeking the Lord's continued grace and blessing on the work of YL going forward.

Each day this week we are focussing on different areas of the work of YL – **Monday**: YL Holidays, **Tuesday**: Speak out events, **Wednesday**: Branches, **Thursday**: Branches, **Friday**: Branches and staff workers. Included here is a snapshot of some of the news and current events, with more detailed information in the YL spotlight magazine previously sent out.

Monday: **YL Holidays**

Praying today for our Young Life Holidays and their leaders:

- **GREENFIELD**: John Green
- **ARNESBY**: Nathan Ling
- **KNOCK**: Johnny Wilson
- **BRECON**: Geoff Hicks
- **MISTERTON**: Danny Wells
- **IRELAND**: Ben Robson

Greenfield (28th – 30th May)

Please pray...

- for Johnny Wilson as he prepares to speak to the children and for the whole team of leaders as they plan for Greenfield this year.
- praise God that we can run a physical camp this year!

Knock (23rd – 30th July)

Please pray...

- for Tom Hinton as he prepares to speak to the campers this summer.
- for the planning and preparation for the week.

- give thanks to God for good numbers of campers, including good numbers of first timers – pray that they would settle in well and be made to feel welcome.

Brecon (7th – 13th August)

Please pray...

- that more campers would book, and we would reach the minimum number required for camp to go ahead for those who are already booked.
- for the leadership of Brecon camp, this will be Geoff Hicks last year as leader and we are

grateful to him for all his involvement over the years.

Misterton (8th – 13th August)

Please pray...

- for a good team of leaders who will work willingly with the gospel in mind as they plan and prepare for camp. Please pray for a speaker for the week!
- that God would use camp to work in the hearts of young people, saving the unsaved and strengthening the saved.
- that we would be able to counter the world's confusion with clarity and truth.
- for wisdom in leadership and grace in handling any difficult situations that may arise.
- that God would be with us and bless us on camp.

Ireland (8th – 13th August)

Please pray...

- for Ben Robson who has taken up the leadership of the holiday this summer

- for all the organising and practical arrangements of the camp which is taking place at Ganaway Activity Centre, Co, Down this year
- for a good team of leaders
- that young people would keen to come and book up
- for spiritual fruit in the lives of the campers

Arnesby (July)

Please pray...

- We're excited to be running 2 camps again this year in July. We're having our training weekend (very valuable for discipleship of the team) followed straight away by the children's camp then into the youth camp.
- We have around 15 booked in already which is amazing it's usually very late!
- Please pray for more team, especially from the local YL, to want to help.
- And also, at the moment we have no showers, so please pray for God to provide.

Tuesday: Easter Speak Outs + Leadership Training

Praying today for our Young Life Easter Speakouts

- *MERSEYSIDE: Vinny Commons*
- *LEICESTER: Nathan Ling*
- *DUBLIN: Scott McCloskey*

Over the Easter weekend, we plan to run a number of outreach opportunities in various cities which seek to engage people through open air preaching, sharing of testimonies, leaflet distribution, question boards, and special topic meetings. Please pray for these events that we would have...

- Divine appointments where God leads us to people in who's hearts He is at work
- Teams that are bold and courageous and relying on the Holy Spirit
- Wisdom and protection from false accusations
- People listening intently and engaging with open hearts and minds
- Good weather

Merseyside: Thursday 14 - Sunday 17 April

Please pray...

- For the outreach in Southport, Liverpool and Blackpool
- For Vinny Commons as he heads up the outreach
- Hoping to have over 20 on the team
- Daniel Moore as he teaches the team

- Steve Taylor as he does a special on the end times
- For emerging new leaders

Leicester: Friday 15 April

Please pray...

- For Nathan Ling as he heads up the outreach
- For the team joining mostly from Leicester, Birmingham and Bedford
- Day of outreach in Leicester town centre
- encouragement for the team as the outreach is followed by a tea and YL programme back at Arnesby Baptist Church

Dublin: Saturday 16 April

Please pray...

- For Scott McCloskey as he organises the outreach
- Hoping to have 15-20 on the team
- Wisdom for the team as they negotiate possible sensitives around street preaching
- Dublin attracts people from all over the world. Pray for opportunities to reach these people

Leadership training

We have recently run two leadership training events:

Joint YL and UBM leadership training weekend

- Thanks to all the speakers and the cooks who helped make the recent leadership weekend such a blessing.
- **Rebekah Jack (Birmingham YL) writes:** About 30 young leaders all involved in YL and UBM met for a Leader's Training Weekend in the Midlands from 1st - 3rd April. It was so encouraging to actually be able to meet together physically after two years of Zoom. Nothing beats being able to mix and talk with people during and in between the sessions. There were a mixture of talks and seminars aimed at sharing the principles of leadership, evangelism and discipleship. While the sessions often focussed on YL and UBM contexts, the content was hugely helpful for all Christian ministries. The sessions were divided into looking at the 'Walk, Work and Witness' of the leader. It was hugely helpful to have sessions such as those aimed at helping us to have 'understanding of the times' (1 Chronicles 12v32) that we live in so that we can be better equipped as Christian witnesses. Other sessions looked at running a YL/UBM programme, discipleship, servanthood & sacrifice, bible reading and prayer. The weekend is a unique time of being able to have the space and opportunity to talk with others about their experiences in UBM/YL leadership. There is so much we can learn from each other, and especially from those who have been faithfully leading in Christian ministries for quite a few years now. Let's pray for the work of YL/UBM and for those involved in serving the Lord in these ministries both now and in the future!

NW leadership training day

- Pray for all those who came to the NW Leadership Training Day entitled, 'YL Vision in Liverpool' on 26th Feb. The speakers were Vinny Commons, Daniel Moore and Steve Taylor.

Wednesday: Branches

Praying today for branches in the North East:

- *TEESDALE: Caleb Mohon*
- *YORK: Joe Bennett*
- *NEWCASTLE: Jonathan Prest handing over to Eddie Gilchrist*
- *HARROGATE: Stephen Hunt, standing down at the end of the summer*
- *WETHERBY: Phil Baraniak*

Newcastle

- Jonathan Prest after 10 years of leading the branch is moving house, so please pray for Eddie Gilchrist as he takes on leadership responsibility supported by Audrey Macdonald
- A big 'thank you' to Jonathan for all his efforts over the years

Harrogate

- Stephen Hunt stepping down as branch leader - again we thank Stephen for all his hard work over many years
- Please pray as the branch is handed over and new leaders take the work forward

Wetherby

- It has been an encouraging year coming out of lockdown. Our main encouragement has been new faces - a mixture of Christian and non Christian young people beginning to attend
- We have benefitted from joint events with York and Harrogate YL branches and they have been a great encouragement to our small group
- Please do pray for more opportunities for us as a group, and how we can grow the group here

- Please pray for our current leaders and also that God would provide us with more leaders to help
- We would also value prayer for more gospel conversations with non Christian young people and for our Christian young people that they would be seeking to deepen their faith

York

- We've just finished a series on the basics of the Christian life, looking at church, the Bible, prayer, relationships, temptation, evangelism and spiritual growth. Please pray that our YLers would take to heart what we have looked at and will grow on their walk with the Lord
- We have an Escape Room special event on April 23rd with an evangelistic talk after 'The Great Escape'
- We'll be helping to run Greenfield Camp again this term with Harrogate YL 28-30 May
- As the committee meet to plan next term please pray for guidance as to what best to study to help show Jesus to our guys and disciple them in their walks with Him

Teesdale

- Currently running a small group in Barnard Castle, with a small number joining in online.

Thursday: Branches

Praying today for branches in the North West

- *SOUTHPORT: Vinny Commons*
- *STOKE-ON-TRENT: Jonathan Johnson*
- *WIGAN: Wesley Ingham*
- *LIVERPOOL: Joshua Higham*

Branches in the North West

Southport

- Meeting every Saturday with a growth in numbers and depth
- Easter Speak Out in Southport, Liverpool and Blackpool
- Encouraged as young leaders are growing and developing

Stoke-on-Trent

- Will be joining with the NW Speak Out
- Had an evangelistic 'Ultimate Chocolate Night' on Saturday 9 April
- We are planning our first branch weekend away since 2018 for July. Please pray that the Lord would use this to grow our faith individually and strengthen us as a group

Branches in the Midlands and South

Leicester

- Good numbers each week at our Friday YL evening
- Just had a great Foundations evening
- Speak Out in Leicester on Good Friday joining with Bedford and Birmingham
- Mini Weekend Away planned for May
- We have plenty of guys, but please pray for more girls

Birmingham

- Stephen Stonelake has passed on the leadership of the branch to Ben Howlett. We are very thankful for all that Stephen and his wife Grace have done for the group since its creation a number of years ago

and the Midlands + South:

- *LEICESTER: Jason Duffin*
- *BIRMINGHAM: Ben Howlett*
- *BEDFORD: Craig Knight*
- *EAST KENT: Pierre Carter*
- *GUERNSEY: John Henry*

- Pray for Ben Howlett and the committee as they continue to lead the group

Bedford

- We would love to see new younger people joining us, pray especially that we would have more boys join us
- An encouraging number at a recent evangelistic event and good listening
- Pray for the committee as they look to take the branch forward
- Please pray for a number of leaders in the branch that have been unwell recently
- The Easter Speak Out in Leicester

Broadstairs

- We have been averaging around 11 attending since the end of lockdown, which is a slight decrease compared to during the lockdown but we are encouraged by the signs of growing maturity amongst those who attend
- We are greatly encouraged by two who continue to travel 1.5 hours (each way!) to join with us at YL
- We give thanks to God for national events that offer opportunities for YLers to attend and hear good, challenging ministry and meet like minded believers (eg recent YL leadership training event)
- We are grateful for a successful planning meeting where we were able to follow the Leicester branch model and we pray for a growth in numbers – especially amongst younger ones
- Please pray for upcoming evangelistic event planned for 23rd April: Donut Day! And also for increased involvement with outreach work

Friday: Branches + personnel

Praying today for branches in the North Ireland

- *NORTH BELFAST: Peter Horner*
- *EAST BELFAST: Steve Wright*
- *COLRAINE: Andrew Collins*
- *NEWTOWNABBEY: Ben Robson*

and personnel:

- *JO WILSON: Thirsk*
- *MARION MAYES: Belfast*
- *NATHAN LING: Leicester*
- *ROSS KIGHT: Bedford*

Branches in Northern Ireland

East Belfast

- Just had an evangelistic Easter Eggstra with Mark Frazer speaking
- Beginning a three week evangelistic series on Hope Explored
- Pray for two inter branch events coming up
- Outreach in Dublin all day on Easter Saturday
- Pray that the group will solidify as they reach out
- A number have booked for UBM and going on YL Holidays
- One of the branch members is the Evangelism Secretary at Queens University Belfast. Steve Wright spoke at three meetings on the evidence and impact of the Resurrection where approximately 350-400 students attended. Many booklets and books were taken with lots of conversations. At the final meeting a female student trusted the Lord much to the delight of her friend who had brought her

Newtownabbey

- We give thanks for a renewed interest among the young people to join as branch members and commit to the work of the branch - around 10 have joined this year
- A number of our young people have GCSE/A-Level exams coming up and will be facing the hard work and stress that comes with preparing for those. Others will have to choose a university course soon. Please pray for them
- We have started a music group for branch members in recent weeks who are now able to lead us in praise as part of our weekly programme. This has been a real blessing for the branch - please pray for this ongoing ministry
- We enjoyed a great day at Colin Glen Activity Park in Belfast for our "Stepping Out in Faith" event with guest speaker Simon Guillebaud on Saturday 19th March. Despite Covid challenges among committee, the Lord went before us and made this a great opportunity for encouraging young people to live as radical disciples of the Lord Jesus.

Personnel

Jo Wilson

- Jo looks after YL administration covering holidays, prayer letters, resources and giving. She and her husband Johnny also lead the Knock YL holiday activity camp in Cumbria.
- I'm very grateful to have been able to take time off during 2021 for maternity leave - starting back at the beginning of this year.
- Please pray for camp season coming up, generally a busier time for admin.
- Please pray for us as a family as we look to move house over the next few months.

Marion Mayes

- Marion is the Northern Ireland office co-ordinator and looks after the administration of YL in Northern Ireland
- Please pray for her as she manages the bookings for Young Life Holidays Ireland. In 2019 YL Holidays Ireland had to be cancelled, because there weren't enough campers booked, so our last residential was 2018. The good news is that last year, on three separate days (Mon, Wed and Fri) we had about 40 booked in for 1,2 or 3 days.
- In addition to working for YL, Marion also works for United Beach Missions. Please pray for her and UBM in Ireland as bookings come in for these missions over the summer

Nathan Ling

- I'm thankful to God for sustaining me in ministry over a challenging 12 months. I've been involved in the lives of young people locally and in other branches and it's been wonderful to see good responses as I've spoken to groups of young people and discussed spiritual matters afterwards
- With Ross and others I'm involved in some new YL resources that we think will be a great tool for many to use in evangelism and discipleship
- I've got contact with a local secondary school now so please pray that would lead to a lunchtime group beginning
- Please also just pray for wisdom as Ellie & I look forward to a baby arriving in late June.

Ross Knight

- Ross oversees the national work of YL, such as events, resources, publicity and website, as well as helping run the Bedford branch.
- Nathan and I have been seeking to meet on a weekly basis as we work through several projects together. This has been a great blessing to me. Please pray these times would be really fruitful and productive
- On days we meet, we also go out with a question board and chat with students from the local college during their lunch break. We've been really encouraged by their willingness to engage. Pray for boldness and wisdom, and that God would open their hearts

Dates for your diary

Rooted weekend away 2023

17th-19th Feb 2023 held at Whitemoor Lakes, Lichfield, WS13 8QT

Fuller details to follow later