



**Christian
Initiative to
Schools**

in partnership with



Scripture Union

Registered Charity Number: 1104698

Prayer Pointers



May to August 2024

Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God, the
Creator of the ends of the earth. He will
not grow tired or weary, and his
understanding no one can fathom. He
gives strength to the weary and
increases the power of the weak. Even
youths grow tired and weary, and young
men stumble and fall; but those who
hope in the Lord will renew their
strength. They will soar on wings like
eagles; they will run and not grow
weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31

Doesn't time fly! It doesn't seem like we're a quarter of the way through 2024. Soon it will be the end of the Academic Year, a Summer break and before we know it September will have arrived with all the changes that will bring to children, young people and staff members within our schools.

The need for a break from our normal everyday life, whether that's from work or education, is something that we all need. To get away with family or friends and to do something which enables us to rest up, get refreshment and renew our lives. As I've got older I've come to appreciate times away on holiday more and more as the years have gone by. The break from the normal everyday activities will be different this year as between June 1st and August 31st I will be taking a



Sabbatical. A longer period for rest, refreshment and renewal.

Part of that time I'll be spending on holiday with my wife Jane staying on the islands of Jersey and then Shetland, our love of walking and watching wildlife being the reason that we've chosen these 2 places to visit. We also have a 'thing' for islands.

A couple of years ago we visited the Isle of Mull for a second time. Whilst there we had a boat trip on Loch Na Keal to watch White Tailed Eagles. It wasn't long before one turned up, effortlessly soaring towards us on the wind. There was barely a wing flap as this majestic bird turned (*see picture above*) and dropped down in front of us to take a fish from the water. Awesome!

In Isaiah 40 we're reminded that every one gets tired and weary. That the circumstances and pressures of life can get us down, that we need to take stock, take a break. To rest, refresh, renew. Yet for Followers of Jesus renewal comes through our hope in the Lord. Isaiah writes,

...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

As we all have the opportunity over the Summer to take a break from our everyday lives my hope is that we all have the opportunity for rest, refreshment and renewal. As we take time out my prayer is that we will all be better equipped for all that God has in store for us and all that we do in serving Him in our homes, churches and workplaces.

Below are some items to thank God for and to pray for.

Please thank God for...

- ▶ the positive response from children and staff who attended the Easter Journey at St. Paul's
- ▶ the new opportunities for involvement in assemblies, RE lessons and Pastoral Care at Gothic Mede Academy in Arlesey
- ▶ the good relationships CIS has with many schools, both secondary and junior, in the area
- ▶ the trustees who oversee and lead CIS; Chris Jenkins (Chair), Roger Aldridge, Martin Money (Treasurer), Penny Bainbridge (Secretary), Christine Sheriff and Ashley and Chris Croft

Please pray for...

- ▶ all Year 6 pupils as they take their SATs the week of 13th May

- ▶ all Year 11 and Year 13 pupils as they take their GCSEs and A Levels commencing the 8th May

▶ Future Assemblies:

St. Mary's C of E Academy, Stotfold 8th May; **Gothic Mede Academy, Arlesey.** 8th May; **St. Francis College Prep.** 20th May; **Norton St. Nicholas C of E Primary School** 20th May; **Etonbury Academy** 21st to 23rd May; **Roecroft Lower School** 21st May; **Grange Academy** 22nd May

▶ Speaking Engagements

Grange Afternoon Fellowship 16th May

New Life Church 19th May

King's Baptist Church 26th May

▶ Lunchtime Clubs:

Etonbury Academy - Monday;

Fearnhill and Highfield Schools - Fridays

- ▶ the trustees as they meet on the 8th May, that they would know God's leading, guidance and wisdom

- ▶ Year 6 pupils as they receive the It's Your Move books to help them with their move up to Secondary School in the coming weeks

- ▶ Christopher as he prepares to take his Sabbatical between June and August, that he would rest, be refreshed and renewed during this time

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