



MAY 2020



# PRAYER POINTS

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful”*

COLOSSIANS 4:2



## E3 BALLYMENA

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## PRAY FOR SCHOOLS

- **IT'S YOUR MOVE-** We are currently developing our 'It's Your Move' lessons to send to primary schools to equip and encourage P7's during this time for their move to secondary school in September. Pray the pupils understand that whatever changes, choices or challenges that lie ahead of them, they can trust God.
- **GCSE/A-LEVELS-** As there is growing clarity around how grades will be awarded, pray for peace among pupils and their families who may be anxious about these changes or disappointed at not being able to sit exams. Pray for teachers who will be making decisions based on the evidence they have to date, pray for wisdom, integrity and peace as they decide grades.
- **PARENTS/PUPILS-** Pray for families who are finding home-school challenging, perhaps because of the change of routine, unmet expectations, missing friends/teachers etc. Pray that God would give them exactly what they need to enjoy each day and this time together.



## PRAY FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

- **SU/YOUTH GROUPS ONLINE-** Give thanks for the ways in which SU groups and church youth groups have adapted to meeting online. Pray for increased connection and community with one another and with God during this time. Pray expectantly for stories of transformation in the lives of children, young people and their families.

Please note that this will be the final Prayer News for this academic year. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our Schools' Team will be on furlough for the month of June. Please continue to pray for our staff during this time, and if you have any queries relating to SUNI Schools' Ministry, please contact Leanne Dunlop on [leanne@suni.co.uk](mailto:leanne@suni.co.uk)



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SPRING/SUMMER  
2020

E3 BALLYMENA

# TERMLY NEWS

**'How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey.' Psalm 119:103**

Last week I was in the garden and discovered a bee that was really struggling: it didn't appear to be injured, it just wasn't moving! After mixing up some honey and water and putting it on the end of a spoon, I watched the bee slowly crawl over and begin to drink. A few minutes later you could hear the familiar 'buzzzzzzzz' and it was on its way. The bee just needed some good food to get it going. How are you finding living life socially distant? Frustrating, stressful, lonely, complicated, ever-changing? Are you struggling or do you know others who might be? God's word and His presence gives us exactly what we need each day: peace, comfort, truth, constancy. Make time to 'drink' it in and rely on him, ask God for who needs his encouragement today and share it with them.



**Rachel Sheppard, E3 Schools' Worker**

## RESOURCES

We have been working hard to create resources for pupils as they do school at home. Every Monday (10am) we are releasing an online assembly for primary and post-primary pupils; on Wednesdays there will be SU sessions (Primary (1pm)/Post-primary (3pm)) and on Fridays there's a short family devotion available. They can all be found on the SUNI Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ScriptureUnionNI/> and Instagram for post-primary resources @suniinfo.



If you have been using them I'd love to hear your feedback!

For P7's, we are developing our **'It's Your Move'** lessons to go online and help prepare them practically for the changes, choices and challenges of secondary school as well as exploring what the Bible has to say on these themes. These will be made available to schools as part of their online learning in June. Please be praying that all these resources would be an effective support for pupils and their families during this time.

## CHANGES

It has been a real joy and privilege to serve as the E3 schools' worker in Ballymena for the past decade. In July I will be moving to a different role within SUNI, as the new Children's Ministry Co-ordinator. Whilst I am excited about the new challenge and developing the ministry of our Training and Resources department, I will definitely miss Ballymena and its people - there is no place like it!! I am incredibly thankful for the pupils, teachers and school staff in our primary and secondary schools and special school, the volunteers and church teams, our District Support team and the many other wonderful supporters of E3 who have prayed, encouraged and invested in schools' ministry here and me personally, and who had been doing so long before I arrived in post.



School was a significant place in my own journey of faith with the impact and influence of Christian friends and teachers. It has been a blessing to be able to give back to Ballymena and be a part of pioneering and developing E3 in my hometown. There have been too many special moments to list them all but I've loved some of the questions and discussions during RE lessons as pupils share thoughts and stories from their own lives; sitting with seasoned prayer warriors and hearing their heart-felt prayers in churches across the district, crying out for transformation in the next generation; and seeing schools and churches come together to serve, lead or just celebrate Jesus and being united in God's family. I've been humbled by teachers and volunteers going above and beyond because of their great passion for their schools and pupils. God has been so good to me and the area, I am excited and expectant of hearing future stories of all He will do here!