



our
strategy
2011 - 2015



deepening

exploring

responding

praying

equipping

supporting

welcome

This brochure summarises the strategic framework for SU Scotland's ministry activities for the next 5 years...



As we have prayed, consulted and evaluated we have found ourselves re-affirming strongly the core of SU Scotland's work: to reach children and young people with the message of Jesus Christ through relationships developed in schools, residential activities, church-based missions and on-line.

We have been challenged to reassess how we do ministry and this new strategy identifies some key ways in which we will review our practice and implement change. Engaging faithfully with the Bible, how we work with the churches, the importance of prioritising the disadvantaged, and the nature of making disciples are just some examples.

Flowing out of this framework are a range of specific objectives for each area of our ministry which are being developed over the coming months to ensure our aspirations are realised.

We move forward with a sense of excitement. There are still many openings for the work of SU Scotland and we want to be able to grasp these in the coming years. We will need wisdom, flexibility and fresh resources. Dependence on God remains of greatest importance if anything of eternal significance is to be accomplished.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alasdair Morrison".

Alasdair Morrison
(Chair of the SU Scotland Board)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Bathgate".

Andy Bathgate
(Chief Exec)

vision and values

our vision is to see the children and young people of Scotland exploring the **Bible** and responding to the **significance of Jesus**.



our values are dependence on God and deepening relationships.

Scripture Union Scotland is part of the worldwide family of Scripture Union movements that began over a century ago and now operates in over 130 countries across the world.

our strategy

over the next five years we will have...

6 key aspirations for the children and young people of Scotland. That we will see them...

deepening relationships

exploring the Bible

responding to the significance of Jesus

praying

equipped for service

supported by more volunteers and staff

5 major streams of work

schools

residential

missions

on-line

training/equipping

4 emphases that will shape our work

prioritising the disadvantaged

working with the church

the family context

evaluating the quality and effectiveness of our ministry



four **emphases**

We have adopted four emphases that will shape everything that we do in the coming years...

prioritising the disadvantaged

We believe God calls us to give special attention to those who are disadvantaged and marginalised, who might otherwise be overlooked. We will examine every area of our ministry to determine how we can most effectively serve disadvantaged children and young people. This includes developing work we are already doing with those with special education needs.

working with the churches

We will re-asses the meaning of partnership with the church and build on consultations with church leaders to determine how we can most effectively serve the church in Scotland.

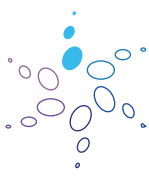
recognising the family context

We will explore how every area of our ministry can take account of the family context of the children and young people with whom we work. A group has already started work in this area and their proposals will be integrated into the ongoing strategy development.

evaluating the quality and effectiveness of our ministry

We will build evaluation into everything we do, and will be open to recognising new areas of ministry emerging that should supersede plans in the strategy, but equally where areas of ministry have run their course and need to cease. Quality and effectiveness will both be evaluated, and alongside our aim to see increased numbers of children and young people exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus, we also aim to see greater depth in our work.





deepening relationships

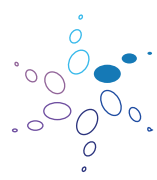
We want children and young people to feel valued and accepted. We want them to be able to express their views, engage with others, and grow in confidence as they recognise and develop their abilities.



We will encourage children and young people to reach their full potential, allowing them to express their views and opinions.

We will take account of the family context, and provide equal opportunities for those from deprived backgrounds.

We will act as positive Christian role models and mentors, working alongside schools and churches to engage with children across Scotland.



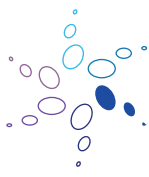
exploring the Bible

We want children and young people to be familiar with key stories and events from the bible, to be reading and studying the Bible on their own and with others, and to be growing in their knowledge of God and obedience to His word.

We will ensure that all children and young people have access to a Bible, and we will introduce them to the key stories and events of the Bible.

We will commit to increasing our own knowledge of God through the Bible, as we engage with it both individually and corporately.





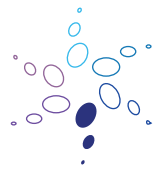
responding to the significance of Jesus

We want children and young people to have opportunities to learn about Jesus, to make the choice to follow Him, and to reflect this choice in their attitudes and actions.



We will create opportunities for children and young people to make an informed response to the significance of Jesus, and we will encourage them to follow Jesus, connecting with their local Christian community.

We will model being a follower of Jesus in our own lives, and equip ourselves to share the Good News more effectively.



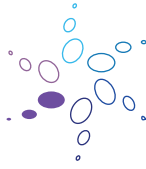
praying

We want to see children and young people being encouraged to pray themselves, as well as being prayed for by others. We want to see them changing as they meet God and experience answers to prayer. We want to see them praying for their schools, peers, families, Scotland, and the wider world.

We will provide opportunities and resources for children and young people to pray on their own and with others.

We will commit to increasing our own prayer individually and corporately, providing opportunities for prayer at Scripture Union events, and increasing prayer cover for all schools in Scotland.





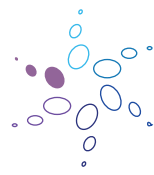
equipping for service

We want to see children and young people living and sharing their faith in their schools and communities, being role models for younger Christians, taking on leadership roles within their schools, churches, SU activities and communities, and taking an interest in God's concern for Scotland and the wider world.



We will equip children and young people to share and live out their faith. We will provide leadership training and equip them to serve the church both in Scotland and internationally.

We will recruit and equip more volunteers to lead SU's ministry, and we will play a full part within the international SU family.



supporting ministry

In order to resource the new strategy we will need to build capacity within our ministry. This will involve looking at the structure of the organisation, the personnel, finances and property.

We will review our current capacity and identify required areas of growth. We will work to see increased numbers of volunteers, staff, associate workers, local area workers and action groups, and will explore new models of volunteering.

Where there are financial implications we will seek funding; we will launch a strategy appeal in autumn 2010; and we are committed to greater staff involvement in raising support for SU Scotland.

We will continue to develop our residential activity centres to a high standard.



what will this **look like?**

In order to meet these aspirations we will continue to grow...

The number of **Educational Activity Breaks**

These establish good relationships with schools and help schools fulfil their RME curriculum.

The numbers attending **SU Holidays** and the range of holidays available

These have the potential to fulfil most of our aspirations for children and young people.

The number of **SU Groups in schools**, particularly in primary schools

The link between these groups and weekends and holidays is hugely important.

The opportunities to tell **Bible stories** in schools (especially around Christmas and Easter)

This involves local churches and addresses the concern over increasing lack of Bible knowledge.

The number and range of **Missions** (including a greater family focus)

Missions are a key means of reaching children, their family, and community, and also allow strong church partnership.

The number of **Bible study groups** for senior pupils

We want to replicate current good practice on a larger scale around Scotland.

The number of **prayer events** and **prayer groups** for young people across Scotland

The success of "Strictly Come Praying" gives us motivation to see the growth of these types of events.

The numbers of young people involved in **SU ignite**

This pioneering website is something we want to see utilised much more widely.

In order to meet these aspirations we will place a fresh importance on...

Exploring and trialling new ways of training in **faith sharing**, living as a **Christian in school** and putting faith into **practice**

We want to increase confidence in speaking about the Christian faith while also creating clear opportunities for young Christians to put their faith into practice in their school and local community.

Involving children and young people in the **planning and leading** of SU events

To help develop their leadership potential as well as helping ensure relevance of activities to children and young people.

Exploring new ways to stimulate **international vision** and **commitment** to the worldwide SU family

Our aim is that children and young people will have a view of God as one who transcends their locality and nation.

Creating **discipling relationships**, including **peer mentoring**

Significant development is required here to get a clearer view on biblical discipleship, to produce materials and to train and equip disciplers.

Outreach through SU Groups in secondary schools

This will involve a review of present practice and a renewed vision for leaders.



what will this **look like?**

We will resource our ministry by...

Growing the **prayer network** to cover every school in Scotland

This will largely be addressed through the growth of the Schools Prayer Network.

Growing the numbers of **volunteers, staff and Associate workers, Local Area workers and Action Groups**

We recognise that if our aspirations are to be fulfilled it will a significant increase in numbers of people working with children and young people.

Growing the numbers involved on the **Gap Year Programme**

This is an extension of our ministry with young people, building up leaders who will serve both SU and the church at large.

Providing more and improved **Bible engagement training with supporting materials**

This aims to reflect our concern to place the Bible centrally and to address the issue of quality in our work.

Training our staff and volunteers to understand and take account of the **family context**

Our fresh emphasis here will require training.



six projects

In order to meet these aspirations over the next five years we will have six key projects...



exploring the Bible

This will include *Biblefresh* (promoting personal and corporate Bible engagement), the *Essential 100* project (particularly its youth version), and a review of our Bible engagement across the organisation, including provision of Bibles at SU events.

creating a discipling/mentoring project

We want to be more effective in helping children and young people follow Jesus in every part of their life for the whole of their life. This project will explore what following Jesus means and help to build relationships that will enable meaningful discipleship.

reviewing and developing our training programmes

This project will build on the significant benefits that arise for children and young people who attend a number and range of SU events. As part of this development, it will create a curriculum for training that enhances development across our programmes.

reviewing and developing our missions programme

We will explore different types of mission through a pilot project which will involve wider involvement with local churches and their communities and through increased numbers of teams serving internationally.

reviewing our relationship with the local church

We aim to enhance our relationship with churches through this strategy and part of that is reviewing that relationship with a particular emphasis on our role in training in local churches. We also aim to keep churches better informed.

working with churches to equip for engagement with local schools

We will encourage and equip churches to be fully engaged with their local schools, maximizing the opportunities provided by current legislation and practice.




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