

# ***PRAYER DIARY***

**JUNE 2019 – NOVEMBER 2019**



**In Acts 21 as the soldiers were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, “may I say something to you?”**

“Do you speak Greek?” He replied. “Aren’t you the Egyptian who started a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the wilderness some time ago?”

Paul answered, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people.”

Speaking the ‘language’ of sport is one thing, but to have courage to walk back into the changing room and face the crowd needs prayer.

Paul was a man who knew that, whatever may happen, all was under the sovereign hand of his Lord.

Please pray that all Christians in the world of sport would live and speak as Paul did; walking toward opportunities to speak of Christ rather than avoiding them for fear of mockery or rejection.

**Jill Proctor**

Partner Relations Team

# Contents

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Praise	4
Elite Sport	7
Europe	10
Sports Plus	13
Churches	16
Students/Universities	19
Northern Ireland	22
Scotland	23
New initiatives	25
England	28
Wales	29
Looking Ahead	31

# PRAISE

Since all our blessings flow from God, we have much to be grateful for. This fortnight, let us praise and thank God for all He has been doing in the world of sport.

## JUNE

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**23<sup>RD</sup>**

Young Performance Athletes (YPAs). Give thanks for young Christians competing in elite youth sport. Pray that from a young age they would be able to acknowledge that their gifts come from God and be able to worship Him as they train and compete.

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**24<sup>TH</sup>**

Golf Tours. Praise God for the golf ministry taking place this summer on the Ladies European Tour (LET) and the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour. Pray that the Lord would give Ali Nicholas and Cris Stevens endless wisdom, energy and guidance as they travel to events to support golfers.

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**25<sup>TH</sup>**

European growth. Give thanks for what God is doing in European countries where previously there hasn't been any work amongst sportspeople, especially in the Faroe Islands and Iceland.

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**26<sup>TH</sup>**

Work in Bulgaria. Praise God for contacts in Bulgaria and the new possibilities opening up there. Pray for support we can continue to offer within community sport and for fruitful new connections within elite and competitive Bulgarian sport.

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**27<sup>TH</sup>**

Sports Plus leaders. Praise God for providing the team of over 400 leaders who will give their time to serve at Sports Plus this summer.

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**28<sup>TH</sup>**

Church sports mission. Praise God for the church community, and pray that they would continue to support Christian sportspeople and that many more churches would understand the mission field of sport.

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**29<sup>TH</sup>**

Church partners. Thank God for all those churches in the UK and around the world that have links with Christians in Sport and support and partner with our work.

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**30<sup>TH</sup>**

Sports Plus young people. Praise God for the opportunity to share gospel truth from Mark and Colossians with over 750 young people across seven Sports Plus camps this summer, including a brand new camp in Dublin which starts today.

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# **JULY**

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**1<sup>ST</sup>**

Clubhouse. Praise God for all those who were trained at Clubhouses around the British Isles so far this year. Pray that they would be equipped to live for Jesus in their clubs and teams.

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**2<sup>ND</sup>**

Guest events. Praise God for the many guest events held where the Good News of the gospel was proclaimed; many of these were by churches using our resources.

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# PRAISE

23RD JUNE - 6TH JULY

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**3<sup>RD</sup>**

New life in universities. Praise God for the many students who heard the good news of Jesus this academic year, through organised events, Bible studies and informal conversations. Praise God for those who have come to faith through this witness!

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**4<sup>TH</sup>**

Student witness. Praise God for the boldness of students around the country in speaking out about Jesus, running events and inviting sports friends around for dinner to talk about Christ.

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**5<sup>TH</sup>**

Office team. Thank God for the office team that supports the work of Christians in Sport. Pray they would be diligent in their responsibilities and would bring God glory in all aspects of their lives.

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**6<sup>TH</sup>**

Partners. Praise the Lord for every penny which is donated to His work at Christians in Sport. Praise Him for the ways He shows His faithfulness, year after year.

Elite athletes and coaches can suffer from lack of teaching and fellowship whilst away from home churches, as well as significant strains to identity and godly living, in high performance environments. Please join us in praying for the world of elite sport and all those within it.

## JULY

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**7<sup>TH</sup>**

2019 Wimbledon Championships. Pray for the small community of believers on the ATP and WTA tours as they travel the world away from their local churches. Pray for opportunities over these championships for them to rest in God's word together and encourage each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

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**8<sup>TH</sup>**

Elite Disability Sport. Thank God for the Christians we know of in this world. Pray for relationships to grow between the athletes and the staff walking alongside them, and for the Lord to give the athletes a hunger to read his word.

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**9<sup>TH</sup>**

Aberdeen Standard Investments Scottish Open. Pray for Kenny Crawford as he opens the Bible with golfers and caddies ahead of the Scottish Open this week. Thank God for the body of believers on the PGA European Tour, pray that they would be salt and light as they travel the world with others.

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**10<sup>TH</sup>**

Monaco Diamond League. Pray for athletes competing at the Monaco Diamond League on 12th July and for the community of believers and seekers that will meet before the event. Pray that God's word would be their anchor throughout the highs and lows of their performances during the Diamond League series.

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## ELITE SPORT

7TH JULY - 20TH JULY

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**11<sup>TH</sup>**

Professional football. In the midst of pre-season, thank God for the living faith many footballers have in the top English leagues. In a world full of temptation, pray that they would stand firm in God's promises whatever the season brings.

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**12<sup>TH</sup>**

Netball World Cup, Liverpool 2019. As the Netball World Cup starts today, pray that the Lord would provide opportunities to develop an international community of believers. At the last Commonwealth Games, eight netballers from three nations came together to meet and encourage each other in God's word.

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**13<sup>TH</sup>**

GB Hockey. Pray for the Lord to raise up bold Christians in the men's and women's GB hockey squads to be in salt and light in these tough environments.

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**14<sup>TH</sup>**

Northern Ireland elite football. Pray for Russell Bowers and a core team of leaders reaching out to the world of elite football in Northern Ireland. Pray that the Lord would use the team to envision and encourage others to live for Christ in this world.

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**15<sup>TH</sup>**

Guinness Pro14. Ahead of the rugby union season starting in September, pray for newly appointed Pete Browne as he starts to support players and coaches. Pray for open doors to meet those we know to be professing as we look to reach the world of rugby union for Christ.

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**16<sup>TH</sup>**

International Rowing. Pray for believers away from home and local church for a long period of time over this summer training and competing. Pray that they would support each other and point each other to Christ through the ups and downs.

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**17<sup>TH</sup>**

The 148th Open at Royal Portrush, Northern Ireland. Pray for Kenny Crawford as he opens the Bible with golfers and caddies from many nations competing at The Open this week. Pray that they would be encouraged and would stand firm on God's promises whatever the week brings for them.

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**18<sup>TH</sup>**

Young Performance Athletes parents/guardians' gatherings. Thank God for the YPAs parent/guardians' gatherings that have taken place this term. Pray for the next gathering at Repton Sports Plus in August, that it would be a place to share experiences and Godly wisdom of dealing with their child's involvement in elite sport.

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**19<sup>TH</sup>**

Retired athletes. Pray for those who have recently retired from elite sport, that they would know their everlasting value in the Lord's eyes. For those who don't know Christ pray that, as their identity as an athlete is stripped away, they would look to find their true identity in Him.

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**20<sup>TH</sup>**

London Diamond League. Pray for world class athletes competing at the Diamond League in London this weekend and for the community of believers and seekers that will meet before the event to earth themselves in God's word.

# EUROPE

We are part of a global movement whose European arm is the European Christian Sports Union (ECSU), and also work to grow sports ministry and train leaders in the Continent through the European Sports Mission (ESM), this year taking place July 1 – July 26. Please join us in thanking God for all He is doing in sports mission in Europe and pray for the coming months.

## JULY

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**21<sup>ST</sup>**

European Sports Mission (ESM) training. Give thanks for the first two weeks of the European Sports Mission in Italy which have just ended, where the students engaged in Bible and sports leadership training. Pray this would help envision and equip them to be active in sharing their faith in the world of sport.

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**22<sup>ND</sup>**

ESM local leaders. Praise God for the team of local leaders who the ESM students supported on their mission trip to Bulgaria . Give thanks for their desire and passion to help young people hear about Jesus and pray they were encouraged by partnering together.

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**23<sup>RD</sup>**

ESM students. As ESM is now in its final week, pray it would be a fruitful time for the students to reflect personally on all they have learnt, and helpful to consider how they will put these things into action when they go back to their different contexts.

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**24<sup>TH</sup>**

Community engagement. Give thanks for opportunities to reach communities with the Good News of Jesus using strategies such as festivals. Pray the experience the ESM students had of this would have given them a wider vision of sports mission.

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**25<sup>TH</sup>**

European students on ESM. Pray for the students on the ESM who came from different countries around Europe, that they would be inspired to find more Christians in the world of sport and share different strategies and skills they could use in their country.

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**26<sup>TH</sup>**

Impact of teaching. Pray for the impact of the mission trip for the students who went on a part of ESM, that the young people would remember what they learnt. Pray for any who aren't Christians, that they would want to put their trust in Jesus for the first time.

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**27<sup>TH</sup>**

Cultural differences. Pray that cultural differences and diversity can be celebrated and that any cross-cultural difficulties can be overcome, to advance the Kingdom of God.

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**28<sup>TH</sup>**

ESM impact in university contexts. Pray for those on the ESM who are about to start or return to university, that they would be inspired to share their faith with their teammates and have opportunities to do so.

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**29<sup>TH</sup>**

ESM fellowship. Give thanks for friendships made during ESM, and that these would help encourage one another as they keep in contact. Pray there would be opportunity for a reunion later in the year.

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## EUROPE

21ST JULY - 3RD AUGUST

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**30<sup>TH</sup>**

European Christian Sport Union (ECSU). Pray for the ECSU planning team as they seek to glorify and serve God through sport, may He give them wisdom, energy and courage as they share Jesus across Europe.

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**31<sup>ST</sup>**

Gathering serving teams. Give thanks for the leaders on the Facilitation Team and all those who served at the ECSU Gathering in May, where over 300 European sports leaders came together for training and encouragement in sports mission. Pray for the ministries God has placed them in.

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## AUGUST

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**1<sup>ST</sup>**

New Gathering attendees. Pray for all those who were new to the Gathering in May, that they would be encouraged and inspired to continue the work in their countries and contexts.

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**2<sup>ND</sup>**

Fresh ministry streams. Pray for the new ideas and ministry opportunities off the back of the Gathering, that the Lord would guide those pushing them forward and for boldness in sharing the gospel.

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**3<sup>RD</sup>**

ECSU Finances. Pray for the finances of the ECSU, that they would continue to receive favour and backing, and that they can then support fruitful sports ministries running across Europe for the rest of 2019 and beyond.

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Please pray for the summer of Sports Plus camps and the young people and leaders involved. This year we have seven camps, kicking off with a brand new camp in Dublin in June.

## AUGUST

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**4<sup>TH</sup>**

Monkton & Belfast 2. Pray for the young people arriving at Monkton and Belfast 2 Sports Plus this afternoon. There are over 95 who are attending for the first time; pray that they would feel welcomed and that the Gospel would unite all young people amidst the many differences.

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**5<sup>TH</sup>**

Teaching. Pray that the teaching in Mark and Colossians, both today and throughout the summer, would be faithful, and understood and applied by every young person at each Sports Plus.

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**6<sup>TH</sup>**

Schools. Praise God for the provision of school venues for Sports Plus; especially the new venue of St Columba's, Dublin. Pray for our ongoing relationships and witness with the school staff while on site during the summer.

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**7<sup>TH</sup>**

Trainees. Thank God for the opportunity to invest in the lives of nearly 100 Trainees at Sports Plus this summer. Pray that the training and experience they receive would enable them to serve in future roles within Sports Plus, university and the local church.

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## SPORTS PLUS

4TH AUGUST - 17TH AUGUST

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**8<sup>TH</sup>**

Perth, Brecon & Belfast 1. Give thanks for Perth, Brecon and Belfast 1 Sports Plus earlier this summer. Pray that the young people would still be thinking through all they were heard. Praise God for the leaders who gave up their time to serve during the week.

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**9<sup>TH</sup>**

Repton Leaders. Tonight sees leaders arrive at Repton for the training weekend. Pray this would equip them for their role at Sports Plus and that every leader would reflect God's love to the young people, both in action and word.

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**10<sup>TH</sup>**

Dublin Sports Plus. Praise God for the first Sports Plus in Ireland back in July. Pray that young people would have developed in their sport and that the Good News they heard would be continuing to penetrate every barrier to faith.

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**11<sup>TH</sup>**

Repton Sports Plus. Pray for the arrival of over 200 young people, along with their parents/guardians, at Repton for the start of Sports Plus. Pray that at each camp the parents/guardians would have felt welcomed, been well informed by the presentation on Sports Plus and inspired by their child's experience.

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**12<sup>TH</sup>**

Young People. Pray that those young people who come to Sports Plus but don't yet know Jesus would trust in Him for the forgiveness of sins. Pray that those who are Christians would be strengthened in their faith and leave better equipped to represent Jesus in their sport.

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**13<sup>TH</sup>**

Coaches. Pray that during each session throughout the summer coaches would have established good relationships with the young people and been a good witness for the Lord Jesus. Pray that the water breaks would have equipped and encouraged the young people to live for Jesus in their world of sport.

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**14<sup>TH</sup>**

Team Meetings. Pray that young people would actively engage in the Team Meeting Bible studies and that the Spirit would convict, encourage and teach the young people in gospel truth.

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**15<sup>TH</sup>**

Support Staff. Praise God for the teams of Support Staff at each Sports Plus. Thank God for their servant hearts and all they do behind the scenes to enable Sports Plus to run smoothly.

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**16<sup>TH</sup>**

Leaders. Pray that the 400 leaders were encouraged as they served the young people and the gospel this summer at Sports Plus. Pray they would return to their own clubs and teams seeking to share Jesus with their teammates.

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**17<sup>TH</sup>**

Young people. Pray that the young people who heard gospel truth in Mark and Colossians this summer would be able to answer the question Jesus poses about who we say He is. Pray that there would be a new wonder, acceptance and joy to live for Jesus in the world of sport.

# CHURCHES

The local church is vital to our mission. It's the primary community through which sportspeople come to know Jesus and grow in Him, and from which they are sent out to make disciples in the world of sport. Please join us in praying for different aspects of the church's ministry to sportspeople.

## AUGUST

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**18<sup>TH</sup>**

Church leaders. Praise God for church leaders who are involved in sports themselves. Pray that they would have time to train and build relationships with teammates and that God would bring many to Him through their witness.

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**19<sup>TH</sup>**

Young people. Give thanks for young people, thousands of whom love sport and love Jesus in the UK. Pray that they would be salt and light in their own clubs and teams and that they would be confident of their identity in Christ.

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**20<sup>TH</sup>**

Events. Thank God for the many evangelistic events and quizzes that have happened throughout the country in churches. Pray that these events will be a blessing to those who were involved in the planning and organising, and that the many guests who attended would come to put their trust in Christ.

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**21<sup>ST</sup>**

Churches in Bolton. Pray for the churches in Bolton and the surrounding area. Thank God for the work there and for the Christian sportspeople who are seeking to share their faith with teammates there.

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**22<sup>ND</sup>**

Global church. Thank God for the worldwide church family. Pray new churches globally would engage in sports mission and pray especially for any churches who feel persecution of any kind.

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**23<sup>RD</sup>**

Rugby World Cup events. Pray for churches as they look to put on events around the matches taking place this autumn. Pray that many sportspeople would hear the gospel at these events and lives would be changed as a result.

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**24<sup>TH</sup>**

Sunday Sport. With Sundays being a day many now play sport on, pray that churches would work alongside sportspeople and parents to support them and enable them to be active members of both their church family and their sports clubs and teams.

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**25<sup>TH</sup>**

Churches in Leicester. Pray for the churches in Leicester, that more sportspeople would be reached through their good work and many would come to know God for themselves.

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**26<sup>TH</sup>**

Youth ministry. Thank God for the work which churches in the UK and around the world do to support young people. Pray that many young sportspeople would become involved in their local church, especially through summer camps and local church events.

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## CHURCHES

18TH AUGUST - 31ST AUGUST

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**27<sup>TH</sup>**

Sports mission vision. Give thanks for churches who understand the value of sports and the mission field which it brings. Pray that we might, as a church family, reach out to those sportspeople in our local communities.

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**28<sup>TH</sup>**

Schools. Pray for church schools, for school chapels and for schools who are affiliated with a church. Thank God for the freedom that the UK church has to be a presence within our education system and pray that many young sportspeople will engage with church through their school.

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**29<sup>TH</sup>**

North of England. Thank God for churches in the North of England who understand the mission field of sport and pray that we would be able to engage with many more churches to envision and equip them to reach the world of sport for Christ.

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**30<sup>TH</sup>**

Growing UK work. Pray for our 2020 vision for 'sustainable mission' in 121 towns and cities to sportspeople. Pray God would be raising up leaders willing to work for His glory in each of these locations.

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**31<sup>ST</sup>**

Church life. Pray for church leaders and those involved with the day to day running of churches. Pray that God would give them new energy each day and enable them to see and understand sport as a mission field.

# STUDENTS/UNIVERSITIES

Thousands of students train and compete in their sport each week and the need for gospel workers in this harvest field remains great. Join us in praying particularly that God will empower student sportspeople to pray, play and say among their teammates.

## SEPTEMBER

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**1<sup>ST</sup>**

Freshers. Pray for freshers heading to university in the coming weeks, that they would know their identity is secure in Christ. Pray that in light of this they would be able to live for Him when under pressure from those around them.

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**2<sup>ND</sup>**

University Group Leaders. Praise God for our 70 university group leaders. Pray that they would come across many fresher Christians in sport in their universities and be able to support them in living and speaking for Jesus.

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**3<sup>RD</sup>**

Student witness. Pray for an boldness for students joining new sports clubs, that they would be able to use initial opportunities to tell those they compete and train with that they are a Christian and what that means.

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**4<sup>TH</sup>**

Graduates entering work. Pray for graduates, that they would be settling quickly into churches and sports clubs in the places they move to and that they would continue to reach the world of sport for Jesus in a new environment.

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## STUDENTS/UNIVERSITIES

1ST SEPTEMBER - 14TH SEPTEMBER

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**5<sup>TH</sup>**

Spiritually seeking students. Pray for sportspeople who come to university this term who are searching but don't yet know Jesus. Pray that they would meet a Christian sportsman who would share Jesus with them.

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**6<sup>TH</sup>**

Initiations/Welcome drinks. Pray for students with initial welcome socials or initiations in their sports clubs. Pray that they would be able to get to know other students within their clubs and be part of the club while not compromising living in a godly way.

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**7<sup>TH</sup>**

Freshers' gatherings. Pray for freshers' gatherings to share the vision of the university groups. Pray that meeting fellow Christians in sport would be an encouragement and that freshers would come to group meetings as a result.

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**8<sup>TH</sup>**

Group rapport. Pray for the Christians in Sport university groups to gel quickly and as such spur each other on to be living and speaking boldly for Jesus.

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**9<sup>TH</sup>**

Hostile students. Pray for student sportspeople who return to university opposed to the Christian faith. Pray that the Holy Spirit would be at work softening their hearts to the gospel.

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### 10<sup>TH</sup>

Student conference. Pray that many students would register for the New Year student conference, Clubhouse Xtra, over the next few weeks. This conference has often had a big impact, by God's grace, so pray particularly for freshers to register. Pray that it being an unknown event to new students would not affect sign-ups.

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### 11<sup>TH</sup>

Church engagement. Pray that fresher Christian sportspeople would quickly settle into local churches in their new cities. Pray that, as they serve and are taught and encouraged there, they would be motivated to live for Jesus in the world of sport.

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### 12<sup>TH</sup>

First Group meetings. Pray for each university group's first meeting. Pray that students would be excited by the vision of reaching the world of sport for Jesus, and pray that they would begin the academic year with a real desire to share Jesus with their sports friends.

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### 13<sup>TH</sup>

Guest events. Pray that students would be able to plan and hold guest events early in term such as sports quizzes, sports tournaments and meals where the gospel can be shared. Pray for boldness particularly for those for whom inviting sports friends to such an event will be new.

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### 14<sup>TH</sup>

New Christians. Pray that this term student sportspeople would come to trust Christ. Pray that there are many that will be celebrating Christmas as believers for the first time at the end of the term!

# NORTHERN IRELAND

Starting in 2002, the work of Christians in Sport in Northern Ireland has continued to great bear fruit, by God's grace. Praise Him for those involved in all streams of sports ministry, from schools to churches, elite sport to university work, as we pray for Northern Ireland this week.

## SEPTEMBER

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### 15<sup>TH</sup>

Clubhouse events. Pray for the seven Clubhouse training events which are planned for the Autumn term in places like Ballymena, Lisburn and Larne. Pray for many sportspeople to be encouraged and equipped to live and speak for Jesus in these towns and cities.

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### 16<sup>TH</sup>

Church guest events. Pray for churches such as Glenabbey and 1st Larne Presbyterian who have organised men's breakfast events and big screen showings of some of the games during the Rugby World Cup. Pray for people in those churches to be bold in inviting their friends and teammates along.

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### 17<sup>TH</sup>

Ballymena Saturday Morning League. Pray for the Christian footballers representing different teams in the Ballymena Saturday Morning League as they meet together to pray for teammates in their clubs and for opportunities to share the gospel through guest events this season.

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### 18<sup>TH</sup>

School Groups. Pray for young people who will meet this year in school groups such in Methody, Ballymena Academy, Cambridge House Grammar and Sullivan Upper. Pray they would be equipped and encouraged to worship God in their sport and witness for Him there.

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**19<sup>TH</sup>**

Finding Christians in sport. Pray for new Christians in sport to be found in areas where we currently know of very few. Pray for towns and cities such as Londonderry, Banbridge, Newry, Enniskillen and Antrim, and pray especially for two Clubhouse events to happen in two new towns or cities.

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**20<sup>TH</sup>**

Sports Plus Xtra. Pray for Sports Plus Xtra taking place during the half term holidays in October. Praise God for the opportunity to share the gospel with young sportspeople as they consider what it looks like to live for Christ in their sport.

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**21<sup>ST</sup>**

Gaelic Football ministry. Pray for new contacts who have been made in Gaelic football and pray especially for the witness of two female players in St Brigid's GAA club in Belfast. Pray God would raise up more Christian sportspeople within Gaelic sport in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

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## **SCOTLAND**

We are thankful to the Lord for those working to share Christ in the world of sport in Scotland. Pray with us for the encouragement of Christians in sport and for the sustenance and growth of the work across the country for the glory of God.

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**22<sup>ND</sup>**

Clubhouse. Pray for the Clubhouses planned in Scotland this term across at least ten cities. Pray that these events will be effective in inspiring and equipping many Christians involved in sport in these cities to make sport their mission.

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## SCOTLAND

22ND SEPTEMBER - 28TH SEPTEMBER

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**23<sup>RD</sup>**

Sports Plus Xtra. Thank God for the 60 young people trained at last year's Scottish Sports Plus Xtra events. Pray for the next event in October, that many young sportspeople will explore what it means follow Jesus and glorify Him in their sport.

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**24<sup>TH</sup>**

Rugby World Cup coaches work. Give thanks for rugby coach Peter Cook from Crieff, who is currently leading a team of coaches in Japan. Pray they would be a huge blessing to local churches as they help them take advantage of World Cup opportunities to share the gospel.

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**25<sup>TH</sup>**

Church sports groups. Give thanks for the ten plus churches in Scotland hosting regular sportspeople gatherings to pray for teammates and sport in their cities. Pray that each of these churches would see God answering their prayers as sportspeople around them are saved.

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**26<sup>TH</sup>**

Graduates. Praise God for the recent graduates event in Edinburgh last April. Pray for new graduates starting work in Scotland this year, that they would settle quickly into new churches and sports teams and would be excited to continue reaching the world of sport for Christ.

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**27<sup>TH</sup>**

Glasgow and Edinburgh encouragement. Back in June Christian sportspeople gathered together in Glasgow and Edinburgh for food, sport and prayer. Give thanks for this time together and pray that God will use it to encourage these individuals in faithfully sharing Christ with sportspeople across their cities.

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**28<sup>TH</sup>**

Growing Scottish work. Praise God for the 11 towns and cities in Scotland where we know of Christians in sport and have been able to serve them this year. Pray that mission there will be sustained and expanded through local leaders and churches to reach more Scottish sportspeople.

# NEW INITIATIVES

Praise God for new initiatives in effectively seeking to reach the world of sport for Christ. We are thankful for His hand in prompting, developing, and growing the work outlined below. Please join us in praying for much fruit from these endeavours.

## SEPTEMBER

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**29<sup>TH</sup>**

2020 Olympics. Pray for those in authority making decisions on the size and shape of the chaplaincy programme in Tokyo in 2020. Pray for open doors for a large team to be able to serve the athletes and coaching staff from across the world.

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**30<sup>TH</sup>**

Podcast for parents of young athletes. Pray for the release of a new series of interviews with parents of young performance athletes as they share the opportunities and challenges they navigate each day as they bring up their children in the local church and elite sports world.

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## OCTOBER

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**1<sup>ST</sup>**

European growth. Give thanks for what God is doing in European countries like the Faroe Islands and Iceland where very little work has historically been undertaken with Christian sportspeople.

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**2<sup>ND</sup>**

Sports mission vision in Dublin. Pray for the Dublin church leader gathering planned for the Autumn term. Pray that people in Dublin would grasp the vision of reaching the world of sport for Christ in Ireland and praise God for new contacts which have been made off the back of Sports Plus in July.

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## NEW INITIATIVES

29TH SEPTEMBER - 12TH OCTOBER

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**3<sup>RD</sup>**

Coaching Development Scheme. Pray for the Coaching Development scheme where we seek to assist young coaches in gaining their qualifications. Pray that individuals would access the scheme as we aim to continue to improve the standard of coaching across Sports Plus.

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**4<sup>TH</sup>**

Dublin Sports Plus. July 2019 saw the first Sports Plus camp in Ireland at St Columba's College, Dublin. Pray that this starts great momentum as we seek to serve churches and reach the world of sport for Christ across Ireland.

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**5<sup>TH</sup>**

Local churches. Pray ahead as we continue to explore how best we can support the local church and better equip people within the church to be reaching the world of sport for Jesus.

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**6<sup>TH</sup>**

Church sports groups. Praise God for the new prayer groups set up who are meeting together in churches to pray for their local world of sport. Pray that these groups would be a real blessing to those involved and also to local sports clubs and teams.

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**7<sup>TH</sup>**

Growing Clubhouse events. Pray for the new training evenings as we roll out Clubhouses across towns and cities in the UK. Pray that they would equip and encourage.

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**8<sup>TH</sup>**

Finding more Christians in sport. Pray that God would raise up new people in towns and cities where we don't know of Christian sportspeople.

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**9<sup>TH</sup>**

Student conference. Pray ahead to Clubhouse Xtra student conferences happening in January in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland (new this year). Pray that many students would come and God would use them for His glory.

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**10<sup>TH</sup>**

University of Bath events week. Pray for all the planning for the University of Bath events week in February as we send a team to serve the Christian Union and the Christians in Sport group.

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**11<sup>TH</sup>**

Game Plan 5 strategy. Pray for God-given wisdom as we look ahead to our next three-year strategic plan, Game Plan 5, starting in September 2020.

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**12<sup>TH</sup>**

Anniversaries in 2020. As we begin looking ahead to celebrating the 40th anniversary of Christians in Sport and 25 years of Sports Plus, pray that the team involved in organising would seek to glorify God in the activities and celebrate those who have helped build the history of Christians in Sport.

# ENGLAND

We commit England to God in prayer this week, lifting up resources, events and facilitators as we seek to glorify Him in the world of sport there. Pray with us for the multiplication of the work throughout all regions of the country.

## OCTOBER

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**13<sup>TH</sup>**

Clubhouse events. Give thanks for the many Clubhouses that have taken place over the last term. Pray for all those who were able to attend and be equipped and encouraged to speak boldly of Jesus within their clubs and teams.

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**14<sup>TH</sup>**

Sports Mission Pack. Pray many throughout England would be able to utilise the resources within the Sports Mission Pack to reach the world of sport for Christ.

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**15<sup>TH</sup>**

England-wide growth. Pray for towns and cities across England. May God bring many more to know Him through Christians in local sports clubs and teams.

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**16<sup>TH</sup>**

Contacts in South West. Pray that we'd be able to link with more Christian sportspeople in Cornwall and the South West.

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**17<sup>TH</sup>**

Guest events. Pray for the events planned in England this term. Pray that these events will be effective in boldly sharing the gospel with many non-Christians involved in sport.

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**18<sup>TH</sup>**

Peace and freedom of speech. Pray for peace in England and for us to be able to continue to freely express our Christian faith in our sporting environment.

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**19<sup>TH</sup>**

New contacts. Pray for new Christians in sport to be found in towns and cities where we currently know of very few. Pray for towns and cities such as Stafford, Gateshead, Derby, Scarborough, Canterbury and Brighton and Hove.

## WALES

Praise God for His goodness in guiding the expansion of work in Wales. We lift up those in Wales in prayer this week, including local churches, those involved in elite sport, and individual sports contacts throughout the country.

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**20<sup>TH</sup>**

West Wales. Pray for the five focus towns and cities in West Wales where we seek to see the world of sport reached for Christ; Swansea, Llanelli, Ammanford, Carmarthen and Aberystwyth.

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**21<sup>ST</sup>**

Wales-wide sports mission. Give thanks for each town and city where Christians have gathered to be encouraged and equipped to live for Jesus in their world of sport.

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## WALES

20TH OCTOBER - 26TH OCTOBER

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**22<sup>ND</sup>**

Guest events. Pray looking forward that many guest events would be held across Wales giving opportunities for sportspeople to hear the gospel.

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**23<sup>RD</sup>**

Contact growth. Pray that sports mission can be established in towns across Wales where we currently have no contacts.

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**24<sup>TH</sup>**

Individual witness. Give thanks for individuals across Wales who are seeking to help other Christians live out their faith in sport and encouraging others to share Jesus.

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**25<sup>TH</sup>**

Welsh churches. Pray for churches across the country who are intentional in the mission of reaching sportspeople with the gospel. Pray that there would be many more.

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**26<sup>TH</sup>**

Elite sport. Pray for the Christians involved in elite sport in Wales, that they would connect to local churches and be witnesses for Jesus in their environment.

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# LOOKING AHEAD

As we look ahead to 2020 and beyond, we want to lift up a few big prayers to the Lord.

## OCTOBER

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**27<sup>TH</sup>**

Professional Tennis. For a vibrant Christian fellowship to be established on the ATP and WTA tours, where players are hungry to get together and read God's word.

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**28<sup>TH</sup>**

Guinness Pro14. Pray for Pete Browne as he continues supporting rugby union players and coaches having been appointed to staff at the end of last season. Pray for open doors to meet those we know to be professing as we look to reach the world of rugby union for Christ.

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**29<sup>TH</sup>**

Global Summit. Pray for the Global Summit where sports leaders from around the world will gather to consider together how best to reach the world of sport for Christ. Pray for wisdom and insightful discussion in their meetings.

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**30<sup>TH</sup>**

Systems and technology. Praise God for the new website and new database technology which enable us to be more efficient in the ways we work. Pray as we investigate and implement more up-to-date financial systems and enable more detailed reporting.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

27TH OCTOBER - 9TH NOVEMBER

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**31<sup>ST</sup>**

Sports Plus 2020. Pray for planning and preparations for Sports Plus 2020 and, as bookings open in the New Year, that young people would think about inviting their sports friends who do not know Jesus.

# NOVEMBER

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**1<sup>ST</sup>**

Sports Plus in future. Pray that God would enable Sports Plus to continue to grow in the coming years by providing new venues, more young sportspeople and raising up new leaders to make this a reality.

**2<sup>ND</sup>**

Newcastle upon Tyne. Praise God for Newcastle upon Tyne and our links with churches there who understand and see sportspeople as a missional people group. Pray for the city and area, that many more Christians in sport would be found and would have a passion to see their teammates saved.

**3<sup>RD</sup>**

UK-wide engagement. As we long to see Christians in every sports club and team in the UK, pray that God would ignite a passion in Christian sportspeople's hearts to view their sport missionally. Pray that we will be able to equip local churches to support these individuals as they witness.

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**4<sup>TH</sup>**

Guest events. Pray that the Good News of Jesus would continue to be faithfully taught and responded to at the hundreds of guest events that will be held in 2019/20.

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**5<sup>TH</sup>**

UK work. Pray that God would raise up key people in towns and cities across the UK who would seek to lead the charge of reaching the world of sports for Christ.

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**6<sup>TH</sup>**

University Group Leaders. Pray for the process of finding new university group leaders and for the Group Leaders Weekend in March. Pray that each university group would be able to 'pass the baton on' well to continue the mission in their universities.

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**7<sup>TH</sup>**

University of Bath events week. Pray for the University of Bath events week in February, that many sportspeople would hear about Jesus through it and that God would be saving students in Bath that week.

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**8<sup>TH</sup>**

Christians in Sport Staff. Thank God for the four new staff members that have recently joined Christians in Sport and pray that God would bring the right people to join us in the coming year to support the work of making Christ known to the world of sport.

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**9<sup>TH</sup>**

Partners. Praise God for the 1,046 individuals and organisations who have chosen to support the work financially this year. Pray He would raise more up to sustain the work long into the future.

# OTHER WAYS TO PRAY

Visit [christiansinsport.org.uk/prayer](https://christiansinsport.org.uk/prayer) to sign up to get this prayer diary via email every fortnight or to pray daily using the Prayer Mate app.

Back Pages and the Prayer Diary are produced three times a year and sent free of charge to supporters of Christians in Sport for as long as you would like to hear from us.

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# ***NOTES***



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