



# PRAYER PARTNERS



Youth and  
Children's  
Ministries



*Prayer Partners* is designed to encourage, equip, and empower young people (children and teenagers) to pray. We want to introduce young people in The Salvation Army to real, meaningful prayer and start them on a lifetime journey of regular conversations with God. Having a prayer partner to share a regular time in prayer will enable our young people to experience praying with others and grasp how prayer is an essential part of growing in our faith. We want to show our young people that they can pray about whatever is on their minds and can turn to God whenever and however they are feeling. We want them to know that they are loved and valued, and by having a committed adult spending regular time praying with and for them will affirm them as a part of our church and as a child of God.

Children and teenagers often come to prayer without the inhibitions or hang-ups that we can accumulate as adults and are instinctively seeking to connect with the God who loves them. Young people are spontaneous and can demonstrate such imagination and creativity in prayer that we adults can often learn a thing or two! We trust that a prayer partnership will be a beneficial experience not just for the child, but for the adult partner too.

***Our longing as leaders is surely that our children find their own voice in prayer. Each of us has our own unique way of coming close to God, which blesses us as well as those who hear us. To enable children to find that voice, we need to create a safe praying place and give our prayer time together value and importance.***<sup>1</sup>

## PRAYER PARTNERS IN YOUR CORPS

Quite simply, *Prayer Partners* aims to pair a young person and an adult together, and for that adult to be a support to the child in prayer. The pair may pray together on occasions, and/or the adult may pray for the child separately throughout the week.

We have prepared four information sheets to assist you in setting up and establishing *Prayer Partners* in your corps.

These are:

1. Information letter for parents
2. Information letter for the adult partner
3. Information card for young people
4. Safeguarding guidelines

If you do not yet have *Prayer Partners* up and running in your corps, here are a few key steps you can follow.

- ✓ **Decide who will coordinate *Prayer Partners* in your corps.** Usually this will either be the corps officer, youth team leader or the YPSM.
- ✓ **Envision the corps congregation about *Prayer Partners*.** Distribute the information letters to anyone who is interested in participating.
- ✓ **Ask for final confirmation from adults, parents and young people who would like to be involved.**
- ✓ **Ensure adult partners have completed the necessary training.**
- ✓ **Pair up each adult partner with a young person, and inform the adult, young person and the child's parents (when necessary) of the pairing.**

<sup>1</sup> [www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/children-and-prayer/](http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/children-and-prayer/)

# PRAYER PARTNERS



Youth and  
Children's  
Ministries

- ✓ Consider launching *Prayer Partners* with a celebration event such as a family picnic or afternoon tea, at which the young people, adult partners and parents could meet up and get to know each other a little better. It would also be good to launch *Prayer Partners* at a Sunday meeting in which you could invite all the young people with their adult *Prayer Partners* to come to the front to be prayed for. You could also have an information evening for prospective prayer partners, to run through the information in this booklet and any other questions they might have.
- ✓ Provide a clear timescale for a review of the partnership by all parties (eg, six months) and the opportunity to end the partnership or recommit for another period of time.
- ✓ In addition you could have the adult partner stand with the child during your Covenant Sunday service when the child re-reads their Junior Soldier (or Senior Soldier) promise.

***There are many ways of praying and it is very important that this is affirmed for children. They can speak out loud or whisper the words in their hearts so that only God can hear; they can use prayers learned by heart or words they make up themselves; they can sing prayers or even dance them; they can simply be quiet. It doesn't matter which way they choose as long as their prayers are as true as they can be.<sup>2</sup>***

<sup>2</sup> [www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/children-and-prayer/](http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/children-and-prayer/)

## INFORMATION LETTER FOR PARENTS

---

Dear

We would like to extend an invitation to your child to become involved in *Prayer Partners*.

*Prayer Partners* aims to encourage our young people into real, meaningful prayer and start them on a lifetime journey of regular conversations with God. Having a role model to share a regular time in prayer will enable our children to experience praying with others and grasp how prayer is an essential part of growing in our faith. *Prayer Partners* is designed to encourage, equip, and empower young people to pray by pairing them with a special adult to be their prayer partner. This is one way we can offer real support to our children as they grow in their faith and ensure they feel valued as part of our church community.

Each adult partner will be carefully selected and will have attended safeguarding training with specific guidance on being a prayer partner for a child. Please see the attached safeguarding information for more details of these guidelines.

The key responsibility of the adult partner is to support the young person in prayer, by praying with them and for them. The adult will speak to their partner when they see them at church and ask if there is anything they would like prayer for. They may pray together at that time and/or the adult will pray for them at a later time. It is not anticipated that the pair will meet up outside of a Sunday morning (or other corps event) to pray together.

The child may be given a prayer card to explain *Prayer Partners* to them, and on which they can write down the points they have mentioned to their partner for prayer.

Our corps *Prayer Partners* coordinator is ..... and you can feel free to contact him/her at any time throughout the partnership for information or with any questions or concerns. If at any time you have any safeguarding concerns you can also make contact with ..... who is our Deputy Child Protection Coordinator.

If your child would like to have a prayer partner please could you let us know by ..... as we anticipate launching *Prayer Partners* with a celebration event on .....

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Corps Officer

## INFORMATION LETTER FOR ADULT PARTNERS

---

Dear

Thank you for your interest in *Prayer Partners*.

*Prayer Partners* aims to encourage our young people into real, meaningful prayer and start them on a lifetime journey of regular conversations with God. Having a role model to share a regular time in prayer will enable our young people to experience praying with others and grasp how prayer is an essential part of growing in our faith. *Prayer Partners* is designed to encourage, equip, and empower young people to pray by pairing them with a special adult to be their prayer partner. This is one way we can offer real support to young people as they grow in their faith and ensure they feel valued as part of our church community.

We are inviting adults from our corps to become a prayer partner for one of our young people. In order to become a prayer partner you will need to attend a short training session which will outline your role and responsibilities in the partnership and talk through our safeguarding policy and guidelines. Please see the attached safeguarding information for more details of these guidelines.

As a prayer partner, your key responsibility is to support the young person in prayer, by praying with them and for them. You can chat to them when you see them at church and/or other corps events/meetings and ask if there is anything they would like prayer for. You may pray together at that time and/or take away their points for prayer to pray for them at a later time. It is not anticipated that you will meet up outside of a corps gathering to pray together.

The young person may be given a prayer card to explain *Prayer Partners* to them, and on which they can write down the points they have mentioned to you for prayer.

Our corps *Prayer Partners* coordinator is ..... and you can feel free to contact him/her at any time throughout the partnership for information or with any questions or concerns. If at any time you have any safeguarding concerns you can also make contact with ..... who is our Deputy Child Protection Coordinator.

If you would like to become a prayer partner please confirm by .....

The *Prayer Partners* information session will be held on ..... and we anticipate launching *Prayer Partners* with a celebration event on .....

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Corps Officer

## PRAYER PARTNERS SAFEGUARDING GUIDELINES

---

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- ✓ Parents are to be made aware that is part of the youth and children's programme.
- ✓ Parents are to be informed of the nature of *Prayer Partners* and the name of their child's prayer partner.
- ✓ Parents to be given a contact number of the corps officer and Deputy Child Protection Coordinator in case they are concerned about the nature of the friendship.
- ✓ The young person will be informed of the practicalities and purpose of *Prayer Partners*, and their wishes and feelings should be ascertained and taken into account before proceeding.
- ✓ The adult and the young person should be matched according to gender if possible.
- ✓ The young person, parent or the adult partner may end the prayer partner relationship at any time, although it is suggested that this is done with advice and guidance from the *Prayer Partners* coordinator.
- ✓ If there are any specific reasons for ending the partnership that are related to safeguarding issues, the corps officer should be informed.

### GUIDELINES FOR THE ADULT PRAYER PARTNER

- ✓ Prayer should take place in an open area with other people around. Always keep the relationship in the context and company of other people.
- ✓ Do not arrange to meet a child on their own away from the Salvation Army premises.
- ✓ Do not send texts or emails to a child, or contact on social media.
- ✓ Do not offer lifts to a child on their own or arrange home visits without the knowledge and presence of the parents.
- ✓ Don't promise confidentiality because it maybe that the child wants to disclose a situation which may need to be dealt with by reporting to others for help.
- ✓ Understand and adhere to the corps policy regarding sending cards or giving gifts to the young person (guidelines found in Safe & Sound Procedures, procedure 15).
- ✓ Whilst it may be appropriate sometimes to show affection to a child, you must be aware of what appropriate touch is and what inappropriate physical contact is.
- ✓ Ask the young person's permission before touching them whilst praying for them, eg, placing a hand on their shoulder or holding their hand.

### WHEN MEETING THE YOUNG PERSON:

- ✓ Always ask the young person if they would like to pray together, don't assume that is what they want at that moment.
- ✓ Ask the young person if they have a request for prayer, remembering that they are likely to ask for very different things from what an adult might do. Ascertain if they would like you to pray together at that moment or for you to pray for them later.
- ✓ Ask the young person for permission before you touch them whilst praying for them, eg, 'Is it Ok if I place my hand on your shoulder whilst we pray?'

# PRAYER PARTNERS



Youth and  
Children's  
Ministries

- ✓ Consider your body language. It is right to be at the same height as a child, kneeling or sitting with them. But it might not always be appropriate to place an arm around them.
- ✓ Consider the language that you use and that is appropriate for the young person's age and understanding.
- ✓ Take care how you respond to any problems the young person may share with you, remembering the emotional and sensitive context that a prayer time can create.
- ✓ You may write down prayer requests on the prayer card provided and give it to the young person so that they can let their parents know and remember it themselves.
- ✓ If you make any notes regarding your prayer time or about the young person, these must be stored in a confidential and secure manner.



## **FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PRAYER PARTNERS**

Email: [youthchildren@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:youthchildren@salvationarmy.org.uk)

The Salvation Army  
Youth & Children's Ministries Unit  
101 Newington Causeway  
London SE1 6BN

Registered Charity Number 214779 and in Scotland SC009359