

What is Prayer Partners?

Prayer Partners is about walking together. It is a simple resource which helps everyone to feel part of church life, regardless of age. It is not a formal programme but something that will hopefully become part of the life of your setting, assisting a journey of conversation with God through the support of generations praying together. The language and practice of Prayer Partners is well established in The Salvation Army so it is our hope that this will provide an updated framework to help you move safely and confidently towards intergenerational prayer support.



There are many ways in which prayer takes place within The Salvation Army. Having a Prayer Partner will enable children and young people to grasp how prayer is communication between ourselves and God and that God is present in the everyday. Having a committed adult volunteering to spend regular time praying either with or for them is part of experiencing belonging in the life of the church. As a United Kingdom and Ireland Territory initiative, Prayer Partners may commence at any point for a child or young person, regardless of whether they are a soldier. It is an open invitation to support, encouragement and experience in discipleship that we want every person in every church to enjoy.

This resource aims to enable a young person and an adult to establish a voluntary prayer-based relationship. If we imagine our corps as a big group walking together, we might move around and chat to different people, but every so often, we might end up walking next to our Prayer Partner for a time. When that happens, we can ask each other specific questions which form the basis of how we will pray for each other in the coming days/weeks.

The pair may pray together on occasion, or they might pray for one another separately. Another option might be establishing a Prayer Partnership involving two young people with one adult. A Prayer Partnership is available to any child at any point in their development as a disciple within their local corps. It would be integral to those preparing to become junior soldiers but is intended to be offered to all children and young people as a way of belonging to the life of the wider church family.

Children and young people may come to prayer without inhibitions, instinctively seeking to connect with God through music, arts, imagination and creativity. But shared stories are precious too, which is why Prayer Partners is an investment which can impact every generation. A Prayer Partnership will be a beneficial experience not just for the child, but for the adult Partner too. Of all the ways we can pray, 'walking together' by talking and sharing our experiences through Prayer Partners offers just one.



10 Steps to get started

- 1** A children/youth worker or corps leader would be the Prayer Partners co-ordinator, responsible for matching partnerships.
- 2** The co-ordinator invites each child and young person to discuss having a Prayer Partner and to share what they hope to gain from the experience.
- 3** Share the above **What is Prayer Partners?** information at a launch event; an intergenerational celebration, as part of teaching on prayer, during enrolment events or as a response within worship services.
- 4** Distribute the information 'How to be a Prayer Partner - Parts 1 and 2' to those adults interested in participating. Part 1 is an invitation, Part 2 details safeguarding arrangements.
- 5** Prior to enabling the relationships, ensure all volunteer adult Prayer Partners have completed 'Safe & Sound For Everyone'. (I-learn Safeguarding training is permitted until the next 'Safe & Sound for Everyone' training dates are available.)
- 6** The safeguarding element of Prayer Partners is extensive. Our approach seeks to empower the child, not just the adult. Children should be encouraged and given clear steps for how to speak to the co-ordinator throughout the process with any concerns.
- 7** Once the partnerships have been agreed, the co-ordinator informs the adult, young person/ child and their parents/carers, setting a date on which it will be reviewed.
- 8** A pocket Prayer Card is given to both partners for making notes of requests.
- 9** A folded safeguarding card is given to the adult partner for easy reference.
- 10** Review (after 3 months) may take the opportunity to end the partnership or re-commit for another limited period. The young person and the adult Partner should be given the opportunity to share their feelings with the co-ordinator at this point.



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