



Scripture Union International



Stories and updates from Scripture Union around the world

Global News aims to keep you in touch with how our network of Scripture Union teams is having an impact on young lives each month.

A new era for Scripture Union on the Isle of Man



THIS year Scripture Union International has welcomed a new movement into its membership. [Scripture Union Ministries Trust](#) (SUMT) on the Isle of Man was formed in 1990, but its links with Scripture Union go back about 120 years, since the first annual CSSM Beach Mission was held on the Island.

Kristina Reeves, Chief Executive & Safeguarding Lead for SUMT, explained that the organisation began with a sole volunteer schools worker running lunchtime groups in the island's secondary schools. She said: "By the 2010s SUMT had grown to four or five staff as well as over 150 volunteers engaging in virtually all the Island's secondary and primary schools with the potential of reaching 12,000 children and young people."

Kristina said their work has grown and adapted over the last 30 years. She said: "Moving from being a Local Mission Partner of SU England & Wales to being a member of SUI will enable us, we believe, to continue to grow and develop, as we learn from

the rich experience and practice of other SU movements in similar contexts from around the globe."

SUMT is running two curriculum days: 'Life Matters' for secondary schools and 'Stars' for primary schools, and they had two new schools signed up this term. Kristina said: "We have a residential weekend for secondary school age young people planned and we are piloting a prayer roadshow around the Island to tie in with SUI Global Week of Prayer."



In terms of their biggest challenges, she said: "As with many rural communities, we have an ageing population and the trend is that numbers in church attendance are declining – we want to continue to recruit, train and equip church-based volunteers to help raise the next generation of Christ-followers. Whilst we historically and currently have very strong relationships with the educational community on the Island, we cannot take this for granted and so are looking to see how to develop the activities we offer schools, so that we best serve the holistic development of all children and young people."

about **the Isle of Man**

The Isle of Man is a self-governing British Crown dependency in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland. It is not actually part of the UK, but as a Crown Dependency, it is technically a possession of the crown (or the King) directly, not of the UK.

It's known for its rugged coastline, medieval castles and rural landscape, rising to a mountainous centre. In the capital, Douglas, the Manx Museum traces the island's Celtic and Viking heritage. The Isle of Man TT is a major annual cross-country motorcycle race around the island.

The Isle of Man has a long Christian tradition, but just as in the UK, nominalism is rife and non-religion is growing. Pray that the Church will continue to strive to bring people back into the fold and that the Isle of Man might see an awakening.



Adventure, dragons and Bible stories!



[SCRIPTURE Union Australia](#) have welcomed children and young people to a special camp in Tasmania this year, called Orana Guide Camp.

"We linked our Bible program with the film, 'How to train your Dragon'," said SUPA South Camp leader, Sam, *"and spent time following Jesus' life from childhood to his resurrection while following the adventures of Hiccup, the protagonist of the movie."*

Camp this year was filled with games, craft, Bible sessions, a scavenger hunt, and beach games, all aimed to encourage children to explore the Bible.

"The enthusiasm and eagerness of the campers to learn was infectious." Sam said he was also encouraged to see his leadership team growing in their own faith and skills. *"It was a privilege to have three junior leaders participate in the camp and to be able to help support them in developing skills as future leaders."*

For Sam, leading on camps continues to be a labour of love, as he recalls the impact this ministry had on his own life and faith journey as a child.

"I am now in a position where I can use my gifts and experience to provide opportunities for others. There are not a lot of opportunities for students these days to get away from camps and spend time opening the Bible. Camps like this are such a valuable gift."

Top tips for **Guardians of Ancora fans**



[GUARDIANS of Ancora](#) has its own YouTube channel where you can find tips from top players like [Riley](#). The channel also offers tutorials, songs and interviews.

Maggie Barfield, Ancora Mission Leader and Senior Content Innovator, said the Guardians of Ancora curriculum, available to all Scripture Union movements, signed up to be part of the project, offers a comprehensive set of resources for running Ancora clubs in schools.

Hopes and dreams from **Ugandan young ambassador**



HILDA Ssekitto, from [Uganda](#), says the opportunity to meet with other Scripture Union members from across the world and imagine what SU might look like in the future is one of the main things she is looking forward to as a young ambassador joining in the SU Global Gathering in Malaysia in 2024.

She said: *"That's what makes my heart dance and there is no greater joy than that!"*

[Watch the video](#)

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Scripture Union: God's Big Story Transforming Young Lives
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