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Today's the day!

It's A Level results day, and young people will lay their heads down to sleep tonight with their thoughts shifted from 'what could be' to 'what will be'. Many young people will be thrilled with today's results, many others will be deeply disappointed, perhaps exhausted from a day battling through clearing or re-thinking their entire next year's plans.

My first 3 years with Fusion were focussed on [Student Linkup](#) - our service connecting students to churches and churches to students over this pivotal transition into university life. It's still one of my favourite things we do. I co-wrote our prep for uni sessions which are still in our [Student Linkup Box](#) - why not check it out and get one as a gift for any young people you know headed off to uni this year (you can get 10% off with the code FRESHER23 until 20th August). Or (/and) you could give them a [DMC Deck](#) to help them make those initial, meaningful connections with new housemates in freshers week.

Whether it's marked by gifts, a coffee or by perseverance in prayer can I encourage you to pause and think about who you might know going to uni this year and how you could champion them through that transition. Knowing there are people cheering you on makes such a difference, and being welcomed home at Christmas with encouragement and grace can be the thing that helps those who have struggled persevere and those who have loved it reconnect following such a huge change. It might be that there are young people in your church who are starting uni whilst staying at home - how can you help mark this

Below are a few things to help you pray for those headed to uni this coming autumn.

As a family we're away at the moment on holiday - five days in Sussex with Mum followed by a week in France, down the road from where friends of ours are staying. We're very much ready for some rest and fun, and are hoping that holiday time includes some of both (if a little optimistically with the first!) If you're keen to follow on with what's happening with our family life, do [follow me on instagram](#) and drop me a message to let me know you have so I can add you to my Close Friends list where I share pics of the girls. My instagram content is only ever on stories and is very sporadic, but it's a good way to get a sense of the girls!

I hope you're managing some rest and restoration over this summer.

Looking forward to being in touch early in the new academic year on more of what this coming term will hold.

With much love,
Pippa

Things to share with those heading to uni...

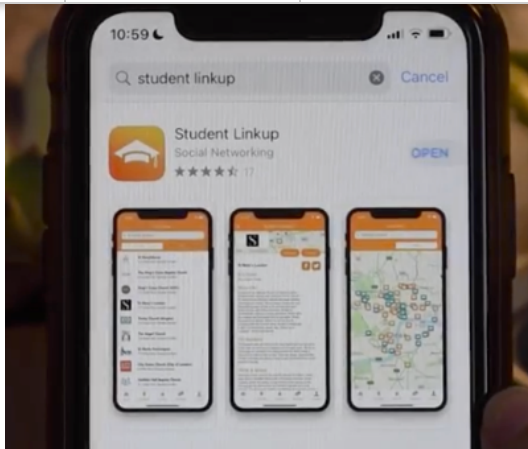
Student Linkup

Download the app to connect to churches near your uni. You can message with student workers in your uni location before you've even left home and start to plan for which church you might make home. Student workers are on the app and keen to welcome you!

Prep for uni resources

The Student Linkup Box and DMC Deck are great resources to help young people prepare for university life!

Check them out on the website and get 10% off the Box until 20th August with the code FRESHER23



Please pray for all those supporting young people through this transition - parents, carers, youth workers, church communities, family friends and peers.

Pray for wisdom, faithfulness, encouragement and presence in their support.

Adam's Student Linkup Story

Adam is a student in Newcastle.

He said, "I hadn't previously heard of the Student Linkup app, but the idea of connecting with churches before arriving in Newcastle sounded really helpful, so I decided to give it a try.



Using the app gave me a clearer understanding of the different churches in the city and allowed me to connect with those that I would be interested in attending. I had the opportunity to speak with the Student Workers at these churches, which made me feel more confident and supported. By the time I made the move to Newcastle, I already felt I knew some Christians in the city, and when stepping into a new church for the first time, I was recognised. It felt

The Student Linkup app has played a huge role in me finding a church and continuing my discipleship journey at Uni!"

Read more of Adam's story [here](#).

250 young people had linked up to find a church at uni before
A Level results day (at which point it often shoots up!)

Please pray for those who have signed up already or are yet to
this summer.

How are churches preparing for freshers?

Two student workers share their plans and prayers for freshers...

This year, we are adapting the way we do Church to welcome freshers through
two main actions:

- Morning Sessions with networking tailored for Freshers.
- Sunday Services (Sunday afternoons) with full immersion into the Church community.

We are also creating weekly spaces on campus fully invitational with a
breakfast club format.

My prayer is that freshers this year will come hungry and expectant for new adventures. I pray for those who have experienced God's love will carry on to develop a deeper understanding of him, and I pray that those who haven't will be curious about their spirituality.

- Adoniel, Student Worker at G2 in York

We're planning for fresher's season to be open and invitational this year. We're fortunate that our church tends to attract Christian students but - through meals and music - we're praying that students who don't know Jesus will step into our church this October.

Our prayer for 2023 freshers is that they can be leaders in their courses,

- Becca, Student Worker at St George's Church, Leeds

Please pray for churches to be creative, proactive and full of faith for freshers season this year.

Please pray for churches who haven't welcomed students before but have something unique to offer, to step in and engage with university students for the first time.

Pray that churches will be seeking to connect not only with Christian students but with those who don't know Jesus.

Remember this?



Our Student Linkup advertising campaign 3 years ago included a very cute Lara balanced on a window at York St John University. Here's one of my favourite pictures from that shoot.

Please pray for all those who will be going to uni this year, those

...and finally, I've recently done a podcast with [Parenting for Faith](#) all about this transition to university and they've adapted some of my article for Paraklesis into blogs too. It was a real privilege to have Student Linkup featured on [their site](#) and to engage with them over something that's so key for many of the parents they serve.

Thank you for standing and praying with me for each new intake of freshers that comes through. It's not my first year shouting about this, it may not be your first year joining me in praying into it, but it's the first time experiencing it for each new wave of young people, so let's pray as if it's the first time again.

Much love,
Pip

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