

Toolkit

trypraying.

"I'll tell you what trypraying has done for us: it's brought the churches together."

Lis - Peterhead

"By the end of the week I opened the door of my life to Jesus, as the booklet suggests. I had a powerful experience actually feeling His presence flood my heart."

Angela - Leeds

"Awesome to see the bus ads again. That little booklet changed my life."

Lindsay - West Lothian

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1. WHAT IS TRYPRAYING?

Trypraying is for those who are not religious and don't do church.

Trypraying is a seven day prayer resource that helps a person pray about something that is important to them and gradually explains the gospel so that they can trust Christ with their life. It's an invitation for people to consider doing life with God rather than without him. You can read a copy here:

www.trypraying.co.uk/try-it. Over the last ten years it has developed as:

- A personal faith-sharing tool. There is a suite of trypraying resources: booklets for children, youth and adults, an app and a digital presence via the web, all with the same purpose of introducing people to Jesus. Over 700,000 printed copies have been used.
- It is a church project. Whole congregations have been helped to pray and share their faith when everyone gets a copy and uses it one week and then gives it to someone else the next week ('Use it and lose it').
- It is a multi-church town and city process. In many places groups of churches have all been using this together in a coordinated way. It has gone into the public space with banners on multiple church sites, provoking interest and demonstrating unity in the gospel, and often with paid advertising as well. It has been used in over 150 different towns and cities in the UK and in other countries.

Trypraying works when it is a regular, annual initiative and becomes part of the culture of a church.

"Trypraying is a fantastic evangelistic resource that takes the fear out of sharing your faith. Practical, accessible and engaging, it is a hugely relevant resource for evangelism throughout the UK and beyond."

Clive Calver - UK Evangelical Alliance.

2. WHY USE TRYPRAYING.

Trypraying meets a current need. Now, more than ever before, people are seeking answers to big questions. With so many of life's certainties having been swept aside people are seeking solace and help. There has been a huge spike in on-line church and/or websites to do with spirituality and prayer. (A Tearfund survey in April 2020 found 19m people in the UK had prayed during the Pandemic compared to 4m people before; the Centre for Digital Theology at Durham University August 2020 found that during the first lock-down 1 in 4 people in the UK have engaged regularly in organised on-line worship.)

Trypraying is a resource that meets this need being felt by many people.

It enables Christians to share their faith. Christians struggle to find ways to share the hope they have in Christ. Church leaders often don't find it easy either and it's hard for them to equip their congregation. With this simple 'Use it and lose it' idea trypraying is a resource that enables a whole congregation to reach out to friends and colleagues.

It enables churches to work together. Churches in towns and cities often want to work together in a way that doesn't distract them from what they are doing locally. Trypraying helps groups of churches to work together. By enabling an attractive logo to be seen on banners on different churches and coordinated activity across multiple churches it is an expression of unity in the gospel.

The beauty of trypraying is in its simplicity - use it and lose it. And yet wrapped up in that simple formula is a resource that is seeing lives changed.

Martin Fair, Former Moderator Church of Scotland.

3. HOW TO GET IT STARTED IN YOUR CHURCH.

This can be the beginning of a personal faith-sharing journey as well as a whole church process.

Churches make trypraying accessible to their communities by placing a banner on their building, motivating their congregation to 'use and then lose' the trypraying booklet and connecting in other ways.

Think of doing this not just once but repeatedly over several years.

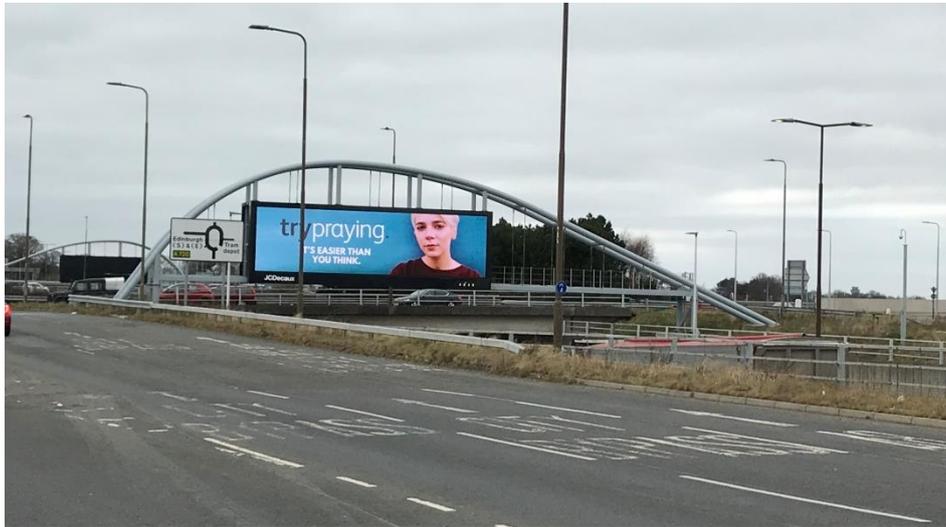
- Pray.
- Share the idea of trypraying with the leaders in your church. See if there are other churches in your area that will be using trypraying at the same time.
- Become familiar with the suite of literature: children's, youth, and adult booklets as well as the trypraying app and the two websites (trypraying.co.uk for enquirers and thereishope.co.uk for churches). You may want to also look at the 40 day prayer guide called 'Catching the Wave.' Consider the use of Perspex boxes.
- Plan the trypraying project for the church and the process of informing and motivating the congregation. Decide who, where, what, how, etc. Make use of some of the resources, e.g. [trypraying- the idea](#) and the animation [Use it and lose it](#). See also [Let's do this together](#) and the [stories](#) section of the trypraying website.
- Plan 'visibility' ideas: banners, Perspex boxes, social media, advertising. Get creative! See 'Creative ideas' below. In a Covid 19 world, the idea of churches and individuals putting a Perspex box on a fence or gatepost to hold booklets has caught on. Many places are using these.
- Use some of the [trypraying](#) booklet themes in Sunday services as preaching themes to encourage the congregation's motivation and understanding of trypraying in the lead up to the project. You might also want to use it in small groups too.
- Give thought to any special prayer activity that would help.
- Give everyone in the congregation a booklet to 'use and lose' on two or more successive Sundays.
- Subsequently create regular space on Sundays and at other small group settings to allow people to say how they got on: answers to prayer, faith-sharing moments, inspiring stories, etc. I.e. The process becomes 'Use it. Lose it. News it'. This works best over several weeks so people get the idea of telling their stories and also of giving the booklet away. Find the best way for people to share their stories: written on cards, testimony, interview, etc.
- Send stories and evaluation to office@trypraying.co.uk. An evaluation form is available.



4. HOW TO GET IT STARTED IN YOUR TOWN OR CITY.

Working across churches requires coordination and prayer. It may be a harder task but the benefits are immense. Here are a few ideas. In essence what is being done is the same as 3 above but on a larger scale.

- Plan an engagement with trypraying for at least three years with increasing scope and effectiveness.
- Meet with other church leaders personally to share the idea and, if this is getting a sense of God, then widen the invitation to many. Send a link to the promotional video on the website: trypraying – the idea. Emphasise the simplicity of trypraying: it's a booklet to give away, and a logo to display. Handing out booklets is a simple event to organise. However, if several churches do this at the same time, many people will hear the good news about Jesus and it will give a sense of unity.
- Explain that churches can use the booklets and logo however it suits them, but the main collective action will be: Church members are given booklets on one particular Sunday; they read and pray through the trypraying booklet during that week; the following week they give the booklet to a friend, family member, or even a stranger. Over the following weeks gather stories of what has been happening. This encourages people to stay engaged so they carry a booklet in their handbag or back pocket ready for the next conversation.
- Invite many churches but recognize that only some will join. Maintain the best possible relationship with as many as you can. Keep informing every church even if they are choosing not to be involved this year.
- In planning meetings consider dates for 'Use it and lose it', publicity, joint prayer events, faith-sharing training course, local facebook page, banners and publicity, celebration events, etc.
- Liaise with the trypraying office.
- Consider these extra ideas as you go live:
 - Set up your own church trypraying Facebook page to share stories/events or set up a town or city one to connect churches.
 - Link to the trypraying website and smartphone app from your Facebook page or church website.
 - Involve children and teens with their own activities and versions of the trypraying booklet.
 - Devote small-group time to praying for local people to encounter God.
 - Contact the local press to let them know what the local churches are up to.
 - Hold a prayer or a prayer & praise event to pray for the area and for those who will receive a booklet. Do it as a church and invite others, or as a joint church event.
 - If you have social media experts in your church network (i.e. teenagers) involve them in communicating what's going on.
 - Send a final email encouraging all the churches involved.
- Consider a post-trypraying celebration event, where participants share stories about their experience of giving a booklet away. Or you could simply meet to pray for those who have received booklets. Encourage those who still have their booklets to pray for opportunities to pass them on.
- Remind everyone in the area to share any stories they come across – you could create a central point for stories e.g. a physical wall display, on a Facebook page or church website.



5. ADVERTISING AND SOCIAL MEDIA.

We are developing a social media presence and will be releasing quality, useable postings which will reach into the homes of 1000s of people.

A number of towns/cities have used bought advertising. This has been a strong visible presence in many places. It's not as expensive as you might think. In the UK, we have a relationship with a media company called "Global". Having worked with them over ten years, they know us, are supportive of us and they work hard to give us the very best in every campaign we run. Talk to us if you are interested to know more.

Research has been done on the effectiveness of the bus advertising in Edinburgh. Because of repeated campaigns with banners and bus adverts over several years it showed an amazing 'brand recognition' of over 50% among residents. The research agency which conducted the evaluation said this:

"In over 25 years' experience of conducting research to help evaluate communication and marketing activity, the results of the trypraying campaign in Edinburgh are among the very best results I have seen for a non-TV campaign."

Jim Law, director of Wild Heather Research.

6. RESOURCES.

All of the trypraying resources are available from the website. For clarification, we have two websites: trypraying.co.uk is for enquirers and thereishope.co.uk is for churches. The resources page is at www.thereishope.co.uk/reources. We price our materials as keenly as possible and there are discounts for quantities and bundles.

Besides the suite of printed booklets: adult, youth and children's there is the trypraying app and various publicity materials: banners, car stickers, Perspex boxes, feather banners, etc.

Video resources are also available: [trypraying- the idea](#), the animation [Use it and lose it](#) and several other items.

There is also a 40 day prayer guide called 'Catching the Wave' available in print as well as emailed a day at a time. This could be a useful preparation prayer resource which fits in with Lent.

7. CREATIVE IDEAS.

Churches are using trypraying in creative ways in their community. Giving everyone a copy to give to a friend is the basic and best idea. But here are some other exciting ideas:

- ‘Help yourself’ box. Put trypraying booklets in a perspex box with a lift-up lid outside your church and a notice for people to help themselves. If it is close to a trypraying banner even better. You could number the booklets and as they are taken allocate the number to a church member so that they can pray for the person that took a particular booklet even though they don’t know their name.
- If your church has a café have the booklets available there.
- Do you run a Food Bank in your church? Pop a booklet in every food parcel.
- Are you involved in Healing on the Streets, Prayer Walks, Street Pastors... use it there.
- Make them part of your “Welcome Pack” for newcomers or new Christians.
- Do a trypraying parish/neighbourhood drop giving the booklet, with a covering letter, to every home in your community as a gift – no strings attached. (NB: stick a label on the back with church contact details!) Alternatively you could deliver ‘What Would You Say’ leaflets to every home in the community. If people respond positively this gives you an opportunity to start a conversation face to face.
- Give out prayer request cards to every home in your community for people to fill in. These could be enclosed in the WWYS leaflet.
- Have a ‘prayer clinic’ for 1 - 2 hours a week, when people can come for prayer. You could use a feather banner to visibly promote the event and a couple of friendly stewards to give directions.
- Take it to the streets or into a shopping centre with a table, publicity, feather banners, booklets, etc. Take it into schools, youth groups, youth events, clubs, etc., and offer to pray with people and speak of Jesus. NB: Some of these venues may require you asking for permission first.
- Place a large green circle (the ‘trypraying’ logo) on the floor in a novel place with the invitation for people to ‘try praying here.’ Be ready to pray with them.
- Hold a ‘What-about-unanswered-prayer’ meeting that is open to the community. Handle with sensitivity, love and faith.
- Make the ‘trypraying’ booklet available at special services, concerts, events or courses in church. Make it a gift to those who come.
- Book a room or a few tables in your local pub or bistro and set aside a few weeks to discuss anything about prayer over a pint. Make it open to the community. (Call it “Prayer & a Pint”).
- Hold a prayer day/weekend with various prayer stations and crafts open to the community. Offer to pray for people’s personal issues – not world peace! If they don’t have any specific requests offer to pray a blessing over their lives. Remember: Don’t be afraid to ask the question, “Can I pray for you right now?”
- Find out if there is a prison near you and consider getting touch with the chaplaincy team to make the prisoners booklets available.
- You can label the back of your books with the church contact details so people can get in touch if they need to.

8. CHURCH LEADER'S ROLE

Your particular role is crucial in helping others to use trypraying. Prayer, faith, good planning, clear communication and the leading of the Spirit are all essential.

However the single most practical thing you can do to help others is to use it yourself and begin to get some of your own stories.

The section below will help you be ahead of the game.

9. LET'S START A CONVERSATION

Be a good listener. Remember we have two ears and one mouth. Perhaps we should ask questions and listen twice as much as we speak! We are interested in the whole person for Christ's sake and not simply giving a booklet away.

Things to get ready:

Your story, told simply and without clutter.
Pray and ask God for opportunities.
Know where you are going but be ready to adapt.
Ask the Spirit to guide you and fill you.

Conversation openers

"People are finding life hard at the moment. What do you find helpful to keep you going?"

"Would you think of yourself as religious?"

"Have you ever prayed?"

"Here, I've been given this booklet. I'm trying to make up my mind about it. What do you think?"

"This booklet is for people who aren't religious and don't do church. I'd love you to have a look at it."

"I'm supposed to pass this on to someone who isn't religious. Is that you?"

Things to know

You don't have to have all the answers
You could refer people to a story in the booklet.
You could highlight the first prayer in the booklet on page 7 which sets the tone of open enquiry or show that a person can pray about their 'big issue' explained on page 4.
Remember God does the work!

You can simply say,

Why don't you try praying for a week and see what happens?"

10. Use of trypraying logo and resources.

We want trypraying to be used as widely as possible. To that end we realise we need to protect its identity and branding. We request the following to be respected:

1. Do not change or adapt the trypraying logo, name, banner or colours. NB: Free poster formats are available from our resources page can be customised with event or church details local to your area.
2. The trypraying name is protected by copyright as are all of its written materials and merchandise such as banners and clothing. This means:
 - a) We do not allow copying or the partial reproduction of any trypraying resource without permission.
 - b) Our logo is not to be used to point to the webpage of another organisation or church but only the trypraying webpages.
 - c) We do not allow translation or editing of any trypraying resources into other languages without permission.
3. The resale value of materials bought from trypraying by a church, an organisation, a charity or bookshop must be the same as the published retail value of the items in the trypraying catalogue.
4. In the event of a partnership being explored between trypraying and persons or an agency in another country or region then a contract will be drawn up and signed by representatives outlining the responsibilities, commitments and expectations of both.

Please contact if you are looking to explore any of the above options.