

trypraying.

TOOLKIT

"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

"It's an idea whose time has come. Trypraying is one of the most exciting things we have done in years and has a huge potential for growth in the US."

Rev. David McElrath – Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, San Diego

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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 people pray about something important to them and gradually explains the gospel so they can trust Christ with their lives. It's an invitation for people to consider doing life with God rather than without him. 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 initiative. In many places groups of churches have been using this 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. It has been used in over 150 different towns and cities in the UK and in many 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 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 online church and/or websites to do with spirituality and prayer. Trypraying is a resource that meets this need.

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 congregations. With the 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 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. GETTING 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 lose” the [trypraying booklet](#), and encouraging them to connect 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 materials: children’s, youth, and adult booklets, as well as the trypraying app and the two websites ([trypraying.org](#) for inquirers and [outreach.com/trypraying](#) for churches). Also, look at the 40 day prayer guide called *Catching the Wave*.
- Plan the trypraying project for your church. Decide who, where, what, how, etc. Make use of some of the resources: [trypraying - the idea](#) and the animation *Use it and lose it*, plus the new [invitations and banners](#).
- Plan visibility ideas: [banners](#), social media, [Yard Signs](#), advertising. Get creative! See Creative Ideas below.
- Use some of the [trypraying](#) booklet themes as sermons during in weekend services to encourage the congregation’s motivation and understanding of trypraying in the lead-up to the project. Also, consider using the themes in small groups.
- 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. 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 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. GETTING STARTED IN YOUR TOWN OR CITY

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

- Plan to engage with trypraying for at least three years with increasing scope and effectiveness.
- Meet with other church leaders personally to share the idea and, if led by God, widen the invitation to many. Send a link to the promotional video: [trypraying – the idea](#). Emphasize the simplicity of trypraying: it's a booklet to give away, and a logo to display. Handing out booklets is a simple event to organize. However, if several churches do this at the same time, many people will hear the good news about Jesus, and it will create 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 other churches but recognize 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” campaigns, publicity, joint prayer events, faith-sharing training course, local Facebook page, banners and publicity, celebration events, etc.
- 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 page 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 doing.
 - Hold a “Prayer & Praise” event to pray for the area and those who will receive a booklet. Do it as a church and invite others, or host a joint church event.
 - If you have social media experts in your church network (i.e. teenagers), involve them in communicating what's happening.
 - 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 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. Create a central place for stories: a physical wall display, a Facebook page, or church website.

5. ADVERTISING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We are developing a social media presence and will be releasing quality, usable posts, which will reach into the homes of thousands of people.

A number of towns/cities have used purchased advertising. This has been a strong visible presence in many places. It's not as expensive as you might think

Research has been done on the effectiveness of 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 percent among residents.

"This was our very first year doing the 'Catching the Wave' and trypraying campaign. First of all, I'd like to thank you for these resources. We had over 600 people participate in 'Catching the Wave' and on Easter gave away over 1,100 trypraying books. I've ordered more for those who didn't receive them because we ran out."

Stephanie Wright, Bedford Alliance Church

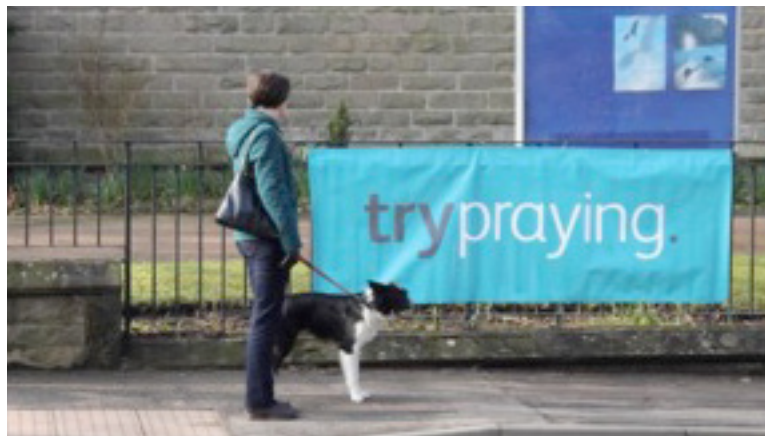
6. RESOURCES

All of the trypraying resources are available from the website. For clarification, we have two websites: trypraying.org is for inquirers and Outreach.com/trypraying is for churches. We price our materials as inexpensively as possible and there are discounts for larger quantities.

Besides the suite of printed booklets, [adult](#), [youth](#) and [childrens](#), there is the trypraying app and various publicity materials: [banners](#), [yard signs](#), [feather banners](#), [personal invitations](#), [postcards 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 one day at a time. This could be a useful preparation prayer resource, which fits in with Lent.



7. CREATIVE USE IDEAS

Churches are using trypraying in creative ways in their communities. 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 an acrylic 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. Number the booklets and, as they are taken, have a church member 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 package.
- 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 neighborhood drop, giving the booklet with a cover letter or invite card to every home in your community as a gift – no strings attached. (Stick a label on the back or include a [medium invite card](#) with church contact details.)
- Give out prayer request cards to every home in your community for people to fill in.
- Have a prayer clinic for one to two hours a week when people can come for prayer. 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 center with a table, publicity, [feather banners](#), booklets, etc. Take it into schools, youth groups, youth events, and clubs, and offer to pray with people and speak of Jesus. Note: Some of these venues may require asking for permission first.
- Place a [floor sticker](#) 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 and 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 nearby prison and consider getting in touch with the chaplaincy team to make booklets available.
- Label the back of the books with the church contact details or include a small invitation/bookmark inside so people can get in touch if they need to.

8. THE CHURCH LEADER'S ROLE

Your particular role is crucial in helping others 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. 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 away a booklet.

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 inquiry; 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 realize we need to protect its identity and branding. We request the following be respected:

- Do not change or adapt the trypraying logo, name, banner, or colors.
- The trypraying name is protected by copyright as are all of its written materials and merchandise such as banners and clothing. This means:
 - We do not allow copying or the partial reproduction of any trypraying resource without permission.
 - Our logo is not to be used to point to the web page of another organization or church but only the trypraying web pages.
 - We do not allow translation or editing of any trypraying resources into other languages without permission.
- The resale value of materials bought from trypraying by a church, an organization, a charity, or bookshop must be the same as the published retail value of the items in the trypraying catalog.

Please contact us at Office@trypraying.co.uk if you are looking to explore any of the above options.