

*Some young people will make different choices from their family or from people within their home church once they are away from home and discovering more about themselves. They may not attend church as often as they would at home, but research suggests that, for the majority of Christian students, this is not an indication that their faith has lessened.*

*A church that continues to show Jesus' love to students, even when they are away, can be one of the most important sources of stability and support to young people at a time when they are undergoing significant changes in their lives.*



27 Tavistock Square  
London  
WC1H 9HH  
[www.freechurches.org.uk](http://www.freechurches.org.uk)

# KEEPING IN TOUCH

**SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE WHO  
ARE AT UNIVERSITY**



***Here are a few ideas to get you started:***

**While they're away...**

- Pray for them. With the permission of the young people involved, create a photo board, with their photograph, name, university and what they are studying. Encourage people within the church to pray for the students on a regular basis, and include them in prayers in your services.
- Invite members of your church to become prayer partners with individual students. They commit to keep in touch with a student and to pray for that young person.
- Establish a support network through a group chat on social media. This can act as a way of keeping in touch with other young people from the church, or with a mentor.
- Send a card or small gift from time-to-time. This is a tangible expression of your care for the young person, and receiving something through the post is a rarity these days.



**When they come back...**

- Ask them about their experiences: your church might learn from what they've encountered somewhere else.
- If there are other students connected with your church, invite them all to a social gathering in the university vacation, to help them feel connected and valued.



- Recognise their growing independence and maturity. They will be making their own choices and some may choose not to attend church while they are away.
- Be patient. Coming back, away from new friends and new experiences, can sometimes be difficult, and it takes time to adjust to home life.



With thanks to the students and student workers from King's Church, Portsmouth for sharing their experiences and ideas.

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