

Stay Connected

Here are some ideas of ways you can stay connected to your GB members even when you can't physically meet.



- Send snail mail or surprise little gifts in the post: With Easter just around the corner you could send an Easter card to each of your GB members and in a few weeks a postcard or fun card. 1st Plympton Team Leader Lynne Rogers has just posted Bible story books to their n:vestigat members.
- If you're more techy-minded you could create some short videos, which you can do on your mobile phone, and then email them to parents or put on your group's website or social media channels. 1st Hawkwell's leaders have created some videos of things like craft demonstrations and thought-provoking and encouraging messages for older girls, leaders and parents. Remember to dress appropriately in these films and think about who/what else can be seen in the background.
- Several GB groups made up activity bags for their members including craft materials, and paper copies of colouring sheets/word-searches etc. Distribution might be a problem now we're in lockdown but this could be something to consider if the rules get relaxed in a few weeks.
- Social media takeover – could your GB leaders or young leaders each take a turn to run your group's social media channels sharing fun (but appropriate!) things they like and explaining why so you get a real sense of their personality.
- Ask some of the older young women in your group, via their parents, to blog for you about coronavirus voicing their concerns, thoughts and feelings and then share these posts via your group's email/website/social media.
- Share, via email/website/social media etc. the GB@home materials that will be launched the week of 23 March. GB@home will be a free weekly resource of activities for the 4 age groups we work with to do at home - but suitable for anyone not just GB members. Parents will be able to download it direct from our website or GB leaders can download it and email it around/share it on social media. There will even be a free downloadable certificate template to mark children and young people's achievements. There are also hundreds of other resources for all ages appearing online every day from youth organisations and educational businesses which you could also share from craft to games, social action, and spiritual ideas. Encourage parents to send/email/post direct photos of their children using the GB@home materials for you to share on your church or GB website/emails/ social media to encourage a two-way conversation. Make sure you have photo consent for sharing these.
- Set a weekly challenge or competition by email/social media/post for your GB members to join in with – such as a colouring competition, Easter egg decorating competition, or poems about GB – offering a prize for the winners.
- Show kindness is GB International's theme for the year. Perhaps set a weekly challenge which encourages your group to show kindness to their community and each other. For example, making a card for elderly people in your church for distribution later this year or doing one self-care activity per day.

- GBM's koko materials are great for sharing with older girls prompting discussions on issues such as kindness and friendship. Check them out at www.thekokostory.com.
- Could you regularly text, email or call the GB parents offering an encouraging thought and asking for prayer requests. You could set up a WhatsApp group for them to talk and share as a group, as long as you get their permission.
- Keep the connection to your church – sharing what your members are doing and how you're supporting them.
- If you have any Queen's Award participants, now would be a great time for them to get their project done. Once they've decided what they'd like to do, email jess.cowley@gb-ministries.org with their ideas and she will approve it and email a short criteria to them and their mentor/team leader. Then the young women are free to work away on their chosen project, which could be an essay on a favourite topic, a booklet of ideas for parents to use to keep their children busy whilst they are off school, learning to play a new instrument documented in a journal or using video, photography in your local area (getting some fresh air and remaining at a safe social distance) and more! If you're unsure or have any questions, please email Jess.

Some useful resources which you could link to:

- Shaken by The Big House – mental health charity The Big House will be sharing 2 blog posts a week (every Tuesday and Friday) to help young people stand UNSHAKEN. Each post is designed especially for young people - consisting of 20 healthy coping mechanisms to explore and discover, as well as 20 ways to stay tuned into God's voice. www.thebighouse.org.uk/blog
- Bible 2020 by The Bible Society - Bible 2020 is a global movement reading God's Word aloud across the world. Download the app and get members of your GB groups and families to read part of the Bible aloud. www.bible2020.org
- 24/7 Prayer resources – lots of individual, family and group prayers to help you pray during this difficult time. www.24-7prayer.com/coronavirusprayer
- Go Colour by Youth for Christ – YFC has designed this colouring booking to help you, your children, young people and their families to engage with God creatively in prayer. www.yfc.co.uk/gocolour/
- Youthscape blog – Youthscape has created a regularly-updated hub dedicated to helping youth leaders respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its packed with lots of great ideas and signposts other resources. www.youthscape.co.uk/coronavirus

Don't forget...

Safeguarding

Just because we're in an unprecedented situation doesn't mean we can forget about safeguarding! It's important to remember that you can't communicate with children and young people directly and always contact their parents/carers. See our Life to the Full policy for more guidance at www.girlsbrigadeministries.org.uk/resource/life-to-the-full/

Government advice

Obey the government guidelines regarding how we should be living.

Pray

Please pray for your GB group, the members/leaders and their families, and for GB's impact and work nationally.

Let us know

Let us know how you get on especially if you have ideas to share. We want to share positive and hope-filled stories from around the GB groups at this time. Email us at gbco@gb-ministries.org