

# growing faith



**April 2023: what's going on?**



# April 'appenings

Hello, dear Growing Faith colleagues and friends,

Please flick through this newsletter in case there's something that could be useful to someone you know. It may be that they also want to change the culture of the Church of England, so that we instinctively put children at the heart of all we do. If they want to sign up to receive it too, [here's the link](#). If you're kind enough to pray for the work, sign up [here](#) for a weekly prayer update.

Find out below about Networks, Question Of The Month, a celebration of one of the research projects, news from a Hub and a teabreak-timed video catch up of what the Growing Faith Foundation is and does. Happy flicking.

## Networks

**LAUNCHING NOW!**

**Chaplaincy in Education**  
*A Growing Faith Network*  
2023-2024 information

Centre for Chaplaincy in Education | THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE | growing faith

**Serving the Local School** – We're delighted to be partnering with Chelmsford, Durham, Liverpool, Leicester, Newcastle, Worcester and possibly other dioceses to deliver this network for churches who would like to engage with their local schools. More info and sign-up [here](#). Would your diocese like to be a delivery partner? Email [Hannah](#) for a chat.

**Chaplains in Education** – are you a chaplain (or someone in a similar role) in school or post-16 education? Come and join the 86 chaplains who've already signed up to this network! More info and sign-up [here](#)

# Question Of The Month



You sent in wonderful responses to the March QOTM and Hannah has edited them together into this [Hollywood blockbuster](#). Is there a PCC, deanery synod or Bishop's Council at which you could use it? Just ask the group: 'What does this tell you about children's relationship with God?' There are also shorter trailers available:

[Trailer 1 \(Jack, aged 9\)](#)

[Trailer 2 \(School\)](#)

[Trailer 3 \(under 5s\)](#)

[Trailer 4 \(teens\)](#)

Here's this month's QOTM to ask your younger co-disciples / class / friends / family / youth group / prayer group / youth synod this month: **What opportunities do you have to explore faith at home, in church or at school?** (or for younger ones:) **Who helps you learn about God?**

Consent form [here](#). Responses to [Hannah](#) by mid-May, (deadline flexible, but let her know to expect it.) Have fun with it.

# Meet one of the Growing Faith research projects - and be happy!



**St Andrew's Church & School Happiness Club** is one of the Growing Faith Foundation's funded research projects, exploring intergenerational school/church connections in Kettering, Northamptonshire. A cohort of primary school pupils and older church members explore Action for Happiness's *Keys for happier living*. The six sessions are held in both church and school, combining chat, group activities, a weekly challenge and cake! Family and friends are invited to the members' graduation as Happiness Ambassadors for the school and church community.

Claire Barber, Growing Faith Mission Enabler, has seen a very easy camaraderie bubble up: 'It's so special hearing the conversation and laughter – both adults and children said that before the club, they had no reason or opportunity to mix with people of a different generation, other than family. You can see how beneficial this is to both age groups.'

Ben Arnell, Head at St Andrew's CofE Primary says: 'Staff and parents are noticing a difference in the children's wellbeing and confidence, it's great to see

the two age groups share experiences and learn from each other, and our school/church link is flourishing.'

## A Hupdate (Ubdate?)

**Salisbury Area Schools Trust**  
**Young People as Leaders Project**  
**WHO:** A Multi-Academy Trust working in North Dorset  
**AIM:** To develop children and young people led volunteer practise, shareable resources, opportunities for experiential learning and children and young people led communication teams. The Hub seeks to enable children and young people to be the catalysts for change to help grow a vibrant faith communities in towns and rural areas across Dorset.



"We are really excited about the opportunity to build on our existing work in building new young leaders to flourish with the support of Church and school partnerships"

**Steph Rann,**  
SAST Growing Faith Learning Hub Co-ordinator

Would you like to know more about Growing Faith Learning Hubs?  
Contact [cheryl.govier@churchofengland.org](mailto:cheryl.govier@churchofengland.org)

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Four Growing Faith Hubs are underway, with four more launching next month. The Sherborne and Shaftesbury Schools Young Leaders project, in the Diocese of Salisbury, is one of the first to start and seeks to enable young people to be catalysts for change. [Read more](#)

## Growing Faith overview



Stephen pulled this 11m [video](#) together for ordinands training at Sarum College. Until we have scope to do something shinier, it gives you a speedy overview of Growing Faith and what's happening in each of our areas of work at the moment. 11 minutes. Just about right for a teabreak. If you add a biscuit or two.

Bless you in all your culture-changing ministry this month.

[Keep letting us know](#) how we can serve you.

Lucy, Stephen, Cheryl, Hannah

The Growing Faith Foundation