



## Newsletter

February 2023: unmissable opportunities to enjoy



A short and sweet newsletter for your delectation, highlighting several rather scrumptious opportunities for getting involved with people who, like you, care about changing the culture of the Church of England so that children and young people are at the heart of all we do as a church. Read on for four ways you can get stuck in - the **Strategic Leaders' Programme**, a **free webinar**, a great **research conference** and **Question of the Month**.

# 10<sup>th</sup> March - sign up!

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

growing  
**faith**

**STRATEGIC LEADERS' PROGRAMME**

Launch Tuesday 25th April 2023  
£499 (+VAT)

[Apply here](#) or scan the QR code below:



Got questions? Read on or email:  
[stephen.beamond@churchofengland.org](mailto:stephen.beamond@churchofengland.org)

The pilot cohort for the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders' Programme is now well underway! Participants have been engaging with research through the online learning tasks and have enjoyed deepening their leadership reflections in coaching huddles. Here's what people are saying about the programme:

***“Really thought-provoking online videos, interviews and content so far. Definitely highlighting the real-life issues and what needs to be worked on. Easily accessible. Looking forward to the next session online.”***

Programme participant

***“After just one session, I was already sharing with my manager ways we can bring about a culture change in our organisation. The course brings a variety of voices into the learning in a very professional way with questions to pause and reflect upon after each session. I already feel enriched and am looking forward to more as well as learning and collaborating with others.”*** Programme participant

***“I am profoundly encouraged by the emergence of this programme.”*** Bishop Jonathan Frost

If you would like to join cohort 2 which launches on 25<sup>th</sup> April, we would love to hear from you! The deadline for applications is **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March**.

To apply, [simply click here](#) or if you would like more information, please [watch the video here](#).

## 15th March - join in!



15<sup>th</sup> March 10.00-11.00GMT is a free webinar on Growing Faith Connections. You'll remember, this is a project group who have produced an incredibly helpful and well-presented piece of work for Growing Faith: [Growing Faith Connections](#) They'll share the very grounded practical outcomes in this webinar. [Sign up to get the Zoom link.](#)

# 13th-14th July - come along!



13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July is going to be just wonderful: a [Growing Faith research conference](#)

co-hosted by GF and Cranmer Hall at Cranmer Hall in Durham. It's an overnighter, so that we can do that 'sitting over a beverage of your choice unpicking what you've heard during the afternoon' thing. Growing Faith friends... delightful Durham... hospitable Cranmer Hall... cutting-edge researchers like Dr Sarah Holmes, Rev Sarah Strand and more, including updates from some of the research projects you've been praying for this year. And thanks to our generous funders, Benefact and the Archbishops' Council, we can offer it at a very affordable price. Go on, spoil yourself or pay it forward and sponsor a local children's minister / youthworker to go and spread their wings. Details and bookings in the link above.

## Question of the month

A question for the young people and children you know. You could just ask it and listen for the joy of listening. Or listen and share the response with us, if your child / young person is ok with that. A simple [email](#) is great. Or they could record a video or soundtrack with their response. ([This consent form](#) needs filling in so that their work can be shared.)

We'll pull the responses together into a short video compilation that we'll share on social media and at speaking events to highlight the experience and voice of our

under-16s. It would be helpful to know their age, but anonymity is fine, if they prefer to give themselves a codename.

So this month's question is: **Where do you feel close to God?**

Over to you...

## Updatelets on other stuff

- Durham Diocese awarded a diocesan Growing Faith Partnership Award to Gainford School and Church. Go, Durham! Go, Gainford!
- Four Growing Faith Hubs have just launched in Liverpool, Ely, Guildford and Salisbury Dioceses. Prayers, dear pioneering friends!
- Networks are booming – [chat to Hannah](#) for details of how to get involved – ordinands for Growing Faith, linking church and school, lunchtime supervisors, chaplains, becoming parent-discipling communities, trauma-informed network... Or perhaps you have an idea for a network you'd like to talk to her about?

I saw a sad thing on Twitter, which I won't quote directly, but was from a vicar who tweeted something along the lines of: *Help, I have to preach in our all-age service. I hate all-age and I'm terrified of children. What can I preach to our lovely 7 year olds?* This vicar evidently loves the children in their church, but feels totally unconfident in ministering to them. How can they have gone through all that training, love the children themselves, but come out 'terrified of children'? There's still a lot of culture to change! I'm glad we're all in this together.

With deep enjoyment of working alongside you in the ministry God's given to each of us,

Lucy, Cheryl, Stephen, Hannah (seen here by a very exciting and no doubt symbolic fishtank)

