

growing faith



Newsletter January 2023



This sticker was on the wall in a hotel I stayed at recently. It was by a coffee machine. Untold havoc and harm could indeed be wrought by torrents of boiling water and tsunamis of frothy milk, so it makes sense. But imagine this sticker on the door of your church. How long would it take for someone to rip it down in outrage? Or wouldn't it make any practical difference anyway? Might there even

be some satisfied sighs of relief?

Does the culture need to change? Are children and young people instinctively at the heart of all we do as a church? That's what Growing Faith is all about.

So how are things looking in early 2023 in the Growing Faith Foundation? Here are some speedy updates from round the team.



Programmes

Stephen writes:

We were overwhelmed with interest for the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders' Programme which launches with its pilot cohort this month. We are so thrilled to be getting this programme underway which has such a diverse group of

participants including church and school leaders, chaplains, diocesan directors of education and just about everyone else in between. This group will be central to the programme's ongoing improvement enabling the creation of a truly unmissable programme for future cohorts. We cannot wait to see impact of this programme children and young people's lives! We launch again with a new cohort in April so watch this space for more details.



Learning Hubs

Cheryl writes:

We were delighted to receive 39 Growing Faith Learning Hub applications. After a robust selection process, where each application was read by a minimum of two people, including Growing Faith Champions, members of the Church of England Vision and Strategy team, as well as colleagues in the Church of England Education Office we were delighted to select our final 12 Hubs. We

look forward to sharing more details of their locations and contexts soon, but in the meantime, we are excited that they focus on a range of things including social action, raising young leaders, planting new worshipping communities in schools, and developing training.



Networks

Hannah writes:

Growing Faith networks are bubbling up all over the place. Chaplains in Education are beginning to imagine how they might best gather to provide localised peer support and a national connection; ordinands have been co-shaping a network to support the development of their Growing Faith 'lens'; Young Adults are organising peer support and a helpful toolkit for churches; parachurch organisations are collaborating with one another on all kinds of projects – really taking advantage of shared expertise and focus.

Serving the local school is a key focus, with churches finding myriad brilliant ways to bless pupils, staff and families (Shakespeare-themed prayer spaces and investment in lunchtime supervisors being just two examples!). Colleagues from many different contexts are developing a trauma-informed practice together, and all networks are striving to make our communities more inclusive and equitable for all. Please contact me for more information on these or other

Growing Faith networks; I'd be pleased to hear from you:
hannah.persaud@churchofengland.org



Research

Lucy writes:

The 13 projects are underway and gradually uncovering nuggets of wisdom. How might we want to act, if one fear of KS2 children in Blackburn Diocese about to move to secondary school is that of losing their personality in the bigger environment? What does it say about people's appetite for prayer if the Hereford project is already considering a spin-off project around community prayer spaces? How is the intergenerational church project in Leicester Diocese going about listening to six young participants and can we duplicate that where we are? Much more to come! ((Photo: used with permission from Ali Campbell))



Breaking news

Two exciting things to clock:

Save the date for the Growing Faith and Cranmer Hall Research Symposium in Durham July 13th-14th 2023. Bookings open very soon.

Growing Faith Connections - a wonderful piece of research from the SLDP group with simple but profound recommendations. [Read all about it!](#)

We so enjoy working with you! Thank you for all you do to change the culture to make sure the machine is for everyone of any age.

every blessing for 2023

Lucy, Stephen, Cheryl, Hannah