



May 2023: what's going on?



The Many Happenings of May

Hello, dear Growing Faith colleagues and friends,

Speedy updates on Growing Faith (changing the culture so that children, young people and families are instinctively at the heart of all we do). Short of time? Check out the Question of the Month video below and listen to some young people's voices.

Networks



Serving the Local School network got off to a wonderful start with our first national gathering looking at 'What are schools currently facing?' We had some illuminating presentations from colleagues in school leadership across the sector, and were challenged and inspired by how churches can serve in small and mighty ways.

Our **Chaplains in Education** network has just launched with an amazingly huge and wonderful first cohort. We've started a waiting list for the next cohort because the need is clearly there for further provision, if you know chaplains who would like to sign up, please direct them [here](#).

Networks for toddler leaders and ordinands are on the cusp of launching, and we're looking forward to welcoming our brilliant **Network for Parachurch Organisations** back together next week. So much has happened since this group was formed in September last year, and we're delighted to have such a strong working relationship with these brilliant colleagues.

For more information about these and other peer support networks, please contact [Hannah](#).

Question Of The Month



Enjoy the insights from a varied group of children and young people in response to the question 'Who helps you learn about God?' Here's the [video](#).

And do invite the cyp you know to send in a photo or an audio or video file to Hannah to answer the June-July QOTM 'Does prayer work?' Consent form [here](#). Please send contributions to [Hannah](#) by the end of June, (deadline flexible if she knows it's coming) A great excuse to listen to your children and young people.

Champions



Every diocese has at least one Growing Faith Champion. It was a joy to meet online with these key strategic people for the summer term's gathering on the 18th May and to hear from Neil Pugmire, Communications Officer from Portsmouth about how they are communicating about Growing Faith in their very switched-on diocese. We heard from Tina Astley, a participant on the GF Strategic Leaders' Programme (Guffsluppers as the cohorts are affectionately known). Hannah Tarring reported back on the wonderful missional work in Salisbury Diocese, Mark Harrington from Hereford shared some of his research findings into where children pray and Nigel Genders updated the Champions on how FLOURISH is developing – growing new Christian communities in schools and the possibility of school chaplaincy being encouraged across the Province of York. God is on the move, growing faith in so many places. How is the culture changing in your diocese?

Growing Faith research projects

Prayer Project



Research Question:

How can we as churches and church schools encourage primary school children to develop a prayer life outside of the school setting?

Schools involved:

- Cradley CE Primary
- Christchurch CE Primary (Cressage)
- Kingsland CE Primary
- Lydbury North CE Primary
- St Laurence CE Primary, Ludlow
- Stottesdon CE Primary



Inspiring each Generation

The 13 research projects are starting to dripfeed us tantalising insights. Children find church buildings hugely significant places to meet God. Children pray at home and their parents don't know about it. Intergenerational work in school needs the adults educated first, as it's so countercultural. And much more. We look forward to hearing more at the Cranmer Hall Growing Faith Research Symposium in July which is now fully booked with a waiting list.

Hub hub hurrah

Walton, Diocese of Liverpool

Together We Can

WHO: A partnership between Walton Team Ministry and Alsop High School

AIM: To foster opportunities to celebrate **FAITH** through stories of **HOPE** and **Social ACTION** within our parish and schools throughout north Liverpool.

"It gives us an opportunity to be really creative and to think outside the box. Children, young people and families are at the core of what we do and at the centre of our decision making"

Peter Bull,
Walton Growing Faith Learning Hub Co-ordinator

"The Faith hub will enable us to continue to develop safe spaces to learn the language and understanding of religion. This will enable us to help children and adults talk about their faith in both in Arnot St Mary CE School and at home."

Fiona Roper,
Headteacher, Arnot ST Mary CE School

Would you like to know more about Growing Faith Learning Hubs?
Contact cheryl.govier@churchofengland.org

 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**
EDUCATION OFFICE

We now have 8 Growing Faith Learning Hubs already underway. In the Diocese of Liverpool, Walton Team Ministry and Alsop High School have partnered together to form their Hub, 'Together We Can'. Read more about their launch event:

[Growing Faith Hub launched at Alsop High School - Educate magazine](#)

Podcast on the way



We're excited to be launching the Growing Faith podcast VERY soon! The podcast will be a great place to catch the stories coming out of Growing Faith

sharing where God's at work across school, home and church. If you think you have a story to share, especially if you can bring in the voice of children and / or young people, get in touch with [Stephen](#)

Join the fun

[Prayer support email](#)

Sign up for this [newsletter](#)

Contact the team or join us on Twitter:

[Lucy](#) @lucybmoore

[Cheryl](#) @CherylGovier

[Stephen](#) @stephen_beamond

[Hannah](#) @hannah3persaud

Bless you in all your culture-changing ministry this month, enabling more children and young people to encounter the love of Jesus.

Lucy, Stephen, Cheryl, Hannah

The Growing Faith Foundation