



## October: cracking on!

Thanks for joining in. Enjoy the growing number of opportunities to get stuck into Growing Faith and to invite colleagues along to something that will bless their ministry with children and young people. This month:

- National Conference
- Chaplaincy in schools / colleges
- Networks for Ordinands and Toddler Group leaders (I mean, separately...)
- GF Strategic Leaders' Programme Cohort 3
- GF podcast
- A Happy Hub
- Research reports
- GF Big Lunch
- Young people's voice
- Dates for 2024



## National Conference 2024

With the theme of 'Growing Faith, Sustaining Hope' this will be a great chance to focus on Growing Faith, catch the vision from inspirational speakers, and network with those involved in it across the country. All the details [here](#).

# Chaplaincy research

Could you contribute to a key piece of research?

Please contribute to the important piece of research into educational chaplaincy. If you're a school / college chaplain, do join in. If you're a school / college chaplain yourself or if you know a school / college chaplain, please ping them [this link](#).



## Networks

Our two newest networks for **Ordinands** and **Toddler Group Leaders** are up and running, and what a joy they are! So far, we have explored our roles through the lens of Growing Faith, and we're looking forward to getting stuck in to peer support and learning on the themes of home, church and school in the coming months. If you are an ordinand or a toddler group leader and would like to know more, please contact [Hannah.Persaud@churchofengland.org](mailto:Hannah.Persaud@churchofengland.org) Meanwhile, the Chaplains in Education network had an excellent session focussing on trauma and mental health, with really helpful input from expert colleagues. We're already hearing about how this is having an impact in the schools our chaplains' work in, and we look forward to hearing more as they unpack this learning in their peer support groups over the coming months.



# Strategic Leaders' Programme

We are delighted to have launched the application process for cohort 3 of the Strategic Leaders' Programme launching in January 2024! If you, or someone you know, is a leader or an aspiring leader who has a passion to see children and young people fulfilled as part of God's family, then this programme could be for you! You can [sign up here](#), watch the [short promo here](#) and [learn more here!](#) Places are limited to 30 spaces, so do get applying if you or anyone you know is interested!

It has been a great joy to connect with both cohorts 1 and 2 recently and hear of how the programme is impacting not just themselves, in recognising the leader God is calling them to be, but also the impact their learning is having on their contexts and communities too! If you would like to learn more then do get in touch: [stephen.beamond@churchofengland.org](mailto:stephen.beamond@churchofengland.org)



**episode 3**

**A conversation between Rev Beth Cope, Rev Stephen Dove and Stephen Beamond discussing the exciting work of the Growing Faith hub based in the new town of Northstowe!**

**growing faith**

**podcast**

The Growing Faith podcast with children, young people and families at the heart of every conversation sharing stories about where God's at work across church, home and school.

Have you got a story to share?  
We would love to hear from you!  
Contact [stephen.beamond@churchofengland.org](mailto:stephen.beamond@churchofengland.org)

 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**  
EDUCATION OFFICE

The graphic features a purple and teal color scheme with a background of white molecular structures. It includes a photo of Rev Beth Cope and Rev Stephen Dove, and a photo of Stephen Beamond. The text is arranged in various shapes and sizes, including a large purple speech bubble containing the podcast description.

## Podcasts

As part of our podcast series, we will be showcasing many of our Growing Faith Hubs. This month we focus in on the amazing work going on in the new town of Northstowe in the diocese of Ely. Enjoy hearing Rev Beth and Rev Stephen share their passion and hopes for this [literally] growing community. You can hear all the [podcasts here](#). If you have a great story that you would like to share, we would love to hear from you! [growingfaith@churchofengland.org](mailto:growingfaith@churchofengland.org)



## Research reports

Mark Harrington from Hereford Diocese writes:

The schools have been trialling a range of resources, some with church support, to develop the children's experiences of prayer further. These have included journaling, creative prayer days, animated explainer videos about prayer, and a booklet called 'Don't burst our bubble' to support parents in nurturing their children's spirituality.

We are already seeing developments with the parents at one school funding the development of a prayer hut for the school and children trying out prayer activities with their families at home.

*'I enjoyed making the prayer tree with my dad. We worked together to build the tree. After that we then wrote prayers together.'*

The next round of interviews will help us explore what has helped or hindered the children during this past year's journeys of reflection and prayer. Then, we can share what the children have taught us across the diocese and beyond as part of the national Growing Faith network.

In the words of one of the children:

*'I think there are endless things that you can do with prayers as they can go on forever with things that you can be thankful for or to stop in the world.'*

Lucy Mille writes: St Mary in Charnwood have been exploring how to grow intergenerational worship through their All Age services. Whilst there were some examples of intergenerational worship already happening, the congregation was keen to uncover opportunities to develop this further. The research looked at how to bring generations back together, and, in doing so, how to encourage them to interact with, engage with, and learn from each other in order to grow in faith. A series of focus groups were conducted, alongside interviews and questionnaires. From these, 12 common themes were identified and are presented in the report. Under each theme, the key findings are discussed and linked to literature on the subject of 'Intergenerational Worship in All Age Services'. Following this research, St Mary's are now in the process of implementing many of these ideas and looking forward to seeing their impact. Fuller reports of the research projects will soon be available online.



part of the Church of England's  foundation

## A very happy Hub in Winchester and Portsmouth

Find out more about 'Chatting Faith', a [joint diocesan Hub](#) on the south coast doing something very interesting around literacy and faith!



## Growing Faith Big Lunch

Big Lunches will be opportunities for anyone involved in or interested in Growing Faith at any level to get together over a simple lunch in 2024 to learn, inspire and connect with others. The idea is to get together late morning to early afternoon at one of the Hubs, have space to share ideas and visions, talk with the adults and young people involved in the Hub, hear updates from the GF team, time to chat over a simple soupy lunch and whatever Good Things we can put your way. You might use it to help your parish partner understand what GF is all about, or to arrange to meet people you only usually see online, like your GF network or GFSLP cohort. So far we are planning Big Lunches at the Newcastle Diocese Hub and the Bath and Wells Hub. But there will be more! (And if you'd like to offer to host one, whether you're a Hub or not, do [get in touch!](#)) Dates soon.

# Young people's voice

The Difference course is being adapted for young people, and Martin Kitara at Lambeth Palace is looking for people to share stories for each session of the course – there are six. They will be filmed, and material used as part of the course to aid learning. If you have young people who might be happy to contribute, please contact Martin



## Growing Faith Foundation Website Relaunch

We've relaunched our website! Visit us by scanning the QR code below:





## Dates for your diary

Now: sign up to Cohort 3 of the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders' Programme (starting Jan 24)

2 Dec '23 Chester Diocese [Growing Faith Day Conference](#)

1 Feb Church of England National Education Conference 2024, London

2-4 Feb [Hand in Hand Conference](#), Eastbourne with contributions from the GF team and research projects

29-30 May GF Research Conference #2 at Ripon College, Cuddesdon nr Oxford. Details soon

THANK YOU for your commitment to changing the culture of the CofE so that everyone instinctively puts children and young people at the heart of all we do. If you'd like to invite someone to sign up for this newsletter, please give them [this link](#)

And if there's anything we can do to support you or if you have a story you'd love to share, please [contact us](#).

Lucy, Stephen, Hannah, Cheryl, Elysia  
The Growing Faith team