

growing faith



September: a good time to grow faith!

Welcome back to the merry world of Growing Faith after the summer break. Thanks for all *you're* being and doing to change the culture so that everyone instinctively puts children and young people at the heart of things. Bring it on!

[Prayer](#) is the way it all begins. Check out some of the steps towards culture change in this newsletter. Feel free to share the stories / examples in any presentations you're doing this term.





National Conference 2024

This will be a corker! Every year the Education Office holds a national education conference for a treat of a day with awesome keynote speakers and cracking workshops. [NC24](#) is on the theme of *Growing Faith, Sustaining Hope!* Come and hear Justin Welby, Sonia Thompson, Krish Kandiah and more - and of course the GF team will be there in best bib and tucker. All the details [here](#).



Chaplaincy research

Could you contribute to a key piece of research?

We've got the chance to do research for the Church of England, celebrating all that is effective missionally about school chaplaincy. This could lead to even more

significant pieces of work in the future, if we can make a fantastic start. So if you're a school or college chaplain, we would love to hear from you: just fill in this [short form](#) and the researcher will be in touch. Please share with chaplains you know.

Interested in Chaplaincy Induction training? Email [Mike Haslam](#), from the Centre for Chaplaincy in Education.



Growing Faith networks - September dates

After a summer of beavering away behind the scenes, we're excited to welcome colleagues back in the new year of networks. We have brilliant groups of people (many new to our networks, as well as lots of familiar faces) who are committing to peer support and learning throughout the year on various topics. Upcoming gatherings:

- 11th – Parachurch Organisations
- 13th – Ordinands
- 18th – Toddler Group Leaders
- 20th – Chaplains in Education
- 25th – Serving the Local School

It's never too late to join! For information on these and other network opportunities, please [contact Hannah](#)

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

growing **faith**

STRATEGIC LEADERS' PROGRAMME

Cohort 3 January 2024

Watch the video here:

Any questions?
stephen.beamond@churchofengland.org

Strategic Leaders' Programme

Sign up for Cohort 3 of GFSLP! Starting in January 2024, could this be the leadership development course you've been waiting for? Only 30 places, so chat to your line manager and don't delay. All dates [here](#).

episode 2

A conversation between Hannah Persaud, Esther Prior and Gareth Irvine about the recently published *Growing Faith Connections Research*.

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

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE

Podcasts

Growing Faith: Connections

This is a practical and profound piece of research, with 4 helpful recommendations for anyone involved in GF. Enjoy our [second podcast](#).

Featuring the voice of children and young people, if you'd like to listen to the first episode of the podcasts [catch it here](#)



St Michael's Church, Aldershot Hub in Diocese of Guildford

The Hub is based around the intergenerational FOMO (First Of the Month Only) services. This is an alternative to the traditional family service, to centre children and young people in the joy of worship. Each service is themed, to encourage conversation and collaboration. Activities and discussion form a large part of the service and parishioners are encouraged to move around and join in as much or as little as they wish.

'The project has been an excellent opportunity for us to consider ways to integrate school, home and church together to build a whole much greater than its parts. To do this, they have introduced planned FOMO activities, aligned with the topics and themes the children are working with in school.

The children receive an activity leaflet in advance of the service, built around the school topic that month and using the following format:

- Getting outdoors: a family activity to explore the local area (Geocaching, photo collage, drawings etc)
- Leading a conversation: an item to prompt a conversation the children take charge of at home or within the community (factsheet, story with questions, video to watch and talk about, picture to consider)
- Make something: a kit, instructions to build something from household items, seeds to plant, a recipe etc'



Growing Faith Research

The research projects are drawing their conclusions and setting out their findings. This month, [enjoy a browse](#) through what CYM have been discovering for us in the North East, through researchers Catherine Simpson (not actually praying in the photo, as far as we know) and Graham Bright, ably backed by James Archer.



Schools and churches in Guildford Diocese

Enjoy this [short video](#) from Alastair Etheridge about the exciting plans in Guildford for linking church and school, with job opportunities coming up.



Extra Hubs

Prayers and glasses raised for the 4 Hubs starting this September: **Diocese of Carlisle DBE** - From isolated to flourishing communities: growing disciples in a rural area; **Ignite, Alnwick**, Diocese of Newcastle - Creating innovative spaces to connect church, family and school; **Cranmer Hall**, Diocese of Durham - Developing a dedicated research and training centre; **Holy Trinity Shaw, St Mary High Crompton and St James Thornham**, Diocese of Manchester - Developing faith in children and young people through liturgical participation.

Thanks to the generosity of two charitable trusts, we are delighted to announce that 6 extra Hubs from the original applications will be starting soon. **St Benet's MAT**, Diocese of Norwich – Development of a MAT wide holistic chaplaincy team that equips ordained and lay leaders; **Allerton**, Diocese of Leeds – Plan, build and grow together in an estate context to create welcoming spaces for the formation of faith and discipleship; **Backwell**, Diocese of Bath and Wells – Pupil chaplaincy in Schools; **Sharnbrook Deanery**, St Albans – Collaborative working between rural churches; **Whipton**, Diocese of Exeter – Growing youth provision across church, household and school; **Forest South Deanery**, Diocese of Gloucester – to alleviate poverty through supporting children in schools to improve their mental health.



Dates for your diary

Early September onwards: start signing up to Cohort 3 of the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders' Programme (starting Jan 24)

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

2024 - *watch this space* for GF research conferences and GF Big Lunches near you!

Gosh. That's a lot.

Every blessing on all that's happening in your parish, school and diocese to help more children, young people and families meet and know Jesus. And thank you for all you do in your vital role in this ministry,

Lucy, Stephen, Hannah, Cheryl

The Growing Faith team