

growing faith



November Newsletter

All the leaves may be brown and the skies be grey but you're still changing the culture through a miserable November so that children and young people are at the heart of all we do as a church. Read on for encouragement and stories of Growing Faith in action to give you that safe and warm in LA feeling.

In this newsletter:

- Two heartwarming films from our Hubs
- Give your school a Boost
- GF Big Lunches
- Research Conference 2024
- Research on transitions
- Notice from the Centre for Chaplaincy in Education
- Dates for fun stuff

Two heart-warming films from our Hubs



Take five minutes to watch how the Hubs are shaping up and be inspired by [Sherbourne and Shaftesbury](#) and [Aldershot](#). What one thing could you take from their stories to try out in your community?

Give your school a Boost



The Serving the Local Schools network is having impact all over the place. We recently received these lovely photos from Rev Judith Simons, Team Curate in Bolingbroke Deanery who writes: *"I have just ordered "Boost" bars for all of the staff at the secondary school which we are going to label for each member of staff and deliver after half-term! I thought this was a great idea and the PCC members agreed, so it is something we are going to adopt and hopefully do each year."* What do you like about this gesture?

Growing Faith Big Lunches



In 2024, we are excited to be hosting three Big Lunches in three of our Growing Faith Learning Hubs. We hope to provide a chance to meet face to face to inspire each other, build relationships and rekindle the Growing Faith vision. It will be a great opportunity to gather people from across programmes, networks, hubs and research, plus those interested and keen to connect with Growing Faith. We will be moving around the country to do these, but our first three provisional dates and venues are:

- 7 March, 2024 – Alnwick in the Diocese of Newcastle
- 19 June, 2024 – Nottingham in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham
- November 2024 (tbc) – Backwell in the Diocese of Bath and Wells

Look out for more details coming soon.

Research Conference 2024



May 29-30 2024 will be our second GF research conference, this time held in partnership with Ripon College, Cuddesdon just outside Oxford – a really beautiful setting. With a bar. We're working hard to make the conference as accessible as possible to people who process learning in all sorts of different ways. Why not form a mini learning community and come along together? Bookings open in the new year.

Research on Transitions



Sarah Earnshaw and Ali Campbell offer brief headlines from their GF research project in Blackburn Diocese. Reflect on your Y6/Y7s and how they are feeling at this stage of their life.

The “Transitions” project aimed to discover how children in Year 6 and Year 7 felt about the transition from Primary to Secondary school. Workshops were conducted with 285 children and young people. 165 from 5 Primary Schools and 120 from 3 Secondary Schools.

In the workshops, children were encouraged to “be a voice, not an echo” (Albert Einstein). We wanted to make sure we heard from every single child in a way that enabled them to fully participate. We did this by having a variety of workshop activities ranging from group discussion to using buttons to indicate preferences, to blob pictures and jenga blocks!

The data we collected, from photos of activity to 100s of post-it notes is still being collated, but we have received some fascinating reflections from the children. Let me share a couple of those to whet your appetite for the full report.

“Jesus Images” We presented the children with six images of Jesus and asked them, “Which of these most represents Jesus to you?” In one of the Primary Schools the “Bar Code” Jesus was the most popular. When the children were asked why they picked that one, a couple of the children said they had picked it because it was blurry. In their religion (two Muslim children) they said that images

of their prophets couldn't be reproduced - hence their choice. Another child said, "It looks like He has hacked the World - which is what Jesus did."

"Traffic Lights" We used traffic lights to help the children think about what had been helpful in preparing them for Secondary School, Red being "what hasn't helped and needs to stop"; Green being "this is good and helping me"; Amber being "I'm not sure about it, but this is what I'm hoping for". The biggest anxiety revolved around friendships - will I be able to make new ones? I'll miss my old friends! A couple of really poignant thoughts were also expressed, "I don't want to lose my personality"; "I want to bring love and hope to my upcoming secondary school."

There is so much more to share as the workshop also covered their experiences of collective worship, when and where they felt close to God, what they would want to take with them (if they could) when they made the move.

Centre for Chaplaincy in Education

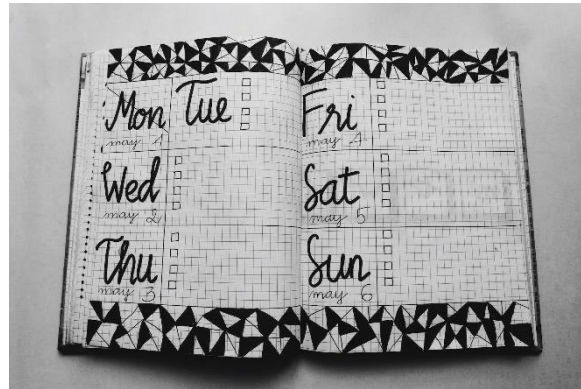


Our friends at the Centre For Chaplaincy In Education (CCE) are seeking new trustees.

If you are committed to supporting and developing chaplaincy in education, then this may be your ideal opportunity! Whatever your background and interest, they would be very pleased to hear from you. As well as a general trustee roles, the CCE is also looking for someone who can take on responsibility for finance.

For an informal conversation, please contact Mike Haslam, Chair of Trustees, on Mike.Haslam@bathwells.anglican.org

Dates



- 1 Feb 2024 – NC24, The Education Office's [National Conference](#)
- 7 March, 2024 – Growing Faith Big Lunch, Alnwick
- 29-30 May 2024 – Growing Faith Research Conference, Cuddesdon
- 19 June, 2024 – Growing Faith Big Lunch, Nottingham
- November 2024 – Growing Faith Big Lunch, Backwell

I need a walk on a winter's day to recover from it all. Thank you for joining in with this delightful movement of God in our time. If you haven't yet joined in praying for all things Growing Faith, do sign up to the [prayer team](#).
Every blessing in your ministry wherever you are
Cheryl, Stephen, Hannah, Elysia, Lucy
The Growing Faith team