

PARACHURCH NETWORK

REPORTING BACK

A NEW WEBSITE!



Changing the culture of the Church of England
The Growing Faith Foundation

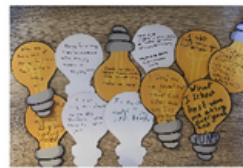
We have a new, user-friendly website [HERE](#) where you'll find everything you need from Growing Faith Foundation! Check it out and you have any comments or queries, please contact growingfaith@churchofengland.org



Networks

Hope-filled, peer to peer networks facilitating spaces for learning, encouragement and support.

[Learn more >](#)



Learning Hubs

Learn of our incredible Growing Faith Hubs: centres of innovation and creativity across the spheres of church, home and school.

[Learn more >](#)



Putting children at the heart

Programmes

Learn about the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders' Programme.

[Learn more >](#)



Research

Learn about the research projects underpinning and advancing the work and principles of the Growing Faith Foundation.

[Learn more >](#)



Media

Access resources, podcasts, newsletters and more!

[Learn more >](#)



About us

Find out about us and get in touch!

[Learn more >](#)

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,

Thank you for this new year, this new week, this new day, this new meeting. Be with us, we pray, as we listen, share, think and wonder. Stir us or settle us, encourage us or ignite us as you see fit. We pray for love and a shared passion for children and young people to unite us in you this morning. Amen.

EDI FORM

We are committed to continual improvement in equity, diversity and inclusion. PLEASE help us to understand where we are and how to make positive changes by filling in [THIS FORM](#) by 12th February! Many thanks.

GROWING FAITH FOUNDATION IN A NUTSHELL : A NEW BOOKLET FOR YOUR INFORMATION

When we set up this networks, one of the five things that colleagues in parachurch organisations asked for was to be kept informed of the work of the GFF.

Although we try to make space for updates in these meetings and elsewhere, we're aware that the speed at which things are moving (and the amazing interconnections growing, due to so many colleagues joining the work in different ways) means that there's a lot to get your head around!

To help with this, we've created a [BOOKLET](#) which gives a simple snapshot of each of the 4 streams of our work. Feel free to use and share widely!



NEW GROWING FAITH NETWORK: MENTAL HEALTH AND TRAUMA AWARENESS - STARTING SOON!



In recent years, the impact of mental health difficulties and trauma on our children and young people has been highlighted as never before – bringing into focus the critical need for churches to be informed about the sorts of trauma that impede children from flourishing. For some, trauma has resulted from their earliest childhood experiences, others have been impacted by a singular traumatic incident; we also know that for a large number of children, challenges such as COVID19 and other personal, local, national and international situations have heavily impacted upon their wellbeing, through isolation, instability and bereavement.

The Growing Faith Foundation benefits from partnerships with many experts in these fields through parachurch organisations and diocesan teams. We are delighted to be able to work with them to provide a peer support and learning network which:

- introduces colleagues to their work
- facilitates ongoing collaborative conversations
- opens up relationships outside of the Foundation's input;
- stimulates action and impact in dioceses around the country.

EVERYONE WELCOME!
More information [HERE](#).

GROWING FAITH BIG LUNCH!

a lovely opportunity for folks in the North East – we're having our first ever Growing Faith Big Lunch in Alnwick on 7th March and we'd LOVE to see you there. It'll be a rare opportunity to meet colleagues and friends face to face over a simple lunch, to network, share, connect with others involved in Growing Faith in a relaxed and positive setting. Please do come - sign up [HERE](#)! And for those of you who are a bit further South, we'll be Big Lunching in Nottingham in June and Somerset in September, so watch this space.



RESEARCH FINDINGS



We were privileged to have guest speaker, Emma Coy with us today. Emma is the Mission Enabler for Children and Families in Guildford Diocese, and one of the lead researchers on the Growing Faith research project: *How can church/school partnership help the spiritual development of children?* Emma gave us a fascinating tour of her research as well as a generous Q&A session afterwards. We were struck by the important role that parachurch organisations can and do play in these partnerships, and by the recommendations of the research, to which we can all contribute in different ways. The research findings in full for this and other Growing Faith research projects can be accessed [HERE](#) - do take a look, share and get back to us with your comments.



GET IN TOUCH!
Hannah is the Networks Lead at the Growing Faith Foundation. She would love to hear from you!

Is there something you'd like to collaborate on? Did someone or something resonate with you in the breakout room? **Please email hannah.persaud@churchofengland.org to be connected with colleagues** who share an interest in these, or other ideas.