

## **Cranmer Hall Hub Update January 2024 Progress Report**

### **Launch of Growing Faith Hub Placement**

Our Hub launched in September 2023 with Sarah Strand's appointment as Hub Lead. Sarah is a Tutor and Lecturer in Theological Reflection at Cranmer Hall and Sarah's PhD research is exploring how children under the age of 7 encounter God when they read the Bible. Building upon Cranmer Hall's growing ministry in this area, the Hub's aim is to develop a dedicated research and training centre, particularly exploring the theological questions which underpin ministry and mission with children and young people.

### **Launching Research Project**

With the start of term in October 2023 two ordinands, Ana Moskvina and Claire Lewis, joined the Hub on a 6 month placement to develop their skills in empirical research, support the work of the Hub and to deepen their experience of ministry with children and young people. Following ethical approval, the research project was launched entitled:

*What are the ways in which the faith of children and teenagers is being nurtured in schools, churches and households, and what can be done to further equip and support these efforts?*

The research project uses semi-structured interviews within focus groups to explore a range of questions relating to faith nurture. Questions have been developed for different contexts including for school pupils and staff (both primary and secondary), clergy and parents.

### **Research with Schools**

The Learning Hub has so far engaged in-depth with children from two Church of England primary schools and two Church of England secondary schools within the Diocese of Durham, supported by the Board of Education. So far we have engaged with:

- 200 primary school pupils
- 175 secondary school pupils
- Senior leaders, RE teachers and other teaching and support staff
- Members of the Diocesan Board of Education

### **Research with Clergy**

The Learning Hub has so far engaged with 20 clergy in a variety of roles with more conversations planned over the coming term.

### **Research with Families**

We have identified that, as demonstrated by other research in this field, engagement with the voice of parents and children exploring faith nurture in the home is often limited. To address this, through the network of parents and families at Cranmer Hall we have planned events for this coming term which will enable the voice of parents and families to be included within this research.

### **Moving Forwards**

Once the research project finishes in April, Sarah will be collating and analysing the findings and producing a report which will be shared with all those who have participated as well as being made available to anyone else who would like to read it. We hope this report will enable us to shape the training and theological education we offer to support those who live, work and minister across the

three spheres of home, school and church. We already have some really interesting initial thoughts and findings and we are really looking forward to sharing those once the full report is ready.