

# growing faith



## February Newsletter

How can so much be happening in the merry world of Growing Faith? Check out opportunities to join in with the wonderful work of God through so many amazing people and places. Do pray for them all as you read on!

This month:

- An update from one of our Hubs
- Report from a Growing Faith Research Project
- Growing Faith Research Conference
- Apply to present your research
- Network news
- Welcome to GFSLP Cohort 3!

- Alnwick Big Lunch
- A look back at NC24
- Carbon cutting resources
- Welcome to Tobi!
- The Growing Faith Podcast - new episode out now!

## A Hub Update



We're coming to you this week with an update from our Chatting Faith project, based jointly in the dioceses of Winchester and Portsmouth.

Chatting Faith is all about 'normalising the spiritual,' encouraging families to have relaxed, natural conversations about faith, using secular children's books as a starting point. Watch their [video report](#) to find out more.

# Research Report



Karen Beal offers a few brief thoughts from her research project in Manchester Diocese

*The ‘Are we listening?’ research project aimed to investigate how children’s voices contribute to various aspects of church and school life particularly in the area of worship.*

*Three churches and two schools took part in the mixed method research – we had a graffiti table, made modelling dough and Lego models and posters too. We had lots of conversation about if and how participants are able to take part in planning and leading worship and whether they are involved in the decision making process at church and school.*

*Here are just a few quotes:*

*About being involved in planning and leading worship;*

- ‘We don’t normally get to make decisions about what we do...about what we are going to do’*
- ‘We would like to make suggestions because I think that sometimes like...something like at Christmas...like we could plan something’*
- ‘What they could do is tell children what they need to talk about in the lines, but then let the children write the lines....Like cos a lot of time when you read it, it’s like you’re reading like a book out to them and not what you feel and thought and how you would talk’*

*How could adults listen better to people their age?*

- *Not acting towards you like you're a child...like giving them ideas...making space where you can suggest things*
- *Have a like a school council but at church so you could have your say on like services*
- *Listen to what we are saying...by actually talking to us*

*It's been an absolute joy to undertake this incredibly thought provoking piece of research as I had the privilege of speaking with and listening to the participants. I look forward to sharing my findings with you soon.*

## Research Conference at Ripon College, Cuddesdon - May 29th-30th

growing  
faith



CUDDESDON

### A TIME TO PLANT AND A TIME TO UPROOT

The Growing Faith Foundation  
Research Conference 2024, co-hosted  
by Ripon College, Cuddesdon



29th-30th May 2024



Ripon College, OX44 9EX



Want to raise the profile of academic research into children's, family and youth ministry? Join us at beautiful Ripon College Cuddesdon (just outside Oxford) for a 24 hour GF research conference May 29-30: A Time to Plant and a Time to Uproot. There will be cracking speakers to sharpen your thinking (**Sarah Brush** on whole life faith development with an emphasis on childhood; **Claire Dalpra** on cutting edge educational chaplaincy

research; **Victoria Turner** on inclusion and ecclesiology among young adults; **Matt Kirkpatrick** on parenthood and theologies of childhood.) There'll be informal presentations from other brilliant researchers in the field, creatively shared. But also many opportunities to discuss, reflect and dream dreams with each other. [More details and to book.](#)

## Do you have Growing Faith research to share?

The Growing Faith Foundation Research Conference

### CALL FOR POSTERS

The Growing Faith Foundation is currently accepting applications to present your research in poster form at our May 2024 conference at Ripon College, Cuddesdon.



APPLY BY MIDNIGHT ON THE  
8TH MARCH 2024



[CLICK THE LINK TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION](#)

We have a few remaining free conference places (see above) to offer to other researchers in the Growing Faith areas of school, church and household, to present your work in poster form. If you would like to discuss what you could offer, please contact [growingfaith@churchofengland.org](mailto:growingfaith@churchofengland.org) for a conversation or complete this [short form](#) before March 8th



## News from our Networks



We had a fantastic chat with people from a range of contexts, traditions and organisations around the role of music in Growing Faith. Watch this space for the launch of a new network later in the year. In the meantime, if you are involved in leading music with CYP and would like to be part of the conversation around the discipleship opportunities that exist through your work, please email [hannah.persaud@churchofengland.org](mailto:hannah.persaud@churchofengland.org)



### **A milestone celebration!**

This month our Chaplains in Education network concludes its first year, and what a year it has been! Full of learning, peer support and wonderful, blossoming relationships. We are over the moon to

announce that we are relaunching this network for a second year, and can increase capacity. So if you are a Chaplain in any type of school or FE college, please, join us! [Find out more here](#) and [sign up here](#).

## Get in touch.

Hannah would love to hear from anyone who is interested in talking about outdoor church/wild worship/forest school/pro-environmental activities/nature connection and CYP faith. If your church, diocese, organisation is engaged in any of these spaces and you'd like to chat more about an upcoming network focus, please email [hannah.persaud@churchofengland.org](mailto:hannah.persaud@churchofengland.org)

## Launch of GFSLP Cohort 3!



It was wonderful to welcome participants to the launch of cohort 3 of the Strategic Leaders' Programme on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January at Church House. We are so expectant to see what God will do amongst this incredible group of diverse leaders as they each seek to place children and young people at the heart of their mission and ministry.

## Alnwick Big Lunch - March 7th



There's still time to sign up to the Big Lunch in Alnwick on March 7th. If you're still trying to decide if you'd like to join us, the video above from some of the wonderful young people in our Alnwick Hub is sure to persuade you! Sign up [here](#).

## A report on NC24





The Church of England Education Office's 6th annual National Conference took place on February 1st at SAINT Church in Hackney. We loved seeing so many Growing Faith friends there, and at the reception that followed. With input from the Archbishop of Canterbury, and worship led by students from our Nottingham Hub, it was certainly a day to remember!

The Growing Faith team also led workshops during the day. These workshops provided a great opportunity for delegates to learn more about the work of Growing Faith in developing strategic leaders and in developing younger leaders. It was fantastic to work alongside the AYLA team for the second of these workshops and share of the wide reaching impact of this crucial work. The workshop on Growing Faith Research highlighted some of the exciting learning coming from the 2023 research projects. Participants contributed their ideas about how the final results can be most effectively shared in 2024.

Another workshop shared how Growing Faith is developing in three key dioceses – Salisbury, Coventry and Southwell & Notts, leaving delegates with a plethora of inspiring stories.

Finally, we enjoyed a brilliant GF reception at the end of the conference day. Participants from hubs, programmes, networks and research projects joined together to toast each other and the work. It was fantastic to meet face to face after so many months on Zoom with each other! New connections were made, new opportunities uncovered, and there was a real buzz in the room!

## **New resources launching to support schools to cut their carbon**



Join a webinar next month to find out about a range of exciting new FREE resources launching to help Church of England schools reach net zero carbon.

The webinar – on Wednesday 28 February, 3-5pm, on Zoom – is aimed at school leaders, governors and those working in dioceses who support local schools with decarbonisation projects. The resources have been developed by Eco Schools, Keep Britain Tidy, the Church of England Education Office and Retrofit Action for Tomorrow (RAFT).

Register here: [https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_QPvaazmHTo6nC5WcFxXGFg](https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QPvaazmHTo6nC5WcFxXGFg)

## Welcome Tobi!



*It's great to have another chance to shout about how amazing it has been settling into the Growing Faith Team as the new Coordination Specialist. If I met you at NC24 or am yet to meet you, hi, I'm Tobi, a previous secondary school teacher and an avid theatre performer and goer! I have heard so much about the good work championing children and young people's voices in different dioceses whether that is youth councils, clubs or conversations and I would just love to hear more about what you are doing. If you can, please do get in touch and we can have an introductory call to connect and hear about your good work. My email is [tobi.martins-ojo@churchofengland.org](mailto:tobi.martins-ojo@churchofengland.org) (p.s. I most definitely wouldn't mind if you emailed me with some good theatre recommendations too...)*

# Latest episode of the Growing Faith Podcast out now

A promotional graphic for the 'growing faith podcast' episode 6. It features a purple and teal color scheme with a central photograph of Cheryl Govier, Julia Hill, and Ed Gregory. The text describes the episode's content and provides contact information for sharing stories.

**episode 6**

Cheryl Govier talks to Julia Hill and Ed Gregory from the Diocese of Bath and Wells, about the rewards and challenges of implementing a Growing Faith approach, and keeping children and young people at the top of the Diocesan agenda.

**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 [growingfaith@churchofengland.org](mailto:growingfaith@churchofengland.org)

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE

We're coming to the end of the newsletter for this month, but if you want to hear more from the world of Growing Faith, be sure to check out our podcast! This month, Cheryl speaks to Julia Hill and Ed Gregory from Bath and Wells, about how Growing Faith looks in their diocese. Click [here](#) to listen now.

I wonder what part of this lights up your heart?  
Every blessing in all you do for and with and alongside children and young people and their families  
Cheryl, Lucy, Hannah, Tobi, Stephen, Elysia  
The Growing Faith team

## Other ways to connect:

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