



## November Newsletter

Dear Growing Faith colleagues,

Thanks for your appreciation of the slightly bonkers-but-beautiful [prayer letter](#), but even more for your prayers, as we all work with Christ to change the culture of the Church of England so that young people and children are instinctively at the centre of all we do.

Lots to inform and enthuse you this month: read on...

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#### **Applications close next week for GFSLP Cohort 4**



**There are now just 7 working days to go until applications for the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders' Programme 2025 close.**

We have already had an amazing mix of participants apply, including vicars, head teachers, diocesan advisers, chaplains, archdeacons and children, youth and family workers to name but a few.

Why not join this incredible mix of participants who desire to put children and young people at the heart of all their thinking and practice as a leader. **Applications close Friday November 15<sup>th</sup>**

[Watch the video here](#), [read more here](#), and [apply here](#).

**Booking closes tomorrow!**



growing  
faith

## Big Lunch

HOLY TRINITY, NAILSEA,  
2 CHURCH LANE,  
NAILSEA,  
BS48 4NG

13th NOVEMBER 2024, 10:00 -  
14:30

COMPLETE THE FORM TO REGISTER

Our next Big Lunch, planned in partnership with the Diocese of Bath and Wells' Go Team, and co-hosted by our Backwell Learning Hub, is happening in exactly one week, on **Wednesday November 13th**, from **10:00-14:30**, at **Holy Trinity Church, Nailsea**.

We'll be hearing more about the Hub's journey, as well as how Growing Faith looks in both a local and diocesan context. Children and young people will be leading our worship, there'll be plenty of opportunities to ask questions of the GF team and other practitioners in attendance - and of course, there'll also be lots of cake.

**Bookings close tomorrow!** To book your ticket to join us in next week, [click here](#). We can't wait to see you there.

**Hearing the voices of children and young people**



In August, Tobi visited the choristers on the Bath Course at the Royal School of Church Music. It was encouraging to hear young people reflect on intergenerational community, helping us rethink the question of what young people want from the church. As the young chorister in the video put it, 'Young people are as much a part of the church as older people.'

### **Question of the half-term**

We have launched a new question of the half-term, to help us capture the views of children and young people. This month's question is: **Do you think God cares about poverty? Is getting rid of poverty connected to faith?** Please do share [this form](#) with any children and young people in your work or context. We hope to draw on their thoughts to shape our work for the better.

### **Book your place at our next webinar**

The next webinar in our series looking at different techniques for listening to children and young people will be taking place on **Wednesday 11th December, time TBC**, and you can [sign up here](#). This time, Tobi will be co-hosting the event with Matt Long from the Diocese of Leicester. They will be joined by young people from Leicester to reflect on being part of Listening Group. This is a great chance to hear directly from young people involved and the process. We hope you'll be able to join us for this interesting and important session.

### **Research**

#### **Save the date**

Plans are shaping up nicely for the next Growing Faith Research Conference for 2025. This will be taking place at Trinity College, Bristol, **19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> June**. More details to follow very soon. Tickets will be fairly limited, so if you would like to be among the first to hear when the booking period is open, [sign up here](#).

#### **Upcoming webinar on our educational chaplaincy research.**

We will be holding another webinar to explore the results of our research into educational chaplaincy on **December 3rd, 10:30-11:30**. If you'd like to join us to hear more about this important piece of work, [sign up here](#).

## **Launch of the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households youth resources**

The Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households are delighted to invite you to the launch of new online resources written by children and young people, for children and young people. The event will introduce two YouTube videos and lesson plans for use in schools and youth groups which highlight the key messages in 'Love Matters', the report of the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households. The resources will be available on the Commission's website following the launch.

Please share this invitation with anyone in your network who would be interested in using these resources. The event will take place online on **Tuesday 12th November**, 3:45-4:30. For joining details for the session, please email [growingfaith@churchofengland.org](mailto:growingfaith@churchofengland.org).

## **Christmas card competition**



Are you planning to run a Christmas card competition this year? Why not join in with the competition being run by our friends at Common Good Schools? They're inviting all children in your school to take part in their free community Christmas card competition. The theme is 'The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood', taken from the Gospel of John.

Entries are due by **29th November 2024** and all the details are available to download [here](#). This includes guidance on how your pupils can build the common good whilst taking part.

Happy creativity!

Every blessing for all of your work with children and young people in the month ahead.

Lucy, Stephen, Hannah, Mandy, Tobi and Elysia,

The Growing Faith team.

**Other ways to connect:**

Sign up to our [prayer support email](#).

Subscribe to our [newsletter](#).

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