



October Newsletter

Abundant fruitfulness happening across homes, churches and schools in Dioceses this autumn: read on to find out more!

In this issue:

- Question of the half-term
- Book your place at our upcoming webinar
- The next Big Lunch in Nailsea
- The 2024 Research Digest
- Save the date for our next research conference

- Research Network scoping meeting
- Chaplaincy research update
- Chaplaincy apprenticeship
- News from our Networks
- Apply to join GFSLP Cohort 4
- FLOURISH: call for questions
- After the riots
- Open the Book vacancies

Hearing the voices of children and young people

Question of the half-term

We have launched a question of the half-term, to help us hear the voices of children and young people. This month's question is: **Does God have a place in school?** We'd be really grateful if you could share [this form](#) with any children and young people you know or work with. Their responses will be totally anonymous, but the ideas they share will influence our work for the good.



BLOGGING: A TECHNIQUE FOR LISTENING TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

A WEBINAR BY THE GROWING FAITH FOUNDATION AND THE BATH AND WELLS GO TEAM.

6th November 2024
4:30-5:00

growing
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Book your place at our upcoming webinar

Tobi, who is working hard to listen to the voice of children and young people, is also co-hosting a webinar with the wonderful Cesca from Bath and Wells' Go Team, to explore the

idea of using blogging as a technique for listening to children and young people. This will be on **6th November, 4:30-5:00**, and you can [register to attend here](#).

The Growing Faith Big Lunch



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Big Lunch

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

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

COMPLETE THE FORM TO REGISTER

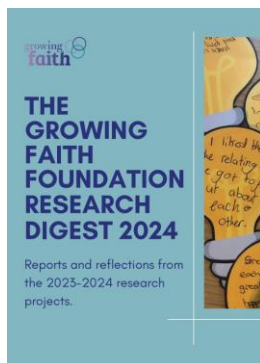
The Backwell Junior School Learning Hub and the Growing Faith team are delighted to invite you, and anyone interested in developing a Growing Faith approach, to our next Big Lunch! We'll be meeting at **Holy Trinity Church, Nailsea**, on **November 13th**, 2024, from **10:00-14:30**, and would love to see you there.

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.

To book your ticket to join us in November, [click here](#).

Research

Updates from Growing Faith research:



The Research Digest is now even more digestible!

[Each chapter](#) is now available separately for your bedtime reading. Who could you share a chapter with?

Save the date

The Growing Faith Research Conference 2025 will be at Trinity College, Bristol, **19th-20th June**. More details to come.

Researchers Network Scoping Meeting

We are also exploring the possibility of establishing a new Network for researchers, working across the spheres of home, school and church. You don't need to be one of our Growing Faith researchers - or even have undertaken research before at all - in order to get involved. If you would be interested in helping to shape the future direction of this network, please do join us at one of two upcoming scoping meetings. You can [register your interest here](#).

Chaplaincy research

The chaplains in the Chaplains in Education Network have been working together to ensure the [chaplaincy research](#) keeps on making a difference. They have been thinking about 3 questions: 1) How do we share the stories coming from chaplaincy? 2) How do we

build strong foundations for chaplaincy and for measuring it? 3) How do we develop more chaplaincies and enable more churches and schools to partner in this growing ministry?

Chaplaincy

Do you know someone who would like to undertake an apprenticeship in school chaplaincy? Do [contact us](#) for more details

Networks

November sees the final session of our first Mental Health and Trauma Awareness network. What an amazing year it's been! Our thanks to the wealth of incredible contributors and participants who have made this a really special learning journey.

And it's not over! As we plan the next season of our work, the mental health and psychological safety of children and young people remain key areas of concern for the Foundation, and we are looking to develop a specific stream of work on this topic. If you have particular expertise in this area and would like to know more, do contact hannah.persaud@churchofengland.org.

Programmes



We are now recruiting for Cohort 4 of the Strategic Leaders' Programme, starting in January 2025.

Now in its third cohort, we are seeing leaders and aspiring leaders from varying spheres of influence impacted by the learning, networking and support they experience through this programme. We are seeing churches thrive, church-school connections flourish and whole dioceses try new approaches to instinctively place children and young people at the heart of their ministry and mission.

If you have a passion for the younger generation and are ready to take that next step in your leadership journey, then this could be a great opportunity for you.

[Watch the video here](#), [read more here](#), and [apply here](#). Applications close **November 15th**.

FLOURISH - any questions?

Please ping this to your youth and children's group leaders:

You may have heard about FLOURISH – a pilot project across 40 schools to see what happens if a school is given the chance to start its own church in partnership with the local church. They'll be led by young people for young people and adults connected to the school – basically a church in a school.

We're setting up a 'theological advisory group' to sit alongside the pilot. It's not about what prayers to choose or songs to sing, but about asking the *really big* questions that help us all be church better.

Are there questions your young people or children's groups or junior choir think we should be exploring?

Like..:

Can the young leaders do anything they want and call it church?

What makes it Christian?

Why should the leaders be young?

How does it all fit with the local church?

We particularly want questions from under-18s, but adults are welcome to send them in too. Please would you collect any questions, big or small, silly or sensible, one or lots and send them to Lucy.moore@churchofengland.org by **13th November**. If you think of any more after that, send them anyway – we'll discuss them next time. It would help to know if they're questions from under-18s or from adults, but the main thing is just to have the questions FLOURISH makes people ask.

(We will make sure you get a response from the group, if we possibly can.)

After the riots

Is your sphere of influence in any of these towns/cities: Aldershot, Birmingham, Blackpool, Bolton, Bristol, Hartlepool, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Nottingham, Plymouth, Rotherham, Southport, Stoke-on-Trent, Sunderland, Tamworth?

If you'd be interested in discussing church / school / community responses to the riots, including funding, please contact [Mat Eason](#) from [ROC](#) to discuss opportunities.

Two vacancies at Open the Book



Open the Book are looking for two Training and Development Officers - with one vacancy to cover Central & South West England, and the other in Mid & North England - to inspire, support and develop existing Open the Book teams of volunteers from local churches as well as grow new teams in this region. To find out more and apply, [click here](#).

That's all for this month! Thanks for reading, and for everything you do to change the culture of the Church of England.

Lucy, Stephen, Hannah, Cheryl, Tobi and Elysia,

The Growing Faith team.

Other ways to connect:

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

Subscribe to our [newsletter](#).

