



Growing Faith Foundation

September newsletter



Dear Growing Faith Friends,

We've had to excise the exclamation marks, as there are so many exciting developments that deserve them. But your eyeballs would fry with the sheer quantity of ! Read on....

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- The voice of children and young people at Derby Cathedral

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The Next Growing Faith Big Lunch



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.

Watch the video below for a reminder of the success of our last Big Lunch in Alnwick, and to book your place to join us in November, [click here](#).



The Voice of Children and Young People



Tobi recently visited Derby Cathedral, to speak to the choristers about the impact of music on their faith development. She asked them if practising and performing helped them to learn more about God, and whether the music helps them to feel closer to God. Their answers were inspiring and thought-provoking, so do [watch the highlights from her visit here.](#)

We're looking for a Chaplaincy Specialist



We will soon be recruiting for a Chaplaincy Specialist to join our team, to build on the findings of our recent research project into Educational Chaplaincy (see below for more on this exciting piece of work), and to support and empower chaplains across the country.

This is a new role within the team, and we're sure you'll have plenty of questions about what the role might entail. For this reason, we're hosting a short webinar on September 17th at 3:00-3:30 to provide some more information about the post. To book your place at this event, [click here](#).

Keep your eye on [Pathways, the Church of England's recruitment portal](#) for details of the vacancy, posted later this month.

Research into Educational Chaplaincy

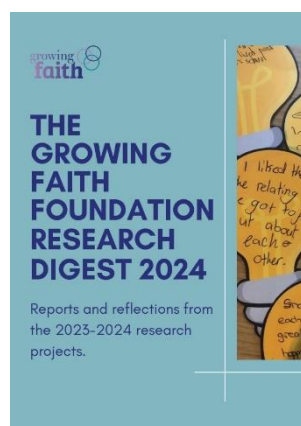


We have recently concluded a year-long research project into Educational Chaplaincy. The work was carried out by Claire Dalpra from Brendan Research, who also joined us in Manchester, to share more about her findings, at a launch event for the final report back in July.

Claire not only produced the fantastic report on this research, [which you can read here](#), she has also created a version of her paper that can be shared with children and young people, to help them understand and engage with the role of a chaplain themselves. [Click here](#) for the CYP-friendly report.

If you were unable to join us in Manchester, you can access all of the content from the day through [this link](#), but we'll also be holding two further webinars throughout the term to discuss this project further. The first of these will be taking place during the next meeting of our Chaplains in Education Network, on **Thursday, October 3rd** from **9:30-11:00**, and can be booked through [this link](#). We'd love to see you there. Keep an eye on our social media accounts and newsletter for details of the second webinar, on Tuesday December 3rd.

Growing Faith Research



Our new research projects get underway this month, and we can't wait to see what they discover! In the meantime, we're still exploring the fascinating findings from last year's projects - there's so much more still to learn from these amazing projects! Check them out for yourself [here](#), in our recent Digest, produced by the wonderful Emma Coy, Mission Enabler (Children and Families) at the Diocese of Guildford, and one of the GF researchers herself.

Emma is also in the process of recording interviews with all of our previous researchers about their projects. These will be coming out as [new podcast episodes](#) over the next few months, so make sure you're subscribed to us, wherever you get your podcasts.

Upcoming network meetings



It's a busy time in the Growing Faith networks.

The latest session of our Trauma and Mental Health Awareness Network took place yesterday after a break for the summer: it was so lovely to see so many friends and colleagues gathered together again, to think about how we can best support the children and young people in our communities.

We have a few meetings for our other networks coming up, and it's not too late to get involved.

- If you're involved in or represent a Parachurch organisation, consider joining our Parachurch Organisations Network. Our next meeting is on the 16th September, and you can [sign up here](#).
- If you help children and young people to growing in their faith through music, then [sign up](#) for our Music for Growing Faith Network, who will be meeting on September 17th.

- Finally, if you'd like to gather with others who are seeking to support their local schools, join our Serving the Local School Network. Our next meeting is on the 24th of September, and you can [sign up](#) to join us here.

We hope to see you at a meeting very soon.

Apply now to join cohort 4 of the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders' Programme



Applications are now open for cohort 4 of the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders' Programme.

If you are looking to take the next step in your leadership development and are keen to explore this within the context of the intersections of school, church and home, then this is for you!

We are looking for dedicated leaders and aspiring leaders from a range of diverse backgrounds to participate in the programme, bringing with them knowledge, skills and experiences from the church, school, parachurch or charity spheres.

The programme will:

- Provide a space for a **collaborative learning community** which models the intersections of Growing Faith
- **Professionally develop leaders**, and aspiring leaders bringing sustained change in a range of contexts
- Have a **transformative impact** on children and young people's faith formation.

To explore the programme in more detail, [read our handy brochure here](#) and to apply, [complete this form](#). Applications close on November 15th.

The Church of England's Christmas Campaign



The theme for the Church of England's 2024 Christmas Campaign is 'Calm and Bright', drawing on the words of the beloved carol, Silent Night. The National Comms team said,

*Throughout Advent, we will focus primarily on how to find **Calm** during this busy period, with reflections offering people a chance to pause during the busy season and tips on how to prepare for a calm Christmas. Then through Christmas, we will focus particularly on **Bright**, with a series of joyful reflections from Christmas Eve to the Eve of Epiphany (5 January) including tips for a bright Christmas. We will also share reflective content*

throughout Advent and Christmas for those who find this time of year difficult, with some Blue Christmas resources.

Some great resources for churches have already been shared at [this link](#), with more to follow. Resources for schools and for individuals are also coming soon, so do check back regularly to see what is available.

The Growing Faith Podcast

The graphic features a background of colorful, overlapping shapes in shades of purple, blue, and pink. On the left, a purple rounded rectangle contains the text 'episode 8'. Below this, a white box contains a logo of a tree with colorful leaves and the letters 'WFPS' at its base. To the right, the text 'growing faith' is written in a stylized font, with 'growing' in purple and 'faith' in blue. Below this, a purple rounded rectangle contains the word 'podcast'. In the center, a large purple speech bubble contains the text: '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.' At the bottom left, there is a call to action: 'Have you got a story to share? We would love to hear from you! Contact growingfaith@churchofengland.org'. At the bottom right, the logo of The Church of England Education Office is displayed, featuring a cross inside a circle and the text 'THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE'.

episode 8

This month, Hannah Persaud speaks to pupils and staff from Weston Favell school, and church leaders at St. Peter's Church, Weston Favell, about their amazing church/school partnership.

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

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE

Have you heard our recent podcast episodes yet? We've loved hearing more about an amazing [church/school partnership in Weston Favell](#), and learning about the impact of our [research-based Hub at Cranmer Hall, Durham](#). Check out these episodes, and more, [wherever you get your podcasts](#). Don't forget to subscribe so you never miss an episode.

Thanks for everything you're doing to change the culture of the Church of England. Every blessing to you in your ministry with children and young people this month.

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](#).

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