



Growing Faith Adventure Clergy Study Day



Thursday 9th November 2023
Peterborough Cathedral
10am - 4pm

Guide and reflection book

Welcome to the Growing Faith Adventure Study Day

This guide is to give you all you need to know to navigate the study day. It includes a summary of all that is going on, and resources to support your own GF adventure. There is space to write up any reflections, and later in the day you will receive a summary directory of GF adventure examples from across our diocese. Perhaps you might like to connect with one of these after the day to further invest in your thinking.

Growing Faith is not another project but rather a new way of thinking about how we engage with children, young people and families. It requires a culture change in the whole church and diocese, where we seek to look at everything we do, and every decision we make, through the lens of what it means for children, young people and families.

If you need anything during the day, please speak to Charlotte Nobbs or Alex Tolley

The intersections of schools, households and families are places where Christ is encountered and faith is grown, in the following ways:

- **Connected Communities** – faith grows in community and each sphere has a unique role to play but together we generate stronger and intergenerational relationships that nurture faith.
- **Spiritual Encounters** – Faith begins and is sustained by encounters with God and is rooted when we tell the story of those encounters.
- **Imaginative Practices** – we need to find new ways of being church together in different spaces in order to meet the challenge of reaching children and young people.

The Faith in the Nexus research project at Canterbury University has produced short excellent animations. They are full of hope:

- <https://youtu.be/RGNXewx4wtQ> (The spiritual flourishing of children)
- <https://youtu.be/z4vXynkkhDU> (For children)

<https://youtu.be/fl-iXfQMqfE> (For parents & children)

“Thank you for all you are doing to build ministry and mission where children and young people are – in the community, in their families, with their schools. I am praying today that you will enjoy the space to reflect on the Growing Faith Adventure, exploring what it is to build a thriving intergenerational community and the hope it brings. I am praying for good conversations, learning and connections to be made in the experiential opportunities of the day. I am praying we will learn from the children and young people too, picking up tips and resources from each other as well as building relationships with our market stall holders.”

Bishop John

Outline of the Study Day

- 10:00 Arrival and refreshments in the South Transept
- 10:30 Welcome by Bishop John, the Dean and students from Marshfields, Kings School and Thomas Deacon Schools
- 11:00 The what, why and how of intergenerational ministry
- 12:10 Time to chat, reflect and pray
- 12:30 *Lunch (served in south transept)*
- 1:30 Building connection across the generations
- 2:00 Time to visit the Narnia Prayer Space and building partnership with supporters in the Market Place
- 3:00 Time to chat, reflect and eat cake
- 3:30 Worship
- 3.45 Closing Words - Bishop John
- 4:00 Home

Reflections

Opening remarks and interview with Children and Young People and Bishop John

“I hope that people will hear the voices of children and young people; be challenged to be more involved in ministry with them; and to be encouraged that we can all do this.” Bishop John

What struck you?

What will you remember?

What would you like to ask the Bishop or the children and young people?

Meet the team and Growing Faith with the Gen2 Team

Gen2 is the diocesan team that supports growing faith from generation to generation, here to partner with churches in their ministry to put children and young people with their families at the heart of what they do. Think about your response to today's invitation to the Growing Faith Adventure Day and where you see yourself fitting into the call for our churches to keep children and young people at the heart of all that we do. Chad helps us to explore this.

Key resources and contact details: [Children & Youth Team - Diocese of Peterborough \(peterborough-diocese.org.uk\)](https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

What 'mustard seeds' do you see growing in your church and community?

How can you create 'good soil' conditions for growth?

What might need to be pruned to make space for this?

Theology of Children with Michelle

'Unless you change and become like children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.' What was Jesus really saying here, and what was he doing when he placed a child in the midst of a group of adults squabbling over who was the most important? What does this mean for our ministry not just with children and young people but with the whole people of God and for the Church?

Key Resources: Our own children and young people in our families, churches and school! Ask them about their faith and experience of God. What do they think is important for the Church?

Great Books:

Through the Eyes of a Child - New Insights in Theology from a Child's Perspective by Anne Richards, Peter Privett, John Pridmore

Godly Play - An Imaginative Approach to Religious Education
by Jerome Berryman

That's a Good Question! by J. John

What surprised you?

What questions do you have?

I wonder what we might change?

Growing Faith Adventure and our intergenerational Church with Charlotte

The Growing Faith Adventure is the lens through which we seek to place children, young people and families at the heart of our ministry and mission. Let us remember the community that Jesus grew up in. What is possible when we remember that Jesus did not build 'adult church' but an inclusive intergenerational church community of every ethnicity, class, gender and thinking? What is possible when we remember what it is to be relational across the generations? Let us imagine together.

Key Resources:

One another – look at our [Directory](#) and meet up with other clergy who are trying some of this out.

Go visit the market stalls and see how they can partners with you.

Great books:

It Takes a Church to Raise a Parent by Rachel Turner

The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Worship for Everyone By Nick and Becky

What surprised you?
What questions do you have?
I wonder what we might change?

Growing Faith Adventure Kairos Moment with Lucy Moore, National Lead for the Growing Faith Foundation

There is a window of opportunity right now for children, young people and their families to be positioned at the heart of our vision, for our individual relationships, in our parishes, at a diocesan and national level. Look at how Jesus grew 'in stature and wisdom, in favour with God and people' within the different spheres of family, village, national festivals and with his parents who all supported and listened to him. Find out how we might be supported through the Growing Faith Foundation to work together.

Key Resources: Connect with the Growing Faith Foundation by looking on their website: The Growing Faith Leadership Strategic Programme, Growing Faith Networks, Hubs, Research, Prayer Support and Newsletters

www.churchofengland.org/growingfaith

**How much are children and young people at the heart of what you do?
How do you listen to children and young people's voices?
How do they shape the vision of your church?**

Growing Faith Connections with Michelle

What helps faith to grow in children and young people when we work intentionally across church, school and households? A recent research project 'Growing Faith Connections' discovered four key connections - young VOICES being at the centre of leadership teams and decision making; RELATIONSHIPS as a priority, including developing the links between homes, churches and schools, rather than working independently in silos; RHYTHMS which bring regularity and a deeper participation in the church life and seasons; a shared PURPOSE which contributes visibly to God's kingdom so that children and young people can see faith making an impact.

Key resources: eg Growing Faith Connections Cards, summary research paper. www.growingfaithconnections.org

How do these four connections resonate with you?

Could you use these cards? (e.g. conversation starters - with your PCC?

In a school governors meeting?

With your children's youth team?

Or any other ideas?)

Prayer Space, Making Connections with the Market Stall Partners and each other through the Directory

Leah Peters (Regional Prayer Space Representative and Northampton Lighthouse Trust) and team share how we might use Prayer Space to help all ages encounter God. The Children and Young People will be available to help lead you through the Narnia Prayer Space. Use the rest of the time to make connections with the partners at the Market Stalls, and to see how they might work alongside you to build intergenerational ministry through your church. At coffee time, collect a **Directory** to find out about some of the Growing Faith connections being made across the Diocese.

What struck you about the intergenerational value of the Narnia Prayer Space?

Can you identify where you might use prayer space to connect with children, young people and your wider community?

Are there any partnerships you want to develop from the market stalls?

Is there anyone from the Directory you'd like to connect with?

Market Stalls

The Market Stall partners are here to work alongside you in your parishes, to fortify you in your ministry. Take this opportunity to meet them and find out what they represent, how they might work with you, and any resources that might support you in this lens to put children and young people at the heart of our ministry and mission.

Action for Happiness

Contact: Peter Harper: peter.harper@actionforhappiness.org

www.actionforhappiness.org

Action for Happiness is a movement of people taking action to create a happier and kinder world, together. Powered by people, our resources are backed by science.

Many clergy have found that using our resources has brought personal benefits and that they can be easily and creatively integrated into ways of supporting themselves, families, schools and congregations.

Happiness Clubs are an interactive, fun sessions in which children (and adults) learn the skills to flourish and feel happier, using the GREAT DREAM framework. Happiness Clubs have been successfully run across the Peterborough Diocese and our online training will be available early in 2024. For more information contact Charlotte Nobbs (Children's Mission Enabler).

Action for Happiness is a secular charity with no political, or commercial affiliations.

CPAS School Ventures

Contact: Anna Shaw - ashaw@cpas.org.uk

www.ventures.org.uk/schoolventures/churches

School Ventures are a chance to join together with a cluster of other churches and their schools for an RE-themed, outward-bounds residential. The time away offers churches opportunity to engage deeply with local pupils over questions of faith, gain greater trust from parents and to deepen their partnership with their local school. School Ventures are heavily subsidised and are overseen by CPAS.

Children and Youth Team

The children and young people team is known as Gen2 – Generation to Generation, “one generation shall praise God’s works to one another” (Psalm 145:4)

We want to encourage parishes in mission and ministry with all ages, with a special focus on children and young people, learning how to follow Jesus with them and from them as part of intergenerational church community. We’d love to hear from you.

We want it to become second nature to include and value children, young people, and households in every aspect of church life for the lifelong formation of faith.

We are a 'Trailblazer Diocese' for the ground-breaking Growing Faith Adventure that connects households, schools and churches.

Please contact Charlotte or Chad for any support or help that you might need. We would love to partner with you in your ministry with children, young people and their families charlotte.nobbs@peterborough-diocese.org.uk or chad.chadwick@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

Growing Faith Foundation

Contact: charlotte.nobbs@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/growing-faith-foundation and www.growingfaithconnections.org

Growing Faith is the movement that exists to put children, young people and families instinctively at the heart of all the mission and ministry of the Church by changing the culture of the Church of England.

It comes from the vision set by the House of Bishops and endorsed by General Synod in 2019. It involves churches, schools and households working together to help children, young people and families have life in all its fullness.

The Growing Faith Foundation seeks to benefit children and young people, helping them create the world they want to live in, specifically through the lens of the Christian faith.

Every Diocese has appointed one or more Growing Faith Champions to take forward the Growing Faith mission locally.

The Growing Faith Foundation is developing work in four main areas: Networks, Learning Hubs, Programmes and Research.

Kitchen Table Project

Contact: Gareth Hillier - Gareth.Hillier@cff.org.uk

kitchentable.org.uk

The kitchen table project from Care for the family exists to help families make the most of the every day moments to build faith. We offer support and resources to churches to help them in their journey of supporting families to nurture faith at home. We understand that there are hurdles that parents/carers face and we believe the church is in a position to help families identify these hurdles and overcome them.

The Lighthouse Trust & Prayer Spaces

Contact: Leah Peters, leamep79@gmail.com

<https://lighthouse-trust.org.uk>

Lighthouse Trust (Northampton) is a resource to all those involved in the process of learning in and out of school. Our vision is to connect children and young people to themselves, others and God. Our aim is to support our County's schools with the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of children and young people in the community to help build a framework to which the future values of our children can be shaped.

Prayers Spaces aim is to enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore life's questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way.

Our mission is to equip churches to serve the ongoing pastoral and spiritual life of their local schools' communities by hosting great prayer spaces. And our vision is the same too – to help every child and young person reflect and pray.

Messy Church

Contact: Jane Butcher, jane.butcher@brf.org.uk

www.messychurch.org.uk

Sign up for the monthly e-newsletter www.messychurch.org.uk/newsletter or find us on social media: Messy Church-BRF.

Messy Church is a way of being church, where everyone is welcome, especially if you've never been to church before. Our resource, Get Messy! Vol 1, contains 12 adaptable session plans, including ideas to encourage faith in the home and social action ideas between Messy Church meetings. We are currently developing an intergenerational small group resource, introducing the basics of Christianity. This resource will complement Get Messy! Vol 2, launching in Summer 2024, with the aim to strengthen the church-home partnership.

Nativity Puppet Show

Contact: nuala.salter@peterborough-diocese.org.uk or

charlotte.nobbs@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/support-for-parishes/children-youth/nativity-puppet-show

A free, simple accessible resource for sharing the Nativity story with children and their families – suitable for toddler groups, early years in school and pre-school and family contexts. Puppets are free. Puppet theatre is a table and a screen. Script is provided. A story board with a smaller version of puppets is available for children to perform the story at home, school, pre-school.

Parenting for Faith

Contact: Jane Butcher - Jane Butcher, jane.butcher@brf.org.uk

Website: www.brf.org.uk

Parents and carers are in the best position to help their children and teenagers meet and know God in day-to-day life (Deuteronomy 6) but many of them lack the confidence or the skills and tools to do this effectively. Parenting for Faith is here to help you to support, resource and equip them. We offer courses (for all ages, under threes and teenagers), a weekly podcast, a searchable database with resources on a range of faith and parenting topics, free training and events and books so you can choose what would most help the families in your parish. We also offer 'Parenting as a church leader' resources to help your family thrive if you are clergy, a clergy spouse or a children's, youth and family leader and have children yourself and infant baptism or dedication preparation resources.

Peterborough Bookshop

Contact: Ruth - pcbooks68@gmail.com

Tel: 01733 551915 or check out our website <https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/pcb>

Peterborough Christian Books - a real bricks-and-mortar shop where you can browse properly, receive helpful advice and product information, dip into fantastic children's books, peruse our great second hand book department, pick up a card or gift, church candles, wafers, stationary and supplies or simply find a listening ear.

We are here to resource your ministries, encourage Christians in their faith walk and share the good news of Jesus.

Why not pay us a visit at 68 Westgate, Peterborough PE1 1RG (free car parking) - call us on 01733 551915 or check out our website (mail order available)

Some book recommendations:

Refresh: Introducing Adults to Faith Through Toddler Groups by Caroline Montgomery

Messy Vintage: 52 Sessions to Share Christ-Centred Fun and Fellowship with the Older Generation by Katie Norman & Jill Phipps

The Play-Along Bible: Imagining God's Story through Motion and Play by Bob Hartman and Suzie Poole

Project Touchline

Contact: Chris Andrew - 07867317206

www.touchline.org.uk

Project Touchline is about a new journey for children in primary schools. It is an innovative pathway which is holistic and inclusive. It can transform the way children see themselves and God. In the Collective worship, the children learn about a Bible story and a Christian value. Before the PE lesson, the leader prays with the children asking God for the Christian values from the Bible story to be shown through the games. The games are fun and are taught by a professional sports coach. The values are reinforced during breaks in the sports. The fruits of the programme can be seen in the artwork expressed by the children and by the prayer clubs that are set up at lunchtime.

Scripture Union

Contact: Matt Farley, mattf@scriptureunion.org.uk

www.su.org.uk/missionsupport.

Scripture Union exist to support churches in mission to the 95% of children and young people who do not go to church. Whether you are already being missional or want to get started, we can provide you and your team with coaching, training, and resources to help you reach out to those who have not yet come in. Everything that we offer to churches in completely free of charge.

To be given at afternoon coffee time:

The Growing Faith Adventure Playground Directory

These are your examples of where you are building connection in the intersections between church-school-home. Have a browse. Is there anything that catches your eye? Would like to find out more? Mark the page, and see if you can find the person and have a conversation during afternoon coffee. Perhaps you might want to arrange a visit?

And finally:

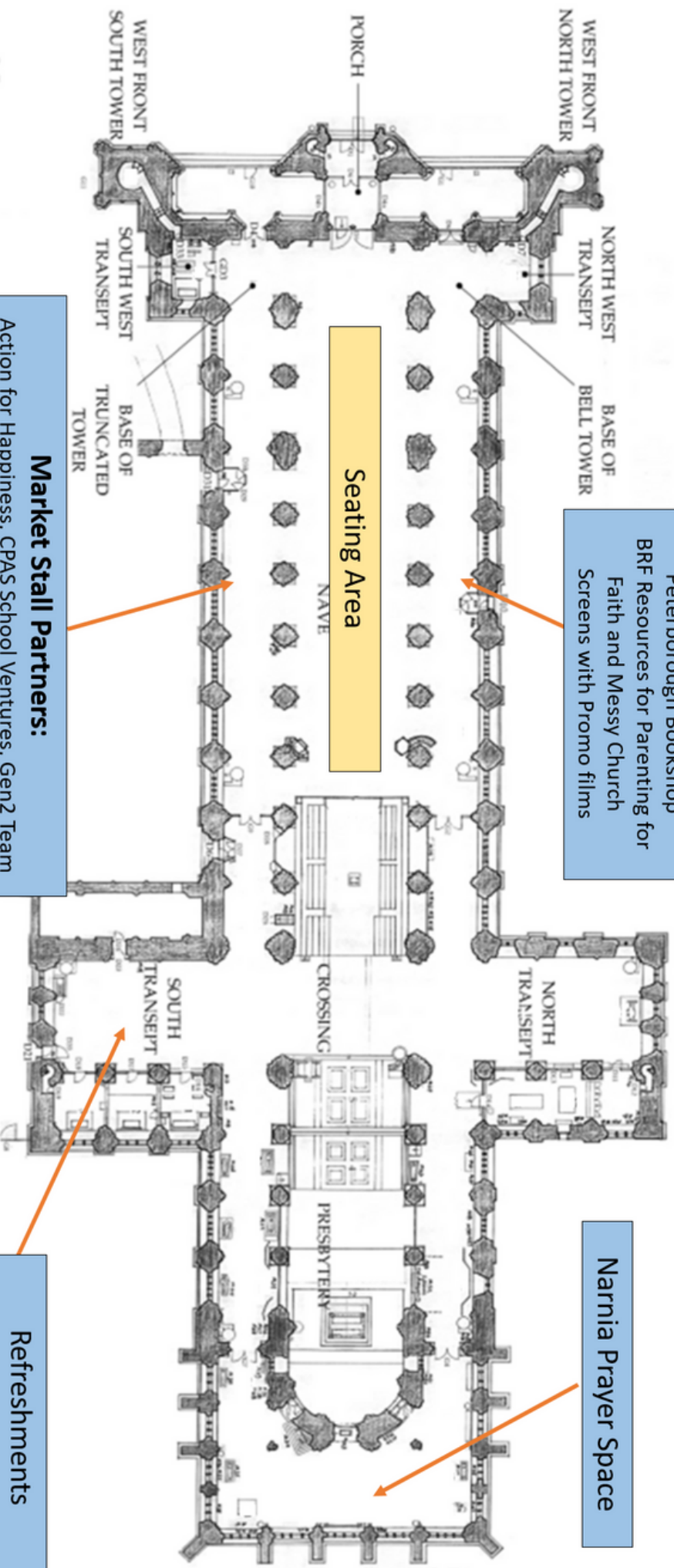
Bishop John identifies some of the realities and challenges of parish life and the opportunity of this Kairos moment to place children and young people at the heart of our ministry.

I wonder what will happen next on your adventure?

We want you to know how wonderful we think you are. We are delighted by all that you are already doing to bring children and young people into the heart of your ministry. We continue to pray, to trust that it is God who builds his church and that we are blessed to join in. Thank you for all you are doing. Keep going.

Keep playing. Keep enjoying. Trust that you are placed in this time for a moment like this.

“May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be kind to you. My the Lord turn his face towards you and give you his peace. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all and remain with you all. Amen”



Peterborough Bookshop
 BRF Resources for Parenting for
 Faith and Messy Church
 Screens with Promo films

Seating Area

Narnia Prayer Space

Market Stall Partners:
 Action for Happiness, CPAS School Ventures, Gen2 Team
 including: Nativity Puppet Show resource &
 Book Club resources
 Lighthouse Trust , Prayer Spaces for Schools, Project
 Touchline, Scripture Union

Refreshments
 Lunch