

GROWING FAITH

A renewal of hearts and minds so that it becomes second nature to include children, young people and households in every aspect of church life for the lifelong formation of faith in the whole of life.

Growing Faith promotes a partnership between the three communities of Church, School and Household to enable the discovery, exploration and growth of faith for all in those communities. The partnership is imagined as intersections of a set of overlapping spheres to find and promote ways to help faith to grow with children, young people and households.

Each 'sphere' might already be interacting with one of the others, but very few contexts demonstrate clear and fruitful interaction between all three – the central intersection. The intersections encourage a joint venture or activity seeking to normalise talking about Christian faith, leading to opportunities for developing prayer and gathering for worship.

Growing Faith Principles

The three principles that are defining and describing our approach to Growing Faith:

Connected Communities - *looking for the meaningful connected community of faith in the intersection between church, school and households.*

Spiritual Encounters - *engaging in conversations about and expressing faith as people encounter God as individuals and together.*

Imaginative Practices - *searching for 'a new way of being church' and creating new thinking and new doing in relation to children, young people and households.*

Assessing any activity, vision or attitude through the three Growing Faith principles helps to draw the thinking toward that central intersection where all three communities are operating in partnership. The Growing Faith Adventure has a growing number of aspects and workstreams.

Central to the adventure is the Growing Faith Project, which is using seven Trailblazer Dioceses to experiment with what the intersection of the church, school and household might look like in practical terms. The Growing Faith Enabler is facilitating that discovery and analysis of those ventures in order to find simple, general values and principles that will help any context to grow faith.

Growing Faith Trailblazer Dioceses

Each of the six Trailblazer Diocese are in the process of designing a bespoke, contextual response to the Growing Faith challenge. These might include:

- A young leaders programme in a Durham Secondary School that is exploring how to include the families of those young leaders in their reflections and learning.
- Community Hubs in market towns aimed at reaching all ages in Salisbury Diocese exploring how households and schools can 'normalise talking about God'
- Coventry Diocese are forming a Growing Faith Parish Cluster within a single deanery which will give clear comparisons with different ventures from the same geographic area.
- Two cohorts of Accompanied Ministry Development in Truro Diocese will be focussing on Growing Faith and developing projects that prioritise children and young people.

Diocesan GF Champions

In addition to the above work, each diocese has named a Growing Faith Champion who is tasked with asking, "what is the impact of these discussions and decisions on children, young people and households?" at every level of the diocese.

Growing Faith and Renewal & Reform

Growing Faith is being encouraged in dioceses alongside other national church programmes, including Setting God's People Free, Motivating the Million, Estates Evangelism and being a Church for all people. There is a commitment to working together at the national level to ensure we don't over-complicate the different workstreams but find effective ways for Growing Faith to be seen as a part of each one. There is a particular resonance with the Everyday Faith Campaign with both projects seeking to develop discipleship in the whole of life for all God's people.