

Children's Youth & Families Newsletter November 25

CYF Survey

At the recent ministry gathering, we were excited to receive over 60 replies to our survey of CYF Ministry. Many of these were from multi-parish benefices too.

This information will help us to **celebrate** and **support** the fantastic ministers and work across the Diocese.

It is so good to see your heart for CYF!

Make sure your parish is included!

Complete the survey via this link or scan the QR code to the right.



Please know what you do matters.

Thank you.

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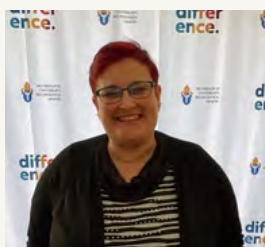
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The annual **National Youth Ministry Weekend** was held in Birmingham earlier this month. It's an excellent opportunity for input, to network and learn with others.

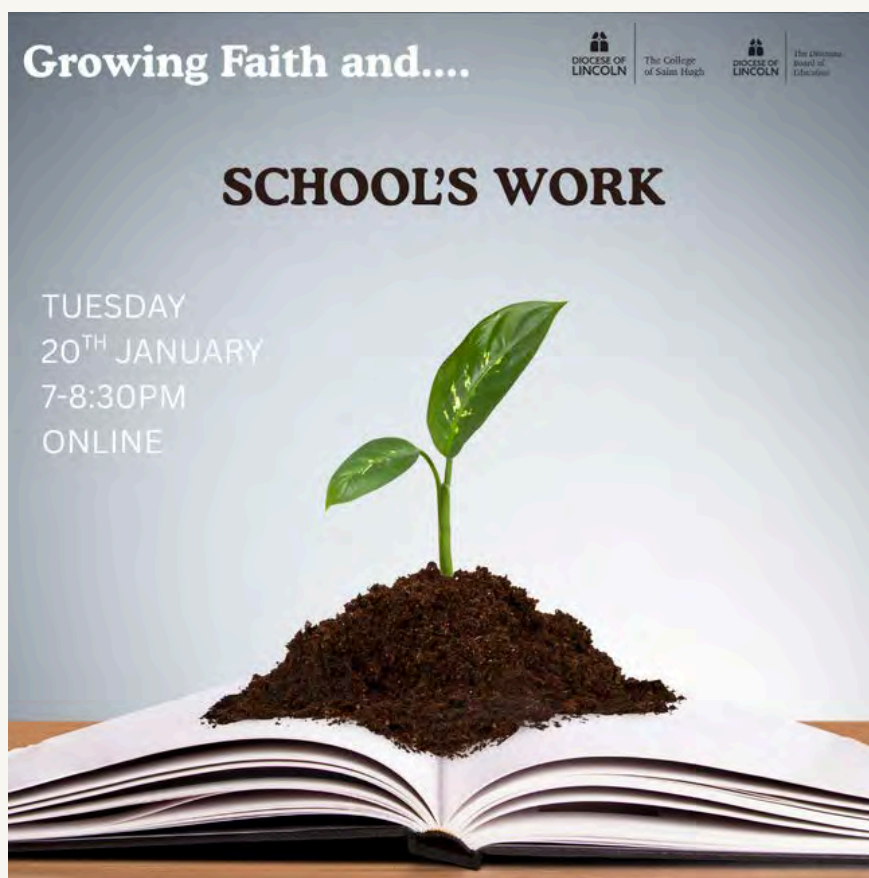
I really love how they incorporate different styles of worship and honour different traditions and experience.

-This year we were thinking about "The Upturn", the signs that young people and adults are more open to spirituality, asking questions and looking for more.

What are you seeing in your context? What are you praying for? Do let me know how I can pray, too!



Networking



Growing Faith seeks to put children and young people at the heart of all we do, bringing together the spheres of church, school and community.

Whether exploring, just starting out or well on your way, everyone is invited to join our half-termly zoom meetings to connect with others on their Growing Faith journeys.

[Join the network](#)

COMING UP

Thurs 12th March - Growign Faith & Families
Tuesday 12th May - Growing Faith & Hearing the Voice of the Child
Thursday 9th July - Growing Faith & Resourcing

Resources - Advent & Christmas



Teen Daily Devotions for Advent

“Advent is a special time of waiting for the joy of Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. To get ready, we'll explore the special names for Jesus you might know from the Christmas hymn, 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'.

For the next 24 days, we'll look at these names. For each day, you will find a reading, a reflection, and a question to chat to God about to get our hearts and minds ready to welcome Jesus.”

From **The Additional Needs Alliance, Sensory stories** are short stories broken up into seven to ten parts designed to engage the senses.

Each section is matched with a sensory input to animate it.

These stories have proven to be especially effective with children with additional needs, but we think that all children will be able to enjoy them too.

This collection of six sensory stories for Christmas share the accounts of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Angel Gabriel's Visit to Mary, The Birth of Jesus, The Shepherd's Visit, The Wise Men's Visit and Simeon in the Temple.

To accompany the Story Scripts, you will find Storyteller Notes and a list of recommended sensory resources. There is also a set of Widgit Symbols to accompany the Sensory Stories for Christmas.



Out of the Ordinary Christmas

“This resource set helps you explore the Christmas story and notice all the ordinary things around us that are really extra-ordinary.

We invite you to wander and wonder through a trail or four individual sessions and lots of resources to support you with crafts, games, activities and creative prayer ideas.

This pack is full of fresh ideas for Christmas, to discover the wonder this year.”

Discover more on our Padlet Board

Resources



Thirtyone:eight

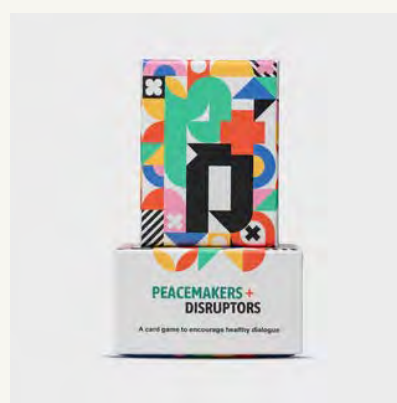
More than Words is a safeguarding resource that equips young people to speak out and take action for themselves and others.

Through six interactive sessions, it explores a theology of care footed in six parables of Jesus and the life he calls us to.

The Feast and Youthscape have partnered to create a practical solution – a card game resource that equips youth leaders to facilitate healthy dialogue on difficult topics.

The game works through role-play and reflection, helping young people understand what healthy dialogue looks like and practice it in a safe space.

Perfect for: Youth groups, schools, churches, community organisations.



We know that it can be challenging for young people exploring their Christian faith to develop a practice of stillness and silence. Life is often filled with activities and distractions that lure them away from taking time to listen to what God might have to say to them.

Be Still is designed to give young people the tools to build silence into their daily routine and to help them create space in their day to hear from God.

The resource guides them through a three-stage process:

1. What's on your mind? - A chance for young people to write down all their worries and distractions.
2. What might God be saying to you? - A space to hear from God and to draw or write thoughts and images that come to mind.
3. What are you going to take away from this time of stillness? - A moment to collect all that God has been saying into one statement that they can reflect on for the rest of the day.

At each stage, the sand timer is turned to allow the time needed to reflect on each of the questions, using the note pad to record their thoughts.

Training

“What if church was a place where everyone, of every ability, could give and receive as part of one beautiful Body?”

Hear about Equippers Church, Swindon, in the UK - a community journeying toward belonging and mutuality. Get practical insight into how total communication practices create space for every voice.



Through the story of Crystal, a young person with learning disabilities, and her journey to be baptised, we'll explore what this vision looks like in practice—and how you can begin building more inclusive, connected communities in your church.

'Learning Disability and the Body of Christ: A Journey for All Ages' - a recorded online talk from Through the Roof [@TTRChangesLives](https://www.ttrchangeslives.org).”



“**Fringe families** are meeting us and our church community throughout the year and whilst they may not regularly attend church, that doesn't mean they are not interested in faith.

Rachel Turner says:

“If I believe that God's biblical plan us for children and teens to be embedded in a family, who are knitted into extended family and friends, who are in turn surrounded by a loving church community, then I do not have the luxury of dismissing parents if they aren't Christians.”

P4F explores some simple ideas to help all families grow in faith – whether they are a regular part of our church community or come regularly and wherever they are on their faith journey.”

Engaging Gen Z in your church

GEN Z, THOSE RANGING IN age from the mid teens to their late 20s, were traditionally seen as the age cohort least likely to engage with the Christian faith and the life of the church. The 'quiet revival', however, has brought about an extraordinary reversal of this position. Members of Gen Z are now searching spiritually in unprecedented numbers and seeking an active faith in which they can play their part in changing the world.



This webinar, held in partnership with the College of Archbishops' Evangelists, will examine in depth how churches can best engage members of Gen Z at each stage in their journey.”

Training



“Your secret weapon: the grandparent generation

GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDPARENT FIGURES CAN be hugely influential in the lives of children and young people but most need some confidence, encouragement and tools to reach their full potential.

Discover how grandparenting groups up and down the country are seeing children and young people come to faith and how easy-to-use resources from **Parenting for Faith** and **CYM** make it really easy to start this ministry where you are.”

Monday 10 December, 6.00 pm on Zoom

Do you have young people aged 10–17 at your Messy Church? Why not invite them to join our next online meetup. This is an informal space for them to gather together for some Messy Church fun, food and friendship. Please ask a parent or carer to complete the permissions form to receive the Zoom details.

You can register for this event, discover more and check out the Messy Church blog [here](#).



Rising Generations

Youthscape

“Gen-Alpha - what do we know so far? In this edition [of the story] we review the available research on young people born after 2010 and ask what, if anything, is distinct about this generation?”

Share YOUR Story

We would love to hear from you about what exciting projects you are working on and what God is doing across the Diocese.

It could be a new group, church service, family event, youth outreach, messy church, holiday club whatever it is we want to hear about it.

Send us a couple of 100 words and some photographs and we'll share it to celebrate, inspire and encourage each other.

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Looking Ahead



SENIOR CHURCH LEADERS

Free place for Church Leaders

Do you want to advance your ministry to children and families in your church?

1. Largest exhibition of children and family ministries in the UK.
2. Senior Leaders Track seminars for church leaders.
3. Meet leading specialists in ministry to the next generation.

Conditions: One free place is available per church for the senior leader of the church only (i.e. vicar, minister, senior pastor or lead elder), when a member of their church has booked to attend the conference. This offer is available entirely at the organisers' discretion. To receive your free place, email: 1. Booking number of your church member, 2. The name of your church and 3. The name and email of the senior leader who the free place is for to info@handinhandconference.com



Youthscape are offering **FIVE FREE TICKETS** to their summer youth conference, **Satellites**, for all new groups.

“If you're ready to begin that process, you can sign up you group right now - [here](#). The free tickets will be added to your account soon after you create your group.

However - if you are thinking of coming along for the first time then you may have lots of questions or concerns. And we really, really want to help answer them if we can.

They are holding “6 free hour-long zoom sessions to take you through every step of the group-organising process. The first one is going to be held on the 1st Dec at 7.30pm, and it'll be your first opportunity to ask questions and find out more about Satellites. In this first session we'll explain the booking process, tell you a bit about what to expect at the event, and preview the rest of the series. The other five will take place in the first half of next year.

If you'd like to come along, you could either sign-up on the online form [here](#),”