



Diocese of Bristol  
Creating connections

## THE 'GROWING FAITH' ADVENTURE

Growing Faith is a national commitment to mission and ministry that envisages children, young people and households coming to faith, growing in discipleship and contributing confidently to the Kingdom of God through the community of faith.

- 40% of practising Christians say they came to faith before the age of five, 76% under the age of eighteen.
- 15,000 children attend 72 CofE schools in the Diocese of Bristol.
- 3,500 people attend a creative family-focused expression of church in the Diocese.
- Yet, two-thirds of CofE parishes have less than five under 16's on a Sunday and one-third have none.
- Under 16 average weekly attendance in the Diocese has dropped 35% since 2013;
- 38% of those leaving a religious group do so before reaching eighteen years old.
- Whilst 90% of Anglican families believe it important to teach their children about faith, only 29% think it is their responsibility to do this.

### **Growing Faith invites us to see:**

Every parish creating expressions of church where children, young people and households are actively involved, growing spiritually and have their voices heard

Churches which serve and are served by their local school communities, actively building strong relationships between church, schools and households

100% of Anglican parents recognising the importance of sharing faith with their children and actively engaging in this responsibility

Congregations which nurture and support the faith of children and young people

Children and young people who are confident to share their faith with their peers and families

Clergy and lay ministers who are confident in supporting households in sharing faith at home

All underpinned by Genesis 1:26-27 and held within John 10:10.

The Growing Faith paper can be read here [www.churchofengland.org.uk](http://www.churchofengland.org.uk)



## Ways we are responding:

### Church School Partnership Award

Celebrating and recognising the positive partnership between a school and parish that leads to deepening relationships and the growth of the pupils, school staff and church community. [#csp-award](#)

### Creative family-focused expressions of church

Encouraging all parishes through the 'Making disciples in your parish' initiative, to engage with families through relevant, accessible create forms of worship and discipleship. [#MDIYP/family](#)

### Parenting for faith courses

Equipping parents to raise God-connected children and young people and helping them to develop a lasting and vibrant two-way relationship with God. [#parenting](#)

### Equipping clergy, school leaders, lay ministers and volunteers

Programmes of training, sharing, resourcing and peer learning that equip leaders to recognise the vital importance of this ministry and be better resourced to facilitate.

[#equipping](#)

### Inspire mentors

Beacons of good practice available to support churches to explore the ways in which they might engage with, serve and support their local schools or colleges. [#inspirementors](#)

### Safe and Welcome Award

Enabling parishes to achieve a recognised standard of welcome, safety, safeguarding and integration for all into their worshipping life. [#safeandwelcome](#)

### Promoting national Church of England Growing Faith resources

Focusing on: growing faith through family prayer, a rule of life, life events, sharing the stories of faith, the use of music and worship to build links, faith in the digital world and ideas for passing faith on to children, grandchildren and godchildren. [#growingfaith](#)