

PARACHURCH NETWORK

REPORTING BACK

HEARING FROM CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

We began our meeting by hearing from children aged 4-17 from across the country in various different contexts (through their churches, schools and households) answering the question:

"Where do you feel close to God?"

We had some time in breakout rooms to discuss their insightful and moving responses.

This video is one of the Growing Faith Foundation's Question of the Month. You are VERY welcome to watch, use and share these videos in your own contexts:

1. Where do you feel close to God ?
2. Who helps you learn about God?

Our current Question of the Month is: "Does prayer work?" (or, for very young children, "what is prayer?"). If you have CYP who would like to audio record, draw, write or video their responses to this question, we'd be delighted to include them. Please provide permission using [this form](#) and send any contributions to Hannah.Persaud@churchofengland.org by Friday 16th June.

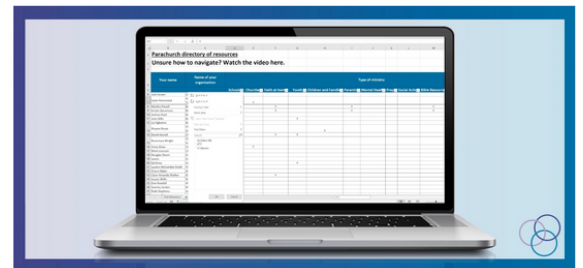
OPENING PRAYER

Loving God,
Thank you for our time together today. Thank you for the unity we have across so many organisations, contexts and individuals, in our shared passion for children and young people. Please be with us this morning as we listen, chat, imagine and dream. I pray that your Spirit will move among us, drawing us ever closer in collaboration and serve of one another, for the good of your kingdom. Amen.

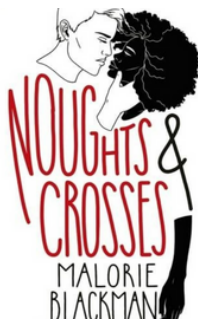
SINCE LAST TIME..

PARACHURCH DIRECTORY

An exciting new development of the ever-evolving Parachurch Organisations Directory. If you have signed up to be part of this, you will soon receive an invitation to join *Blackboard* - an interactive online platform where you will be able to see contacts and resources from colleagues in the network, to communicate on specific topics, and network and collaborate on projects. We hope that this will be a helpful tool for you, but we need feedback, so please do communicate. This resource will of course grow over time, so please co-shape it by providing your thoughts and suggestions. **Over half the people/organisations in the network have given permission to be in the directory. If you haven't but would like to be included, please sign up [here](#).**



BOOK GROUP

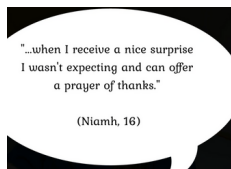
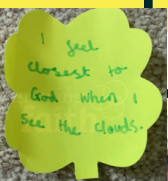


BOOK GROUP

Our book group, which has a focus on equity, diversity and inclusion, is happening on Thursday 1st June 8:15-8:45am. This time, we will be discussing *Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman. This is an informal meeting - if you need to come late/leave early/eat your breakfast/get our children ready for school in the background etc, please do! All welcome, whether or not you have read the book (there is also an adaptation on iPlayer at the moment). Please email hannah.persaud@churchofengland.org for the Zoom code.



We loved having Ben Lindsay, author of *We Need to Talk About Race* join us last time - this book is highly recommended!



"FLOURISH NETWORK" (CHURCH IN EDUCATION SETTINGS)

We heard from Andy Wolfe (Executive Director of Education, Church of England) about an exciting new development in the Growing Faith journey.

Andy reminded us that it's long been the desire of the Education Department that the partnership between church, school and household should be a really vibrant part of our theology, church and vision for our nation. Church of England schools make up over 20% of the UK education system - there are over a million children in our schools every day. Rather than simply desiring a closer partnership between church and school, we seek to see the creation of and resourcing of worshipping communities in schools and colleges - building where there is already that strength of community. This is a full partnership between the Education Department, Growing Faith Foundation, Vision and Strategy Team and Ministry team. Dioceses will be able to make proposals for funding for church growth particularly focused on CYP.

This significant piece of work (with a working title of "Flourish Network") is in its early stages and we would love Parachurch Organisations in our network to feel included, and to be able to help shape this work, if they would like to. The underpinning principles are as follows:

1. Young people's voices are instinctively at the centre of all leadership decision-making and implementation
2. Clearly articulated and shared purpose to grow a younger and more diverse community of Christian disciples
3. Strategic leadership partnership between school/college and at least one church community (with appropriate long-term governance and resource commitment)
4. Intergenerational faith development experiences involving children and their families of all ages
5. Worship that is fully integrated into the regular rhythms, practices, structures and resources of the school/college's vision for flourishing of children and adults

We had some time in breakout rooms which resulted in robust questions, ideas and offers of support as well as high quality feedback which is going to be used to shape the wider thinking. We recognised that this piece of work is not something that every organisation in the network will want to be involved with, but that there is a significant core of people/organisations for whom this represents a significant passion or resonance with their role or their organisation's area of work.

Our next step is to organise an opportunity for interested parties to speak about this with the Education Office team in more detail, and you will be invited into this. In the meantime, if you have further thoughts, comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact Hannah.Persaud@churchofengland.org - we'd love to hear from you!



NEWS FROM THE GROWING FAITH FOUNDATION...

Sign up for our [weekly prayer update](#) and our [monthly newsletter](#) - and if you have stories to share or requests for prayer, we'd love to hear from you!



Hubs

Diocese	Type	Focus
Liverpool	MAT	Social action / strong youth focus
Crammer Hall - Durham	TEI	Training
Guildford	Parish/Benefice	Intergen/Young Leaders
Salisbury - SASP	MAT	Rural, young leaders
Carlisle	DBE	Rural, transition
Winchester/Portsmouth	Multi-Diocese	Faith conversations through reading
Sheffield	Diocese	Church in Schools
Ely	Parish/Benefice	Eco / Growing Estate
Manchester	Group of parishes	Liturgy / Anglo-Catholic
Southwell and Retts - Archway Trust	MAT	Youth evangelism
Newcastle	Area	Growing faith embodied!
Derby	Benefice	Growing Faith with a youth emphasis

Cheryl.govier@churchofengland.org

Research

Children and holiness
Faith and belonging in intergenerational church

Let us pray... anyones? A shared community of adults and headteachers for equality in relation

Intergenerational worship at all age services
Happiness Club with church/school intergenerational cohort

The change agents: children in spiritual leadership in schools
Are we listening? Working faith in Minister Communities

Church/school partnership and the spiritual development of children
Empowering parents
Faith in transition

Lucy.moore@churchofengland.org

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

GROWING FAITH

STRATEGIC LEADERS' PROGRAMME

Participant Handbook

Stephen.beamond@churchofengland.org

Networks

- Hannah.persaud@churchofengland.org
- Parachurch organisations
 - Listening and responding to children and young people
 - Trauma-informed network / Mental health network
 - Serving the local school
 - Chaplaincy in Education
 - Breakfast Club / Lunchtime Supervisors / FSWs
 - Becoming parent-discipling communities
 - Ordinands for Growing Faith
 - Young Adults
 - Developing a Christian Vision for schools together
 - DEI in Growing Faith
 - Transitions
 - Parent Forum

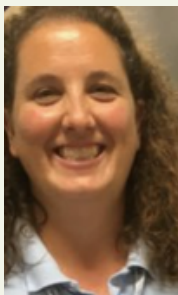
Growing Faith website:
[The Growing Faith Foundation | The Church of England](#)
Newsletter sign up:
[Growing Faith newsletter \(tfaforms.net\)](#)
Prayer support sign up:
[Prayer Support \(tfaforms.net\)](#)
Growing Faith Connections website:
[Growing Faith Connections](#)
[GF Connections webinar](#)

We had a helpful update from Cheryl Govier (Partnerships Lead, Growing Faith Foundation) about the existing and upcoming Growing Faith Hubs, including an invitation to look up your local hub and get involved! For more information about the Hubs, where they are and what they're doing, please contact Cheryl directly.
Cheryl.Govier@churchofengland.org



GET IN TOUCH!
Hannah is the Networks Lead at the Growing Faith Foundation. She would love to hear from you!

Is there something you'd like to collaborate on? Did someone or something resonate with you in the breakout room? **Please email hannah.persaud@churchofengland.org to be connected with colleagues** who share an interest in these, or other ideas.



Our thanks go to **Aike Kennet-Brown** (Ministry Lead at Messy Church) and **Kristin Stevenson** (Youth & Family Development Lead at Bible Society) who shared their experiences as participants on the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders Programme. Aike and Kristen each shared powerfully on the practical ways in which it's impacting their work and their organisations. They highly recommended this programme! For more information: Stephen.Beamond@churchofengland.org