

'Helping all of us to include and value children, young people and households

For the Church of England at large, "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 which included the bold aim to **Double the number of children and young active disciples in the Church of England by 2030**

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."

[The Growing Faith Foundation](#) | [The Church of England](#)

Learning Hubs Initiative

The Growing Faith Foundation is resourcing Learning Hubs across the UK, which serve as developmental communities for church and school leaders. These hubs aim to share knowledge, foster innovation, and empower children and young people to take active roles in their faith communities. The foundation is currently seeking applications for new Learning Hubs to further enhance its impact.

St. Stephen's, Canley, became a Learning Hub in January 2025

Supporting children and young people with SEND and their families, aiming to make church more accessible, to facilitate broader discipleship

[Learning Hubs](#) | [Growing Faith Foundation](#)



The 30k Project

In order to fulfill the aim of doubling the number of children and young active disciples, it is estimated that the Church will need to raise up 30,000 new children and youth leaders. To achieve this, the Church of England have established the 30k Project; seeking to support the recruitment and training of 3,000 new CYPF ministers, whilst

also driving the recruitment of 27,000 volunteers to work with children, young people and their families.

From Sarah Pix, Leadership Enabler, CPAS in Lead On (Oct 2025) **I think we are in a season where we need to intentionally look up.** As leaders, we carry the tension that we have previously noted in Lead On - the tension of naming reality while dealing in hope. Not always an easy balance.

Yet right now, with global conflict increasing and the news cycle spiraling downwards, as the terrain feels uneven, perhaps even treacherous, we need to be intentional in looking up and pointing our people 'up' now more than ever. If we don't look up, we could easily lose perspective or even lose heart.

One of the key passages of Scripture that I returned to continually when in parish ministry was this: '...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith'. (Hebrews 12:1b, 2a). Lifting our eyes to Jesus and exhorting those we lead to do the same is crucial if we are to navigate this season. What are some of the ways we can do that?

Start the day with Jesus - before the your preferred news channel.

Cultivate gratitude.

Ask God for eyes to see what he is doing and celebrate it.

Remind yourself intentionally of the lordship and sovereignty of Jesus in all things

C = Clergy R = Reader; H = Headteacher; EH = Executive HT; HS = Head of School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jesus promises a peace which we can neither manufacture nor take for granted. In our fractured world, we have a key role to play in both receiving his peace as a gift and sharing it with others. As your bishop, my prayer is that together we will know his peace, being a non-anxious presence and agents of his grace in our communities. Bishop Sophie, with reference to John 14.26-27					GROWING FAITH	1 Kenilworth Deanery AD – vacant Asst AD – vacant
2 Kenilworth – St John C – Andrew Attwood	3 Burton Green CofE Academy H - Stella Villiers	4 <u>Learning Together Day for clergy with +Sophie & 24/7 prayer: Prayer</u> St John's Kenilworth	5 Pray for widespread reception of peace in all our lives, +Sophie	6 Pray for peaceful presence across the Diocese, +Sophie	7 Growing Faith: Children, Youth and Families workers across the Diocese	8 RECRUITING NEW Growing Faith: Children, Youth and Families workers
9 Meriden, St Laurence C – Kevin Flanagan	10 Meriden CofE Primary H – Lucy Anderton	11 Kenilworth – St Nicholas C – Eira Hale	12 St Nicholas CofE Primary H – Amy Mitro	13 <u>Bishop's Senior Staff</u>	14 Launch of the Primary Difference course on 18 th November (DBE)	15 Members of Diocesan Synod
16 The Ferncumbe Group C – Ann Peachey	17 The Ferncumbe CofE Primary H – Sally Morris	18 DBE Headteachers and Parish Partners Conference	19 Berkswell C – Mark Bratton	20 Berkswell CofE VA Primary H – Tracy Drew	21 Youth City Prayer & Praise –last gathered on 17th October	22 <u>DIOCESAN SYNOD</u>
23 Stoneleigh with Ashow, Baginton & Bubbenhall C – Petrica Bistran	24 Leek Wootton – All Saints C – vacancy	25 All Saints CofE Academy, Leek Wootton H - Helen Rose	26 Open the Book teams visiting local schools	27 Clergy and lay teams preparing for Advent	28 For children in CofE schools preparing to enter Advent	29 30 November is ADVENT SUNDAY – pray for school visits to churches & visits by churches to schools

PRAYER DIARY

Intercessions with children and young people

1. Participation has to be carefully judged.
2. A centring phase (music, candle, sitting still) is nearly always necessary.
3. If you hit a winner, stay with it! Repeat and develop methods that are helpful.
4. Drop methods that are not received by children and young people!
5. Encourage children's imagination 'children are very often more receptive to spirituality than we realise.'

John Pritchard The Second Intercessions Handbook (SPCK, 2004)



Coming up – the Theme for next month will, of course, be *Advent and Christmas*. Do consider sending in your prayer

BEING HEALTHY CHURCH

"Changing the culture of the Church of England so that everyone instinctively put children and young people at the heart of all we do." **Growing Faith Foundation**
 What's important to Growing Faith is that children and young people, their carers and parents, the adults surrounding them in church and in school all help shape the church, flourish within it and work together to grow what Jesus called the kingdom of heaven in every community.

SPECIFIC DAYS IN NOVEMBER 2025

1 – Kenilworth Deanery – AD Vacant; Asst AD Vacant Deanery Lay Chair – Mark Lovegrove; We thank God for the vibrant community life across our churches and schools in the Deanery. Please pray for unity and inspiration as we await the appointment of a new area dean. *Clergy with PTO in the Deanery – Peter Holiday, Robert Latham, Jane Mullaney, John Price, Mary Rai, Roger Turner, Jim Perryman.*

2 – St John, Kenilworth – We are praising God for the number of new believers who have recently joined us. Please pray for us as we launch new training huddles for our Core Group leaders. *Clergy with PTO, Pam Stote; R (PTO) – Anthony Manning, Val Whiteman; R – Ken Pollard, Phil Swards.*

9 – St Laurence, Meriden – Thanks - Seeing people come to faith, and our adult baptism service on 12th October Prayer for Our Day of Prayer in Church 8am to 8 pm R – Jayne Flanagan

11 – St Nicholas with St Barnabas, Kenilworth – We give thanks for our new Children and Families Mission Leader who is transforming our mission to local families with our summer Festival of Play and creative work with our Church of England primary schools, including leading a Kindness Club. Please pray for our search for a new Director of Music to lead our traditional worship, develop more contemporary sung worship and help us to contribute to the musical life of our town. *Associate Minister: Richard Moore, Clergy with PTO: Don Alcock, Michael Brandsma, R (PTO): Heather Alford*

16 – The Ferncumbe Group – Hatton with Haseley, Rowington with Lowsonford, Honiley & Wroxall - We thank God for our curate Matt Robinson and his family who arrived in June. He has already made friends with many of our families. We continue to spend time each week at Ferncumbe school. Please pray for our team at Hatton church to grow as we welcome more children, and for the opportunities coming up as we share the good news and love of Jesus. Curate – Matt Robinson; R (PTO) – Kemble Everitt.

18 – St John the Baptist, Berkswell – We are celebrating our well received and well attended festival of music in September. It was a highlight of the year for many in the local community. Please pray for our ongoing work reaching out to local children and their families, and for a fruitful relationship with our marvelous local Church of England primary school. *Clergy with PTO, Stephen Mayes R – Richard Hollingdale*

23 – St Mary the Virgin, Stoneleigh with Assumption of Our Lady, Ashow, St John the Baptist, Baginton and St Giles, Bubbenhall Stoneleigh: We have now become a Benefice of four parishes. It has been a time of transition for us, establishing new patterns of services and coming together as a community. We have seen some growth and the launch of new initiatives. Please pray for the strengthening of relationships between the four parishes, for our lay teams who support the services, and for new people joining us as we continue to grow in our mission and ministry. R – Audrey Rowberry

24 – All Saints, Leek Wootton – We are thankful for the work and contribution of Revd. Jim Perryman (now retired) and his family. Please pray for us in this season of vacancy; that the church would be encouraged and strengthened, and that the Holy Spirit would help those who's role it is to discern next steps for the parish. *Assoc C - Andrew Haines, John Price R (PTO) – Christine Haines; R Audrey Rowberry, Nigel Stallard*

PTO = Permission to Officiate; C = Clergy; R = Reader

James Henney, the Diocesan Growing Faith Enabler says,

“As we move towards the busy season of Advent and Christmas, please pray for our churches and schools; That there would be opportunity for children and young people to engage with and reflect on the incarnation of the person of Jesus; light in the darkness and hope for a broken world.”

Growing Faith prayer points: Through a combination of different funding streams, the Diocese in collaboration with a number of parish churches have been able to secure funding for a number of part time Children, Youth and Families workers in some of our most deprived parishes. Two are now in place and have started their roles; Please pray for them as they build relationships and make plans. Please also pray for the process of recruitment to the remaining roles; that the right people end up in the right places.

Youth City Prayer and Praise; For more than 10 years, churches from across the city of Coventry have gathered to worship, and intercede for the city. Last year, a group from a variety of church traditions and denominations gathered to start a 'Youth' City Praise and Prayer gathering. There have now been four events with up to 400 Young People coming with around 100 youth leaders. These events have been planned by a mixed team of adults and young people from across the city – with the young people taking key roles in planning and delivering the events. We continue to see a growing hunger amongst young people to be in the presence of God, and a desire to share the good news of Jesus with their friends. Please pray for the ongoing planning and development of the event and particularly for the young people involved in leading it.

Learning Together Day – 4 November

Though these have been called Clergy Study Days in the past I am suggesting this working title might be more appropriate. The next of these is to be held on 4 November and we are focusing on Prayer as we will be joined by Phil Sokell-Miles (formerly Togwell) from 24-7 Prayer International. It promises to be a great day as Phil and I will be leading us together and we will be praying, engaging, learning and listening to God through the Day in a range of different ways – licensed clergy should book though the Equip Hub and lay leaders are invited, too.

From +Sophie's Monthly News Letter, October 2025

Sticky Note Prayers – 'Seeing God everywhere I look'

[Sticky Note Prayers: 'It made me see God everywhere I look' - 24-7 Prayer International](#) (25 September 2025)

Phil Sokell-Miles spoke to us about his exciting new book Sticky Note Prayers: How Prayer Spaces in Schools Are Changing Young Lives, which is all about prayer spaces in schools – what they are, why we need them and the amazing things that can happen when children and young people are invited to reflect and pray. Phil talks about writing the book, his favourite stories from twenty years of helping pupils learn how to pray, and the biggest misconceptions about prayer spaces in schools.

Prayer spaces aim to enable children and young people in schools across the world to explore life's questions, spirituality, and faith in a safe, creative, and interactive way.

Why write this story now?

We started dreaming and scheming (and, believe it or not, writing ideas onto sticky notes) about a Prayer Spaces in Schools book more than ten years ago. However, this feels like the right time to publish the book, for a number of reasons:

Firstly, recent research by the Bible Society and Barna Group (amongst others) suggests that there is rapidly growing interest in prayer, the Bible, and Jesus, particularly amongst young people.

Prayer spaces in schools provide a safe, welcoming context for children and young people (whether they have a faith or not) to explore their questions around spirituality and prayer in a creative and interactive way.

In many ways, it feels like prayer spaces were made for such a time as this.

Secondly, research suggests that children and young people are finding life increasingly difficult – traumatic even – and prayer spaces can help in small, but sometimes significant, ways. The number of children suffering with mental health difficulties is rising and overall wellbeing is declining. Despite being more 'connected' than any previous generation (via social media), children and young people often find relationships more difficult to navigate and they feel more alone and isolated. And as they become more aware of what's going on around the world, they become more anxious about it too.

With that in mind, how do prayer spaces help?

Prayer spaces are safe places for children and young people to reflect on some of this 'inner world' stuff, and ***prayer spaces can help them to become more reconciled – more at peace – with themselves, with others and with the world.*** The research we conducted in partnership with York St John University in 2017 into how children and young people were using prayer spaces in their schools confirms all of this, and half of the book focuses on the findings and the application of that research, and on the stories that illustrate it.

[Coventry Diocese Board of Education \(DBE\) Director April Gold](#) says, Head Teacher and Parish Partners conference on the 18th November. At this event we will be launching the **Primary Difference Course** and encouraging all of our schools to run the course with their pupils.

More info here : <https://difference.rln.global/primary-schools/>

The course teaches children how to be curious, be present and reimagine so that our schools are places where all people can belong and value difference. Our secondary schools have already delivered the youth difference course and a number of parishes have taken part in the small group course. We hope that this is something schools and parishes may journey forwards together with as we embed the reconciliation charism of the diocese.

- Each month we focus on a different Deanery; this month it is **Kenilworth**. We will focus on Nuneaton Deanery, and take a break for January, and start the cycle again from February 2026. I look forward to receiving updates from area deans, clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests.

DPD Contact: Clive.Hicks@Coventry.Anglican.org