



GROWING FAITH ADVENTURE CLERGY STUDY DAY FEEDBACK

What is the most significant thing that you have taken away in your reflections on Growing Faith?

“There is no such thing as adult church. This is so much more massive than it first seems. It is challenging, embarrassing, encouraging etc. Totally theological.”

“How great young people are at asking questions that take us deeper into our faith”

Week 5
“That there are no easy answers! Listening to Bishop John reply to the questions from the young people was great.”

“It lead me to think about the difference between being welcoming and having 'good' provision in church for children compared with actually listening to the voices of the children and young people we are connected with, and how that shapes our mission and ministry.”

“Not necessarily doing new things but re-purposing what we are already doing so it has a real intergenerational emphasis.”

“It was very good to see the young people involved in the whole day”

“The hunger for a serious and thoughtful engagement with the faith exhibited by the children who took part in the Study Day. I think this confounds the fear that in some way Christianity is widely seen as irrelevant. The questions asked by the pupils from the various schools addressed timeless issue, and the answers have in our faith are also timeless.”

“Keep children/young people in the forefront of our minds!”

“The importance of keeping children and young people high on our church's agenda”

“That we can't sit around waiting for children and families to come to church - we have to take growing faith to where they are.”

“The importance of reaching people in their own homes”

“Keep beaver-ing away at links with local schools”

“That the best people to ask are the young people themselves. Bring them into the conversation.”

“Need to find new ways to engage with my local church school, eg prayer spaces, book club”

“Thinking how to make all aspects of church suitably intergenerational.”

“We are all growing in faith not just children.”

“That there are support structures and people available for help and advice - in other words: help is at hand and we are not alone.”

“That the session was structured provided ample time to discuss and engage with others both on the table and stall holders. That universally there is a drive across the diocese to engage better with children.”

“It was wonderful to have the young people from the schools in leadership roles. I appreciated having slave to think and pray”

“That we can't sit around waiting for children and families to come to church - we have to take growing faith to where they are.”

I want to prioritise working with children and young people”

“That there are support structures and people available for help and advice - in other words: help is at hand and we are not alone.”

“That the resources of the diocese, and hence the sources of help are greater and more widespread than I had realised.”

“Best clergy study day I've been on!”

“new ideas from discussions on the table”

“The hunger for a serious and thoughtful engagement with the faith exhibited by the children who took part in the Study Day. I think this confounds the fear that in some way Christianity is widely seen as irrelevant. The questions asked by the pupils from the various schools addressed timeless issue, and the answers have in our faith are also timeless.”

“Great to have space to think and reflect. Loved the Narnia Prayer Space.” I just want to thank you so much for your genuine heart to serve us.”

week 5

“Becoming more intentional about setting up prayer spaces in my C of E schools”

“It was an inspiring day that a huge amount of work went into. I am absolutely committed to and enthused by the Gen2 vision and I will be specifically looking for a role that is dedicated to this vision when I am signed off from curacy in 2025.”

week 8

“Thank you Gen2 team for a fantastic day where the passion and vision for young people was contagious. All speakers (including young people) spoke with such clarity and the Spirit was clearly working through you all. Be encouraged.”

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Do you have a further question you want to ask about Growing Faith? If so what?

“How do we tackle the challenge of older generations who expect children to behave in church as they/their children did, despite the fact that parenting styles are now very different? How can we encourage young families to engage with their children’s experience of church a bit more without coming across as critical of their parenting?”

“Yes, how can we build on the day”

“How to challenge our congregation without it always being the vicar who does this!”

“Special educational needs support”

“I don’t think we talked about resources for working with neurodiverse children - or did I miss it?”

“We work in the local primary schools with the children but don’t meet their parents. How can we make links with the parents?”

“How to connect schools and churches better”

“How can we best integrate our kids work on Sundays with our work in schools?”

“Is it honouring to children to have them at PCC/Synod? I’m worried they’d be quite bored! Is the point to change the way we do meetings? What about the business that just has to get done?”

“I’m quite interested in the Growing Faith Strategic Leaders Course but not this year”

“the day was helpful in engaging with and answering the questions I brought with me.”

“How do we do with alongside everything else we do?”

Have you identified any key people in your parishes or with anyone outside of your context who will partner with you in your thinking?

“Tap into partners for prayer space and CPAS schools”

“The team of readers”

“I am honorary assistant priest: so further development via our ministry team + churchwardens who are growing in confidence.”

“The Gen2 Team”

“Yes, and we have actioned work in benefice and deanery.”

“As a curate, I need to listen to my vicar’s views, but we had a brief discussion about Kitchen Table project.”

“Children’s Ministry Co-ordinator”

“I’d like to speak to the lady from the Lighthouse Trust re prayer spaces”

“We have employed workers but need to expand teams too.”

“Already going into one of our 3 schools with one lady + into another with the Methodists”

“One of my headteachers is the best partner. I will be discussing some of the material from stallholders with her.”

“We are looking into how to build relationships with non-church schools.”

“I think I need to have coffee with Pete White at some point.”

“I’ll continue to work as closely as possible with the Gen2 team.”

“Yes - Specific parents, children & youth workers and young people in congregation”

“I have to talk with the various PCCs. There’s a willingness to progress but we need younger blood on the PCCs.”

“I’d like to speak to the lady from the Lighthouse Trust re prayer spaces”

What help, if any, might you need next?

“Ongoing relationship is important with GEN2 team. It is more about that than ideas.”

Examples of intergenerational worship in a rural context
Good practice examples
Borrowing resources
Investing in Godly Play
Prayer

Recruiting volunteers
Youth support
Safeguarding
Partnerships e.g. Prayer Spaces, CPAS, Kitchen Table Project
Talk to other parishes
Involve Young People in PCCs

“The resource tables at the training day were invaluable! I’ve taken away so much material to mull over and use. I feel hugely supported already - thank you!”

What could the Gen2 Team support you with?

week 9

Setting up groups e.g. youth club
How to start a bookclub
Prayer space support

Promoting an all-age ethos
Filling vacancies for a children and youth worker
Training, events, resources and encouragement
Targeted support

“it was great so much hard work went into the day and it SHOWED.”

“The day was well structured - having several short bursts of content with regular space to reflect was really helpful in terms of keeping me engaged and taking in the information. The Narnia prayer space was amazing and very inspiring. The Q&A with the Bishop and school children was really impactful - they asked such amazing questions. “

“Venue: The tables were so well done. Food: perfect.”

“I enjoyed the space and time to think - having the partners there was helpful. The young people seemed to be hanging around for a long time.”

“All very well planned - good to meet at our Mother Church and feel part of diocesan family, and the food was excellent.”

“The cathedral was the obvious venue for the event to take place, and the space was, I thought, very well and imaginatively used. The food was excellent.”

“The food was excellent, the cathedral was not too cold and putting the platform on the side meant it was easier for everyone to see.”

“Excellent start with the children’s questions (rooting us in reality), good length of sessions, terrific resource tables and organisations represented, delicious food, day could probably have ended an hour sooner.”

PERFECT. Just that it was an inspiring day.

“I loved the day- catching up with lots of old friends- listening to some great talks- and the student involvement was brilliant.”

“I thought the format was good with short talks, discussion and plenty of time for networking.”

“I appreciate the increased efforts to make such a day accessible, however there is still room for improvement. The acoustics of the building made it difficult for deaf and ADHD people.”