

ANNUAL REPORT

2022





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WELCOME

The Generation to Generation (Gen2) Project has had an incredibly busy and encouraging year. Despite the effects of COVID-19, our independent mid-term review conducted by the University of Northampton has revealed that the project successfully increases engagement with the Church and that mission enablers are able to respond positively to the needs of children and young people.

Our data shows continuous growth in innovative outreach and discipleship activities during the life of the project. This cheering evidence highlights how the Gen2 Project and team are having a positive impact on culture change within the diocese. In addition, a recent Diocesan survey of children and young people's work across our benefices showed an increase in church engagement with children and young people.

We have also expanded our reach, with a new Mission Enabler appointed in Kettering with a focus on school-church relationship. This is an exciting new partnership between the project, churches and PDET, our diocesan multi-academy trust (MAT).

While there is much to celebrate, the impact of lockdown on the project's finances and volunteer base is still felt as mission areas are trying to catch up and think creatively on how to do and finance mission among children and young people. The future financial sustainability of the project is a key concern for the next few months as well as supporting newly formed Steering Groups in their role of managing the project locally. Yet, this report will share the encouraging and creative solutions being achieved and pursued by Mission Enablers and Steering Groups.

We are so thankful to our incredible God who has called us to join in this adventure!

FOREWORD

I am pleased to commend this Annual Report for the Gen2 Project. Our diocese is committed to prioritising mission and ministry with children, young people and families and we are seeing the difference this makes to many of our parishes.

We are grateful for the SDF funding which has enabled us to implement an innovative vision to train and employ specialist children and youth workers to support parish growth. It is encouraging to see the positive effect this is having on the workers and trainees, their deaneries and parishes.

There is much still to do and I encourage you to pray and support this work wherever you can so that together we can see faith growing amongst all generations.



+John
Bishop of Brixworth



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OUR INVESTMENT

The Gen2 Project believes that investing in the training and employment of children and youth missionaries can help churches develop innovative and effective ministries of outreach and discipleship among young people and their families.

Our Mission Enablers provide skills, expertise, and experience, working closely with clergy and lay ministry leaders to enable the Church to grow younger. Our project invests in training all clergy and lay ministers to be confident in their ministry with younger age groups.

Research has shown that church growth and investment in children and youth ministry go hand in hand. Yet not all churches can afford to hire a children and youth specialist, hence, we are trialing innovative ways of working and financing work so that all churches can have access to high quality advice, support and resources through local mission enablers.

Mission Enablers receive:



Financial Support

We financially support the training and initial employment of mission enablers while encouraging churches to think creatively and seek partnerships that can make this ministry sustainable in the long-term.

1 to 5 years training

A 1 year apprenticeship that develops into an undergraduate course and then full-time employment. We currently employ 7 mission enablers.

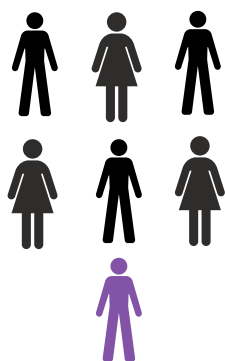
Continuous development and network support

We offer development days and are encouraging the creation of supportive networks for children and youth leaders and volunteers. The idea is to create learning communities where best practice is shared and there is mutual encouragement.

"Research has shown that church growth and investment in children and youth ministry go hand in hand."

PETE WHITE, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

OUR IMPACT



6 MISSION ENABLERS PARTNERING WITH CHURCHES TO REACH AND SUPPORT CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES. THEY ARE LOCATED IN PETERBOROUGH, CORBY, WELLINGBOROUGH, TOWCESTER, HIGHAM AND RUTLAND.

1 NEW MISSION ENABLER DEVELOPING JOINT WORK WITH SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PDET IN THE KETTERING AREA.



1740 New Children Reached



25 Churches Supported



370 young people in discipleship groups

In 2022 Children and Youth Mission Enablers offered:



// GEN2 PROJECT

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OUR GOALS



Mission Enablers work with a base parish to develop innovative work with children, young people and families. They then support parishes in their deanery to generate new ministries.

We are encouraging churches to use the Growing Faith model of working in the intersections between church, school and home.

Our goal is to enable churches to be truly intergenerational, which means, to consider children and young people to be a full part of our worshipping communities.

"The fact that it's got parents actually coming to church with us for things, which they never did ... and that would never have happened if they hadn't been bringing their child to this group and been given that space and that welcome..." Church member

**"Well I just want to learn about God but in a way that's not too adult based but still not for children, so in the middle somewhere..."
Young person quote**

"It just feels like a safe place to come and I really like the way the Mission Enabler interacts with the grownups and the children. My child is asking quite big questions now and knows how to pray and things like that." Parent view

OUR RESULTS

The past year has seen the project's first Mid-Term Evaluation Research being carried out independently by the University of Northampton which indicated positive results had been achieved. Despite the dramatic impact of COVID on the project, Mission Enablers were quick to restart activities and indeed increase its numbers over the past year.

This is encouraging given the impact on volunteers across the national church; it has required creativity and a lot of investment in building and encouraging new teams.



01. Responding to young needs

Research revealed that families and children who participate on the project felt that the project was responsive and met their needs, with each participant expressing positive experiences since they engaged. More importantly, due to encouragement by mission enablers and volunteers, all members interviewed saw themselves as active contributors to the groups in which they were involved.



02. Welcoming and safe ministries

Families and young people interviewed reported a unique identity to Mission Enablers groups, compared to other local groups. They were described as more welcoming and interested in genuine connection and compassion. A support network of mutual encouragement. Through their mentoring, Mission Enablers role-modeled for volunteers how to engage and connect with group members.



03. Encouraging Faith

The quantitative data showed that Gen2 is able to achieve innovative goals, including creating a high number of outreach programmes, especially for young people between the age of 11-18s, which is an area of special concern for the national church. The friendliness and safety of project activities also means that fringe members of groups are actively encouraged to attend church. This has led to increased church attendance and faith engagement.

NEXT STEPS

While we are encouraged for all that has happened, there is more we need to do to ensure more churches can benefit from having access to children and youth specialists across the Diocese of Peterborough.

Sustainability Long-term legacy for Gen2 Project

- Finances
- Volunteers
- Discipleship

Communications Culture change through stories

- Good News Stories
- Better communication
- Increased visibility

Discipleship Growing young disciples of Jesus

- Supporting more churches
- Outreach to discipleship
- Learning

“One generation shall praise God’s works to another.”
(Psalms 145:4)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The encouraging results of this project would not be possible without the dedication of an incredible team. We would like to thank:

- Mission Enablers and their Line Managers
- Steering Group Members
- Volunteer helpers and leaders
- Researchers from the University of Northampton
- Gen2 Team and wider Diocesan teams
- Group members
- Prayer Supporters
- SDF Vision and Strategy Team
- Individual, community and corporate donors and partners

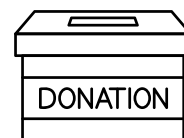
GET INVOLVED



Support us in prayer – pray for our workers, their parishes, line managers and volunteers.



If you are local to one of our mission enablers, support them practically through volunteering.



Your pledge could help us reach another young person and their family.

We thank you for your continued support and prayers.

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