



Background Information

Diocesan Children's Mission Enabler



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

The Gen2 (Generation to Generation) Children and Youth Team aims to support parishes to be truly intergenerational. We believe that children and young people need a variety of relationships with people of all ages to grow and thrive in all areas of their life including their faith. We encourage both separate provision for different age groups as well as creative ways of growing together.

The team has lead responsibility for the diocese Strategic Development Fund (SDF) project, ‘the Gen2 Project’ and is a ‘trailblazer’ for the ‘Growing Faith Adventure’ which seeks to bring together ministry in school, home and church. Together they provide the vision for the team and for mission and ministry in the diocese and represent the diocese’ commitment to prioritise this area of ministry and mission.

Peterborough Diocese

Peterborough Diocese is committed to growth, in quality and numbers. This is achieved by a focus on the local parish and the time and energy of the Gen2 Team are directed here rather than centralised events and activities.

There are two other teams in the Mission and Ministry department based at Bouverie Court, who are important partners in our work:

Mission and Development: Director – Revd Charlie Nobbs – oversees post-curate clergy training, pioneer mission, urban estates, and general parish support.

Vocations and Formation: Director: Revd Steve Benoy (also DDO) – oversees lay and ordained ministry selection and training.

We also work closely with the **Diocesan Board of Education** (DBE) and Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (PDET) who oversee our 103 church schools.

Development of the Gen2 Team

In 2011, we started a Youth ministry internship programme, known as ‘Xpect’ to train and support youth workers in churches. In 2013, we expanded this to include ‘Echo’ a more general ministry experience programme. Recently the Xpect programme became an Apprenticeship. During 2020-21, we are taking a break from running the programmes to review how they operate with a plan to relaunch for September ‘21.

5 years ago, we appointed two Archdeaconry Youth Missioners to develop parish-based mission and ministry; in 2018 their brief was widened to include children’s ministry. Both roles have developed in their scope and methods as we have seen real growth in the level of engagement with children and young people by our parishes.

In **2016**, the diocese committed to a process of culture change, known as ‘Youthful Church’, to put children and young people at the heart of every church. In **2018** we achieved £1.1m

funding over 6 years for the Gen2 Project to effect this culture change and to train children and youth workers in 7 deaneries to support churches to make the necessary change. In **2019**, we were chosen to be a trailblazer diocese for 'Growing Faith' to imagine new ways of working with households, schools and the church.

The Gen2 Project

The aim of the Generation to Generation project is to invest in the training and employment of high-quality children and youth missionaries to develop patterns of innovative and effective outreach and discipleship amongst young people that can be replicated elsewhere. It builds on the youth work apprenticeship programme and incorporates the goals of the youthful church culture change plans.

Growing Faith Adventure

Growing Faith is aimed at bringing together the 3 'spheres' of church, school and household to generate new ways of working together to grow lasting faith and discipleship. The Gen2 team is leading this work to inspire our parishes to reconsider the place of, and spaces for, ministry and mission with children, young people and families.

The Diocesan Children and Youth Missioner Role

Internal Relationships

In order to pursue the goals of the diocese, Gen2 project and Growing Faith, the postholder will need to be able to work with the other teams noted, and work closely with the Gen2 Project Manager (Alex Stockbridge), the Diocesan Youth Mission Enabler (Chad Chadwick) and the Director of Children and Youth (Pete White).

The two mission enabler roles have previously taken on Archdeaconry responsibilities, with Chad Chadwick covering the north of the diocese. In the new post, the responsibilities will change from geographical to specialism, with the new role focusing on children (primary school age and under) and the other on youth (Secondary school age and over). However, given the size of the diocese, there may be occasions when geography will override this and the postholder will advise on youth matters.

Women and people from BAME groups are under-represented on our teams currently and so we will particularly welcome applications from these groups.

Key External Relationships

The diagram below shows the external relationships that constitute the role and the focus of work. To be most effective, we aim to support the people who are doing the work at deanery and parish level. The first layer is to support the Deanery-based Mission enablers employed as part of the Gen2 Project.

Next, we are developing a network of local 'hubs' that comprise paid and voluntary children and youth workers, clergy and lay ministers, who are involved in developing work with children and young people.

Then, we offer more specific support directly to parishes as part of initiating new ministry and developing clergy and lay ministers who will then join the hub.

