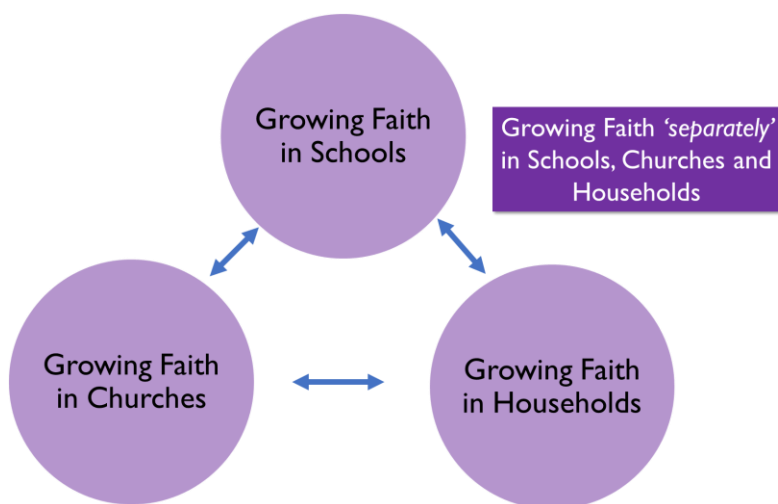


Introducing 'Growing Faith'

Called, Connected, Committed - June 2019

In February 2019, the Growing Faith paper was warmly welcomed by General Synod, having been unanimously supported by the House of Bishops in December 2018. This paper outlines some key thinking about the relationship between Schools, Churches and Households in relation to children and young people. It also sets out a range of practical steps that will be taken nationally and locally to bring this to life, as we seek opportunities for these three pivotal elements to work more closely together – structurally, theologically, developmentally and pedagogically.

You can read the full paper here: www.cefel.org.uk/faithfulness



In reflecting on these 3 areas, one could quite easily imagine an approach that focused developing work in each of these domains discretely and in fact naming these – Growing Faith in Schools, Growing Faith in Households, Growing Faith in Churches. Indeed, some of the intended work certainly involves empowering leaders in these specific areas to develop deeper engagement.

As Dioceses, churches, schools and households begin to reflect on this idea, it is important to consider a range of questions at the outset:

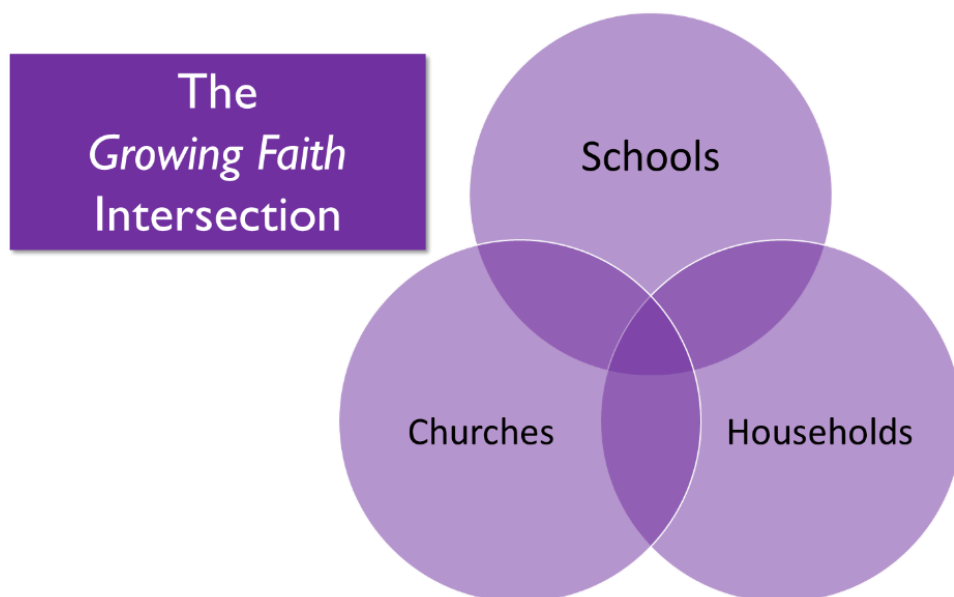
- What is already going on in these spaces that is specifically around Growing Faith?
- What are the other pressures/values of each of these spaces?
- What might the development needs be in each of these spaces?
- What are the other cultural influencers of young people, and which are the loudest voices?
- Is this an equal relationship? Or is any one of these served most by 'Growing Faith'?

These example questions may give a good way into opening discussions about this important work and enable colleagues to engage in some helpful self-evaluation around current thinking locally.

Although there may be something neater and simpler about this approach, the key to the Growing Faith approach is not only what happens within each of these circles, but in fact, what happens in the **intersection** between these 3 circles, on the basis that children and young people are more likely to grow in faith, if they have a vibrant and coherent experience in each of these areas, rather than just one.

In considering the **Growing Faith intersection**, what happens in each circle is of course still very important and highly valued. Indeed if there is nothing going on in each of the circles, there may be limited value in focusing on the intersection itself.

However, our primary focus for Growing Faith is the intersection between 2 or more of the elements. Our understanding of young people's faith development is that it much more likely to happen, and be sustained if it happens in the intersections:



As this work has developed, we have sought to choose an effective noun to articulate the kind of work we are envisaging, seeking to avoid the short-term implications of words like 'project, programme or initiative'. It is longer term culture change that we are seeking, and therefore we invite you to join us in the Growing Faith 'adventure' as we create, innovate reflect and learn together.

In the intersection model, there is not one intersection, but four. The notion of trying to bring three elements together may feel challenging, or daunting, whereas operating in the intersection between just two elements may be more enabling.

Therefore we have begun thinking about the kinds of activities that might happen in the 4 intersections, some of which will develop at a national level, and many of which will grow locally according to context and vision.

The final picture therefore offers some **examples** of the kinds of things that could emerge in these intersections. These examples are not intended to be exhaustive, but illustrative as a starting point for our thinking. As this adventure grows nationally, so this picture will be added to exponentially as local ideas and priorities are added into the model.

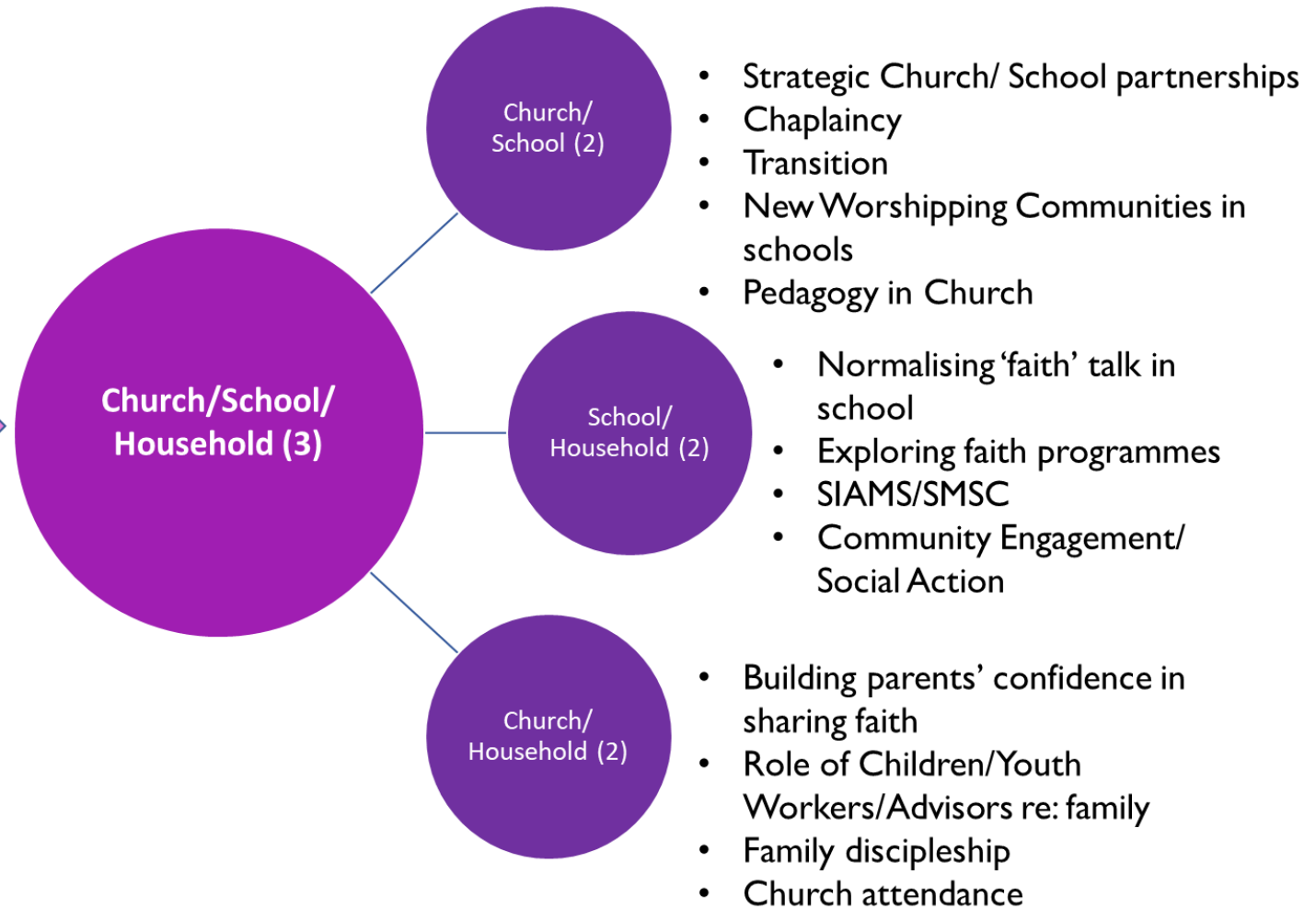
Structural Changes:

GF Collaboration Group
Reflecting on Diocese Vision
Trailblazer Dioceses (4-5)
GF Champions
GF Parish Clusters



New Provision:

Clergy Selection/Training/
Formation Networks
TEI Curricula
'The Big Story' App
Resource Hub (incl. any new
writing/thinking)



This is offered as a starting point, and stimulus for local reflection, thinking, planning and action. We are delighted that every Diocese has committed a Growing Faith Champion from its senior staff, and they will partner with our national team to grow and develop this exciting work. This has included the appointment of a 'Growing Faith Enabler', Murray Wilkinson – murray.wilkinson@churchofengland.org – who will be working closely with Dioceses to develop this.

Andy Wolfe

Deputy Chief Education Officer (Leadership Development), June 2019