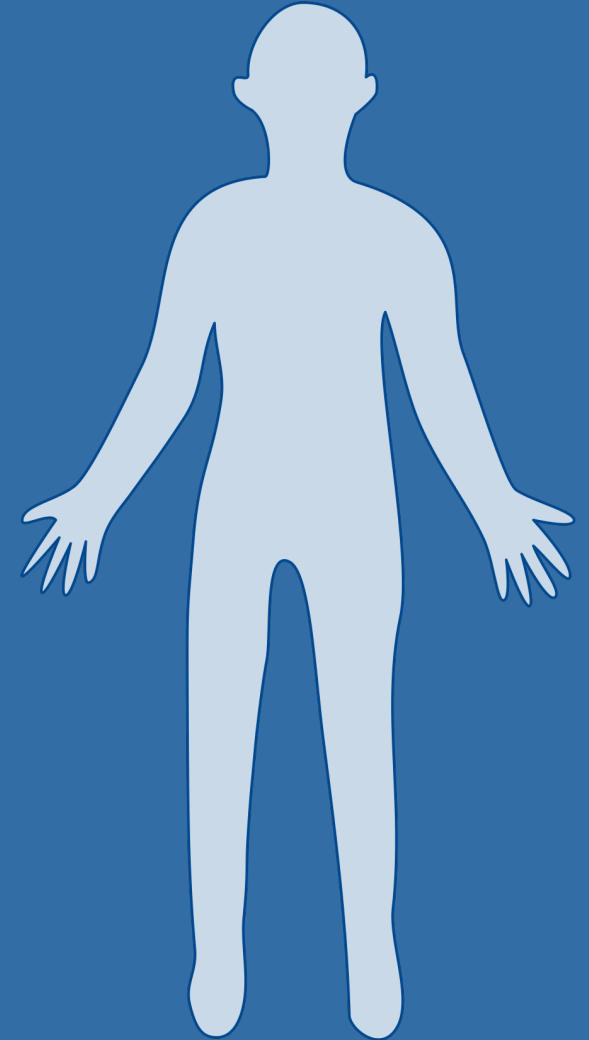


Growing Faith conversations



Seeking to place children, young people
and families at the heart of all we do.



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Growing Faith conversations

Many parishes tell us that they want to develop their work with children, young people and families.

Growing Faith seeks to place children, young people and families at the heart of all ministry and mission, through connecting churches, households and schools.

These cards use parts of the body to help celebrate what you are already doing and help you consider how you might do things differently.

These question cards are designed to help your church/benefice/deanery to open up Growing Faith conversations whether you have established work, some work, or none.

Just as the body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

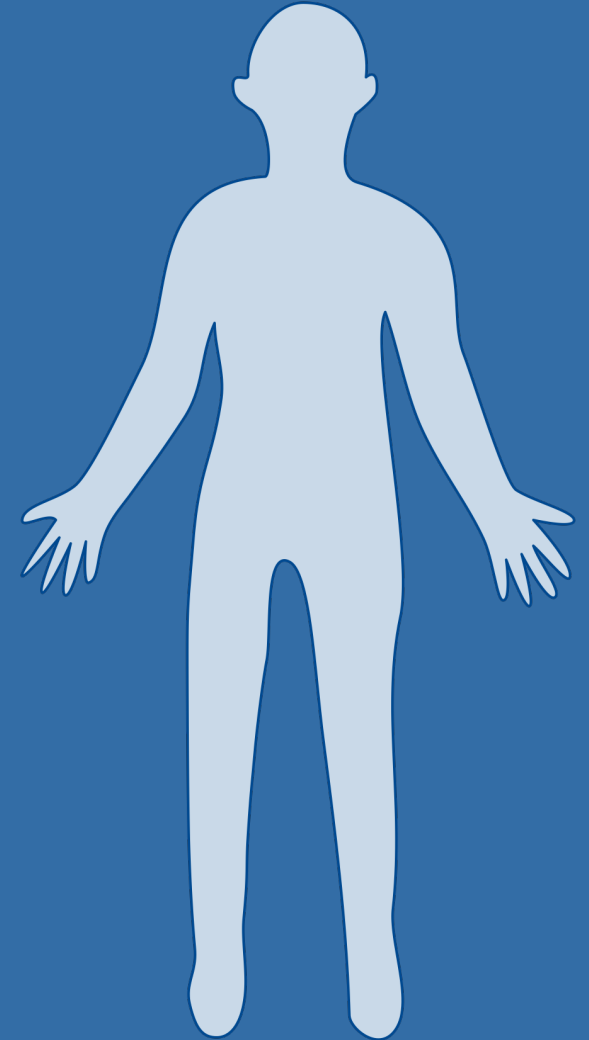
1 Corinthians 12:12



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Three overlapping circles in purple, teal, and blue, positioned to the right of the text 'growing faith'.

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Getting started

These cards are designed to prompt conversations. There are no right answers, and you may have better ideas of how to use the cards - if so, just go for it.

Here are two ideas:

1. Put 'Growing Faith Conversations' on your PCC/Deanery Synod agenda over the next year. Take one of the cards each time and spend 15 minutes discussing the questions.
2. Share a card in your news sheet/bulletin and provide an opportunity to discuss the responses over coffee/after a service.

It's helpful to have some questions up your sleeve after the conversations e.g.:

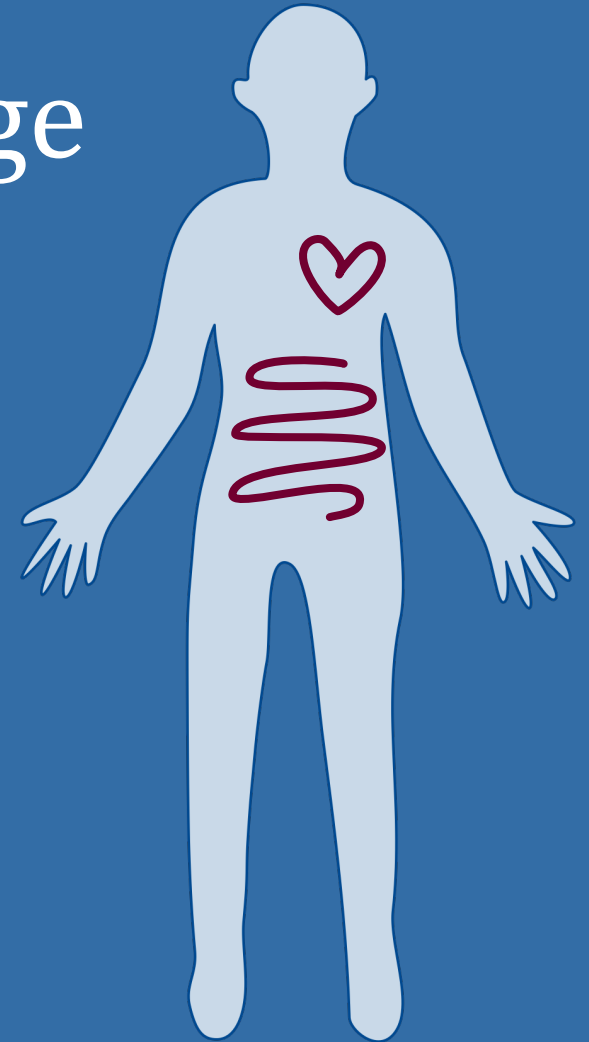
- Are there any questions that we would like to think about more as a church/benefice/deanery?
- Has this helped uncover any new areas in which God might be calling us to put our energy or focus?



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Heart and gut - spiritual change

The heart and gut are often places where we experience deep emotion, and where deep-seated spiritual change takes place.



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Heart and gut - spiritual change

What might it look like to put children, young people and families at the heart of your prayer life, as an individual/church/benefice/deanery?

What in your heart do you long for, for children, young people and families?

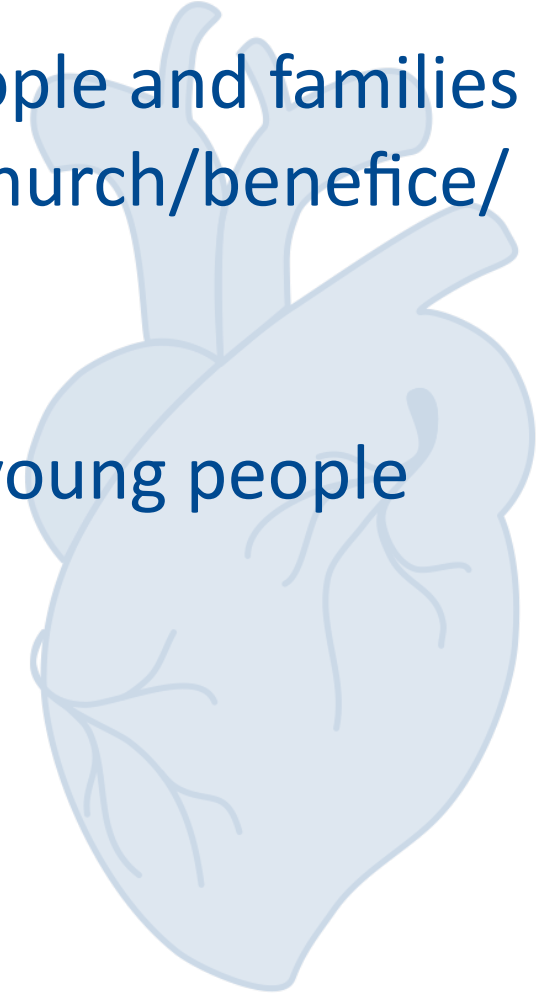
What is your gut feeling about the way ahead?

What are we already doing?

What needs to change?

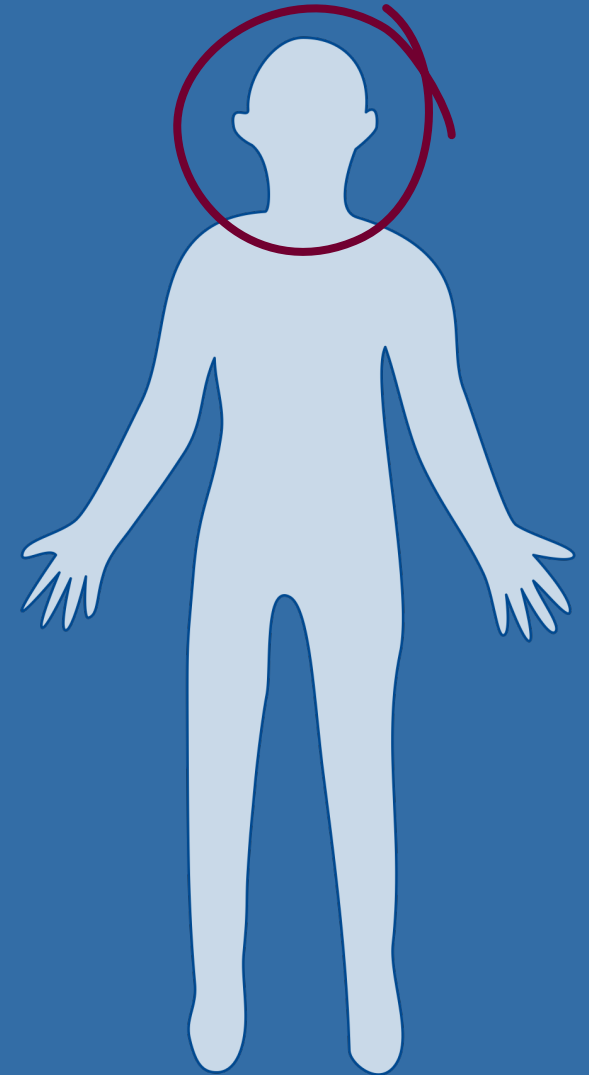
Who might we work with?

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Head - change of perception

Our head and face are the location of many of our senses. Our eyes enable us to see, our ears enable us to hear, our nose enables us to smell, and our mouth enables us to use our voice.



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Head - change of perception

How does our church/parish/benefice perceive children, young people and families?

How might we listen and hear more from children, young people and families?

What opportunities are there for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with children, young people and families?

What are we already doing?

What needs to change?

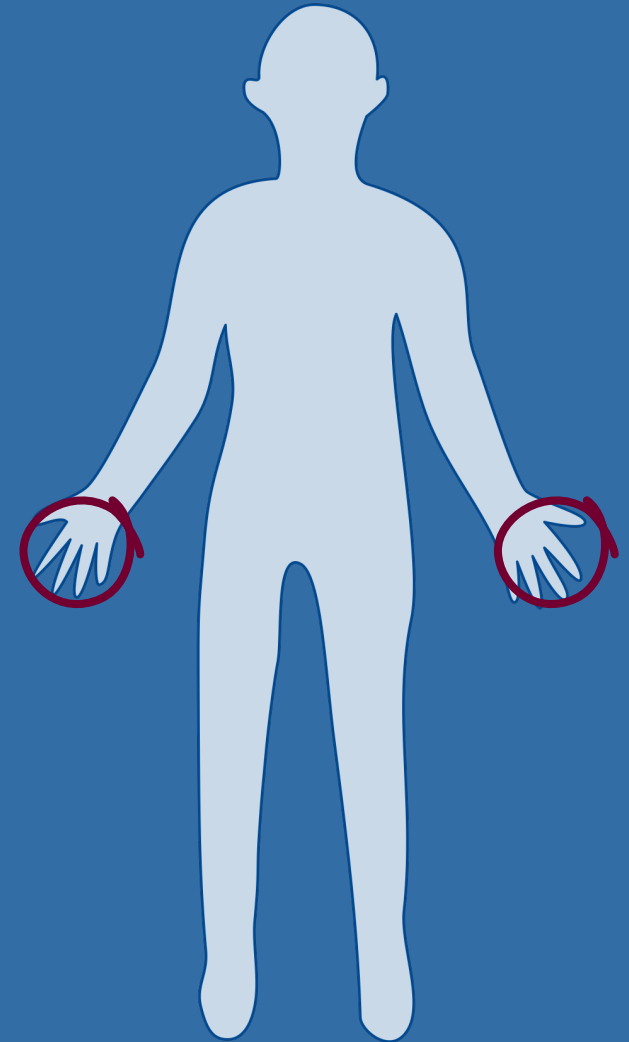
Who might we work with?



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Hands - practical change

Our hands enable us to move, create, carry and hold things.



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Hands - practical change

How can we practically support, equip, and empower local children, young people and families?

How could we make our church buildings more accessible and welcoming to children, young people and families?

How might we offer more time, energy and budget to children, young people and families?



What are we already doing?

What needs to change?

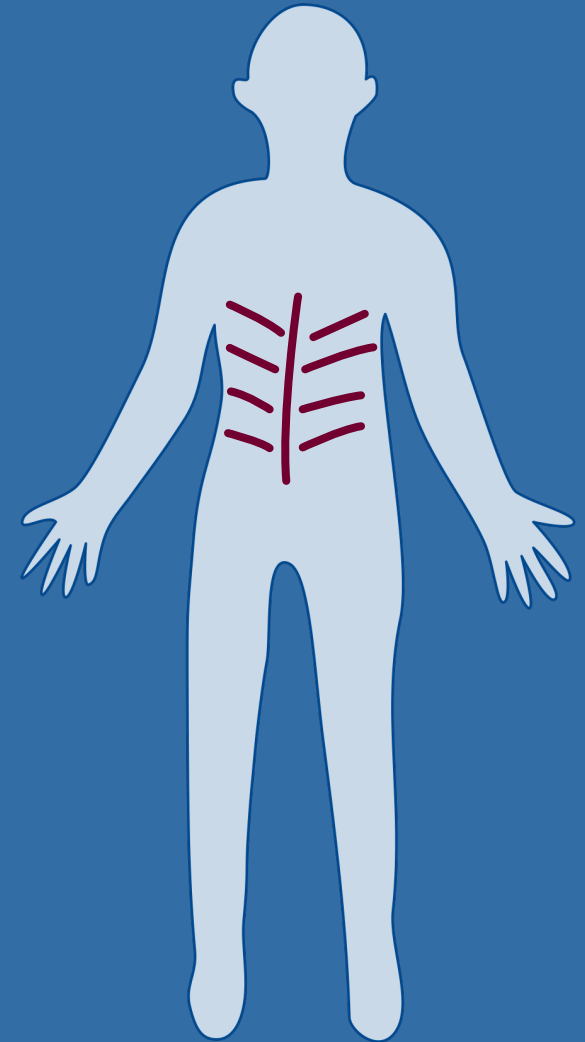
Who might we work with?

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Three overlapping circles in purple, teal, and dark blue, positioned to the right of the text 'growing faith'.

Rib cage - change of structure

The rib cage is a vital, yet unseen, part of our skeleton. It gives our bodies a structure.



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Rib cage - change of structure

Is there anything that needs to change in our structures to put children, young people and families at the heart of all we do?

How could we include children, young people and families in church governance, PCCs and decision making processes?

How could we enable children, young people and families to help shape our patterns of worship, ministry and mission?

What are we already doing?

What needs to change?

Who might we work with?

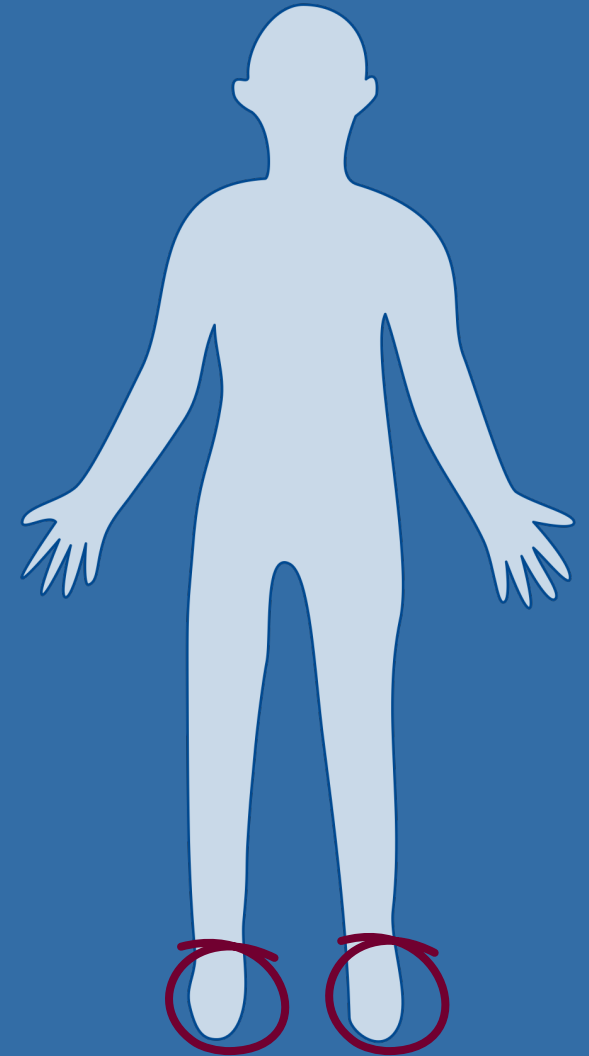


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Feet - change of direction

Our feet physically help us to move, to go out, and to change direction.



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Feet - change of direction

Where would we need to go to find children, young people and families in your church/parish/benefice?

How could we connect with our local schools and serve them more effectively?

What new partnerships might we join or form to support children, young people and families?

What are we already doing?

What needs to change?

Who might we work with?



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Anything else?



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Anything else?



What is missing? Are there other things that need to change as we seek to put children, young people and families at the heart of our ministry and mission?

Heart and gut - Spiritual Change

Head - Change of Perception

Hands - Practical Change

Rib Cage - Change of Structure

Feet - Change of Direction

Anything Else?

How can our church/benefice/deanery take the next steps?

What can we celebrate and share with others?

What are we already doing?

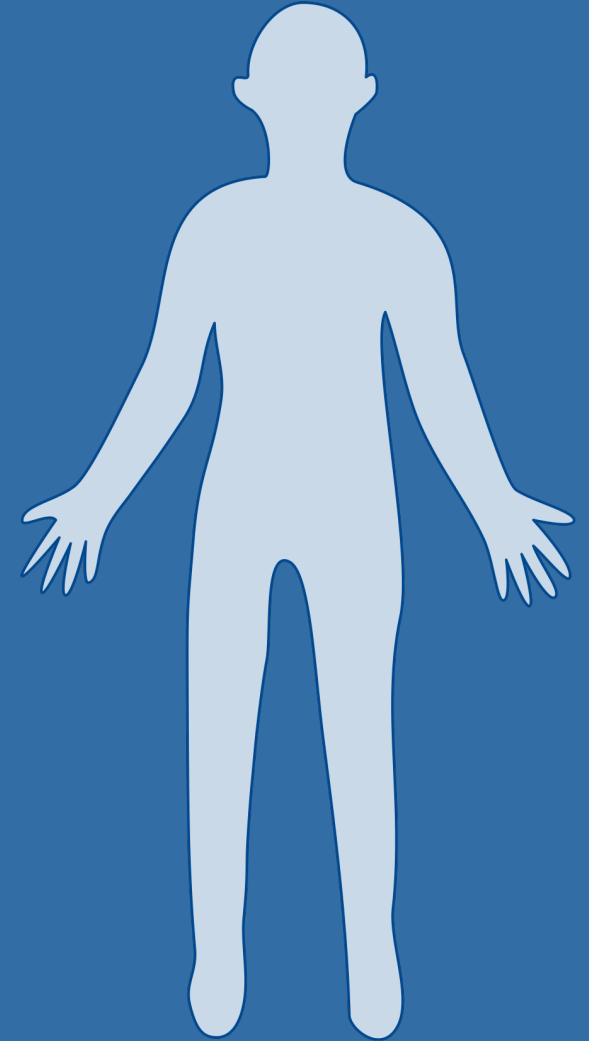
What needs to change?

Who might we work with?

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Growing Faith conversations



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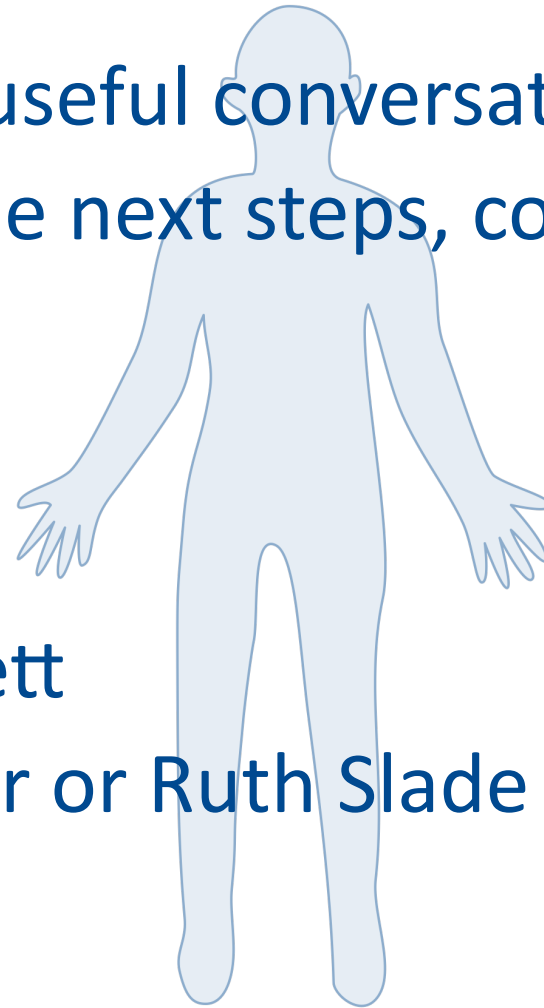
Contacts

If these questions have sparked a useful conversation and you would like support in taking the next steps, contact your Archdeaconry Go Team Adviser:

Bath Archdeaconry - Tony Cook

Taunton Archdeaconry - Andy Levett

Wells Archdeaconry - Cheryl Govier or Ruth Slade



What are we already doing?

What needs to change?

Who might we work with?

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Growing Faith conversations



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What next?

Through the conversations you have had, how has God nudged you? What is one change that your church/benefice/deanery can make as you move forward?

Change:

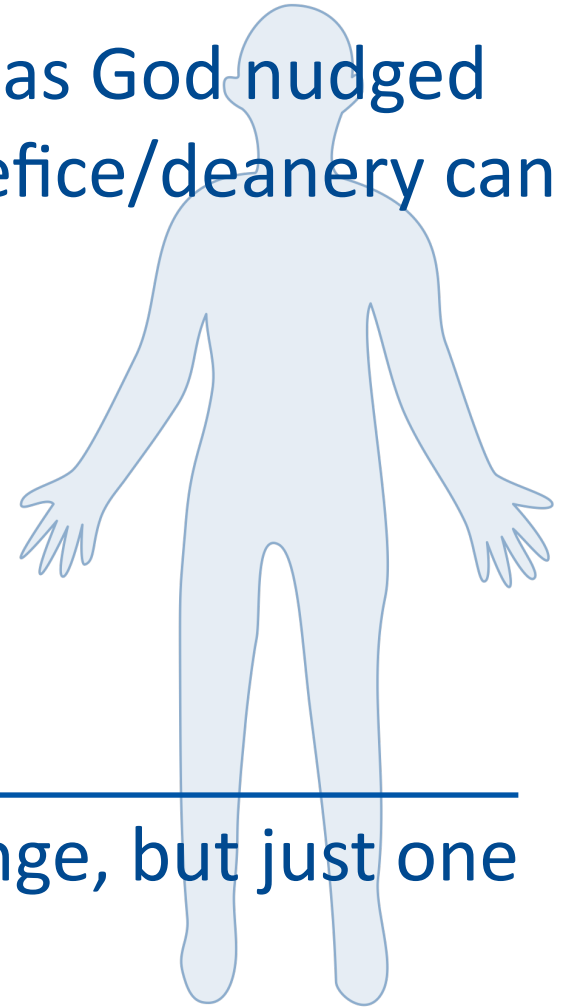
When will you review your progress? _____

You might like to commit to more than one change, but just one could make the world of difference.

What are we already doing?

What needs to change?

Who might we work with?



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