

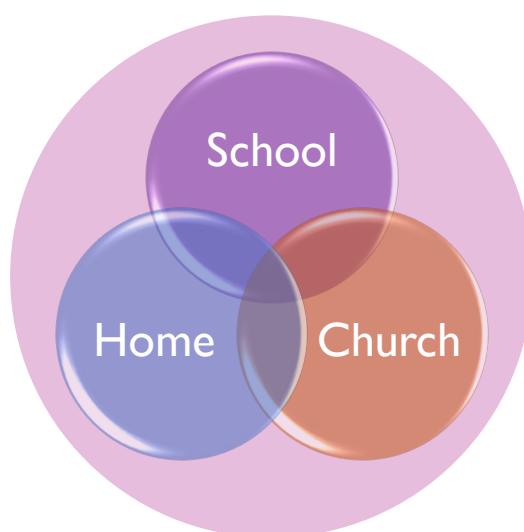
Background - Growing Faith Chaplaincy pilot

What is a Growing Faith Chaplain?

Christian Chaplaincy is a missional ministry focused on going out from the church, building relationships and sharing the love of God. Chaplaincy is therefore walking alongside people and constantly thinking, 'what does love require here'. This expression of interest has been designed as an enabling tool for parishes to think through and articulate where

the opportunities to develop Chaplaincy for under-18s might be in their context. Chaplains could be ordained or lay, working part-time or full-time. This is designed to be an inclusive process of mutual discernment: there is 'no one-size-fits-all' model. Please contact sarah.wattley@bristoldiocese.org to discuss this further.

Growing Faith - Evidence consistently points to the connection between three spheres of children's lives, where there are opportunities to grow faith.



Our current thoughts for the Growing Faith Chaplain pilot is to create chaplaincy roles which intentionally facilitate opportunities to engage children and young people in a missional way, acknowledging that Chaplains are guests in the communities they serve. It is also important to ensure there are opportunities to explore and grow faith including pathways for discipleship for those who want to know more. Exactly how this looks depends on your context – What does the surrounding

community look like? What is the culture, the demographics, the geography, the current terrain of opportunities to engage with children, young people and families?

The big pink circle represents that broader context of community. Community has a diverse meaning. Some might think of community as a geographical footprint. Perhaps others think of those communities such as the uniformed organisations – Guiding and Scouts. There are many expressions of

community and all can be included in this model.

Creating roles for Growing Faith Chaplains is one way in which we believe we can engage with children and young people and facilitate flourishing and faith opportunities. The vital element to engaging young people is a desire to connect with them, a sense of them being a

priority within ministry and a plan for growing faith and discipling young people. These posts are missional roles, focused on meeting children, young people and families where they are and building relationships. Whenever we do this, we do so as part of the *Messio Dei*, always challenging ourselves to notice what God is already doing.

What will happen next?

- 1) Parishes/groups of churches work together to populate the information below
- 2) This is filled in on the electronic form or a downloaded version and emailed back to under18s@bristoldiocese.org and sarah.wattley@bristoldiocese.org by 18th February.
- 3) Expressions of interest will be read and you may be contacted for further information in February.
- 4) The process of discerning pilot areas will happen during March and all those who have filled out an expression of interest will be contacted in this time. The Diocese is piloting a discernment matrix (grid) to guide the decision on the pilot areas.
- 5) Once pilot areas are selected the Diocese will support the development of Chaplaincy roles that meet the needs of those in the community, ensuring that young people's voices are leading the direction.
- 6) The Diocese will support the recruitment and training process. The model of employment (e.g. employed by local parish, employed by the diocese) is still being decided and will reflect the needs expressed by pilot areas.

The whole process of the EOI is a pilot aiming to balance direction and autonomy. Please feed back to us, in grace and love, if we can improve this process for the future.

Contact sarah.wattley@bristoldiocese.org with any feedback.

Preparing to write your expression of interest

We know that every church is on a unique journey. There are certain things which we believe will help the process of planting a Growing Faith Chaplain in your area. This expression of interest is part of a pilot processes of working together to create context specific chaplaincy roles for children, young people and families. We have kept the title Growing Faith Chaplains to ensure consistency with the TC.T strategy during this time, however this could be changed.

Can you show:

- 1) A commitment to put children and families at the centre of church life – evidenced through
 - a. a vision statement *OR*
 - b. a strategic plan/mission action plan (however this is termed) *OR*

- c. examples through what you are already doing.

If you are not confident that you are at this stage, but would like to get there, please email under18s@bristoldiocese.org

- 2) Existing relationships or opportunities that could be grown – for example,
 - a. a relationship with a school/schools/community group **OR**
 - b. a need for support in the community. I was recently told about an initiative which developed to address community concerns around vandalism. It was acknowledged that this may be happening as a result of young people having nowhere to go, no space to be and let's face it – perhaps being bored. What does love require here for those young people? What does love require where you are?

If you don't have existing relationships with schools (Church of England, community, academy, SEN in all its diversity, special units, other learning institution, such as home education networks) and would like to explore how you could build these, please contact Sarah via under18s@bristoldiocese.org

- 3) How many hours you envisage this role being* – we do not expect a job description to be developed, as this will be the next stage of the pilot, however it would be helpful in the expression of interest included – for example,
 - a. you may have discerned that a one-day-a-week role within a school context, undertaken by someone with an existing relationship in the school, would be the model for your church.
 - b. you may think of a role that involves partnering with other churches. Perhaps you're thinking about a multifaceted role covering a larger geographical area?

**the key elements of these roles remains the missional focus of meeting people where they are.*

- 4) Consideration of financial stability and planning – for example,
 - a. do you have a plan for how the role might be sustained going forward whilst maintaining Parish Share?*

**the expression of interest form will ask you about future sustainability.*

If you have read the information on Growing Faith, and feel excited about Growing Faith and children and young people, but aren't at the stage where you can say yes to the above, please email Sarah Wattle on sarah.wattle@bristoldiocese.org

If you would like to progress to the expression of interest form please fill in the following pages.

What could a Growing Faith Chaplain role look like in my area?

	Answer
Name of submitting parish(s): Name and role of person completing form: Preferred contact method/ email:	
<u>Culture and Need</u> Tell us briefly about your church/churches, and your community. Prompts <i>Think schools and households too. What does it look like in your context to prioritise children and families in church life?</i>	
<u>Opportunity</u> School, home and Church in communities – having a missional focus. What/ where are the opportunities in your area to develop chaplaincy? The hope for these roles is that they will be deeply relational, meeting people where they are. Prompts <i>The opportunities to do this could come through connections made across school, home and church. Are there existing relationships across these areas? If not do you have an idea about how these could be cultivated?</i>	
<u>Opportunity</u> Partnership working What you are doing/plan to do, that will be amplified by working together with other churches/ partners? Where are you on this journey?	
<u>Need</u> Racial justice and inclusion What does advocacy in your context look like? Prompts <i>What are the specific areas of inclusion and justice, which could be supported through</i>	

<p><i>your work? This question is an opportunity to describe the needs of those around you who's lives might be impacted by your work.</i></p>	
<p>Discipleship journeys Exploring, discovering and growing faith is a journey. What pathways are available for those who might encounter faith through Chaplaincy for the first time and want to explore more, then go deeper?</p> <p>How can we ensure those who want to deepen their journey have the opportunity to do so?</p>	
<p>Sustainability Funding support from the Diocese represents seeds to be grown in your local context. They will only have a limited time span. How are you planning for the future financial sustainability in this area?</p> <p>Do you have any existing funds dedicated to supporting this work?</p> <p>Would you be able to provide a budget for this role whilst sustaining Parish Share?</p> <p>Is there a team to support this role (volunteers, clergy, licenced lay ministers)?</p>	
<p>Broader landscape Are you already engaged in TC.T? If so can you describe this and its impact on your ministry.</p> <p><i>Be assured this is not a question with a right or wrong answer and will not lead to an EQI being excluded.</i></p>	
<p>Is there anything else you would like to add?</p>	

Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd

CONSENT FORM

Your privacy is important to us, and we want to communicate with you in a way which has your consent, and which is in line with UK law on data protection. As a result of changes in UK law, we need your consent to how we contact you, particularly if we use your personal contact details rather than your professional contact address(es).

Please will you complete the contact details you want us to use to communicate with you:

Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

Email Address(Work): _____

Email Address (Home): _____

Phone Number: _____

Mobile Number: _____

By signing this form you are confirming that you are consenting to the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance holding and processing your personal data for the following purposes (please tick the boxes where you grant consent):-

I consent to the staff of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance contacting me by

☐ post ☐ landline phone ☐ mobile phone ☐ work email ☐ personal email

☐ to correspond with me for the purpose of the Growing Faith Chaplaincy pilot

☐ to correspond with me regarding opportunities to engage with workstreams focusing on Under 18s and families

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

You can grant consent to all the purposes; one of the purposes or none of the purposes. Where you do not grant consent we will not be able to use your personal data. You can find out more about how we use your data from our "Privacy Notice" which is available from our website.

You can withdraw or change your consent at any time by contacting Sarah Wattley <sarah.wattley@bristoldiocese.org>. Please note that all processing of your personal data will cease once you have withdrawn consent, other than where this is required by law, but this will not affect any personal data that has already been processed prior to this point.

For further information on the Diocese of Bristol privacy notice please contact humanresources@bristoldiocese.org