

Raising the value of the church's ministry with children growing younger disciples



Support **21** churches making a significant step change in children's ministry

We want to see children grow as disciples, and to do this we will be working closely with 21 churches as they seek to grow and develop their work with children. This includes be part of a bi-monthly learning community with Bishop Paul, Nick Harding and others.



Launch **7** new worshipping communities for children and families

We are praying that this initiative will support the planting of new gatherings of worshippers across the diocese focusing specifically on engaging with children and their families.



Gather as **1** church to celebrate and worship together

This is for everyone – we seek to support churches as they look to extend their reach to children and families growing new disciples. For some this will be a small step forwards and for others it may involve a significant change.

Resource children and their families:



In the home

We know that children learn from example and habit. Resources will be available for all churches to give to families suggesting activities and ideas for faith in the home..



In parishes

Between Lent and Pentecost, Bishop Paul will be focusing his visits on a Sunday to children's ministry, spending time with children in our churches of all different shapes and sizes across the Diocese.



In schools

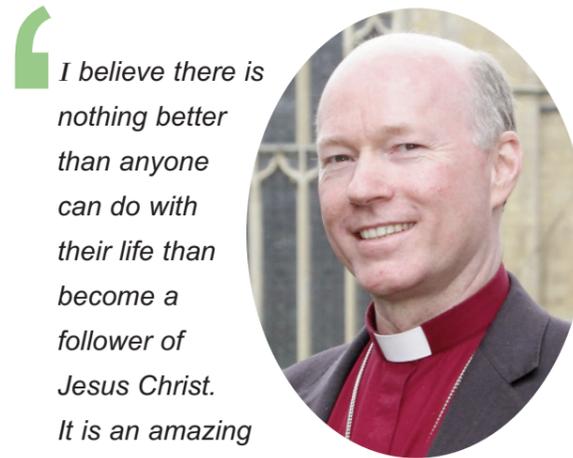
We have been blessed by numerous creative, active and flourishing church schools across the Diocese. We want to ensure we are doing all we can to create partnerships and encourage strong relationships between churches, families and schools.



Across the Diocese

All churches are encouraged to learn and grow from each other as partners in ministry among children across the Diocese. There will be opportunities to come together include a special weekend at Pentecost.





I believe there is nothing better than anyone can do with their life than become a follower of Jesus Christ. It is an amazing privilege and joy to see young lives touched by the love of God. I am expectant for all that the Lord is going to do over the next 12 months as I join others in focusing on a fresh focus in ministry among 0-11 year olds in parishes across the Diocese. This will include working closely with 21 churches who are seeking to make a step change in their work with children. Our youngest disciples are of great value in the Kingdom of God and there is much we can all do to welcome more children and their families into all that God has for them.

**The Rt Revd Paul Williams
Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham**

Please join us as we pray for ourselves and for children:

Father God,
We thank you for children and young people.
We thank you for their life and energy, their openness and honesty.
We ask you to help us to encourage and welcome them as valued members of our Churches, growing as young disciples and following your way.
By your Holy Spirit give us the desire to serve them,
And the openness and vision to learn from them,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me;

Mark 9:37

New International Version (NIV)

To find out more please visit
www.growingdisciples.co.uk/younglife

 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

Young LIFE

celebrating & revitalising
children's ministry across
the Diocese

 **GROWING DISCIPLES**
Wider Younger Deeper