



Introduction

For the last 18 months, careful and detailed work has been done on the second of our three key Diocesan priorities; to significantly increase our engagement with children, young people and their families.

The work began with a piece of external research, which you can read in the paper '*Growing Younger; Young People, Change and Renewal in the Diocese of Truro*' which will be available in printed copy at Synod, or can be requested in electronic format from mel.pomery@truro.anglican.org

This gave a series of proposals for turning our priority into action and is the basis of a detailed Diocesan plan for this work - now also called *Growing Younger*. Development of this plan has been led by Episcopal College, in particular by a partnership between the Ministry Team, Education team and Change & Renewal Team.

The *Growing Younger* plan was approved by BDC in May and is the focus for this agenda item at Diocesan Synod.

Growing Younger

The full *Growing Younger* plan is part of the papers for Synod. In brief it describes:

- Two clear objectives:
 - That every child and young person in Cornwall should be within reach of a worshipping community where they can be at home and within which they can explore a journey of faith
 - A ten-fold increase in the number of children and young people who are disciples within the church
- Three levels at which this work will take place, which we call *Many, Some, Few*
- Five foundations on which all our engagement with young people will be designed and delivered:
 - Intergenerational community
 - Children and young people's voice
 - Linking Church-Home-School
 - Intentional Faith Formation
 - Collaborative Leadership
- Clarity that this is a work for the whole diocese, which every church, school and deanery is invited to be part of and to join in with
- Clarity that this will require us to think, act and engage in new and creative ways - which is to say that this is a work of culture change, not just 'new projects', and of mission and discipleship, not just money

- Investment of £3 million (which BDC and Synod have previously approved as part of the asset strategy) and a bid for an equivalent sum in partnership funding from the national church
- Beginning with investing in support for the work with ‘many’ places and investing in capacity to develop the ‘few’ workstream
- Details about the way in which each of the three levels will be developed.

The approach described in *Growing Younger* requires us to be disciplined in focussing on the outcomes, consistent in applying the 5 foundations, and flexible and responsive in how this is all done. It also describes the way in which this work will have to be a partnership between parishes, schools, deaneries and the team at Church House.

In summary, the *Growing Younger* plan approved by BDC gives 2 clear targets, a carefully designed approach for achieving it and a coherent framework for the practical and cultural change it demands.

Diocesan Synod

This is an ambitious plan, and we are now sharing it with Diocesan Synod to hear feedback, encourage engagement and develop partnership and plans further.

We will have 40 minutes for the item which will include:

Presentation: Isaac McNish, Head of Ministry, will give a brief presentation on headlines of *Growing Younger*; 2 objectives, 3 levels, and 5 foundations.

Experts by experience: we will hear from three places where ministry with children and young people of the kind we expect to see more of through *Growing Younger*, is already underway.

Facilitated table discussions: Synod members will be invited to discuss two questions at our tables:

1. What would help you explain this work well in your church, school or deanery?
2. Where and how can you see your church, school and deanery joining in with *Growing Younger*?

Feedback will be written up on each table, collected and shared with the Growing Younger Project Group that will develop this work. Each table will have a facilitator to help them.