

Synod members will remember our ambition to increase by ten-fold the number of young disciples and to ensure there is a community available to every child and young person in Cornwall, where they can be at home and can explore the possibility of faith.

This paper, building on section 1.3 of the BDC Report to Synod (document TDS254(14)), provides an overview of our current work and planning on Growing Younger and other work relating to children and young people.

It includes information about the potential for partnership funding with the national church, and our plans for developing this work.

More detail will be provided in a verbal briefing to Synod from Isaac McNish, Ruth Marriott and Lee Moscato.

1. Strategic Vision

- Growing Younger is a whole-diocese movement, not just a programme, rooted in Five Foundations:
 - Intergenerational community
 - Intentional faith formation
 - Linking church-home-school
 - CYP (Children & Young People) voice
 - Collaborative leadership
- Uses the Many-Some-Few framework:
 - Many - resource all churches for CYP engagement
 - Some - build up to 50 specific local partnerships (church-school-family)
 - Few - invest in deanery-based projects (SMMIB-funded)
- All built on prayer and culture change, aligned with national Growing Faith priorities.

2. Progress & Current Initiatives

- Jonny Lewis, the new Diocesan Growing Younger Lead recruited and in post
 - Partnership with SWYM delivering Launchpad training for clergy with little/no CYP work; 8-10 clergy start pilot in New Year.
 - 14 incumbents enrolled in Trinity College Bristol's CYP Development Programme. +David also attending.
 - CYP Network Gatherings now meet three times a year for shared learning.
 - Youthscape Essentials training for volunteers to underpin a Local CYP Leader pathway.
 - Bishop's Study Day affirmed diocesan direction and national alignment.
 - Flourish Pilots (St Austell, Bodmin, Camborne):
 - Building sustainable church-school partnerships.
 - Evidence of growth:
 - *Green shoots*: stronger relationships
 - *Saplings*: Flourish Clubs, worship involvement
 - *Trees*: embedded rhythms of worship, family engagement
 - Learning informs Growing Younger strategy and future deanery-wide pilots.
-

3. Funding & Strategic Capacity

- National church funding partnership (delivered through the Strategic Mission and Ministry Board, known as SMMIB):
 - Up to £3.5m (2026-2028) and £5m (2028 onwards), plus £3m TDBF commitment. This is an increase on the earlier amounts being discussed with the national church
 - Total potential: £11.5m for strategic mission and ministry.
 - Funding tied to Diocesan Plan for Change & Renewal priorities:
 - Oversight ministry, CYP & families, vocations, pioneers.
 - Growing Younger as a top diocesan and national priority.
 - Focus Group formed to shape bid; draft proposal due Jan 2026, Synod discussion Feb, submission June.
-

Key Messages for Synod

- Momentum is building: Growing Younger is taking root across parishes and networks.
- Flourish Pilots show promise and sustainability, shaping future strategy.
- Funding opportunity is significant but requires strategic planning and prayerful foundations.
- Success depends on culture change, partnerships, and widespread engagement across the whole diversity of the diocese