

# Growing Younger: Progress Update

Truro Diocesan Synod, February 2026

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## 1. Introduction

At the November Synod, we shared that Growing Younger had moved from planning into the first stages of implementation, enabled by the appointment of Jonny Lewis as Diocesan Growing Younger Lead. Our primary focus continues to be to embed the **Five Foundations** (Intergenerational Community, CYP Voice, Intentional Faith Formation, Linking Church-Home-School, Collaborative Ministry) across parishes and to strengthen the offer for the **Many**: training, equipping, and resourcing all churches, leaders, and congregations so that the whole diocese can participate in this movement.

This February update builds on that foundation. Momentum continues to grow, and we are seeing increasing engagement from clergy, parishes, and leaders who are exploring what Growing Younger might look like in their own contexts.

## 2. Many: Expanding the Offer of Training and Resources Across the Diocese

The work of the Many is about creating a culture in which all churches, regardless of size or setting, are equipped to welcome and nurture children, young people, and families. Since November, several strands have developed:

### 2.1 Launchpad Clergy Training

Through our strategic partnership with South West Youth Ministries, **Launchpad** will help clergy in churches with little or no current CYP provision begin sustainable ministry from the ground up.

- Sarah Haig (seconded as Growing Younger Advocate) has now started **one day per week** to deliver this training.
- A first cohort is being formed, with an aspiration of **8-10 clergy** taking part following a bishop's briefing this month.

### 2.2 Youthscape Essentials

This high-quality training for volunteers in CYP ministry will be **piloted later this year** in a host deanery/church, aiming for a cohort of around 15 participants.

Youthscape Essentials will form part of the pathway towards a **commissioned Local CYP Leader role**, launching later in 2026. This will strengthen local ministry development, fit within our Oversight-Local ministry pattern, and integrate with our recommissioning and safeguarding processes.

### 2.3 CYP Network Gatherings

Our CYP Network continues to grow.

- The December gathering drew **around 30 attendees**, representing a strong cross-section of practitioners.
- The next gathering (March, All Saints Highertown, 12:00-15:00) will focus on:
  - rural CYP ministry
  - a panel of local ministers and leaders
  - input from an external diocesan partner
  - safeguarding scenario-based learning

We hope to see **40+ participants**. Please share widely with clergy, local ministers, Lay Leaders, and volunteers.

### 2.4 Incumbent Training with Trinity College

The diocesan cohort of **14 incumbents**, including Bishop David, continues on Trinity College Bristol's year-long CYP Development Programme. This training remains a significant investment in developing leaders equipped to nurture growth in CYP ministry.

### 2.5 Growing Younger Resource Hub (launching after Easter)

We are working toward an update of the Growing Younger section of the diocesan website to provide a **comprehensive online resource hub** shaped around:

- Five Foundations
- Many resources and tools
- Guidance for church-school-home connections
- Recommended materials for volunteers, families, and leaders
- Including: Templates, practical guides, and curated suggestions  
This will serve congregations, volunteers, clergy, and lay leaders across the diocese.

### **3. Some: Nurturing School-based Worshipping Communities**

This element of Growing Younger focuses on strengthening partnerships between church, school and home reflecting the national [Growing Faith](#) vision here, contextually in our diocese. A key part of this focuses on developing capacity for leadership of worshipping communities embedded within schools.

This strand sees us draw upon national and regional support including the funding of Flourish Worshipping Community pilots and accessing a regional cohort for [Growing Faith Strategic Leaders](#) with colleagues from the south westerly dioceses.

#### **3.1 Flourish Worshipping Community Pilots**

- Three pilots (out of 42 nationally) continue to grow here in our diocese (out of 12 dioceses nationally). Our three locations, led by schools in partnership with their local churches, are at Camborne Science and International Academy, Bodmin College and Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School (St Austell).
- In each of the three locations, we are seeing increasing levels of pupil engagement. As an example, 18 months ago, approx. 6 pupils were part of the early ‘Flourish Club’ provision which took place at lunchtime once a week in Camborne. In January, a visit to the school, saw approx. 30 young people meeting three times a week both during the day and after school.
- In each location, pupils come together to connect with others, including members of local churches, take part in Bible study, to sing and simply be together and connecting through faith.
- Each location is now looking at how this work can step further towards an intergenerational offer through bringing families and friends into the existing clubs.
- Funding has been secured for a third year. This tapered amount of funding will support the continuation of the provision and aid planning for the continued sustainability of each location.
- We continue, through partnerships with the Education Team and churches, explore where the next phase of such worshipping communities can start next using the learning from this first cohort.

#### **3.2 Flourish Worshipping Community Pilots**

- The GFSL programme is a national programme supporting churches and schools through planning to grow worshipping communities and offers bringing home, school and church closer together.

- In 2025 a cohort of 5 colleagues engaged in this one-year programme which supported participants (which included colleagues from churches, schools and Church House) to learn and think deeply about strategy, effective plans and evaluations and give opportunities to collaborate and learn from others.
- Learning focuses on developing leadership skills, sharing best practice from colleagues nationally and internationally from both church, commercial and public sector organisations.
- A 2026 cohort, including colleagues from the Ministry team, parishes and schools, started in January and concludes in November.

## **4. Few: Deanery-Level Development & Investment**

The third strand of Growing Younger is the Few: long-term, embedded, deanery-level investment in contextual mission and ministry.

### **4.1 Learning from the last few years**

Our approach is shaped by key insights:

- Learning must be integrated from the beginning and continually shape the process.
- We begin with honesty about where we are, strengths, gaps, opportunities.
- Growth must emerge from local context; it cannot be dropped in from the outside.
- Ministry must be sustainable, owned locally, and grounded in prayer and the Five Foundations.
- Co-creation matters: PCCs, local leaders, and clergy discerning and planning together.

### **4.2 The Parish Listening Process**

To create a shared and contextual deanery-wide plan, we will begin with a facilitated Parish Listening Process:

- listening deeply across parishes and worshipping communities
- discerning opportunities and concerns
- understanding the local missional landscape

These insights will form the basis for deanery-level planning.

### 4.3 Deanery Planning & Co-Creation

Following the listening phase, deanery leaders, incumbents, local ministers, and CYP practitioners will come together to design a **deanery-owned and diocesan-supported plan**, rooted in the Five Foundations and shaped by collaboration.

### 4.4 Piloting in 2026

We will conduct **one deanery pilot** in 2026. This will help us learn about:

- the process and facilitation needs
- the right pace for parishes and the different stakeholders involved
- how to listen and plan effectively across the deanery

This learning will shape wider rollout from 2027 onwards.

### 4.5 A role for Synod members

One action you can take is to raise the Five Foundations and this process in your own deanery synods.

Jonny Lewis, Growing Younger Lead ([jonny.lewis@trurodiocese.org](mailto:jonny.lewis@trurodiocese.org)) is available to attend deanery synod meetings, by invitation, to share more about this process and deaneries can engage.

## 5. Summary

Growing Younger continues to build momentum across the diocese. The Many is expanding, the Some is developing through Flourish 2, and preparations for the Few pilot are underway. Across all levels, we remain committed to prayer, to the Five Foundations, and to enabling ministry that grows from local context and leads to fruitful and sustainable churches.