

1 – Experiencing God:

- *Through the Bible:*
 - How often do children and young people hear the stories of God and Jesus in a way that they can follow and learn from?
 - What opportunities could you provide for other children and young people to hear God’s stories (eg: in a local school)?
 - How can children and young people be allowed to make connections with the stories for themselves?
- *In prayer:*
 - What opportunities do children and young people have to meet God in prayer?
 - What opportunities do they have to experience the awe and wonder of God?
 - How many ways of praying do you model, and allow children and young people to enjoy?
- *In relationships with other people:*
 - How are children and young people shown God’s love and care in the actions and attitudes of the adults in your church?
 - How do children & young people feel valued in your church?
 - How can children and young people be encouraged to show God’s love for others in their own attitudes and actions?

ACTION POINTS:

2 – Developing a relationship with God:

- *In worship:*
 - Are children and young people able to share in all aspects of your church’s worship (eg: in singing, prayer, the Eucharist)?
 - Are children and young people participants or only performers in services?
 - Do your services reflect the needs of *all* the members of the congregation (eg: timings; type of activities; style of music; style of learning)?
- *In ministry:*
 - How are children and young people included in the ministry of your church? (eg: prayer, encouragement, teaching, leading worship)?

- Are children and young people encouraged and allowed to minister to each other and to the rest of the church?

- *In their everyday lives:*

- How can you help children and young people to make links between what they do in church and the rest of their lives?
- How might you support them to live their faith during the rest of the week (eg: at school, clubs, home, or with friends)?

ACTION POINTS:

3 – Helping to further God’s kingdom:

- *In evangelism:*

- How do you listen to and value children and young people’s experiences and understanding of their faith?
- Are children and young people encouraged to tell their own faith stories?
- What sort of event or occasion at church would be appropriate for children and young people to invite their friends and family to?

- *In social action:*

- What do children and young people in your church want to do to improve the world they live in and the lives of others?
- Is their passion for ‘fairness’ and their desire to make the world better, valued as a reflection of God’s justice?
- How might you support and encourage them in this?

ACTION POINTS:

4 – Caring for God’s creation:

- *Caring for others:*

- How can children and young people find out about other people’s lives around the world?
- How can you help them make sense of this and respond to others’ need?
- Are children and young people involved in other church initiatives such as Christian Aid week?

- *Stewardship of the environment:*
 - o How do the children and young people in your church value the environment?
 - o Is their concern for the environment heard by the rest of the church?
 - o How can you help them to fulfil their role as stewards of creation, locally and globally?

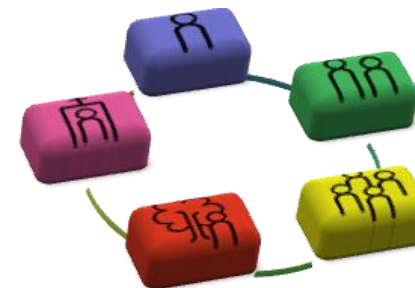
ACTION POINTS:

5 – Valued by, and valuing, the church:

- *Valued members:*
 - o How much do the children, young people and adults in your church know about each others' lives?
 - o What is it about children and young people in your church that might be an example to adults?
 - o Does your church have a child protection policy? Do PCC members and leaders know what it is, and follow it?
 - o What support (resources, pastoral, training) is given to those who work with children or young people?
- *Membership through baptism:*
 - o Who do you consider to be members of your church?
 - o How much of the life of their church are children and young people able to join in with if they want to?
 - o What areas are children and young people not able to join in? Why is this?
- *Decision-making:*
 - o In what areas are children and young people able to make decisions for themselves?
 - o Do children and young people take part in decisions that affect them (eg: in what they do in church, or in groups)?
 - o How does your PCC include/consider children and young people in its wider discussions?

ACTION POINTS:

We hope you find this helpful. If there are any other ways we could help and support you, please do get in touch. For more information or to download more copies of this leaflet, please see: http://www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/index_youth.shtml



Fully alive in GOD

How might children and young people become fully alive in God in our churches?

The diocesan commitment 'Fully alive in God' is intended to:

- **encourage you** (in what you are already doing),
- **inspire you** (to new ways to serve children and young people),
- **challenge you** (over things you might need to change).

How to use this leaflet:

The questions in this leaflet are intended to help you (PCCs or church groups) to discuss how the sections of the commitment might apply in your situation. We hope this will help you begin to think through the place and role that children and young people have in your, *and their*, church so that they might enjoy every opportunity to become 'fully alive in God'.

Can you identify something from each section that encourages you, something that inspires you and something else that might challenge you?

The questions here are only a starting point - they do not cover every aspect of the 5 areas, or everything you might be doing, or might think of doing. Finally, discussing these questions together is only the first step.

After each section, try to think what your next step might be.