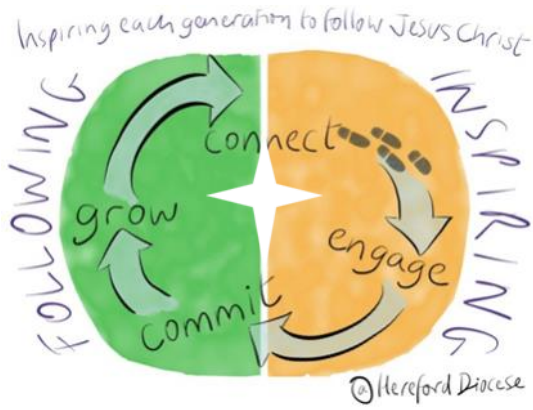


# Growing Faith: Inspiring "Little Steps"



The journey to faith for most people today is made up of many little steps.

The great news is that as Anglican Churches many people still come to us and we are well connected with the people of our communities.

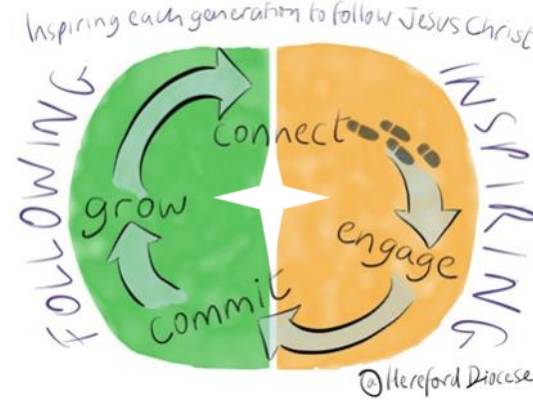
We have the chance to inspire them to take some little steps to go **from connecting to engaging...** exploring, enquiring, experiencing... on a journey of discovery to a growing faith...

Think about where you have connecting points with children, families/ households and young people, as a church/parish, benefice, deanery...

Those will be different for different places—rank them for you in the table—  
**H**—High/lots    **M**—Medium/some    **L**—Low/a few    **0**—none

Connecting Point description	As a Church/ Parish	As a Benefice/ group	As a Deanery
<b>Life Events</b> People coming to you for Christenings, Weddings, Funerals			
<b>Schools</b> Church & non-church schools—what connections do you have?			
<b>Seasonal/specials &amp; a variety of worship</b> Who is connecting with you, when?			
<b>Open Church Buildings &amp; community events</b> What's your footfall of contacts?			
<b>Online and social media</b> Who is visiting/connecting with you online?			
<b>Other connecting points you have?</b>			

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# Explore some more...



Key to inspiring the people to move from connecting to engaging—  
exploring, enquiring, experiencing, on a journey of discovery—  
is to offer opportunities or “stepping stones” to lead them onward...

Some approaches and resources that parishes, benefices and deaneries are finding helpful, with contacts to find out more. Links and info on the diocesan website soon.

<b>Life Events</b> Christenings, Weddings, Funerals	Give a great welcome and keep in touch; invite back and keep inviting. Plan what & how using the Inspiring Life Events guide from Mission Support & ideas, tips, resources from the national church Life Events webpages. Ideas, advice, visits from Diocesan Life Events Support Team—Mark Johnson/Caroline Pascoe.
<b>Schools Stepping Stones</b> Church & non-church schools	Build a web of relationships with your local school, staff and families. Easy ways through <b>Pray, Bake, Read; Pray for Schools; Prayer Spaces in Schools</b> . Explore the gift of being a school governor. Widen engagement with <b>Experience Easter, Open the Book, Godly Play</b> . Collaborate with other churches. Year 6 day, <b>chaplaincy</b> and more—Kathy Bland and Board of Education.
<b>Seasonal/special/variety of worship—days, styles, times</b>	There is some great “intergenerational” worship going on in our diocese. Find out more about <b>Messy Church</b> and <b>Growing Messy Disciples. Café Church. All Age</b> worship approaches. “ <b>Explore Together</b> ” from SU. Support, ideas and resources from Kathy Bland and the Intergenerational Church team.
<b>Open Church Buildings</b>	New <b>Mission and Mortar</b> resources soon to help you make the most of your church building and community events as stepping stones. Wendy Combey and buildings/funding team.
<b>Online and social media</b>	Connect & engage online visitors through <b>A Church Near You</b> —free pages for your church! <b>Everyday Faith</b> . Diocesan/national Comms webpages and resources. Catherine Cashmore
<b>Social action &amp; Environment</b>	Connect & engage through what matters to the people of our communities—find out about <b>Eco Church</b> . Chrissie Pepler
<b>More Stepping Stones ideas with children families and young people</b>	Equip families to live and share faith at home <b>The Kitchen Table Project</b> and <b>Faith5</b> . Grow <b>Diddy Disciples</b> & stepping stones for parents/carers through toddler groups/drop ins. Inspire Dads and their children through <b>Who Let the Dads Out</b> . To find out more/advice/ideas - Lizzie Hackney & Intergenerational team.



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