

Charter Practices : A Whole Church

We believe that we are all involved in the work of building faith with children, young people and families. We will work with the children's, youth, families minister and team to establish, maintain and develop the work. We aim to have a 'whole church' approach to nurturing and passing on faith to the next generation

Psalm 78 reminds us that the call to pass on faith to the next generation is not a few but the whole people of God. 'We will tell the next generation, even the generation yet to be born.' Sharing God's story as a community of faith draws children in to that life of faith as we include them and pray that they too, one day, might 'put their hope in the Lord'

(Start Here) : *Just adopted the charter? It isn't about agreeing with a document, but more about the way the practices become part of our church life together and shape the kind of support we offer to both salaried and volunteer children's and youth ministers. 'Start Here' is a straightforward way of putting the charter in to practice.*

Starting Practice -

- We regularly teach the whole church family their responsibilities to the children, youth, families in the congregation and the wider community.

(Developed practice) : *Keen to move things along? Once the starting practices have become embedded, start to add the following when you feel ready.*

Developing Practice -

- We ensure everyone in the church family knows how to volunteer with the children's, youth and family ministry and is encouraged to do so on a regular basis (making it clear that supporting the ministry does not only involve face to face work with the children and young people, but can involve setting up, cooking, cleaning, praying, organising rotas etc).
- We give the children's, youth and family team regular opportunities to feed back to the whole church family on what they are doing in a worship service, newsletter, email list.
- We ensure that children's, youth and family ministry has representation in the leadership of the church (advocates on PCC, a champion for children's and youth ministry on the Deanery Synod etc) and that decisions made for vision and direction of the church are made in consultation with children's, youth and family ministry leaders.
- For ministry to be sustainable, we know it can't depend upon employed staff alone and we have invested in a core team of volunteers to lead alongside our employed children's, youth and family minister.

(Add your own) : *The starting and developing practices are ideas to get you off and running, we would love you to add your own practices and then share them with us so we can share them with others.*


