

St Andrew's & All Saints

Partnering with God in the flourishing of our communities

What are we here for? Vision Series Session 3: Passing on the baton to the next generation

Starter:

- Thinking back to when you were a child. Did someone introduce you to the faith and church? What else helped you?

Looking at Scripture:

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Matthew 19:13-15
& Psalm 78:4

- What do these verses say about 'passing on the baton' and how God sees this?
- What did 'passing the baton look like for Israel' (Deuteronomy v7-9) [Note – this was written to the whole community, not just to parents]?

Deuteronomy 6:7-9 Message version:

Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night.



- What might it look like today? What might a 21st century description of v7-9 be?
- If you have children or grandchildren, how do you do this already? How could you do this more?

2/3

of Christians came to faith
before age 18

Conversion > age 21 is rare, only 1/4 of believers

43% came to Christ < age 12

1/2 of children who come to Christ are led by parents

29% listed children's ministry as a factor

'It takes a whole church to raise a child': What part can you play?

- What do you think about the above statement?
- What might it look like in practice?
- How have you seen this in action in our churches over the last year or more? What are you encouraged about?

How can you join in? How can we all play our part:

Firstly, thank you to everyone who has given generously over the last 2 years to enable us to support Eddy and Helen to lead children and youth ministries – you can see it is making a big difference!

Here are some suggestions we have shared at our services. Do sign up on the sign up lists if you want to help, and contact helen@standrewsandallsaints.org and eddy@standrewsandallsaints.org to offer any support or for more details.

➤ Pray

Could you commit regularly to praying for our children and young people?

- Pray for their leaders involved with children and youth work
- Pray for the different ministries we are involved in – at church, in our schools, at the Octagon
- Pray for families in our church
- Pray for organisations working nationally to support this work, for example Scripture Union and the 95 Campaign - see <https://vimeo.com/274854630>

➤ Join In... & Join Out.

Could you offer your time to help out in any of our ministries both within and outside of the church: Sunday work, Messy Church, Holiday Club, Toddlers, Schools Work, Octagon Youth, mentoring, making cakes etc.

Do speak to Eddy or Helen to find out more.

➤ Growing Faith in Families

How might you make small steps to help grow faith in your families – with your children or grandchildren.

Some good ideas and resources here:

www.going4growth.com/growth_in_faith_and_worship/faith-in-the-home

➤ Walking alongside & encouraging our young people

What small step might you do this week to encourage a young person?

- Ask them what you can pray for them? And let them pray for you too!
- Find out what the challenges are for them to be a Christian at school and with friends
- Share some of your story with them and let them tell you theirs!



In the name of Jesus, we bless our Young People that they will grow and be filled to overflowing with your Spirit, and shine for you in their schools, with their friends and in their families.

Help them to learn what it means to walk with you. Amen.