



All Together Now: bringing generations together



Tuesday 10 October 2017

10am – 3pm

Welcome to

All Together Now:

bringing generations together

A warm welcome to *All Together Now: bringing generations together*. We're so pleased you're with us! This is an exciting opportunity for us to learn more about what it means to be an intergenerational community. As the event unfolds we'll be exploring theology and practice around what it means to bring different age groups together, so time reflecting on both the 'what' and 'how'. Our hope is that together our understanding will grow and we'll be challenged to be bold in how we gather everyone in our church communities.

This guide contains all the information you'll need throughout the day to make the very most of all that's on offer. It includes details of sessions, questions for consideration as well as recommendations of further reading and resources. We trust you find it useful!

Get involved and participate by joining us via social media throughout the event by using the hashtag #alltogether17.

Gail Adcock
Ed Mackenzie
Jane Butcher

“ For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ ... Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ”

1 Corinthians 12:12, 14-18 (NLT)

Programme



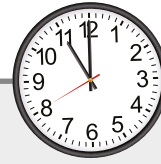
10.00am

Welcome



10.15am

Session 1:
Getting to Grips with
Intergenerational
Church
Gareth Crispin



11.00am

Time to Reflect



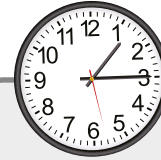
11.25am

Session 2:
Becoming a
Blended Church
Eleanor Bird



12.10pm

Time to reflect,
followed by the
lunch break



1.15pm

Session 3:
Intergenerational
Church in Action!



1.40pm

Time to Reflect



2.00pm

Session 4:
Healthy Togetherness
– Best Practice in
Intergenerational
Worship
Martyn Payne



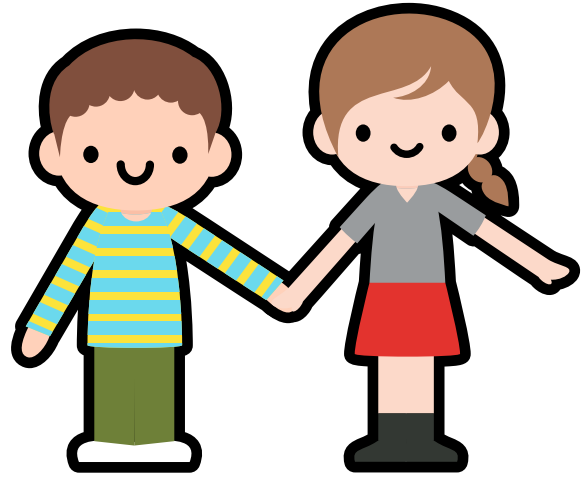
2.30pm

Meet the Panel –
Reflections and
Discussion

3.00pm Close

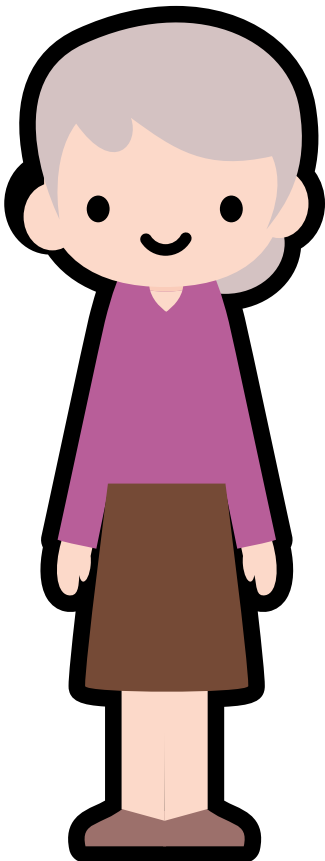
*All times are approximate and subject to change as the day unfolds.

SESSION 1



Getting to Grips with Intergenerational Church

Gareth Crispin, Youth, Children and Families' Minister, St John's Church, Lindow



'Intergenerational' is one of the new buzz words in youth, children and families mission and ministry.

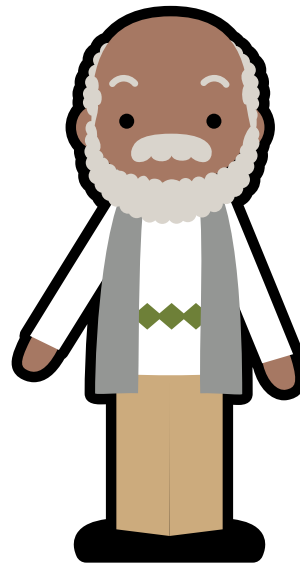
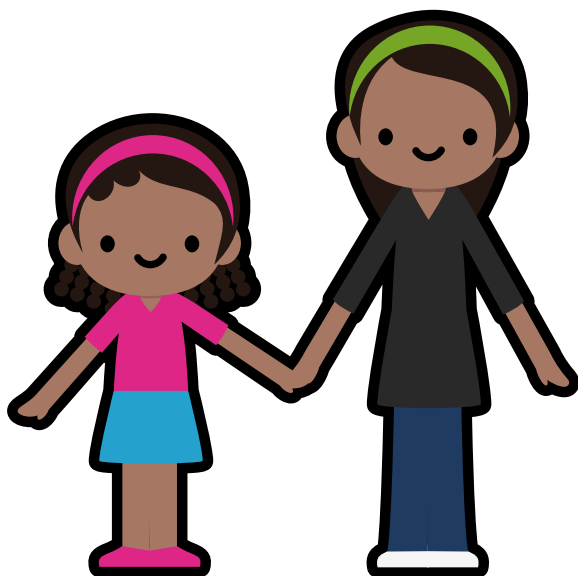
But what does it mean and is it a good thing?

Intergenerationality simply means people of different generations in the same place at the same time. Used this way it becomes synonymous with the terms 'multi' or 'cross' generational. However, it is often used in a more specific sense to mean when people of different generations are interacting with and learning from each other, rather than merely being in close proximity.

In asserting the need for Intergenerational Church, many people point to specific biblical texts to declare that this is the norm for the Church. Others focus on metaphors such as the Body of Christ as a foundation for intergenerational ministry. Still others look to the Trinity to help us see the need for 'unity in diversity in community' that Intergenerational Church brings.

With Google now asserting that two of the traits of the newest generation are community and creation, maybe the interactive community provided by Intergenerational Church is one that is not only biblically and theologically grounded but also relevant for contemporary mission and ministry.

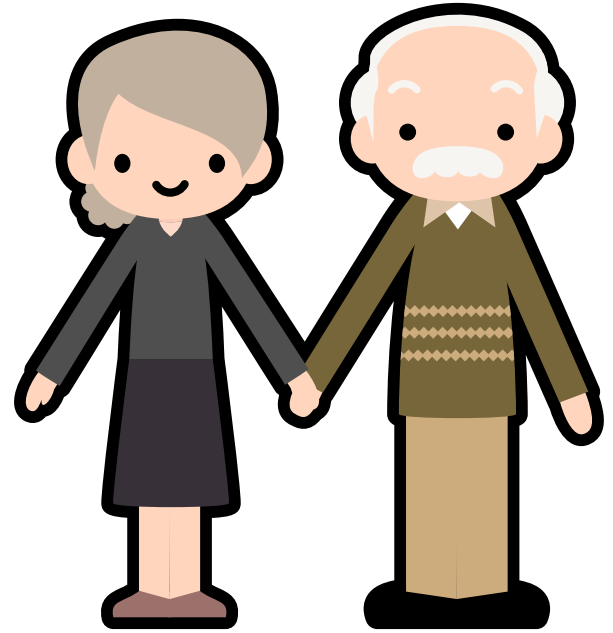
Gareth Crispin is the Youth, Children and Families Minister at St John's Church, Lindow. He is studying part time for a PhD in Family Ministry and Intergenerational Church at Cliff College and acts as one for the adjunct lecturers on Cliff College's new BA Course in Family Ministry and Mission. He is also co-author of *Together with God – An Introduction to Family Worship*.



Time to reflect

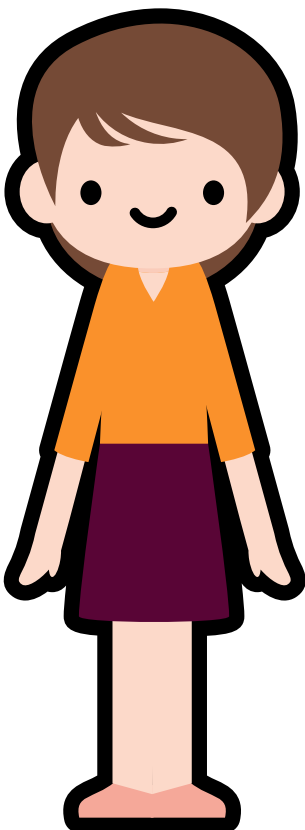
- **Spot the difference**
What do you make of the distinction between 'multi' and 'inter' generational ministry?
- **Identify the challenges**
In your experience what are (or might be) the distinct challenges of multi-generational and specifically intergenerational ministries?
- **Our beliefs**
What do you think about the theological basis for Intergenerational Church?
Does it hold water as far as you are concerned?
- **Reaching a new generation**
With people looking for community and creation (ie participation and involvement), to what extent is a truly Intergenerational Church well placed for mission?"

SESSION 2



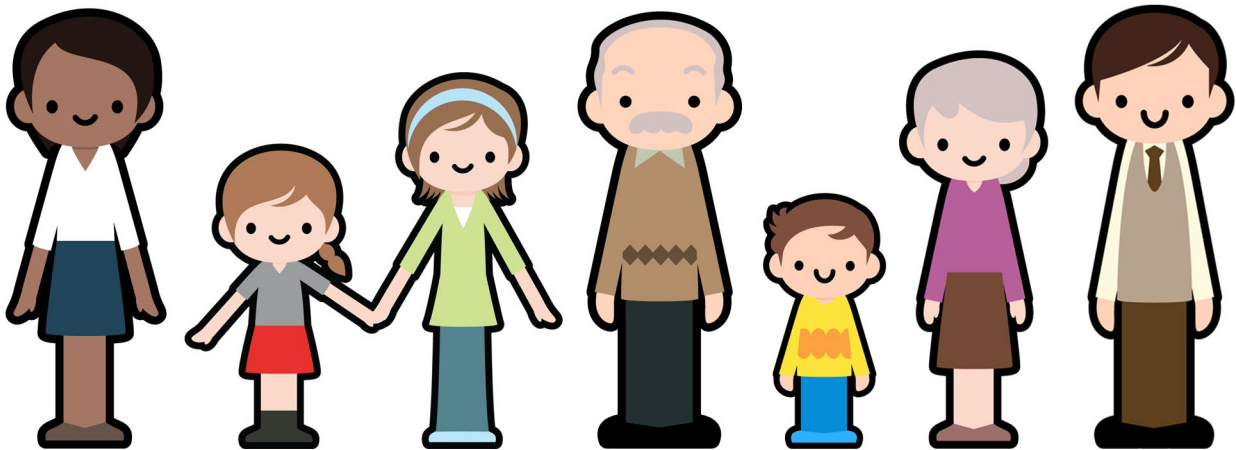
Becoming a Blended Church

Eleanor Bird, Head of Children and Youth Work, St Chad's Church, Romiley



Elle shares her perspective on how a church family can fully function as the multi-generation 'blended' Body of Christ that God made it to be. Her heart is to help us to start to think through how we can change our approach to church life, in order to build a family that lives, serves and worships together.

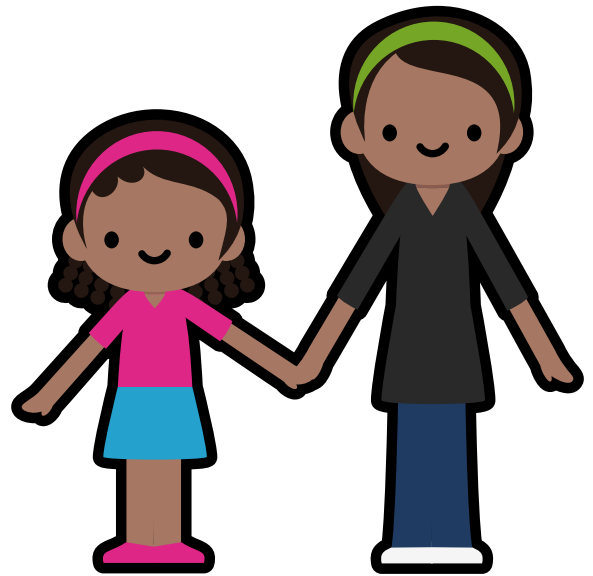
Eleanor Bird is Head of Children and Youth Work at St Chad's, Romiley, in Greater Manchester, overseeing all ministries with 2 to 19 year olds. She has been involved in children's work since she was 12 and in full-time ministry since the age of 21, leading children's venues at New Wine and running workshops and seminars for leaders across the UK.



Time to reflect

- Where is our church family currently 'at'?
Is your church family afraid of the blender effect?
How can you help them tackle it with love and understanding?
- Does your church have a shared language?
How far does your language give equal value to all areas of ministry?
Where do the words we use highlight a lack of value for an area of ministry or age range?
- Training apart to be together – having a shared influence
How can the adults' style of church have an impact on children's and youth work?
How can you enable children to share their ways of meeting with God with adults in the congregation?
How can young people participate more fully in the life of the church?
How and where can they influence your whole church?

SESSION 3



Intergenerational Church in Action!



Three short films which offer an insight into the kinds of activities and approaches taken when different generations gather together:

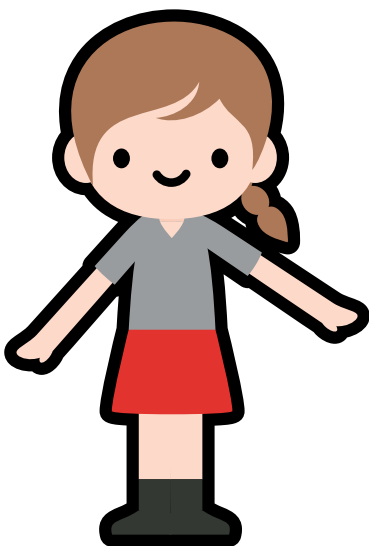
- *Breakfast Church at Waltham Chase Methodist Church*
- *Messy Church – gathering the generations*
- *Immerse, informal community for all ages*

SESSION 4



Healthy Togetherness - Best Practice in Intergenerational Worship

Martyn Payne, Messy Church Team Member



Intergenerational worship is a journey into trying to find out what it means truly to be a church for everyone. It has led to some stepping outside the Sunday box with its expectations to try things like Messy Church and other fresh expressions of church, experimenting with a new format and new opportunities to break down the silos between the generations.

This session offers insights into what makes for good Intergenerational Church and perhaps can be benchmarks against which you test your evaluation of what you hear and observe in your own church situation.

Topics included are:

- the presence of children in intergenerational worship
- the amount of conversation
- the building of community
- the methods of communication
- the value of a connectedness
- the hallmarks of church.

Time to reflect

- Including different generations
Where are the opportunities for your church or group to become intentionally more inclusive of different age groups?
- Getting to know each other
In what ways can you build relationships between different generations?
What might be the barriers to doing this?
- The next step
What one thing will you take away from today that will help grow a greater sense of intergenerational community?



Based in east London, **Martyn Payne** has worked with The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) in a number of roles over the past 13 years. Formerly he taught languages and RE for 18 years at secondary level and then for 8 years worked in churches and primary schools across the country as the Children's Education Officer for a large Anglican mission society before joining the Barnabas Schools and Churches Team of BRF. Now Martyn is part of the BRF Messy Church Team, visiting Messy Churches nationally both to listen to stories and offer encouragement and professional consultation on the development of this new missional form of church for all ages.

Martyn has produced a wide range of materials for churches and primary schools, as well as articles and worship material for *RE Today*, *Together with Children* and *Roots* magazines. He has written several books for BRF including *Footsteps to the Feast*, *A-Cross the World*, *Bethlehem Carols Unpacked*, *Where in the World?*, *The People's Bible* and *The Big Story*.

Resources from **The Bible Reading Fellowship** to use in intergenerational ministry

brf.org.uk/childrens-and-family-ministry

an overview of BRF's children's and family ministry

barnabasinchurches.org.uk

easy-to-use ideas for bringing the Bible to life
for children and adults

messychurch.org.uk

fresh ideas for being an all-age, Christ-centred community

facebook.com/faithinhomes

ways to share faith at home



Messy Togetherness

Martyn Payne

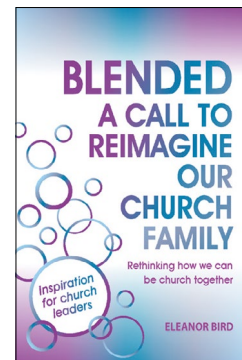
How Messy Church is a beneficial intergenerational expression of church to the church community. By exploring current thinking about faith development and a biblical rationale for the all-age approach, this book offers practical advice and shares stories and ideas from across the Messy Church network.



Family Question Time

Lucy Moore, with Martyn Payne and Jane Leadbetter

A fun and colourful minibook designed to help families talk about the basics of the Christian faith. It offers information alongside encouragement to ask big questions, and contains suggestions about how to express a commitment to God.



Blended: A call to reimagine our church family

Eleanor Bird

Rethink your work with all ages from the ground up with practical observations drawn from Eleanor Bird's experience of developing children's and youth ministry in a local church context.

For more details and to order visit brfonline.org.uk



BRF, 15 The Chambers, Vineyard, Abingdon OX14 3FE
+44 (0)1865 319700 | enquiries@brf.org.uk
brf.org.uk

The Bible Reading Fellowship is a Registered Charity (233280)

The Bible Reading Fellowship is passionate about making a difference through the Christian faith. We want to see lives and communities transformed through our creative programmes and resources for individuals, churches and schools.

Exclusive offer for **All Together Now**

Inspiring resources for all generations

- **New each week**

Two resources, **Adult & All Age** and **Children & Young People** offer brand new materials to nurture your whole church community all week, every week – throughout the year

- **Bible focused**

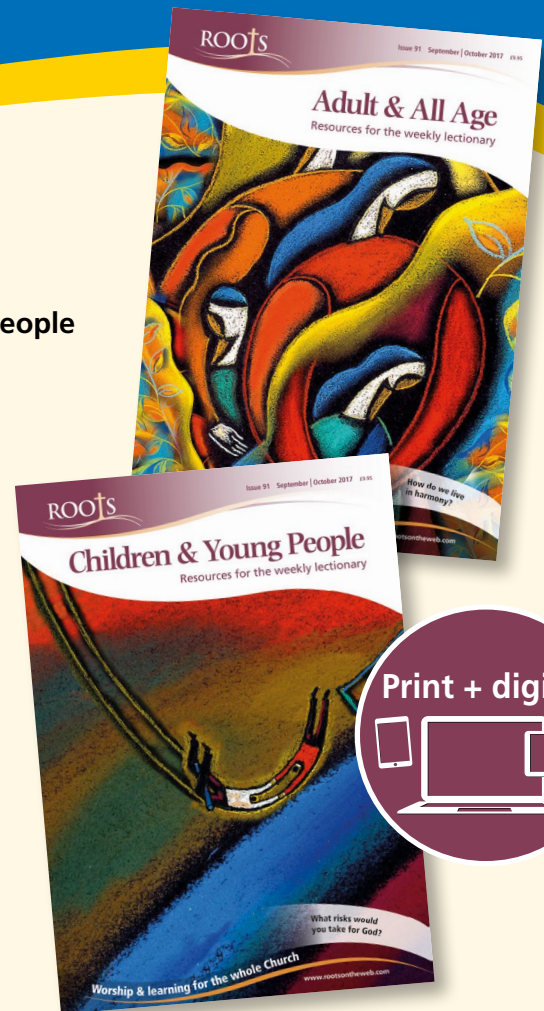
Each week, the resources explore the same lectionary Bible passage so that your church community can grow in faith across the generations

- **Something for everyone**

Wide-ranging ideas support and inspire leaders to prepare memorable and engaging worship and learning – whatever the context or age range of the group

- **Scripture speaking into our world today**

ROOTS resources invite everyone to join a conversation about Scripture to bring the Bible alive for all generations today



Exclusive offer for **All Together Now**

- Free resources
- Specially-written articles for delegates to **All Together Now**
- An exclusive special offer on subscriptions

Offer open
10 - 17
October

www.rootsontheweb.com/alltogether

Looking Ahead

We hope you've found today to be a thought-provoking and valuable time as we've considered a range of ideas and approaches to gathering different generations together. It is the first step in rediscovering what being the whole community of God looks like in all its difference and diversity.

Although there can be no simple answers our prayer is that we can discover new ways to celebrate being church, valuing one another and the contribution we each make to our shared faith and discipleship.



Here are some questions as you look ahead to the next steps in this journey:

- What may be the best starting point for bringing people of different ages together?
- Who might be the people (one, two, a small group) to have first conversations with about this?
- What aspect of current church life and ministry can you easily open up to different age groups?
- Looking ahead, in a year's time what might be different about your congregation or church family?

Resources and Recommended Reading

H C Allen and C L Ross,
Intergenerational Christian Formation
(Illinois, IVP, 2012)

K Amidei, J Merhaut and J Roberto,
Generations Together
(Connecticut, LifelongFaith Associates, 2014)

E Bird,
Blended: a Call to Reimagine Our Church Family
(Abingdon, BRF, 2015)

J Butcher & M Payne,
The Barnabas Family Bible
(Abingdon, BRF, 2014)

J Gardner,
Mending the Gap: Can the Church Reconnect the Generations
(Nottingham, IVP, 2008)

L Kehrwald, M Martineau and J Weber,
Intergenerational Faith Formation: All Ages Learning Together
(New London, Twenty-Third Publications, 2008)

E Mackenzie and G Crispin,
Together with God: An Introduction to Family Worship
(Birmingham, Morse-Brown Publishing, 2016)

K Martin & P Mountstephen,
Body Beautiful? Recapturing a Vision for All-age Church
(Cambridge, Grove Books, 2004)

P Menconi,
The Intergenerational Church
(Littleton, Sage, 2010)

J Roberto,
Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century
(Connecticut, LifelongFaith Associates, 2015)

J Roberto,
'Best practices in intergenerational faith formation',
Lifelong Faith, 1(3) 2007, 5-16 (www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/best_practices_in_intergenerational_faith_formation.pdf)

M Yaconelli,
Messy Spirituality: God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People
(Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2007)

Other recent books that offer guidelines and service outlines for all-age acts of worship include:

N Harding,
Top Tips on All-age Worship
(Milton Keynes, Scripture Union, 2005)

N Harding,
All-Age Everything
(Stowmarket, Kevin Mayhew, 2009)

S Millar,
Worship Together: Creating all-age services that work
(London, SPCK, 2012)

S Millar,
Festivals Together: Creating all-age worship through the year
(London, SPCK, 2012)

Scripture Union's *Explore Together* is a practical tool to help people engage with the Bible. It encourages the exploration of Scripture using natural learning preferences and preferred spiritual styles. Find out more here at: www.exploretogether.org.

Useful websites

www.childrensministrynetwork.org.uk
www.intergenerationalfaith.com
www.lifelongfaith.com
www.messychurch.org.uk
www.rootsontheweb.com

Check this website too:
www.methodist.org.uk/mission/families.