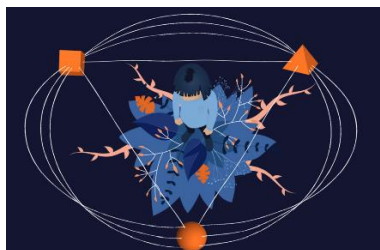


FAITH IN THE NEXUS UPDATES



We are delighted that the Faith in the Nexus report continues to be in demand. From November 2020 – April 2021 it has been viewed 282 times and downloaded 219 times.

Please continue to let us know if you have viewed or downloaded the report: how has it informed or supported your work? Please email nexus@canterbury.ac.uk

The full report and accompanying animation can be found by following this link:

[Faith In The Nexus \(nicer.org.uk\)](http://nicer.org.uk)

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?



Creating Resources

Faith in the Nexus Animation for Parents.

Using evidence gathered from the Faith in the Nexus findings and insight from consultation conversations, the Nexus team are working to produce several resources. In consultation with Ministry and the Kitchen Table project we have re-edited the Faith in the Nexus animation for a parental audience with a focus on inclusive language and a narrative that reassures parents in sharing, guiding, and exploring spirituality with their child. This resource will be supported by a parental guide.

CDP Posters and Conversation Starters to Generate Discussion.

We are currently in the process of designing a series of PDF posters and conversation starters, each one specifically concentrating on different aspects of the main Nexus research.

The following downloadable PDF posters will be shared on our website in May and June:

- ◆ Children's Conversations about Faith (aimed at parents).
- ◆ Children's Conversations about Faith (aimed at Church and school leaders).
- ◆ What are the Implications for Spiritual Leadership?
- ◆ A Sense of Belonging.
- ◆ Spiritual Gardens.

In production are the following PDF posters:

- ◆ How do church school families engage with the Bible?
- ◆ The Nexus and Sacramental Preparation.
- ◆ Nurturing Young Leaders in the Church.

The conversation starters will take relevant quotes from parents, clergy, school leaders and other stakeholders that can easily be used to give direction to CPD events.



Are You Interested in Trialling our New Resources?

Once our resources are available, we will be sharing them on the NICER website, and we are keen to have some feedback on how they can be used effectively to support individuals and organisations working closely with the nexus of church, school, and family.

If you are interested in trialling some of our resources, please contact us via nexus@canterbury.ac.uk

Faith in the Nexus Podcasts.

Podcasts that focus on exploring Children's spirituality in a Christian context are currently in production and will be disseminated through the NICER website in May, June and July. The podcasts consist of a conversation between Dr Ann Casson, Nick Taunt and Kieran O'Brien who explore the thinking behind the animation that accompanies the main Nexus report, ([Faith In The Nexus \(nicer.org.uk\)](http://Faith In The Nexus (nicer.org.uk))). Their conversation also enters into a wider debate about the nature of children's spiritual development within the Christian faith tradition.

Faith in the Nexus: A Catholic Context.

Our last meeting was very well attended and focused on the Nexus and Sacramental Preparation. The original transcripts from the Faith in the Nexus focus group interviews were revisited to see what conversations had taken place around concepts such as Sacrament, Catechesis and First Holy Communion and if there is anything to be learned from them. The evidence presented generated some excellent discussions about the importance of accompanying and supporting parents, not only in sacramental preparation but in the life journey of family faith formation. It was noted that while some parents may not have spiritual literacy or may lack confidence in transmitting faith to their child; they may have a personal narrative of faith, or simply their own story of life. This acts as a powerful starting point for sharing. Furthermore, many parents are responding positively to family – led catechesis and are seeing it as an opportunity to reflect on their own faith journey.



For information about our next meeting and focus, please see the upcoming events section at the end of this newsletter.

Who are the Occasional Belongers?

This recent seminar led by Dr Ann Casson draws upon some key findings from the Faith in the Nexus report that considers the diversity of expression and understanding associated with a sense of belonging and connection.

The main Nexus report found that where a strong, active relationship between church and school was perceived, then there was more evidence of faith-related activities at home.

In this seminar, Dr Ann Casson considers:

- The different ways in which people belong to church.
- The value individuals place on this connection with church.
- Different in kind, not strength of belonging.
- The importance of recognising where people are and acknowledging that perhaps for many that is where they want to stay.

Upcoming Events.

Catholic Consultation Event: Nexus and the Domestic Church.

Date: 13th May 2021, 12:30-1:30pm

Please contact ann.pittaway@canterbury.ac.uk

Seminar: Let's Talk about Death.

Date: 8th June 2021, 3:00-4:00pm

Maximum 25 people

Please contact gill.harrison@canterbury.ac.uk

Seminar: Spiritual Leadership of Church Primary School Headteachers.

Date: 7th July, details tbc

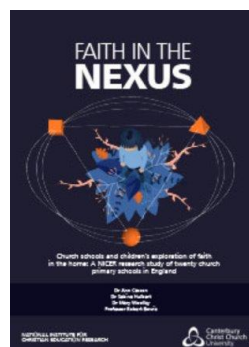
Maximum 25 people

Please contact gill.harrison@canterbury.ac.uk

It is planned to continue the Nexus seminar series in the next academic year 2021-2022. Further details in the next newsletter.

If you would be interested in finding out how a Nexus resource could support your work or have suggestions of your own, please do contact us.

For general enquiries, please contact: nexus@canterbury.ac.uk



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RESEARCH

Canterbury Christ Church University
nicer@canterbury.ac.uk
www.nicer.org.uk

