GLORIFY THE LORD WITH ME; LET US EXALT HIS NAME TOGETHER.

PSALM 34:3
Mission:
CPAS enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:
We long to see a Christ-centred, Bible-based, mission-focused Church where leaders are clear about their call to discipleship, growing in Christ-like character, and competent to lead in a time of rapid change;

where leaders discern God’s direction, enable action, build teams, develop leaders, facilitate communication, and nurture people;

where leaders work in teams, reflecting the diversity of ministries, and model themselves on the servant character of Jesus;

where leaders help transform inherited churches, pioneer emerging churches and deliver creative residential ministry, effectively helping children, young people and adults hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.

Supporting CPAS:

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SUPPORT FROM YOUR CHURCH
Your church may be interested in supporting CPAS as part of its mission giving, helping us enable local church growth across the UK and Republic of Ireland. Find out more by contacting us on supporter.relations@cpas.org.uk or 0300 123 0780.
At the recent General Synod meeting in London, statistics were offered to indicate the challenge that we face in teaching children and young people the good news of the gospel. In particular, that:

- 36% of Church of England churches have no-one under the age of 16 present at Sunday services;
- A further 29% have less than 5 children or young people under the age of 16 present;
- Only 30 churches have more than 100 children/young people under the age of 16 in church on a Sunday.

This decline in the Church’s work with and witness to children and young people has been accelerating in the last few decades for a number of reasons. This editorial is not the place to examine them – rather to underline just how important initiatives like our new School Ventures (see pages 6-8) might be in the years to come. Please pray for this work.

CPAS is also responding to other significant challenges faced by the Church of England at this time. On pages 10-11 you can read about our Thrive learning communities for multi-parish benefices. Did you know that 71% of Church of England parishes are now in such 'grouped' benefices – up from 17% some 25 years ago?

In these and other ways we continue to help local churches to be evangelistically fruitful so that men, women and children might hear and discover the good news of God’s saving grace for themselves.

As Paul writes to the Romans ‘how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?’ (10:14). We pray that the endeavours of CPAS will enable the gospel to be heard afresh in our changing and challenging context.

Thank you for reading this edition of Catalyst, and for your interest and support.
GROWING LEADERS

Over 10,000 people have been through the Growing Leaders course, and to enable the development of many more leaders it has undergone some recent changes.

The revised course content builds on our growing understanding of leadership, our desire to equip Christian leaders to lead well in every context, and recognises how Gen Y and Gen Z engage with leadership.

This new downloadable version also has completely redesigned course material and reformatted guides and handouts. The course can now be purchased for £45 with discounts available for multiple copies of the Growing Leaders book.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

CPAS has become the largest patron in the Church of England having taken on the portfolios of CPT and Peache Trusts in March, increasing our patronage to nearly 700 parishes.

Steve Allen, chair of the CPAS patronage trustees, said: ‘We thank God for the confidence that the Peache and CPT trustees have placed in CPAS and we pray for his wisdom as we oversee this enlarged patronage portfolio.’

By taking on this patronage, CPAS now has significant responsibility for these churches. Whilst some will already be known to CPAS through events and Venture holidays, for many of them this is an important time to build a new relationship with us.

Some of the churches may be familiar to you: Holy Trinity Margate, St Paul’s Leamington Spa, Holy Trinity Claygate, Holy Trinity Cambridge (pictured), Holy Trinity Leicester and St Leonard’s Chesham Bois. It is hoped that partnerships with nearly 170 additional parishes will create exciting opportunities for future Venture holidays and training events.

John Dunnett, CPAS General Director, and staff members will be welcoming incumbents and wardens to the patronage of CPAS at receptions to be held at Lambeth Palace later this year. He said: ‘This is an exciting opportunity and we ask God to help us discern how we can serve these parishes to enable them to “seek and save that which was lost.”’ (Luke 19:10)
**SUMMER IS COMING!**

Over this summer there are an expected total of 63 Ventures and 15 Falcons running during July and August, meaning that 3,000 young people and nearly 3,000 leaders are expected.

Many holidays are not yet fully booked, so if you or someone you know has thought about attending a Venture or Falcon holiday, then do book now to avoid disappointment!

There is great excitement this year with the launch of two new Falcons (Swanbourne and XLP) and three Ventures (Ripon 3, Haslemere Taster and Easter Swanbourne) – and don’t forget about all the other holidays we run throughout the rest of the year.

We also continue to rejoice in the success of School Ventures, with even more holidays (eight in this academic year already) reaching children from Church of England primary schools. Turn the page to read more!

We praise God for all of these opportunities to share the gospel, and pray that more young people would be encouraged to book on as members and adults volunteering as new leaders.

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**ARROW RELOADED**

Earlier this year the latest Arrow Reloaded conference ran for all those who have been through the Arrow Leadership Programme since we brought it to the UK in 1999. A conference that runs every two years, this latest event saw 63 delegates enjoying the opportunity to re-evaluate their leadership and think through new and upcoming challenges, with Bible teaching from Julian Dunham (Arrow Australia) and sessions led by other inspiring speakers.

Here’s what a couple of the delegates said:

> ‘I come back with passion reignited, hope fed and ministry resourced. THANK YOU!’

> ‘Being with like-minded, kingdom seeking people feeds hope. New relationships that will resource ministry. New ideas that may unlock new ministries.’

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**PRAYERMATE**

PrayerMate is an award-winning app designed to help people pray more faithfully and keep a log of what to pray for. As smartphones have increasingly become part of our daily lives this does not mean we should be praying any less. On the contrary, PrayerMate currently has over 30,000 users every month and many CPAS supporters are using it to keep up to date with our daily prayers of thanksgiving and petition. It is our hope that even more would take advantage of this innovative solution to encourage their prayer lives.

praynow4.org/cpas
The very first School Venture took place in 2016, when 65 primary school children came along for an exciting residential. Three years later School Ventures are now taking place in the dioceses of Blackburn, Chester, Hereford, Leicester, Nottingham and Winchester, sharing the gospel with almost 350 children and growing.

Transforming lives

Kat Taylor, Children and Families’ Worker at Christ Church Moreton (Chester diocese), led on a School Venture for the first time last spring. She explains how School Ventures are impacting her job.

‘Shortly after I began my role as a Children and Families’ Worker, I decided to serve on the Wirral School Venture. Before I knew it, I was in an astronaut suit on a stage in front of 50 children talking about the Trinity!

‘School Ventures have helped me to develop the skills I really needed for my role at Christ Church Moreton, as well as drastically improving the relationship with our local school. Before the residential I didn’t really feel like I had a place at the school, but now I have an Ethos Group and the children help me with my school assemblies. School Ventures have helped me earn my place.'
‘I’ve served on two further School Ventures, and I’ve seen incredible transformations in some of the children. The highlight for me is always seeing the children switch on to a revelation of who God is and how much he loves them.

‘These residential really are something special. It’s not like being at school or even at Sunday school for the children. We get to be fully immersed with them from when they wake up until they go to sleep, as they learn about the gospel and process it all. I just love how we get to go through such a long journey with the children in such a short space of time.

‘When we become Christians we have a choice – whether we want to be part of God’s story, or just our own. When we choose to be part of God’s story, it means we’re part of what he’s doing. And he’s doing wondrous things through CPAS, Ventures and Falcons, and School Ventures. It’s incredible to be part of it all.’

One pupil, Eliscya, 9, who went on a School Venture last year, says: ‘What I enjoyed about the learning on School Ventures was how everyone was sitting together so you could say everything you wanted to and it was really open. I can remember doing team work and playing with people and doing new things that I’ve never done before. It was really fun and exciting! By the end of the weekend I thought that Jesus had risen from the dead because all the villagers saw him.’
Transforming local churches

Dr Peter Ham, a Reader at St Hildeburgh’s Hoylake, is a former head teacher and served on the Wirral School Venture last year with Kat. He describes the significant change his church is experiencing because of School Ventures.

‘The youth ministry within our church has been hugely impacted by School Ventures. Initially, there were 10 children that came from our local school, Hoylake Holy Trinity CE Primary, to the Wirral School Venture.

‘At the end of the residential there is a consolidation session, where the children are given the opportunity to join a local church programme, should they wish to. It was during that session that all 10 of the children from the local school decided to join the children’s programme at St Hildeburgh’s which was just incredible.

‘Our school-linked ministries, including Messy Church, Youth Club, Communion in the Community and our Voyagers Sunday classes, have all grown alongside the School Venture weekends, thanks to the very good relationships between the church and the school. We are blessed with enthusiastic participation in many of these activities, which is wonderful to see.

‘Looking to the future, I’m already excited about serving on the next School Venture, and meeting all the children. The gospel is so clearly articulated on these residential, by a team of brilliant leaders who really do know what they’re doing. It’s a fantastic opportunity for children to explore faith issues, many for the first time, if they wish to. In a society where the gospel is not easily heard amid all the other distractions of life, School Ventures really is a brilliant programme that I would love to be available to every child.’
Lauren McCombie Smith has been part of the CPAS family since 2013, leading on nearly 30 Venture holidays. In November she attended the It’s Your Call weekend in Birmingham, led by our young vocations specialist Emma Sykes to help young adults explore if God is calling them into leadership.

Why did you decide to attend It’s Your Call?
A few years ago I made the decision to step out for God which changed my career trajectory and I’ve been questioning what to do next. I heard about this event when helping a friend find an event about ordination, but it wasn’t until it came up again during a Haslemere Venture holiday that I thought I that I could do with the space to think about the question myself!

Was it what you expected?
I actually didn’t have any expectations. It was one of those things where I booked it and thought: ‘Tick, you can think about your life decisions that weekend.’ I was hoping that the event would make a huge difference but I did have a moment of ‘what if I come away from it with no idea of what to do next?’ – gladly that was not the case!

So what was it like?
It was a breath of fresh air and exactly what I needed: space and time, something you don’t always get in the busyness of life. It was a really supportive and safe environment and so useful to explore it with others from a similar stage of life - we could all journey together. The most important thing for me was just listening to God, which I wouldn’t necessarily do on my own. He gave me peace and confirmation that I was in the right place. That knowledge that he was behind me 100% was so comforting.

What would you say to others?
For anyone who wants to figure out where God is leading you, this is an invaluable resource, as it gives you the headspace for listening and hearing what God is calling you to. It’s a really supportive environment with a good balance of fun and spiritual input with great people for guidance.
CPAS is partnering with several dioceses to facilitate learning communities specifically for groups of leaders from multi-parish benefices, to help them make a greater impact for Christ in their communities.

Adam Clayton, incumbent of four rural parishes in North Shropshire, took part in a Thrive learning community that CPAS facilitated in partnership with Lichfield diocese. This was one of three Thrive programmes to take place in the diocese in the last four years, involving 11 benefices and more than 50 leaders.

‘Thrive has really unlocked the door for us. It has given people energy, hope and power to get out there and have a go,’ said Adam. ‘Having the outside input put forward new ideas, strategies and ways of thinking, which we then took back to our parishes with confidence.

‘It empowered and energised people to think outside the box and see church as something which everyone can be involved in shaping.

‘We found the five sessions very useful, taking in turn the topics of journey, leadership, discipleship, mission and vision and creating an action plan for each.

‘The session on leadership opened people’s eyes to different forms of leadership, and the session on vision prompted us think about our vocation as a group of churches, reflecting on what God might be wanting us to do in our community.

‘One of the challenges of being dispersed over such a large geographic area is communication. During Thrive, we decided to launch a benefice-wide pew sheet, giving “dates for your diary” for what was happening in each of the churches. This was such a simple change, yet one which has built connections between the parishes and has helped us all feel we are part of something bigger.

‘We are now in the process of coming up with a new name for our group of
Lesley said: ‘We were keen to do something to support churches in multi-parish benefices to become more missional, and give lay people more confidence to initiate, lead and change things in their parishes.

‘I see Thrive as a culmination of small events, which can lead to great things! The groups of leaders take a series of small steps, then look back after two years and see how far they’ve come. Ultimately, Thrive builds a group of people who know they can bring about change, which is a very powerful thing.’

For Adam’s parishes, the effect of Thrive has gone far beyond those directly involved. He added: ‘Lots more people from across the benefice have wanted to be involved in leading the church, not just those who took part in Thrive. We now have worship teams who take on responsibility for a number of services in the parishes, from leading prayers and music to sharing a message. It’s not just one person up at the front anymore.

‘Thrive has helped everyone see the importance of reaching out and being a mission-shaped community. We are asking new questions about how we can live out our faith all the time, not just on a Sunday morning.’

Lesley Bentley, Lichfield diocese’s Director for Ministry Development, worked with CPAS Leadership Specialist Pam Macnaughton to establish and facilitate the Thrive learning communities in the diocese.

churches, to give us a stronger sense of identity and unity, so we can be a more effective Christian presence.

‘Coming together from our different churches to take part in Thrive enabled us to move forward as a whole benefice. We’re doing things we wouldn’t otherwise be doing, and there’s lots we’re still working on.

‘We’re seeing growth through “Food and Fellowship”, a Fresh Expression which takes place once a month, and through Messy Church, which moves around two of the parishes. We’d love to see this grow further so we can reach more primary school aged children and their families.

‘We’ve also been able to get to know new people through St Peter’s Walkers, a weekend walking group, and we’ve had more people getting involved in activities through the week such as prayer groups and pastoral visits.’

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Thrive has... given people energy, hope and power to get out there and have a go.’
Being a follower of Jesus is about transformation and movement. By movement I mean our developing, dynamic relationship with God – how we embrace change, grow, overcome challenges and sense fresh opportunity.

If you happen to be the leader of a local church, this movement is likely to be caught up in a series of important relationships which are impacted when we begin to consider moving on from our current role. Family, friends, church and the wider community will all be affected in varying degrees. Transformation comes from living out God’s call in the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

Having moved myself, sometimes by choice and sometimes by order (I was a military chaplain), I recognise the complexity (both the delights and the cost) of moving from one ministry to another. In my present role at CPAS, I work both with those who are actively seeking a move and others who find the prospect to be a significant challenge. To that end I have recently devised a day for ministers who are seeking to clarify God’s call and who are wondering whether to stay where they are, applying renewed energy and vision, or to move on.
The day in question is called **On Call: Stay or Go?** It is intended for those who are undecided whether they have completed the call to their present context and need to clarify if staying is best or moving on to a new ministry is around the corner. My experience in this work reveals that, having served a parish well through ups and downs, there are some places it is particularly hard to leave — especially so if the church or community remains vulnerable. In other cases, the needs of spouse, children and the wider family require care and wisdom to be balanced alongside the minister’s calling to church leadership.

On Call: Stay or Go? is a guided day of discernment which involves working through key questions of calling relating to God, family, church and self. Attendance is limited to six ministers, so that each person has space to engage with their own calling during the day. This approach gives permission to explore lots of questions which help a leader clarify how and where to live out their vocation best. Subsequently, they will have contact with a facilitator to help the process: participants are asked to complete a form in greater detail and are offered a personal consultation by phone or Skype within a month to clarify their next steps. Early feedback from participants has been very positive.

We are running three of these days in 2019. It needs to be made clear that this day relates to the personal journey of a minister’s vocation.

The other day offered by CPAS, called **Moving On**, is about the processes of applying for a new post. Two Moving On days are planned for 2019 and dates for each event can be found on the CPAS website.

[www.cpas.org.uk/events](http://www.cpas.org.uk/events)
Too many young people across the UK have to deal with the negative effects that social, behavioural or financial challenges can have on their lives. Through our Falcon holidays, we want to do all we can to help children and teenagers facing disadvantage and give them the opportunity to come to Jesus, because we believe the kingdom of God very much belongs to ‘such as these’ (Luke 18:16).

Sadly, it’s often the most vulnerable children who are most in need of a holiday, and least able to afford it. In 2019, we want to offer more places to young carers and children who are fostered, adopted or living in difficult family situations, many of whom are able to pay very little towards a place on a Falcon.

Falcon holidays give children and young people amazing opportunities to make friends, experience new things and have fun. Whilst engaging in varied activities, they also have the chance to explore life with Jesus in a relevant and creative way – taking home memories that last a lifetime.

We’re working together with Spurgeons children’s charity and other organisations such as Home for Good, inviting children and teenagers they are in contact with to come on a Falcon holiday. We’re also thrilled to report that Swanbourne Falcon is growing to two holidays for 11-14s this year, in part to accommodate more young carers and particularly vulnerable children.

The growth at Swanbourne takes the total number of Falcon holidays planned for this year to 19, all with the common goal of blessing young people who face challenges with a holiday full of fun, friendship and faith.
Olivia*, one of the 31 young people on last summer’s Swanbourne Falcon, said: ‘On the Falcon holiday, everyone was so friendly and didn’t judge me. The funniest thing was the squirrel monkeys at the safari park stealing my friend’s bracelet!

‘I learnt that no matter what we have done, God will always love us and care for us. I also learnt that not everyone behaves the same way, but that doesn’t mean you can’t be friends. I loved the holiday.’

We’ve also had really positive feedback from Spurgeons, who also sent a group of young carers on Fylingthorpe Venture last summer.

‘The young people had a brilliant time!’ said Rachel Shackleton, Spurgeons Church Partnerships and Projects Manager. ‘It was their first time away from home, so there were nerves as well as excitement but we knew that the leaders were aware of how the young carers would be feeling and would be sensitive to any issues. Not only was it a break from their caring responsibilities but was also an opportunity for them to be in a completely different environment, do new things and make new friends.

‘It’s also important to say how grateful the parents were. It’s unlikely that these young carers would have had a holiday otherwise, for family health or financial reasons. They could get involved in everything that was on offer and enjoy a week that was just about them – it had an amazing impact.’

* Name changed to protect young person’s identity

With your help we can ensure that places on Falcons can be offered to more young people who are most in need of a holiday at a price their parents or carers can afford. Please visit www.cpas.org.uk/places to donate online.
Every year around 4,000 children and young people come on one of our 100 holidays.

Why not share this opportunity with an 8-18 year old, so they can enjoy the chance to explore life with Jesus, learn and grow in small groups, and make life-long friendships?

Visit ventures.org.uk for more information