

## Confirmation - PARISH 'Case Study'

When it comes to planning your Confirmation event, good planning is essential to make this a great experience for young people – to build relationships with them, explore their ideas about what faith means, allow them to ask the big questions that are important to them and to encounter God together in the midst of this.

The four Clergy in the Team, with support from the Diocese of Salisbury's Project Officer for Young People's Confirmation, who were keen to see more young people come to faith and be supported in their faith, met together to discuss the possibilities of 'doing Confirmation differently' – they had already received an 'initial ideas/thoughts' sheet from the Project Officer (see [Resources Section](#) on Diocesan website for further information and a copy of this) – this included:

- Who can commit to running the course
- Venue
- Day/time
- Course materials

Our desire was to create an engaging time for the young people involved in this project, resources that would open up discussion around faith issues and expand their current understanding to a point at which they would feel confident enough to articulate their own faith. Again, you will find some 'Good engagement' ideas in the [Resources Section](#). The course was offered to those young people who had expressed an interest in exploring faith and their friends too.

The clergy team who were to run the event considered all of the resources & content, connected with the young people who were interested, discussing number of sessions, budget (for materials and food), initial draft letter and safeguarding document and agreed start date, time and venue.

As resources, we agreed to use [Kleer Series](#) (a video tool for starting Spiritual Conversations with young people in any school, church or youth context) as a discussion starter alongside *Live Life* (a Confirmation course available from Bristol Diocese) and created a 'session plan' which included these elements; a budget was agreed for purchasing materials such as journals for the young people and letter drafted to be sent on to parents alongside a safeguarding document.

The team agreed the importance of continuing to support the young people after Confirmation too, with the realisation that it was really important to consider this before the course began.

The event began with ten young people over a six-week period, all very open to engaging with the content and expressing their views. This was helped by the informality of the sessions, hosted in the lounge of one of the Clergy - fresh food (cookies, brownies, biscuits, cake, fruit!) was provided by a congregation member to simply bless the young people. The event format ran as follows:

1. Icebreaker (5/10 mins)
2. Kleer Series – (timing with questions/response – 15 mins)
3. Sharing time/big questions (5 mins)
4. Main Content - Live Life (1 hour)

Some of the young people knew each other socially but others didn't so breaking down those initial barriers through an Icebreaker each time was extremely helpful (quite often this was taken from the 'Live Life' course). This led nicely into the Kleer Series video each time which explored a particular aspect of Spirituality. There are 24 sessions so we had to 'cherry pick' from the wide selection. Bearing in mind that the videos don't explore how God fits in to this Spirituality until the last four of the 24 videos, it made sense to use some if not all of the 'God videos' in the later content of the sessions. The young people really enjoyed this aspect of the sessions – the videos were informative, fun, engaging and open up a lot of thought-provoking questions and ideas.

Sharing time allowed the young people to talk about anything that was current for them, either in school or somewhere else in their lives – the Clergy received some questions that they couldn't answer immediately but would always come back to them at a later session and provide an answer, or certainly have more discussion around the issue.

'Life Life' has a variety of sections, begins with an Icebreaker, an activity, videos, bible passages to explore with questions to follow and ending with a pause for thought (prayer). The leaders chose to adapt or omit some of the content to suit the timings or theme for the evening.

A great idea with Life Life, as the initial Icebreaker, is for the young people to write down the answer to the question: 'What do Christians believe' in no more than 30 words; these are then sealed in envelopes and opened at the end of the course (week 6 in this case). It was amazing to see how many of the young people were quite astounded to see how much their views had changed by the end of the course and couldn't really believe what they had written down!

In a questionnaire at the end of the course, all of the young people expressed that a significant change had taken place in them. Some answers to the following question ***“Can you say what your faith means to you and how it makes a difference in your daily life?”*** were:

'Walking with God is awesome and it's great to be able to pray whenever I need him'

'I now pray every day'

One of the Clergy leading the course said, "You have helped us think through our whole approach to confirmation. Your enthusiasm has undoubtedly contributed to us having 10 enthusiastic young people starting the course."

**Salisbury Diocese Confirmation Project  
(2015-2018)**

Salisbury Diocese Board of Education, [The Avenue](#), Wilton, Salisbury, SP2 0FG

Tel: 01722 744538

Website: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/cypaf/confirmation>



THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

*'Working for children, young people, schools and parishes'*

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  

---

DIOCESE OF SALISBURY