



Conference



Grow



Programme



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Information

This information should provide you with all you need to know before your arrival and also at the event, so please do take time to read it through. If you have any specific questions feel free to contact Events (events@salvationarmy.org.uk) or the Children and Youth Department (childrenyouth@salvationarmy.org.uk)

#CYGROW

Share your thoughts and insights throughout the weekend on social media. Use the hashtag **#CYGROW**



Grow



**Welcome to Grow: The Children & Youth Leaders' Conference 2025.
We're looking forward to sharing in this weekend with you.**

When we look at an acorn, we are reminded of the mystery that something so small holds the potential to become something mighty. This seed could become a tree. And not just any tree, but an oak tree! Enduring, strong, fruitful, and beautiful. That potential can be held in the palm of a hand, but flourishing requires more than just potential.

Potential is realised when a seed is grounded in soil that is deep and rich in nutrients, when it is fed and watered and when the sun shines on it. Potential is realised when there is protection from storms. Potential is held in the very being of the acorn: What it becomes depends on how it is surrounded and nurtured.

Each child and young person holds within them an innate, God-given potential for a life that is enduring, resilient, fruitful and filled with beauty. Their identity, purpose and belonging are held in their very being but are also dependent on an environment that firmly roots them.

And this is our calling: To hold them in environments that are safe and nurturing. To fill them with words of truth, wisdom, goodness, hope and love. To surround them, offering protection from storms and influences that want to tear them down. This weekend, we'll lean into our calling – to hold the potential of every child and young person – and learn how we can create environments that nurture, feed and allow God to bring about growth.

'May his Holy Spirit give you his power deep down inside you. Then Christ will live in your hearts because you believe in him. And I pray that your love will have deep roots. I pray that it will have a strong foundation.' Eph 3:17 (NIRV)

Children & Youth Team

What you need to know



VENUE

The Slate Conference Centre at The University of Warwick is in the heart of the UK and is easily accessible from across the UK.

HOW TO FIND THE VENUE

Radcliffe & The Slate - CV4 7SH

This postcode will direct you to Gibbet Hill Road, the main road through the university. Follow signs for Lakeside Village, you'll then find signposts for Radcliffe and Scarman.



Easily accessible from many major routes: M1, M6, M5, M42, A5 and A14.



Birmingham International Airport is approximately 20 minutes away.



Coventry is on the West Coast Mainline and serviced by regular trains, seven days a week.



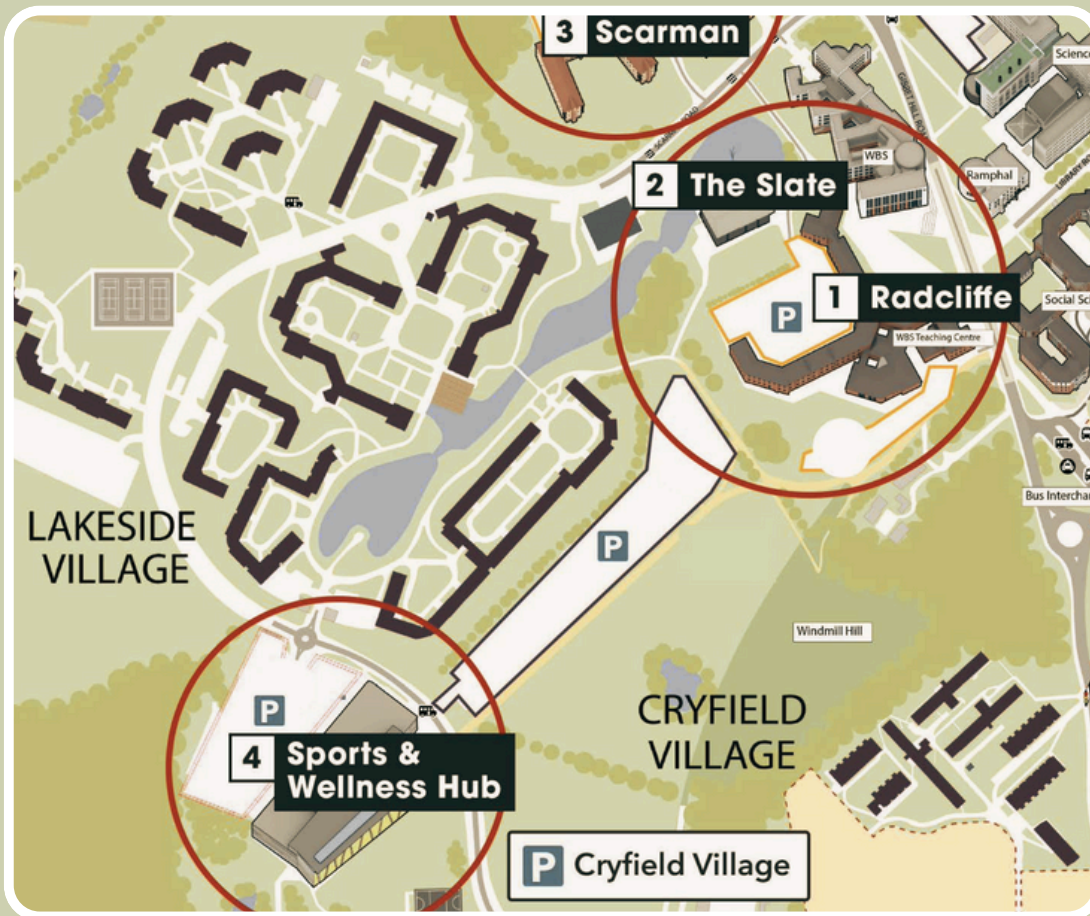
Regular buses from the university campus to Coventry city centre and rail station. Taxis are available at the bus terminal.



All university car parks have ANPR and you will be required to register your details in advance, or on the day, to facilitate free parking. To register your vehicle, scan the QR Code or [click here](#) to book. Promo code: ZSTUK



Venues at a glance



1 & 3. RADCLIFFE & SCARMAN

- Conference car parking
- Registration from 15.00
- Accommodation in comfortable ensuite bedrooms
- All rooms have Wi-Fi, TV, tea and coffee making facilities, a hairdryer, towels and toiletries. Please note that rooms are not serviced during the stay
- Restaurant, bar and lounge area
- Refreshment and snack stations
- Seminar and social spaces
- Outdoor courtyard

SEMINAR SPACES (Radcliffe)

- Seminars (Spaces 2, 2a, 30, 33)
- Evening Prayer (Space 12)
- Morning Prayer (Courtyard)

2. THE SLATE

- Main venue, Slate
- After hours, Radcliffe & Slate
- Marketplace, Slate foyer

4. SPORTS & WELLNESS HUB

- The swimming pool, sauna, steam room and gym are available for your use from 15.00 on Friday. The Hub is just a short walk across the campus from The Slate and Radcliffe venues. (See map above)

General information

PRAYER AND PASTORAL

If you would value some prayer support over the course of the weekend then please feel free to ask Janet Thompson, or a member of Team, who will be really happy to spend time with in you in conversation and prayer.

PRACTICALITIES

If you have any medical emergencies during the weekend or questions about the venue, then please speak to Bianca Pierre, Tracy Wood, or the venue reception.

If it is programme-related, then speak to Phil Ball.

DRESS CODE

Dress code is casual – no uniform is required. Remember swimwear and gym kit if you want to use the leisure facilities, or if you want to join the morning run or walk.

WATER BOTTLES

To help us reduce waste, please bring a reusable water bottle with you. Drink stations are located in each venue.

YOUR FEEDBACK

We'd really like to hear your thoughts on the various aspects of the conference so we can continually improve the events that we run in the future. The online survey will be live until Friday 30th March.

You can complete it by [clicking here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



Marketplace (Slate Foyer)



EXHIBITORS

- The Bible Society
- Addictions
- Candidates Unit
- Children & Youth
- Community Services
- Family Ministries
- International Projects
- Mission Resources

OPENING TIMES

Friday	18.00 - 19.00 21.45 - 22.30
Saturday	10.00 - 10.30 13.00 - 13.30 14.45 - 15.30 19.15 - 19.45 21.30 - 22.30
Sunday	10.00 - 10.30

OASIS CHRISTIAN BOOKS

There will be an onsite Christian Bookshop where there will be an opportunity to purchase a variety of resources for ministry with children and young people. Cash and cards accepted.

BOOK TOKEN

At registration you'll receive a book token in your delegate pack that can be used in the Bookshop to claim ONE ministry resource up to the value of £15 (excludes CY clothing).

Friday evening

15.00

**Registration & Refreshments (RAD Lounge)
Sports & Wellness Hub
(Swim, Steam, Sauna, Gym - all optional!)**

18.00

Marketplace (Slate)

19.00 - 21.45

**The Grow Gameshow & Dinner
(Slate - Doors 18.45)**

Our opening session will help us to start to see the wood from the trees. As we eat and play, we'll try to understand more about the world of Gen Z and Alpha - and learn through moments of resonance, challenge and surprise!

21.45 - 22.30

Marketplace

22.00 - 23.00

**After Hours & Refreshments
(RAD Lounge)**

22:30 - 23:00

Evening Prayer (RAD Space 12)

Saturday morning

07.15 - 07.45

Morning Prayer (RAD Courtyard)

Morning Walk/Run

07.00 - 08:45

Breakfast (RAD Restaurant)

08.30

Day Delegate Registration

09.00 - 10.00

Bible Study (Slate - Doors 08.45)

Rooted in Ephesians (Andy & Jenny Flannagan)

Ephesians 3:16-19 speaks about being 'rooted in love' - the fruit and fulness available from a life built on a firm foundation. We'll use this to emphasise the importance of the soil surrounding our young people and the challenges they face.

10.00 - 10.30

Refreshments & Marketplace (Slate)

10.30 - 12.00

Main Session (Slate)

The Soil (Commissioner Jenine Main)

In Ephesians 4 & 5, Paul calls us to a higher purpose, beyond specific roles or vocations. He invites all believers to follow Jesus, embrace hope, and engage in transformative, kingdom-building work. This is a call to live out our faith with passion and purpose, making a meaningful impact in the world, particularly with the young.

12.00 - 13.30

Lunch (RAD Restaurant)

Saturday afternoon

13.00 – 13.30

Marketplace

13.30 – 14.45

Keynote (Slate – Doors 13.15)

Martin Saunders, Deputy CEO, Youthscape
The Digital Re-wiring of an Anxious Generation

We've begun to understand young people and their environment. Now, we'll examine the nutrients in this soil—the influences fuelling their growth. Young people absorb everything around them: people, digital media, education, and a world in crisis. While this soil may seem familiar, we'll dig deeper to analyse its impact on their growth.

14:45 – 15:30

Refreshments & Marketplace (Slate & RAD)

15:30 – 16.30

4x Seminars

Details of Seminars on Pages 21 & 22

16.30 – 16.45

Refreshments (RAD Lounge)

16:45 – 17.45

4x Seminars (repeated)

Conversation Space and Wellbeing Support (RAD Lounge)

Saturday evening

18.00 – 19.15

Evening Meal (RAD Restaurant)

19.15 – 19.45

Marketplace

19.45 – 21.30

Main Session (Slate – Doors 19:30)

The Food (Matt Perkins)

After exploring the challenges young people face, we now focus on the hope found in Jesus, lived out in our work with children and young people. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

22.00 – 22.45

Praise Party (Slate)

After Hours & Refreshments (RAD Lounge)

21.30 – 22.30

Marketplace

22.30 – 23.00

Evening Prayer (RAD Space 12)

Sunday

07.15 - 07.45

Morning Prayer (RAD Courtyard)

Morning Walk/Run

07.00 - 08:45

Breakfast (RAD Restaurant)

09.00 - 10.00

Bible Study (Slate - Doors 08.45)

Rooted in Ephesians (Andy & Jenny Flannagan)

In Ephesians 6 we're encouraged to put our armour on - to 'suit up' in readiness to guard ourselves and fight for others. How can God's armour equip us for the challenge to root ourselves in love?

10.00 - 10.30

Refreshments & Marketplace (Slate)

10.30 - 12.30

Main Session (Slate - Doors 10.15)

The Fruit (Lieutenant Kat Whitmore)

Ephesians 2:8-10 reminds us that we are God's handiwork, His masterpiece, each created with a glorious purpose. This is the hope of salvation for our young people who are invited to join in God's salvation work on earth, embarking on a transformational adventure for themselves and the world.

12.30 - 13.30

Lunch (RAD Restaurant)

Grow Contributors

We are pleased to be joined by a number of guests, speakers and musicians, as well as representatives of a number of Mission Service Departments.



Commissioners Paul & Jenine Main Territorial Leaders, UK & Ireland



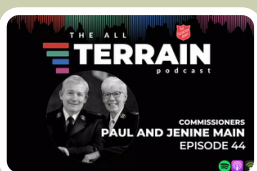
Paul and Jenine Main have served as Salvation Army officers for 39 years. They met at the Training College in 1986 and married later that year. Their officership has taken them to various locations in the UK, including London, Liverpool, North Wales, the Isle of Man and Cardiff, where they served on DHQ for seven years.

They first served at THQ in 2007, with Paul as Territorial Evangelism Secretary and Jenine as Mission Development Officer. In 2011 they were appointed as Divisional Leaders in the Central South Division.

Separate appointments followed, with Paul appointed back to THQ as Assistant Secretary for Personnel and Jenine becoming the Divisional Commander of the Central South Division. 18 months later, Jenine was appointed as Divisional Commander of the new North London Division, and Paul as Territorial Secretary for Personnel and Executive Officer for the International Staff Songsters.

In 2018, they were appointed to the Caribbean Territory, Paul as Chief Secretary and Jenine as Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries.

Returning to the UKI Territory, they took up appointments as Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Leadership Development. On 1st January 2024 they were appointed Territorial Leaders in the United Kingdom & Ireland Territory. They have two married children and four grandchildren. Paul enjoys gardening, while Jenine likes reading, walking, and swimming. They love exploring new places and meeting new people.



Listen to Paul & Jenine's story on Episode 44 of The All Terrain Podcast. Scan the QR Code or [click here](#) to listen.

Grow Contributors

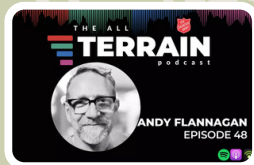


Andy Flannagan
Bible Teaching



Andy Flannagan's album 'Drowning in the Shallow' was described as 'near-perfect' by Cross Rhythms, but he remains disappointingly imperfect. He wrote the critically-acclaimed book 'Those Who Show Up', which has inspired many normal people to get involved in politics and is now the Executive Director of Christians In Politics.

Longing to see the church invest as much in the 'dispersed' as it does in the 'gathered', he is leading on releasing and equipping Christians to be influential in the spheres of culture for the Gather UK Movement. His songs 'We Seek Your Kingdom' and 'Tears and Celebration' have been taking words of worship into the civic space and gleaning huge use around the UK and beyond. His worlds collided perfectly in 2022 when leading worship at the now infamous National Prayer Breakfast that precipitated a change in Government.



Listen to Andy Flannagan on Episode 48 of The All Terrain Podcast. Scan the QR Code or [click here](#) to listen.



Jenny Flannagan
Bible Teaching



Jenny is an Art Therapist, an Integrative Psychotherapist and an Actress. She currently lives in Devon and works as a therapist for CAMHS, with a little bit of private work with adults on the side. She also has a cabaret theatre company - The Ruby Dolls - with whom she writes and performs, mostly in London rather than out west. She loves swimming in the sea, reading novels and eating.

Grow Contributors



Martin Saunders
Keynote Speaker



Martin Saunders is the Founder and Director of the Satellites youth event, is Deputy CEO at Youthscape, and is co-host of the Talking Youth Ministry podcast. He was editor of Youthwork magazine for over a decade, and co-founded Childrenswork magazine, the Youth Work Summit and the National Youth Ministry Weekend.

He's the editor of 15 books, including many for youth leaders and several aimed at young people. His latest book 'Signal Fire' aims to help young people get practical about prayer. He loves watching his kids exceed his meagre sporting achievements, and is evangelistic about Indian food and 1980s action movies.



Matt Perkins (CY Team)
Main Session Speaker



Matt is the Salvation Army's Youth Specialist for Leader Development for the UK & Ireland Territory. His role aims to support local youth leaders and their work with young people through the development of resources and training.

Most recently, Matt has been involved in projects addressing boys' mental health, pastorally supporting LGBTQ+ young people, youth leader training and the development of street-based youth work.

Grow Contributors



Lieutenant Kat Whitmore (CY Team) Main Session Speaker

Lieutenant Kat Whitmore and her husband Lieutenant Jonny Whitmore are the Territorial Youth & Children's Secretaries, heading up the work of the Children and Youth Team. They are passionate about local corps mission, and engaging young people in discipleship and leadership. Alongside their national role, and with their three children, they connect with their local worshipping community, serving with the children's team at Camberwell corps in South London.

Prior to becoming a Salvation Army Officer, Kat was a primary school teacher for ten years in a diverse area of Bedford, and was involved with children and youth ministry in the corps and the community she lived in.



M25 Worship Leaders



'We don't cause traffic, just jams!'

M25 is a passionate group of eight musicians from across the London Division, brought together by a shared love for worship. Their name began as a lighthearted joke, since they all attend churches within the M25, but it soon took on a deeper meaning when a verse from Malachi 2:5 was laid on their hearts: 'My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him...'

With hearts open and expectant, the band are really excited about leading our sung worship over this weekend.

Grow Contributors



Revd. Chris Goswami
Seminar Speaker



Chris Goswami is a Baptist Minister and technologist with extensive experience, working in the tech industry in Silicon Valley. He is a founding member of the AI Christian Partnership, helping Christians navigate the world of AI responsibly.

A former winner of Christian Blogger of the Year, Chris writes regularly at www.7minutes.net



Yassir Mohammed
Seminar Speaker



Yassir has always been passionate about supporting people who've been impacted by addictions. He is grateful to be supporting colleagues who in turn support children and young people to reduce harm and stay safe. He's particularly interested in county lines, knife crime and gang culture.

His energy, discipline and positivity is a great asset to the team and aids our work with employees, officers and volunteers across The Salvation Army in the UK & Ireland.

Grow Contributors



Emma Scott
Seminar Speaker



Emma is a practising psychotherapist. She is particularly interested in areas where there are systemic barriers to emotional wellness such as financial hardship, violence against women and girls and lack of access to appropriate housing.

Emma is also the Beacon Partnership Manager at Restored, a Christian charity that seeks to end domestic abuse through speaking up, equipping the church and Supporting survivors. She's a keen advocate for promoting the gendered impact of violence against women and girls as well as the dangerous impact of the rise in misogyny for all genders. She remains hopeful that empowered communities can generate change. She is a parent to 3 children and a local school governor.



Tracy Wood (CY Team)
Seminar Speaker



Tracy is the Salvation Army's Children's Specialist for Leader Development for the UK & Ireland. Her role aims to support local children's leaders in their work with children through the development of resources and training.

Tracy has driven key projects such as RAISE: The Online Children's Leaders' Training Course and Mindset: An Online Resilience Training Course. She is also responsible for the training of Starfish Mentors across the territory. Tracy is married to Stephen and is passionate about her involvement at her local corps in Chatham, where she is the Tweenager Leader and a Starfish Mentor in a local school.

Grow Contributors



Richard Prescott (CY Team)
Seminar Speaker



Richard is the Salvation Army's Outreach Mission Partner for Children. Richard works to support the growth of local outreach mission programmes and initiatives with children (5 to 11 years) who have little or no connection with the Christian faith. Richard is particularly passionate about exploring the places and spaces which The Salvation Army doesn't yet engage in - with the aim of helping leaders look at the opportunities to serve the most vulnerable children in their communities.

Richard is married to Viu and they lead the work of The Salvation Army in The Forest of Dean. Richard is responsible for children's ministry, is a school governor and a Starfish Mentor in two local schools.



Major Janet Thompson
Pastoral Support



Before becoming a Salvation Army Officer, Jan was a Mental Health nurse. She is now a Therapist and Head of The Salvation Army Counselling & Therapeutic Services. Jan has a passion for working with children and young people which pre-dates her officership, and has brought this to her roles as an officer in local corps-based ministry and as a Divisional Youth Officer.

Jan will be available over the weekend to provide pastoral support to delegates as we consider some of the challenges our children and young people face in everyday life.

Seminars

All seminars will be recorded and will be available to delegates after the conference

NURTURING POTENTIAL



Seminar - RAD Space 30

Navigating the Future: How AI is Shaping the Lives of Children and Young People

Speaker: Reverend Chris Goswami, Christian minister, award-winning writer & successful tech-consultant

This seminar aims to explore the transformative effects of artificial intelligence (AI) on the lives of children and young people, with a focus on how we can support and guide them. It will provide insights into the opportunities and challenges presented by AI and discuss strategies for fostering a safe and positive environment for young people in the digital age.



Seminar - RAD Space 2

Building Safer Communities for Young People

Speaker: Yassir Mohammed, Addictions Development Officer, The Salvation Army Addictions Department

Join us as we discuss actionable plans to build nurturing communities where young people can thrive securely. This seminar aims to highlight the importance of creating safe environments for young people to enjoy a play-based childhood. It will open our eyes to some of the issues and dangers young people face today, such as rising youth violence and county lines, and explore strategies and collaborative approaches to ensure their safety and well-being.



Seminars cont...



Seminar - RAD Space 33

Hyper, Toxic or Broken? - How are online influences shaping young people's understanding of sex, identity and relationships?

Speaker: Emma Scott, Psychotherapist & Beacon Partnership Manager at Restored

This seminar will explore the online influences that shape young people's understanding of femininity, masculinity and real-life relationships. We'll look at how these forces impact identity (and the harm caused), before considering how we can help young people forge relationships grounded in respect, mutual flourishing, and love.



Seminar - RAD Space 2A

Nurturing Young Minds: The Interplay of Spirituality and Mental Wellbeing in Children

Speakers: Tracy Wood, Children's Specialist for Leader Development & Richard Prescott, Outreach Mission Partner for Children (CY Team)

This seminar will explore the connection between a young person's spirituality and their mental wellbeing. Drawing on key insights from Lisa Miller's seminal works 'The Spiritual Child' and 'The Awakened Brain', we will delve into how spiritual development can significantly contribute to a child's overall flourishing. We'll examine the role of therapeutic mentoring and the importance of relationships in fostering spiritual growth. Additionally, we will consider the critical nexus of school, home & church, and explore how these environments can collaboratively nurture a child's spirituality.





Conference

Saturday 21st March 2026

Join us for our one-day conference next year. More information to follow.



CY Newsletter

Sign up today!

All the latest news, straight to your inbox!



Children & Youth



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