

Grandparenting Matters

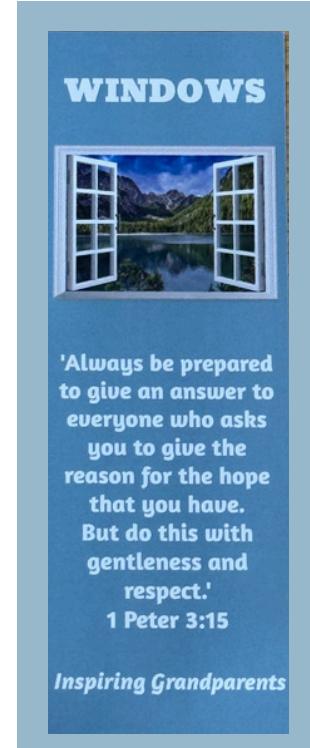


Welcome Grandparents

Welcome to our 6th Edition of Grandparenting Matters! This winter newsletter is prepared just for you, filled with love and encouragement.

Inside this Issue

- A reminder of our recent Grandparenting Event in the "Inspire Series" held in October when we explored **Windows of Opportunity** to share Jesus with our grandchildren.
- Sue Smart shares her story about the challenges of intergenerational grandparenting.
- Practical help in growing generous hearts in our grandchildren.
- The launch of our book "Hear Our Hearts" – a 31 day devotional for Christian Grandparents and lots more.



Save the Date

Save the date for our next Grandparenting Event on **Saturday 21st March 2026** 10.00am – 12.30pm at Moulton Parish Church. Do please join with us. See more details on page 10 of this edition.

Windows of Opportunity: Passing on Faith Through the 4 M's

Our last Grandparenting Event, **Windows**, reminded us of something deeply encouraging: we don't have to wait for perfect moments to pass on our faith. God is already at work in the everyday — opening little windows of opportunity through ordinary life. We explored this through the 4 M's: Moments, Mutual Interests, Milestones, and Mountains.

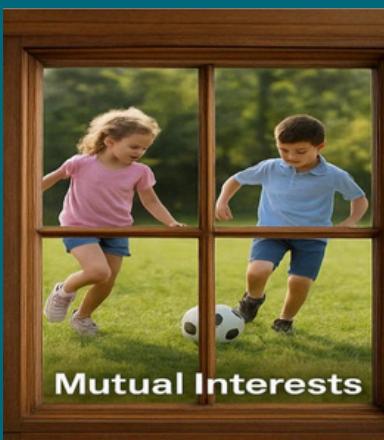
Moments – Everyday Opportunities to Pass on Faith



Most of our faith-sharing as grandparents happens in the small, unplanned moments of life. A phone call, a FaceTime chat, a shared meal, a car journey, or bedtime conversations — these everyday interactions are where faith is often caught, not taught.

A simple prayer before bed, thanking God for food, or marvelling at a beautiful sunset can gently point our grandchildren to God without pressure or preaching. These relaxed moments build trust and open hearts.

One grandmother shared how praying daily for her grandchildren using the Prayers for Grandchildren devotional led to a beautiful “window”. Her six-year-old granddaughter became curious about her prayers, and soon afterwards a conversation about God’s peace opened unexpectedly with her daughter-in-law. One faithful, ordinary morning prayer became a doorway for God to work across generations.



Mutual Interests – Sharing Faith Through What We Love

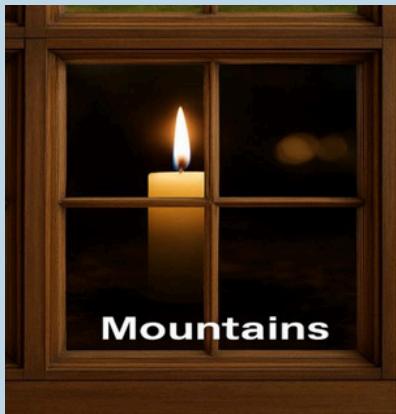
The second “M” reminds us that shared activities build strong bridges. Gardening, football, music, baking, walking, reading — when we enjoy something together, faith can naturally flow through conversation.

Whether planting seeds in the garden and talking about God’s creation, kicking a football and noticing how God gives gifts and talents, or singing joyful worship songs together, these shared interests create warm, natural windows for faith to grow. Children remember how we make them feel — and shared joy speaks powerfully of a life connected to Jesus



Milestones – Marking Life with Faith

Birthdays, school transitions, exams, achievements, Christmas, even losing a first tooth — milestones matter. They are moments to speak blessing, encouragement, and gratitude. A card with a prayer, a verse tucked into a gift, or a shared activity like packing a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child can turn milestones into lasting spiritual markers. These moments help our grandchildren see that God is present throughout their story.



Mountains – Walking Through Challenges with Faith

Finally, we acknowledged the **mountains** — the challenges many grandparents face. Caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare, navigating family difficulties, or supporting grandchildren through bereavement can feel heavy.

Yet Scripture reminds us that our help comes from the Lord (Psalm 121). Even in these difficult seasons, our steady love, faithful prayer, and honest hope can speak volumes.

Mountains may reveal our limits — but they also reveal God's faithfulness.

So let's keep watching for the windows.

Small moments. Shared interests. Meaningful milestones. Even difficult mountains.

God delights to use them all as we lovingly and prayerfully pass on faith to the next generation

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Intergenerational Grandparenting

Roger and I are at a stage in our lives where we are looking after our elderly Mothers. My 90 year old Mother-in-law lives alone with carers supporting her and my 92 year old Mother lives in a local nursing home. We have three grandchildren, 7, 4, and 2 years old who we also look after once or twice a week. We are fortunate and blessed that they all live within half hour. This is a stage that some of you may recognize or for whom it may arise in the future.



To be honest we find it hard at times to know how to divide our time between the generations without feeling we are neglecting one or the other.

However, we hope and pray that by loving our mothers and caring for them, hopefully showing patience (which can be a challenge at times) and being compassionate, we can reflect God's character of love and faithfulness to our children and grandchildren and show them what living a

life that honours God looks like. We aim to be good role models. Hopefully we are showing them glimpses of God's characteristics (fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control).

We know that we can't reach perfection in this life, but our weaknesses keep us dependent on God and by keeping our eyes fixed on him we can draw on the strength of the Holy Spirit to help us and keep us going!

The following bible verses have resonated with Roger and I over the years:-

We are called to love one another – God's commandment

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another"

John 13 v 34

God commanded us to love our mothers and fathers and is the fifth commandment

"Honour your father and your mother" (throughout our lives!) Exodus 20 v 12

On the cross Jesus had concern for his mother and asked the apostle John to look after her

He said to Mary, *"Woman here is your son"* and to John, *"Here is your Mother"* John 19 v 25

This shows Jesus' love and concern for his mothers physical and spiritual welfare, even in his own agonizing death

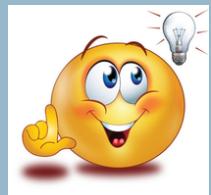
Sue & Roger Smart

Grandparenting Steering Group Members MPC



**The only Bible some people will read is your life....
not everyone can or will read books...
but everyone you encounter can, and will, read your
life.**

Nicky Gumble



Growing Generous Hearts in Our Grandchildren

A Unique Role, A Lasting Influence

One of the quiet joys of being a grandparent is realising just how much influence we carry. We don't usually set out to "teach lessons" in formal ways, yet our grandchildren watch us closely. They notice how we speak about money, how we treat people, and what excites our hearts. Few qualities are caught more readily than generosity.

Generosity isn't simply about giving things away; it is about reflecting the heart of a generous God. When grandchildren see generosity lived out, not just talked about, they begin to understand something profound about faith in action.

Children Learn What They See

I remember my father went to the shops in Chesterfield every Saturday morning for an elderly couple in the neighbourhood to do their weekly shopping and he took me with him to help and visit the couple who were practically housebound. No sermon followed, no explanation at the time. After a while I asked the question: "Why do you do that?" The answer was simple: "Because God has been kind to us."

Moments like these teach far more than a lecture ever could. Small, repeated acts of kindness — sharing time, offering help, being attentive — form a picture in young minds that generosity is simply how Christians live.

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said; 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" - Acts 20:35

Learning to Loosen the Grip

Most children naturally hold tightly to what they believe is theirs. That's not a flaw; it's an opportunity. Grandparents are wonderfully placed to gently guide children towards the joy of sharing.

Helping a grandchild choose toys to give away, or inviting them to pass on clothes they've outgrown, can open important conversations. We're not telling them they must give everything up, but showing them that blessing others brings joy that lasts longer than possessions.

With our grandchildren each year we take part in "Operation Christmas Child by Samaritan's Purse" and have great fun choosing toys and other practical gifts with them to place in a shoebox and take to the collection point. We have seen how our grandchildren's faces light up more from giving a toy away than from receiving one. That delight is generosity beginning to take root.

"Do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
Hebrews 13:16



Giving as Worship

Introducing grandchildren to giving back to God helps them understand that generosity is part of faith, not an optional extra. This doesn't require large sums. A few £'s placed aside intentionally can teach powerful lessons about trust and gratitude.

Together with each of our grandchildren we help them save a few pounds each month to give once or twice a year to the Christian charity we support at Church called 'Hope in Christ School' in Bantama, Ghana. They love hearing about the children they are helping through videos and pictures and they have realised that there is joy in helping others less fortunate than themselves. Helping our grandchildren setting aside a small amount for giving builds a sense of responsibility towards God's work.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." – Malachi 3:10

Serving Side by Side

Generosity grows when children experience it in action. Volunteering together — collecting and packing food for the local Food Bank, visiting elderly neighbours, helping at church — allows grandchildren to see the impact of giving time and energy.

Serving together also opens space for meaningful conversations: Why do we do this? Why does God care about others? These shared experiences often become treasured memories that shape values for life.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" – 1 Peter 4:10



Generous Words, Open Homes

Grandparents are often great encouragers. A kind word from a grandparent can carry extraordinary weight. Teaching grandchildren to use words to build others up shows them that generosity isn't always visible or measurable — but it is powerful.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Hospitality works in the same way and is a tangible way to show generosity. When grandchildren help welcome guests into our homes, set tables, or offer refreshments, they learn that opening our homes reflects God's open heart. It doesn't need to be perfect; it just needs to be loving.

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" – 1 Peter 4:9

Telling stories to our grandchildren that highlight acts of generosity and compassion helps shape our grandchildren's hearts to understand and guide their actions as they grow. There are many bible stories and biographies of Christians who have shaped the world through their compassion and generosity.

"Finally, all of you, be like minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." – 1 Peter 3:8

Gratitude: The Root of Giving

Generosity flows most naturally from thankfulness. When grandchildren learn to notice and name what they are grateful for, they begin to see abundance rather than lack. Simple habits — sharing daily thanksgivings or keeping a gratitude list — quietly shape generous hearts. A grateful child is far more likely to become a joyful giver.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Pointing to the Greatest Gift

Ultimately, every lesson about generosity leads us back to Jesus. God's greatest act of generosity was giving His Son. When grandchildren understand that our giving flows from God's love for us, generosity becomes an act of worship, not obligation.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16

A Legacy Worth Leaving

Teaching generosity is a most precious gift we can offer our grandchildren. As we live with open hands and open hearts, we pass on more than habits — we pass on a Christ-shaped legacy that can bless generations to come.

October's Craft Activity

During October's Grandparenting morning some of the attendees opted for a seminar including a craft activity.

On the Windows theme, we created cards with window cut-outs behind which we placed words relating to the qualities and characteristics we hoped our Grandchildren would see in our lives that would help them discover more about what it means to know God in your life. We then made the window variably opaque to remind us in the coming days and weeks, that we don't always clearly show these characteristics and to remind us to ask God to help us be a witness to him, recognising that we can't do it in our own strength but need to Holy Spirits help.

Here are a few of them! Let Angela know if you'd like to know how to make one yourself!



Hear Our Hearts – A Year We Will Never Forget!

2025 has been a year of unexpected doors opening, answered prayer, and deep gratitude as we saw our first book, Hear Our Hearts, come to life.

The journey began quietly. Over many years of grandparenting ministry, conversations, and prayer, we became increasingly aware of how much grandparents long to pray faithfully for their grandchildren — and how helpful it is to have something practical, encouraging, and easy to use each day. What started as our own prayers and reflections gradually grew into something more.

Then came a real surprise. A Christian publishing organisation discovered our website and contacted us, asking whether we would consider writing a book specifically to help grandparents pray for the next generations. After much prayer, excitement, and a fair amount of nervousness, Hear Our Hearts was born — a book shaped by our love for our grandchildren and our desire to help others pray with confidence and hope.

Each day in the book includes a short reflection, Bible verses, a prayer for grandparents, a prayer for grandchildren and a take away thought for the day, alongside practical ideas for passing on faith. It's not a book to read once and put away, but one to return to again and again.

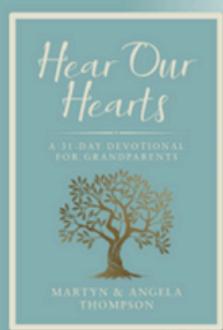
One of the joys of 2025 was being invited to speak on three Christian radio stations, sharing our story, our ministry, and the heart behind the book — a wonderful opportunity to encourage grandparents far beyond our local church.

We're delighted that Hear Our Hearts will be available at our Grandparenting Events for the reduced price of £6.99 (normally £9.99). We hope and pray it will encourage many to lift their hearts — and their grandchildren — to God.

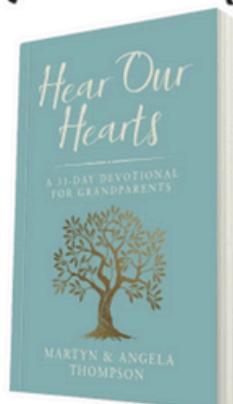
"This is a resource every grandparent will treasure."

"Let's get this treasure into the hands of every grandparent (or soon to be!) and into every local church."

"Pick up a copy and become an effective praying grandparent today!"



Hear Our Hearts



**A 31-DAY DEVOTIONAL
FOR GRANDPARENTS**

A Prayer for Grandparents and Grandchildren

Loving Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the precious gift of our grandchildren and for the privilege of being grandparents. Thank You for the everyday moments You give us — the conversations, the laughter, the ordinary routines — and for the quiet windows of opportunity where Your love can be seen and shared. Help us to notice these moments and to trust that You are already at work within them.

Lord, give us wisdom and gentleness as we share life with our grandchildren. In our shared interests, help us to reflect Your joy and creativity. As we garden, play, walk, talk, sing, or simply sit together, may our words and actions naturally point to You. Let our homes be places of warmth, welcome, and peace where faith feels real and safe.



We thank You for milestones — birthdays, achievements, transitions, and celebrations. Help us to mark these moments with gratitude, blessing, and prayer, reminding our grandchildren that You are present in every season of their lives.

Father, we also bring before You the mountains we face. When

we feel stretched between generations, weary from caring, or burdened by family challenges, be our strength. Teach us patience, compassion, and trust. May the fruit of Your Spirit grow in us — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control — so that our lives reflect Your character.

We pray for generous hearts — in ourselves and in our grandchildren. Help us to live with open hands, grateful spirits, and a willingness to serve. May our grandchildren learn generosity by watching us love, give, forgive, and welcome others.

Above all, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, Your greatest gift to us. May our lives quietly point our grandchildren to Him, and may the legacy we leave be one of faith, hope, and love — for generations to come.

In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.



Loving Our Grandchildren Well

Every grandchild is wonderfully unique. At our next Grandparenting Event on **Saturday 21 March**, we'll explore the **Five Love Languages** and how understanding the way our grandchildren receive love can shape both how we relate to them and how we pray for them. With practical insights, gentle reflection and guided prayer, this session will encourage grandparents to love intentionally and pray expectantly – whatever their circumstances.

Please register in advance by emailing: christianganparents@btinternet.com or by phoning 07986 042553. All are welcome, so invite your friends and those in your church.

Inspire Series - Christian Grandparenting

Loving Our Grandchildren Well

*...how the 'Five Love Languages'
shape love and prayer*

Saturday 21st March 2026
10 am - 12.30 pm
Moulton Parish Church



Please register in advance at
christianganparents@btinternet.com

Grandparenting for Faith Course

Over six engaging sessions, the course equips grandparents and grandparent-figures to help the children they love most meet and know God. Drawing on biblical wisdom, practical experience, and real encouragement, it offers tools and ideas that fit easily into everyday life.

Based on the book *Grandparenting for Faith* by Becky Sedgwick, and created by Parenting for Faith in partnership with CYM (the Institute for Children, Youth and Mission), the course can be completed individually, with a friend, or as part of a group. Many have found it both reassuring and deeply inspiring, helping them grow in confidence as they pray for, talk with, and model faith to their grandchildren.



There are several ways to take part. A six-week Zoom course led by Becky Sedgwick and Kate Irvine begins on Tuesday 27th January 2026, meeting weekly from 7–9pm. As well as teaching input, participants benefit from breakout rooms to reflect and apply what they are learning in their own context. The cost is £30 per household (or £60 for a church group), with support available if cost is a barrier.

For those who prefer an in-person setting, the course is also offered at Lee Abbey, providing space for

learning, reflection, and encouragement in a beautiful environment.

In addition, churches and leaders can access a single-session version to help equip and empower grandparents within their congregation, and facilitators can use training videos to confidently lead their own groups.

To find out more and book, visit:

<https://www.parentingforfaith.brf.org.uk/grandparenting-for-faith-course/>

This newsletter was produced by the Grandparenting Ministry Team at Moulton Parish Church, Northamptonshire, NN3 7SW

You can find more information on our Grandparenting Ministry on our website,

<https://www.moultonchurch.co.uk>

**Or contact Martyn and Angela Thompson by:
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