



Everyone counts 2014
Growing the church for us all

Everyone Counts 2014
Research and Statistics,
Archbishops' Council

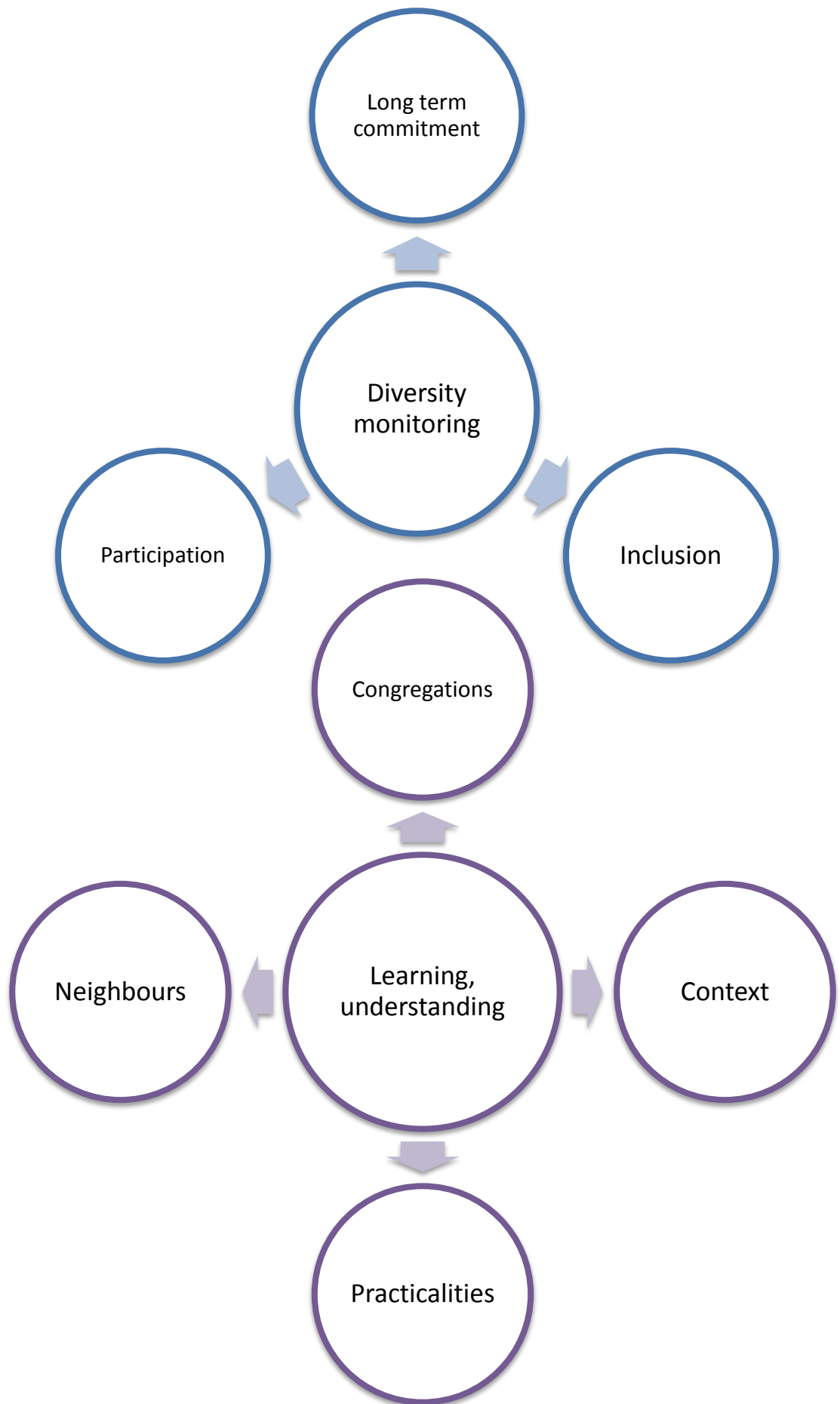
Everyone Counts was a congregational survey carried out in a sample of Church of England parishes as part of a long-term commitment to monitoring diversity within the church.

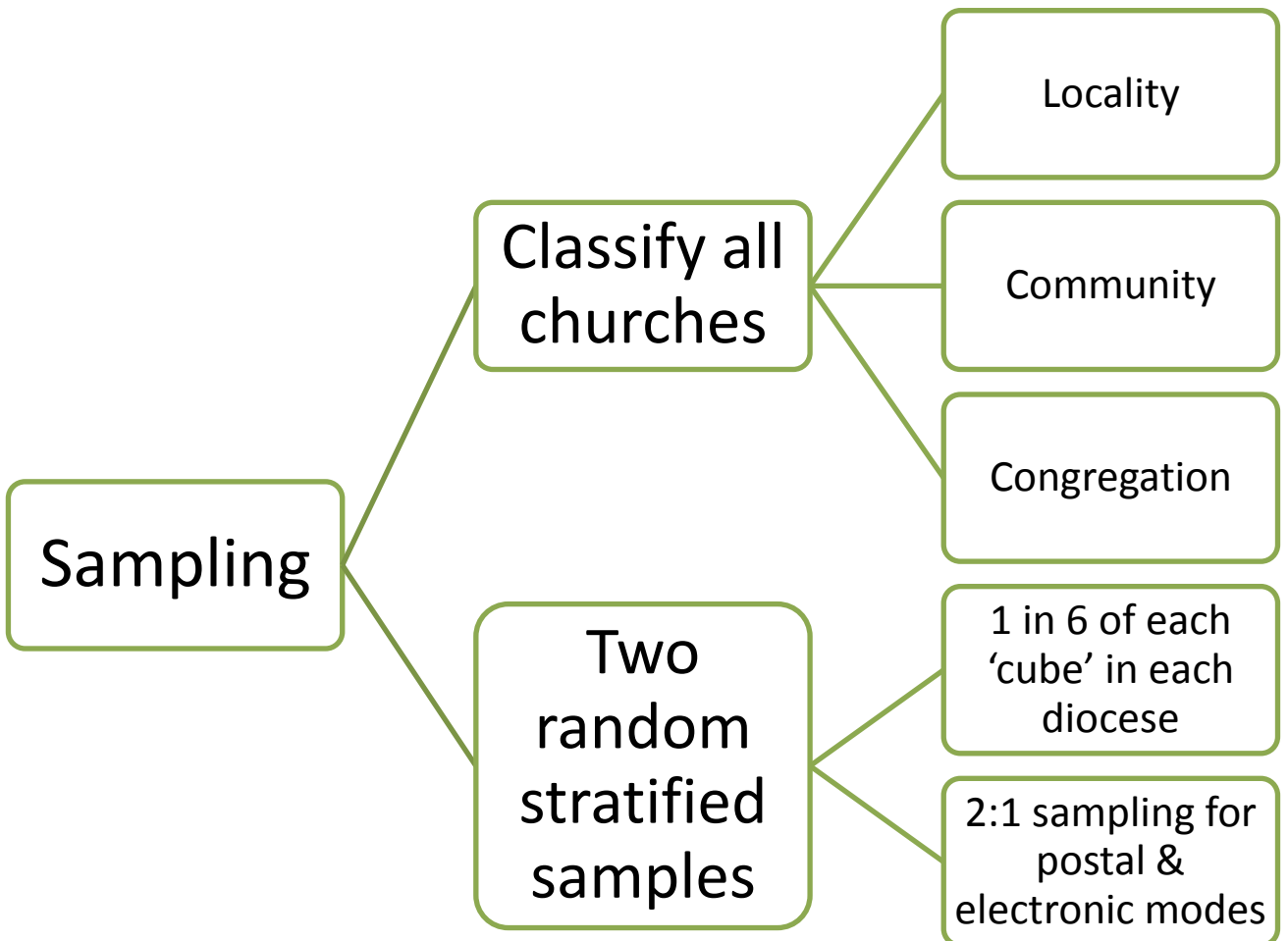
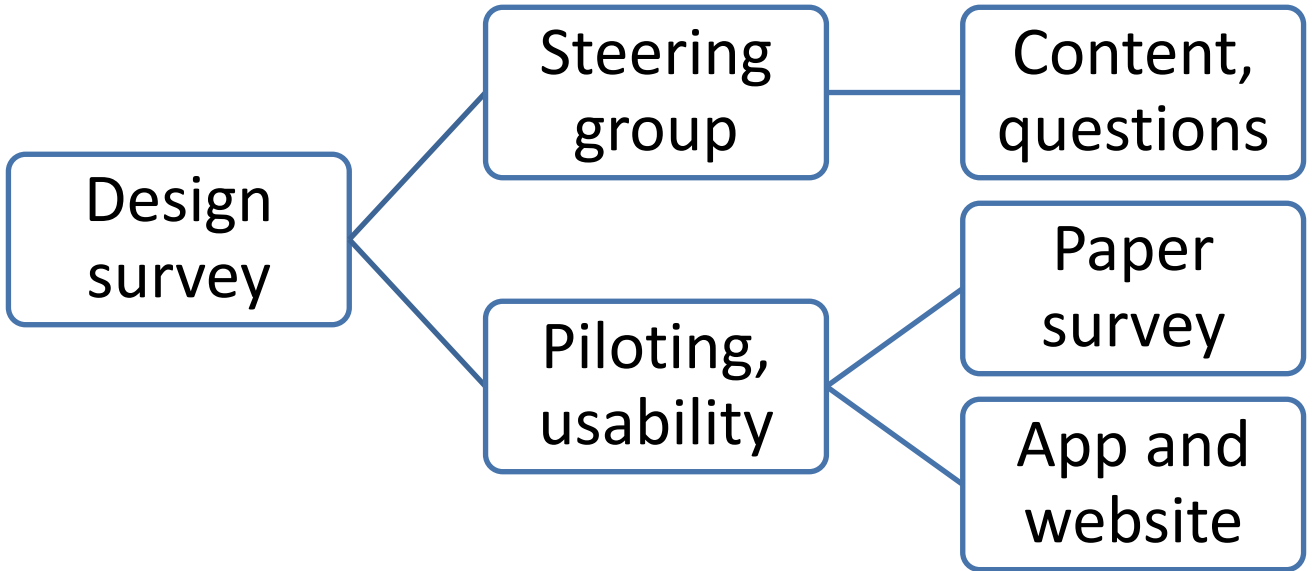
Together with information about the local community, area and annual church statistics, data were collected to identify trends in the key demographics of congregations, those who attend and those who take on roles within their local and wider church.

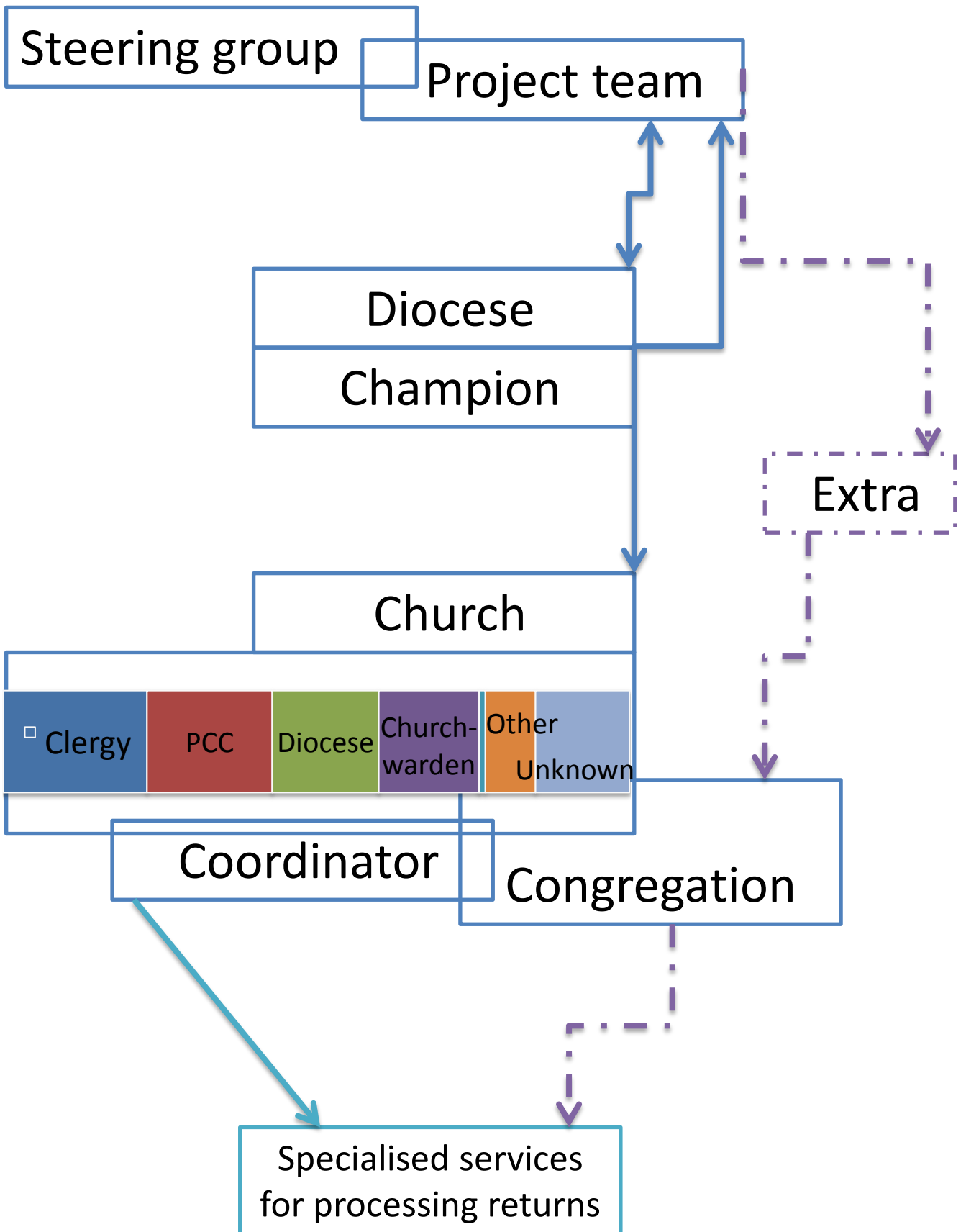
Individuals were asked, via their church, to provide information about themselves on a few short, standardised questions.

Surveys were available either as printed copies returned by post or electronically through a website and app for mobile devices, to test the practical possibility and acceptability of different ways of returning information.

An evaluation of the survey was also carried out, to gather feedback on how to improve congregational data collection in future, which included views from people who did and did not take part.







If you are completing this survey on behalf of a child, please cross here

1. Apart from weddings, funerals and christenings, about how often do you attend church? (select ONE)

- More than once a week Once a week
 Twice a month Once a month
 Once a quarter Christmas/ Easter Day only
 Once a year Less often
 Prefer not to say

2. Are you...?

- Male Female *Prefer not to say*

3. Your age (on your last birthday):

Prefer not to say

4. What is your country or continent of birth? (please select ONE)

- UK
 Other European country
 Africa
 The Americas and the Caribbean
 Middle East and Asia
 Oceania and Antarctica
 Prefer not to say

5. Do you have any of the following long-standing physical or mental health conditions or impairments that have lasted or are expected to last 12 months or more? Select ALL that apply. Please include those that are due to old age.

- Blindness, deafness or other communication impairment
 Mobility impairment, such as difficulty walking
 Learning difficulty or disability, such as Down's syndrome
 Memory impairment, such as Alzheimer's or early stages of dementia
 Mental health condition, such as depression
 Long-term illness, such as Multiple Sclerosis or cancer
 Other long-standing health condition / disability
 None
 Prefer not to say

Church number:

6. Please indicate whether you are: (please select ALL that apply)

- A visitor
 Member of the congregation
 Member of the electoral roll of this parish
 Member of the church council
 Churchwarden
 Member of deanery synod
 Licensed reader/ lay worker
 Priest / non-stipendiary minister/ stipendiary minister
 Other office holder
 Prefer not to say

7. What is your ethnic group? (select ONE)

White:

- English/ Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish/ British
 Gypsy or Irish Traveller
 Irish
 any other White background

Asian/ Asian British:

- Indian
 Pakistani
 Bangladeshi
 Chinese
 any other Asian background

Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British:

- African
 Caribbean
 any other Black background

Mixed/multiple ethnic group:

- White and Asian
 White and Black African
 White and Black Caribbean
 any other Mixed background

Other ethnic group:

- Arab
 Any other ethnic group (please write in)

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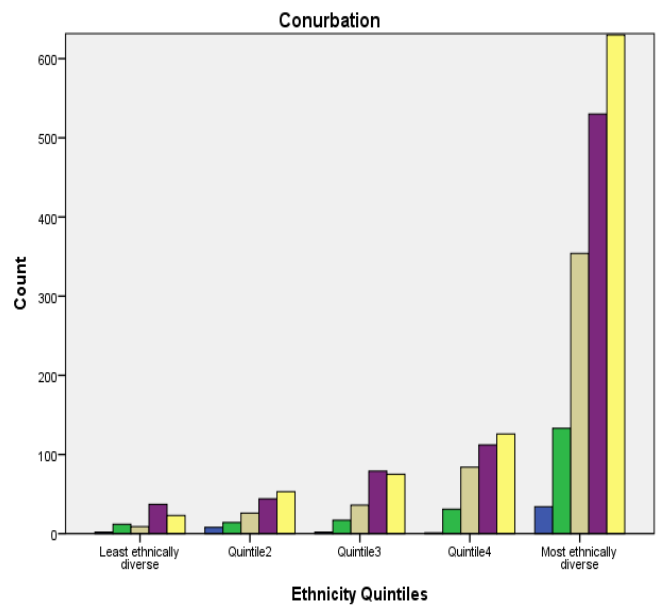
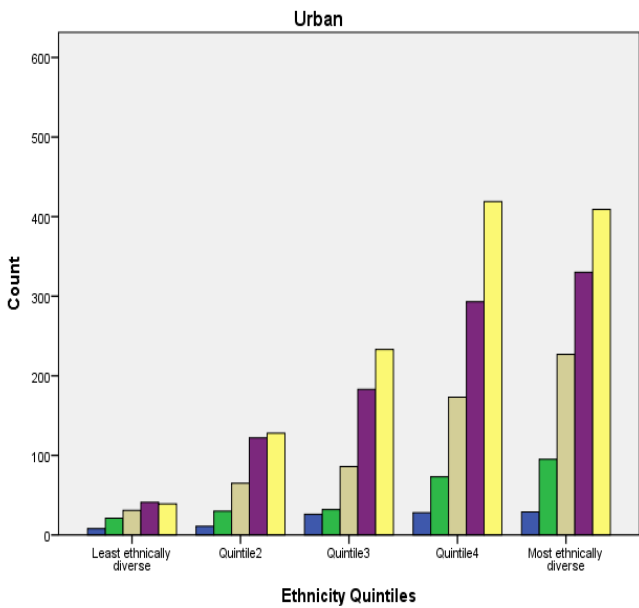
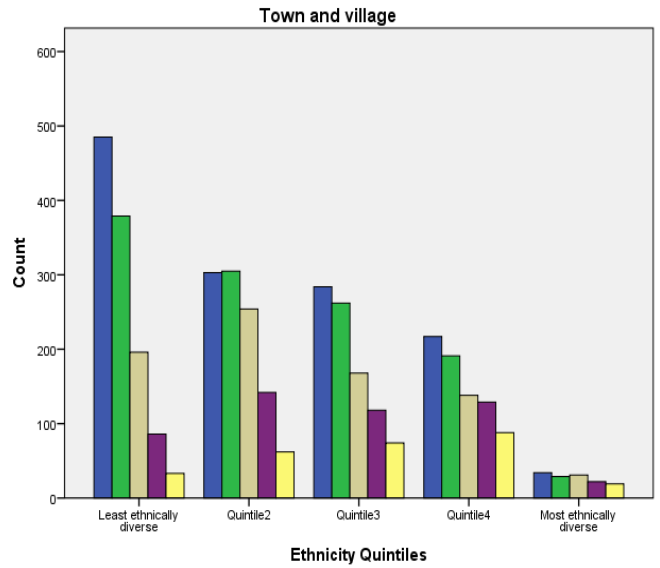
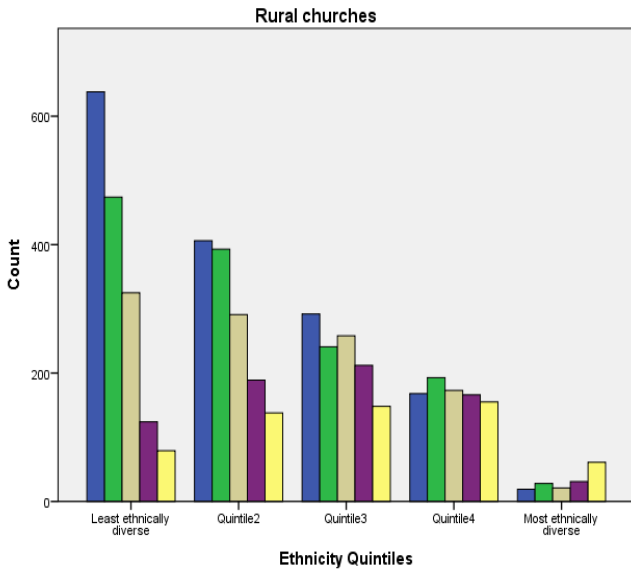
Prefer not to say

- Numerically more rural churches

- Trends between community diversity, locality and congregation size

Congregation Quintiles

- Smallest congregations
- Quintile2
- Quintile3
- Quintile4
- Largest congregations



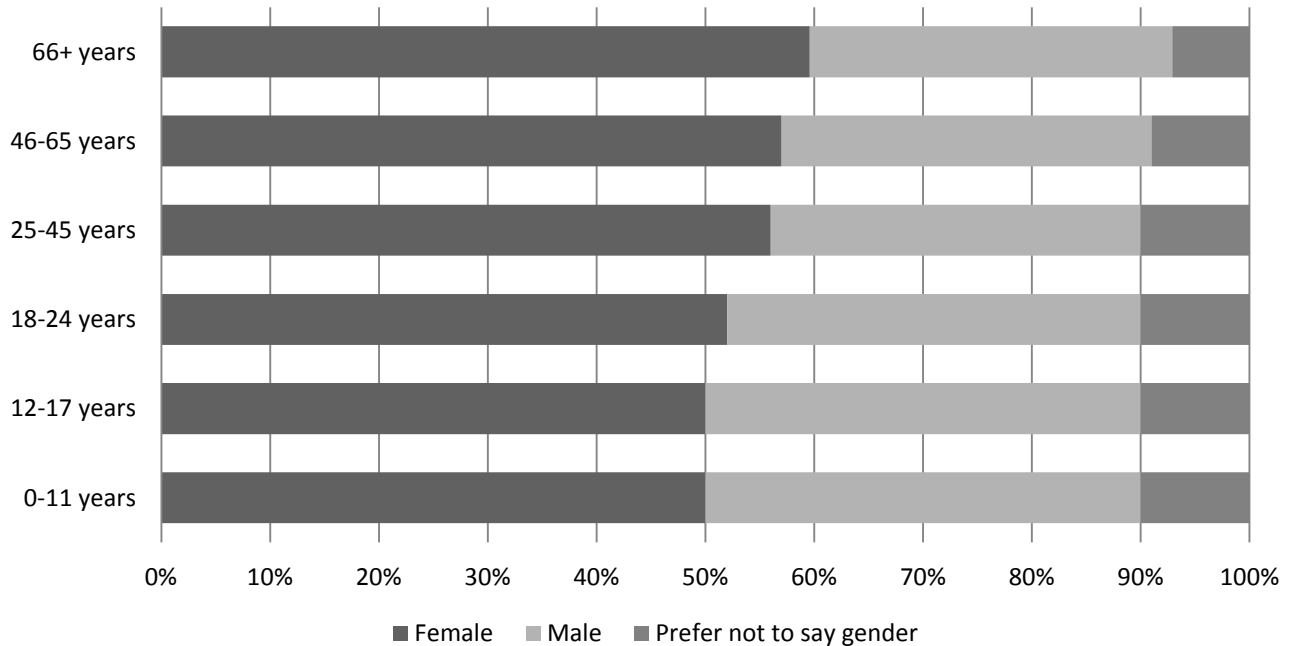
Participation

- In churches that took part and returned an evaluation:
 - 9 out of 10 of the normal congregation who were present during the survey and able to take part were happy to do so
- Of everyone who completed an evaluation, responding to the statement **Understanding whether the congregation is similar to the local community is helpful for Mission**
 - 74% generally agreed (4% disagreed)
 - 68% agreed in churches that did not take part (4% disagreed)
- In churches that did not take part but did return an evaluation:
 - Resources (time, capacity, people)
 - Objected to the questions or scope

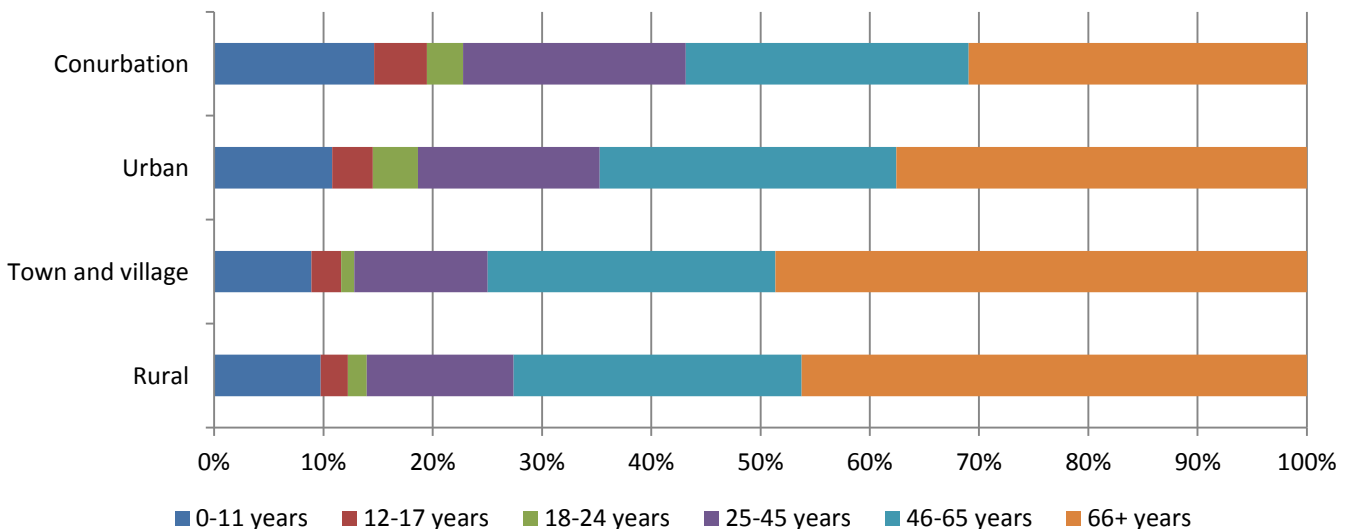
Caution!

- Rural, smaller, less ethnically diverse churches were slightly under-represented in the responses
- Comparisons between localities and communities requires linking a response to church information and this is unavailable in around 1% of surveys
- Prefer not to say or missing data accumulates when comparing responses on multiple questions
- Today we're **not** presenting on:
 - Direct comparisons to the last audit
 - Clergy specific trends
 - League tables

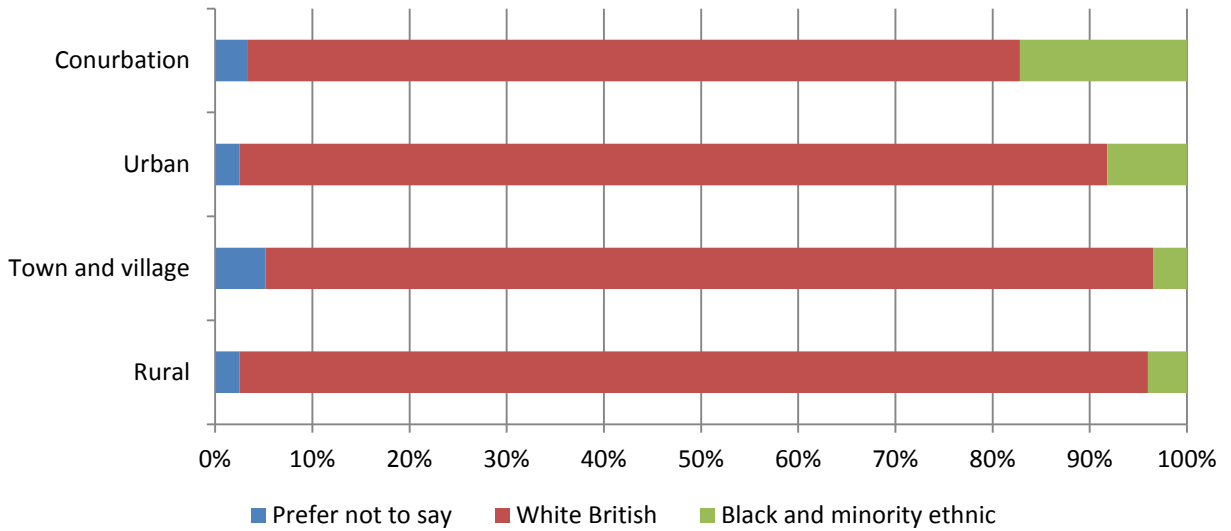
If we assume men and women were just as likely to complete the survey, then the shift towards congregations having a higher proportion of women appears to begin from young adulthood. (8% did not provide age)



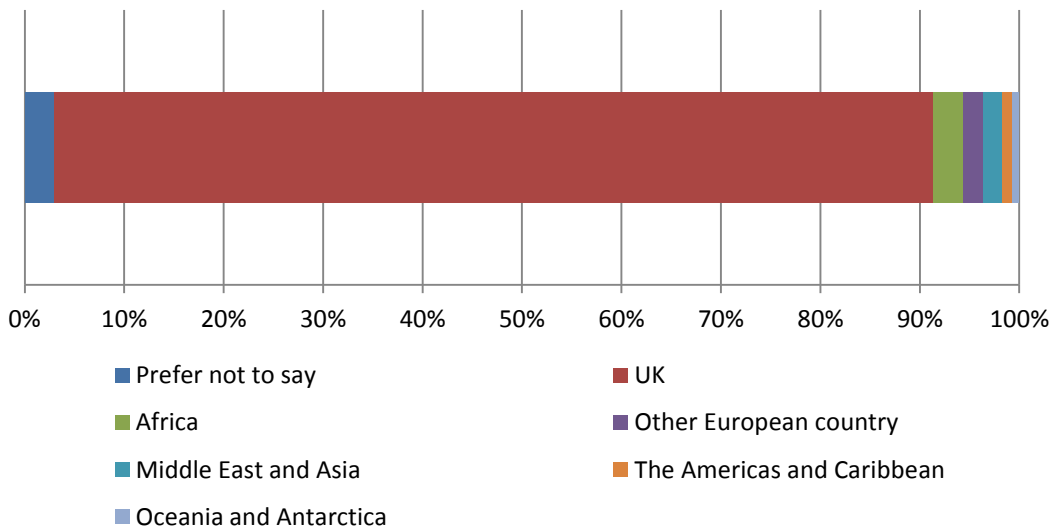
If we assume different localities were just as likely to complete surveys for their children, then the proportion of children is similar in rural, town and urban congregations (and greater in conurbation areas with a corresponding decrease in the proportion of oldest age groups). Age groups 12-24 years show a greater difference.



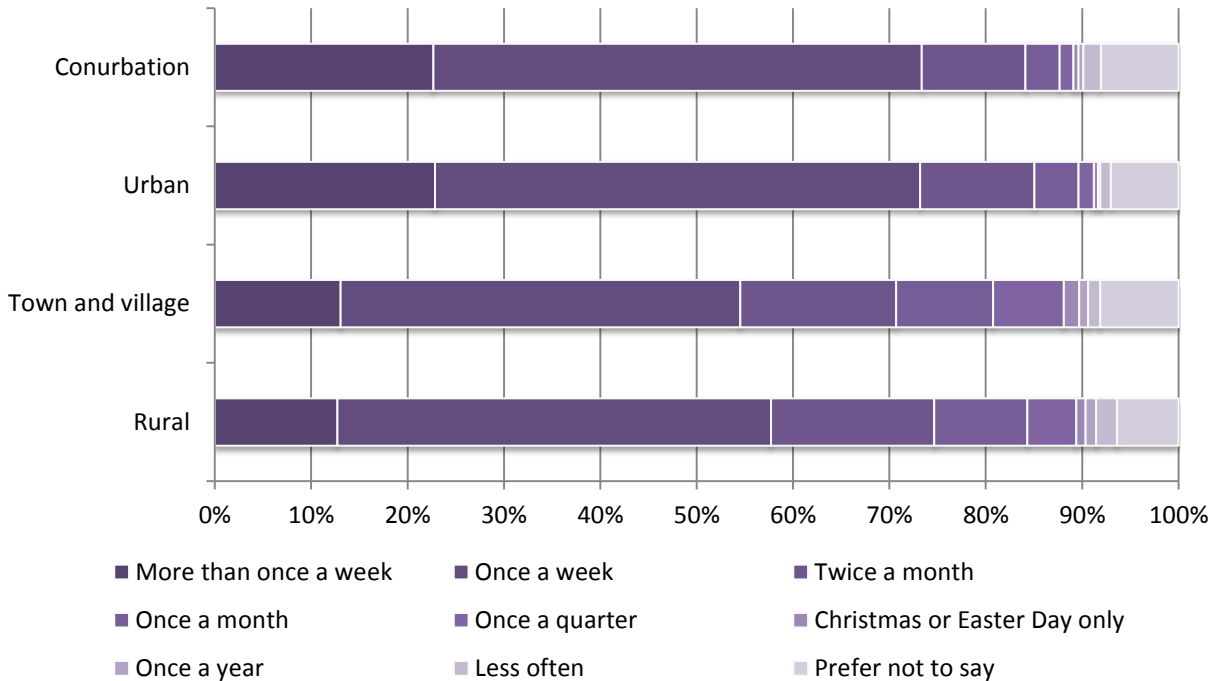
In the 2011 census, 80% of the English resident population were White British. In this sample, 88% of respondents identified as White British.



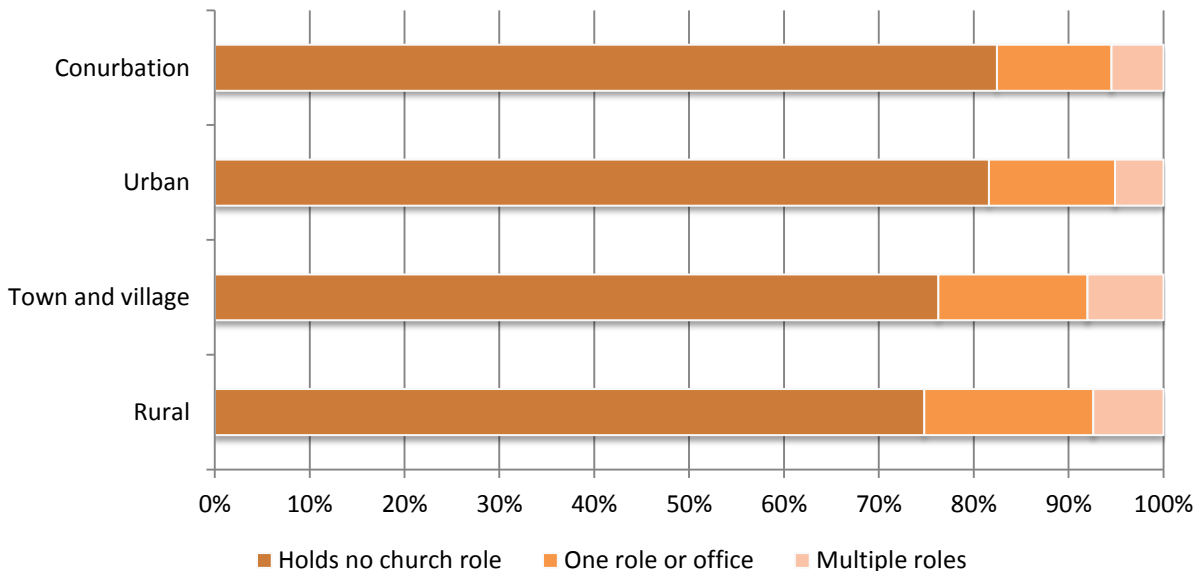
Nearly 90% of respondents said that they were born in the UK.



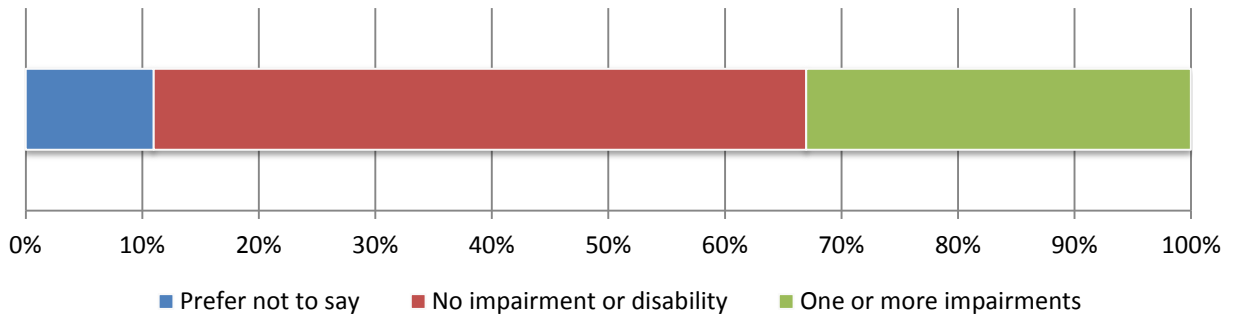
81% of respondents attended church at least twice a month.
 Respondents in urban and conurbation areas were more likely to attend at least or more than once a week.



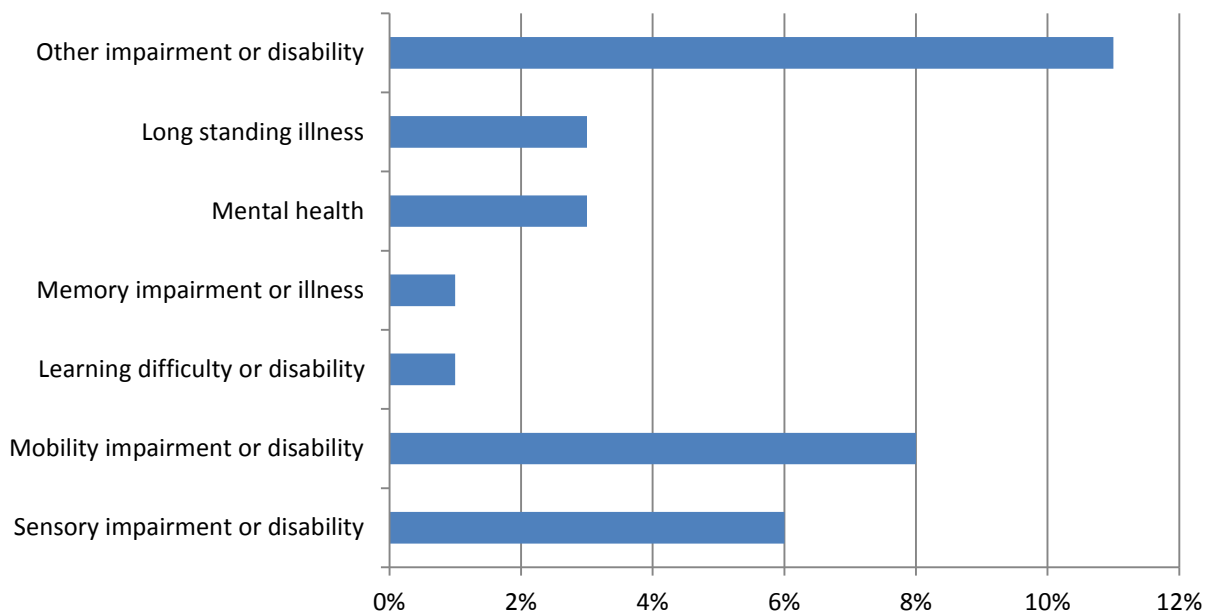
Rural congregants were more likely to hold at least one church role or office, and were more likely to hold multiple roles.



The question on disability had one of the highest rates of 'prefer not to say' responses. Feedback also suggested that there was a reluctance to respond to this question. These figures are likely to be under-reported.



One fifth of those reporting at least one disability, long standing illness or impairment were aged under 25 years.



Implications...?

- Diversity within and between churches
- Interest in more localised understanding of the parish community
- People are comfortable responding 'prefer not to say' and use this for specific questions
- Feedback arguing for more, fewer and different questions; scope of survey and what is relevant to understanding communities and congregations
- Resources influence participation
- Different modes of participation are possible
- Volunteers are vital and massively appreciated

- What do we do with what we learn?