

Research teams for the Church of England have just completed an 18-month research project exploring some of the factors which might influence church growth in the Church of England.

From Anecdote to Reality....

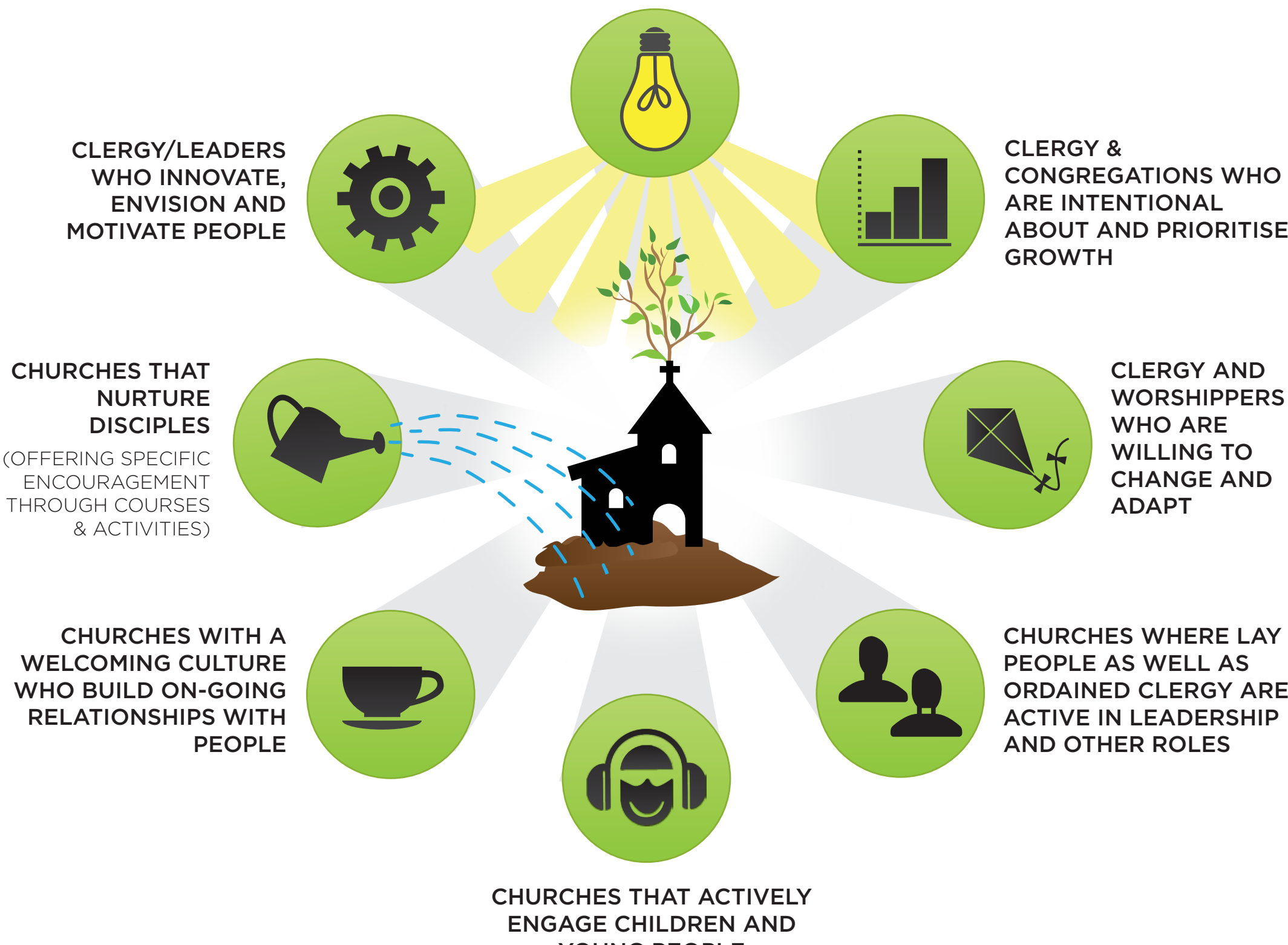
This is the first time that such an in-depth, systematic and comprehensive study of factors relating to church growth has been carried out. We now have a better and clearer understanding of the evidence available.

MANY PARISH CHURCHES ARE THRIVING

Results from the survey of parishes highlight that, across all types of churches, there is **"no single recipe"** for growth (or simple solutions to decline).

But there are some key **"ingredients"**. Where there is growth we are likely to see:

CHURCHES THAT HAVE A CLEAR MISSION AND PURPOSE



GOOD NEWS

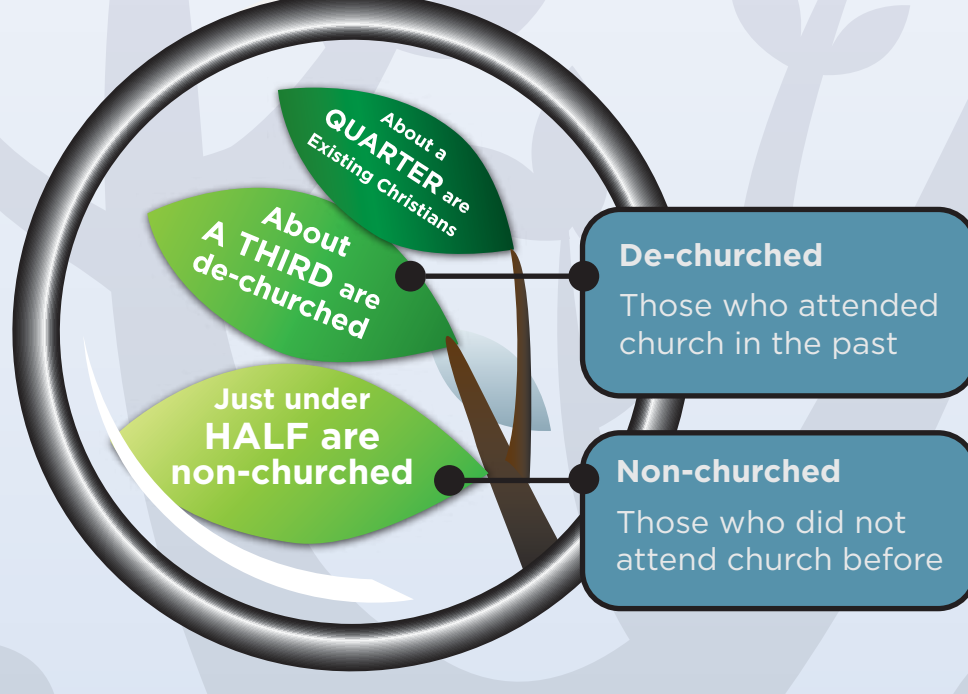
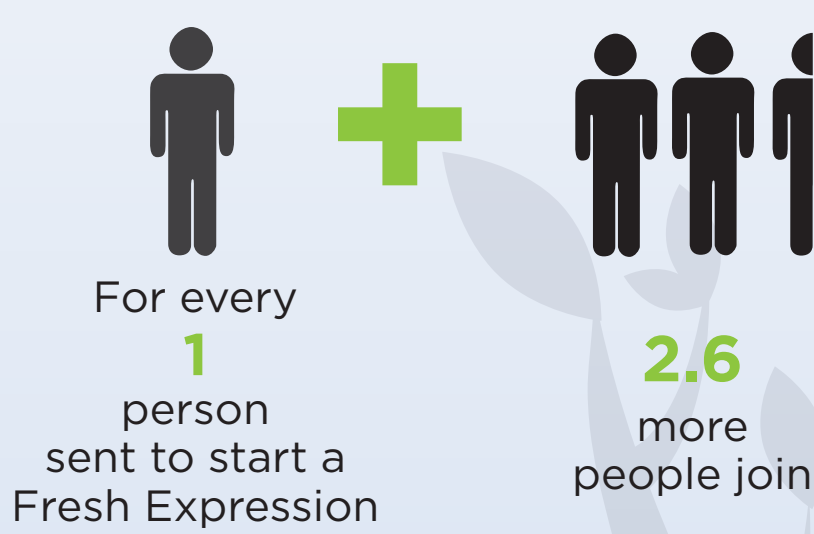
FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCHES ARE GROWING

Findings highlight aspects of growth in fresh expressions of Church.

WHO ATTENDS?

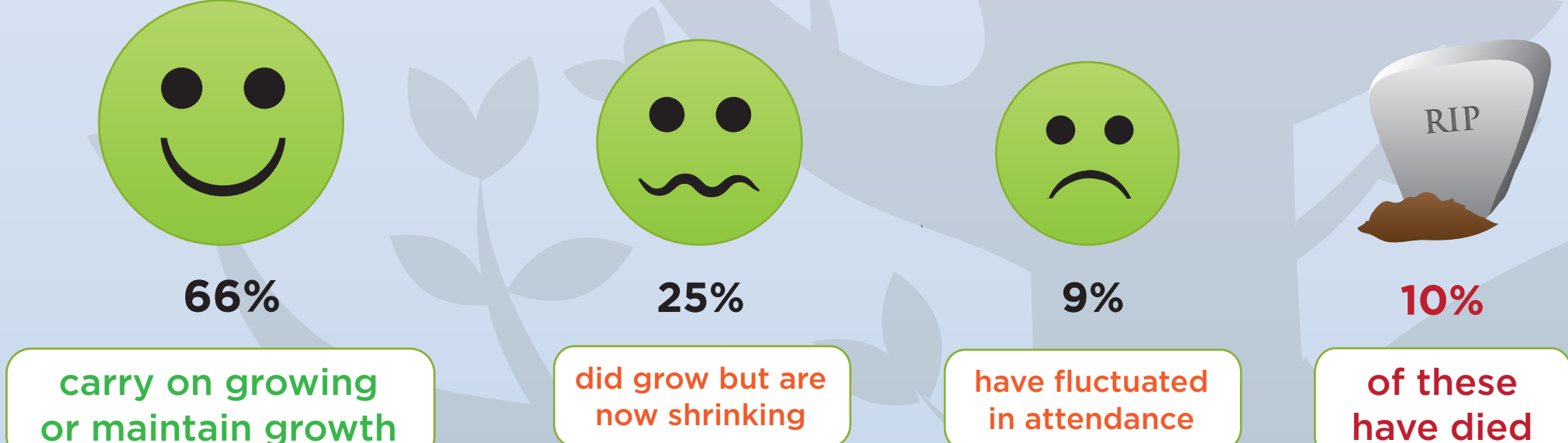
These worshipping and witnessing communities are attracting those who might not otherwise go to church:

The leaders estimate that:



DO THEY KEEP GROWING?

Research shows that:



OTHER KEY FACTS

- Over half (52%) are run by lay people
- Most of these lay people haven't had any formal training for this role.
- 40% may be doing this in their spare time - they have no "church badge".
- Fresh expressions churches are equally likely to be run by women as men

CATHEDRALS ARE GROWING...

There is also encouraging overall growth in numbers worshipping in Cathedrals - a trend which has continued since the Millennium.

Weekly attendance (based on 42 cathedrals) **grew by 35%** between 2002 and 2012

Especially significant is that **weekday attendance** has more than **doubled** in ten years



Of worshippers who had joined cathedral worship during the last 5 years:

When asked about their involvement:



THE TOP THREE MOTIVATING FACTORS FOR ATTENDING WERE:

- Peace and Contemplation
- Worship and Music
- Friendly Atmosphere

THE CHALLENGE IS TO REACH OUT AND RETAIN THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS



Where there are **no young people**, decline is more likely

*based on a survey of 11,700 churches in 2011



However, researchers found that churches with young people are **twice as likely** to be growing



WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Go to the Church Growth Research programme website at www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk

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