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.

GOOD NEWS

FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCHES ARE GROWING

Findings highlight aspects of growth in fresh expressions of Church.

WHO ATTENDS?

Many parishes 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:

1. Churches that have a clear mission and purpose
2. Churches that are welcoming cultures who build on-going relationships with people
3. Churches that actively engage children and young people
4. Churches that nurture disciples (offering specific encouragement through courses and activities)
5. Churches that are intentional about and prioritise growth

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

HOW DO CHURCHES GROW?

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CATHEDRALS ARE GROWING…

These [11] cathedral churches experienced growth in numbers worshipping in Cathedrals - a trend which has continued since the Millennium.

Weekly attendance (based on 42 cathedrals)

In 2002

11,755

In 2012

15,294

Cathedrals are growing…

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

74% were churched

16% were de-churched

10% were non-churched

The top three motivating factors for attending were:

- Worship and Music
- Peace and Contemplation
- Friendly Atmosphere

Who attends?

Fresh expressions of churches are growing

Findings highlight aspects of growth in fresh expressions of Church.

Do they keep growing?

Research shows that:

66% carry on growing or maintain growth

25% are declining

9% stay static

10% don’t specify

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Other key facts

Good News

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