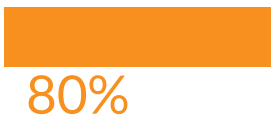# Church Life Profile

Gordon Parish
Anglican Church

The people of this parish...

Most VALUE:

Traditional style of worship or music
80%

Sharing in Holy Communion/the Eucharist/Lord's Supper
67%

Praying for one another
21%

Sermons, preaching or Bible teaching
20%

Want to give ATTENTION to:

Building a sense of community
37%

Ministry to children and youth
31%

Spiritual growth (e.g. direction)
27%

Worship services that are nurturing
24%

Note: Attenders could select up to three options so percentages may not add up to 100%.

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)

Dear local church,

Jesus declared, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full".

This Church Life Profile contains your church's unique results from your church's involvement in the 2016 National Church Life Survey. We provide this Profile to you along with supporting resources to help you strengthen the vitality of your church, grow an owned vision and plan for the future.

We recommend you take three essential steps to get the most out of your survey results.

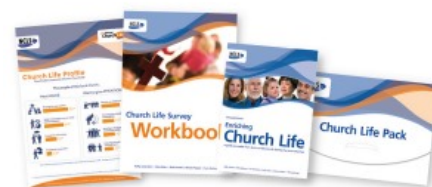| EVALUATE | Look at your results to see what they reveal |
| COMMUNICATE | Share key insights with your church |
| ACT | Take steps of action into the future |

See www.2016ncls.org.au/5steps for more information. Our hope and prayer is that these resources will help, serve and equip your church in its mission and ministry.

The NCLS Research Team

The **Church Life Workbook** is a companion to this Church Life Profile.

Use the Workbook and other resources in your Pack to explore and apply your survey results at your church.

Profile Contents

Weighing up your survey results

It is always important to consider who participated in the survey and in what context. Compare the number of people surveyed (shown at the bottom of each results page) with the total number in the church. Consider what else was happening in the life of the church at the time of the survey and whether/how it might have influenced the responses.

You in 2001 - Gordon Parish (AS264, 119 forms)
You in 2006 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 115 forms)
You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)

About Child Surveys for 8 to 14 year olds:
Your church returned 0 completed Child Survey forms. If this is less than 10 forms, then no results are displayed to fulfill a commitment to confidentiality. All children's responses will be included in major reports.

The People of This Church

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

58% of all people are female and **42%** are male

50% of all people have a university degree

17% have a trade certificate, diploma or associate diploma

33% have primary or secondary school education

CHURCH BACKGROUND and ATTENDANCE

Visitor **1%**

Switcher/Transfer **11%**

Newcomer **6%**

Longterm **82%**
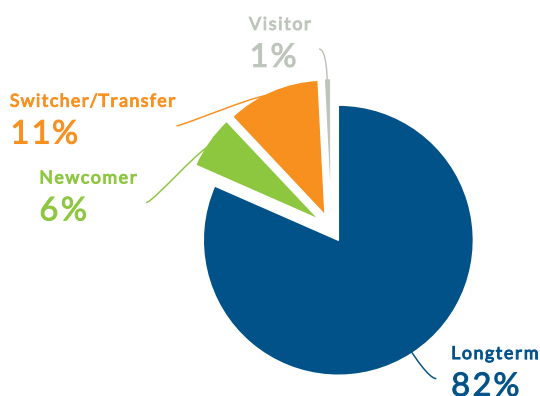
The AVERAGE AGE of people is **63** years

Age Group	Percentage %
15-29 yrs	11
30-49 yrs	11
50-69 yrs	33
70+ yrs	45
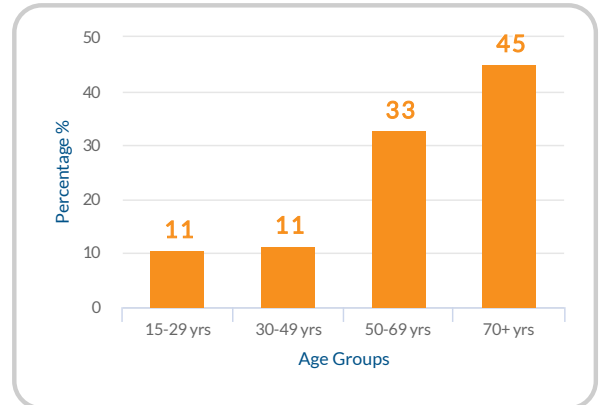
71% of all people were born in AUSTRALIA

29% were born overseas

17% speak a language other than ENGLISH at home

19% of attenders here are new arrivals to this parish in the past five years.

97% attend church worship services at least monthly

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)

What People Value and Prioritise

WHAT PEOPLE VALUE ABOUT THIS CHURCH

Attenders of this parish most value 'Traditional style of worship or music' and 'Sharing in Holy Communion/the Eucharist/Lord's Supper'

	Percentage (%)
Traditional style of worship or music	80
Sharing in Holy Communion	67
Praying for one another	21
Sermons, preaching or teaching	20
Practical care in times of need	16
Wider community care/justice emphasis	13
Social activities or meeting new people	9
Reaching those who do not attend church	4
Small groups: prayer, discussion, Bible	4
Openness to social or cultural diversity	4
Presence of a church school or pre-school	4
Ministry to children or youth	3
Contemporary style of worship or music	2

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Over the next 12 months most attenders would like priority given to: 'Building a sense of community' and 'Ministry to children and youth'.

	Percentage (%)
Sense of community	37
Ministry to children and youth	31
Spiritual growth (e.g. direction)	27
Worship services that are nurturing	24
Encouraging people's gifts	22
Ensuring new people are included	22
Clear vision for the church	17
Growing into a larger local church	13
Encouragement to share faith and invite	11
Encouraging new approaches	10
Supporting social action and aid	7
Don't know	7
Other area	4
Starting a new church or mission venture	1

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)

People's Gifts and Skills

USE OF GIFTS and SKILLS

Attenders most commonly identified their gifts or skills as "Communication: write, edit, speak" and "Music: play, sing, write music"

Gift/Skill	Percentage (%)
Communication	34
Music	29
Leadership/Management	29
Education	28
Hospitality	25
Interpersonal	20
Arts and Crafts	18
Finances	18
Other gift, skill or talent	16
Don't know	13
Technical	13
Research/Analytical	10
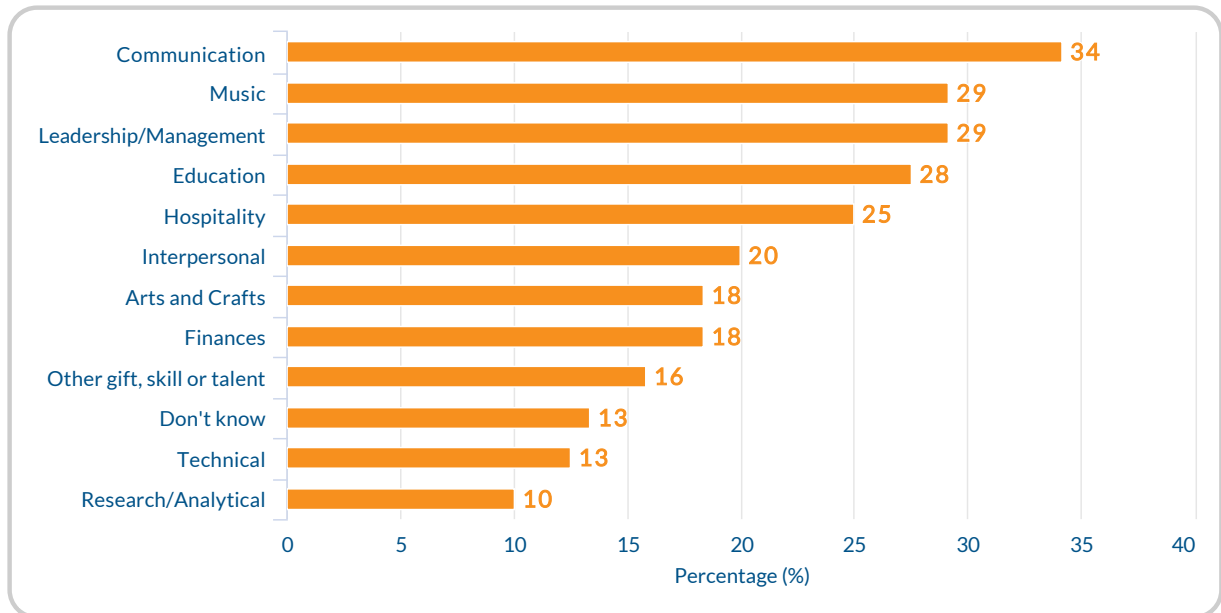
45% of attenders agree that their GIFTS, SKILLS AND TALENTS ARE BEING USED WELL at this local church
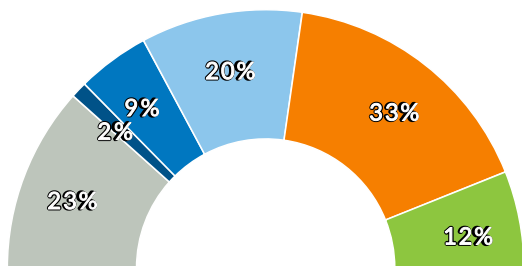
- Don't Know — 23%
- Strongly Disagree — 2%
- Disagree — 9%
- Neutral/Unsure — 20%
- Agree — 33%
- Strongly Agree — 12%

12% want to be MORE INVOLVED at this local church
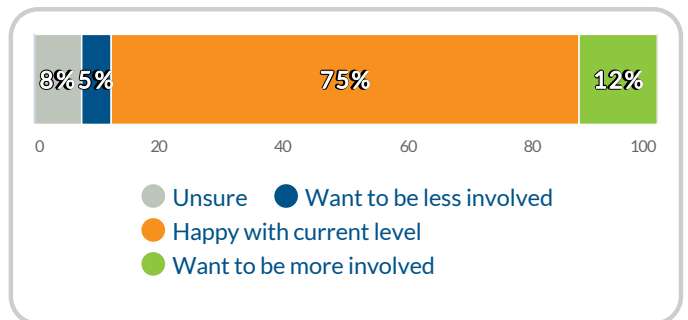
- Unsure — 8%
- Want to be less involved — 5%
- Happy with current level — 75%
- Want to be more involved — 12%

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)

5

How People Relate to God

PERSONAL FAITH

42% of attenders said that they had experienced much GROWTH IN FAITH in the previous 12 months

42% GROWTH in faith
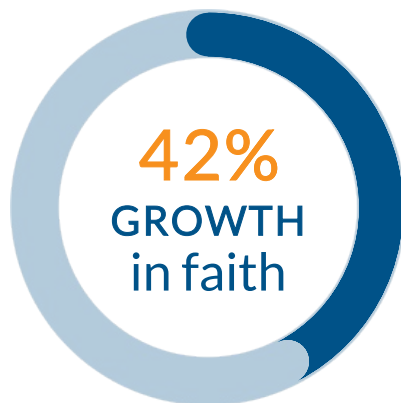
48% spend time in PRAYER, BIBLE READING, MEDITATION everyday or most days

Percentage (%)

Hardly ever/never	10	
Occasionally	18	
Once a week	6	
A few times a week	19	
Every day/most days	48	
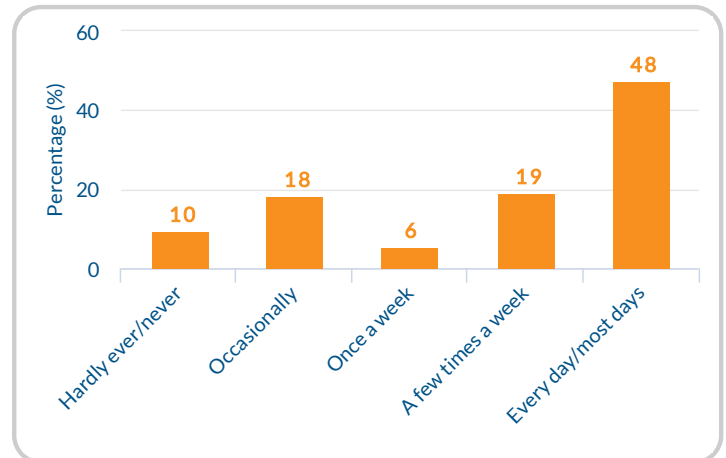
IMPORTANCE of GOD in people's lives:

"God is more important to me than almost anything else" **37%**

"God is the most important reality in my life" **41%**

CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES

During church worship services here, attenders always or usually experience:

MUSIC they appreciate

91%

GROWTH in understanding of God

68%

Being challenged to **TAKE ACTION**

45%

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)

How People Relate to Each Other

BELONGING and INVOLVEMENT

90%
Strong sense of belonging

79%
Easy to make friends

90% of people have a strong sense of belonging to this local church

79% found it easy to make friends within this local church

People of this local church are involved in various local church groups

Group	Percentage (%)
Small prayer, discussion or Bible study groups	17
Fellowships, clubs, social or other groups	37
Evangelistic or outreach activities	15
Community service, social justice or welfare activities	28

Percentage (%)
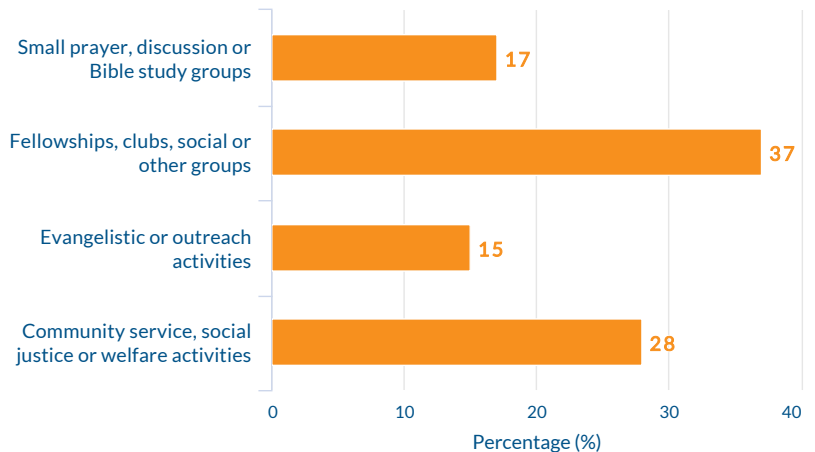
SATISFACTION with LOCAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

People shared how satisfied they are with what is offered by this local church:

For their own age	67%
For children aged under 12 years	33%
For youth aged 12 to 18 years	25%

SATISFIED

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)

7

How People Relate to the Wider Community

INVOLVEMENT IN GROUPS

38% of people reach out to the wider community through activities of this local church

52% of people participate in wider community groups

Evangelistic/Outreach activities — 15
Community service activities — 28
No such activities — 6
Not regularly involved — 56

Percentage (%)

Community service/Care groups — 21
Social action/Justice groups — 6
Sports/Recreation groups — 19
School/Youth groups — 10
Other kind of groups — 16
Not involved — 48

Percentage (%)

Note: Attenders could choose more than one option, so percentages will not add to 100%

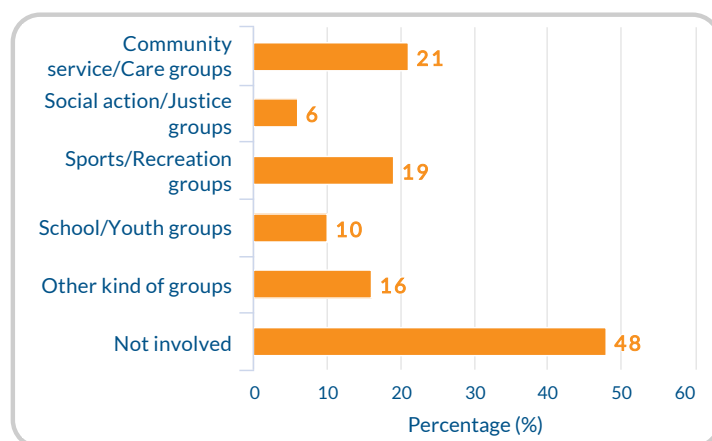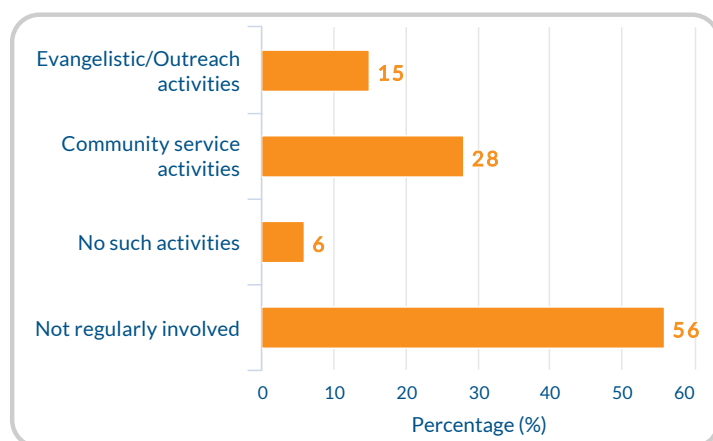## WORDS and ACTIONS

10% feel at ease TALKING ABOUT FAITH with others and look for opportunities to do so

33% INVITED friends and relatives to a church service in this last year

Attenders have made OFFERS OF HELP to others in a range of informal ways ➡

Informal action in last 12 months	%
Donated money to a charitable organisation	77
Visited someone in hospital	50
Helped someone through a personal crisis (not sickness)	47
Lent or gave money to someone outside your family	40
Given some of your possessions to someone in need	32
Cared for someone who was very sick	26
Contacted a parliamentarian/councillor on a public issue	21
Tried to stop someone abusing alcohol or drugs	12

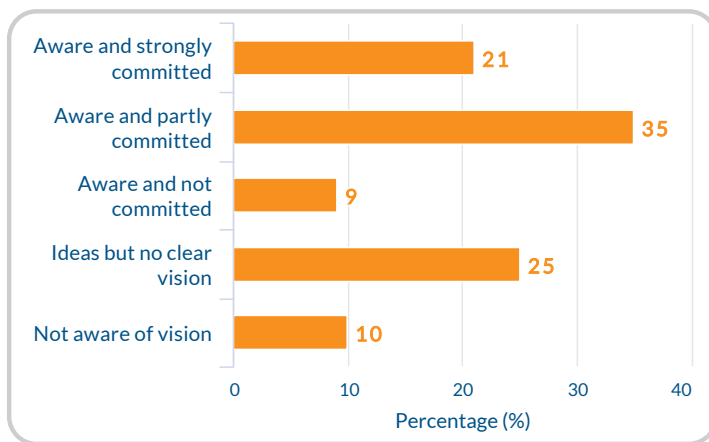You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)

Vision, Innovation and Leadership Culture
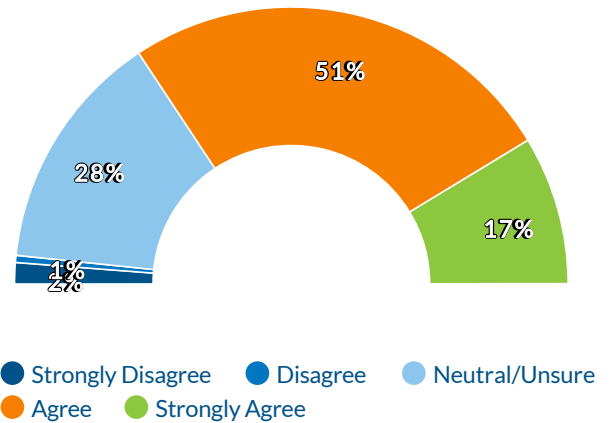
VISION and INNOVATION

21% of people are both aware of and strongly COMMITTED TO THE VISION and goals or directions for this local church

Category	Percentage
Aware and strongly committed	21
Aware and partly committed	35
Aware and not committed	9
Ideas but no clear vision	25
Not aware of vision	10

Percentage (%)

LEADERSHIP CULTURE

28% are fully confident that this local church CAN ACHIEVE THE VISION, goals or directions set

- 8% (Not Confident)
- 16% (Don't Know)
- 9% (Vision Not Clear)
- 39% (Partly Confident)
- 28% (Fully Confident)

● Vision Not Clear   ● Don't Know   ● Not Confident
● Partly Confident   ● Fully Confident

69% agree that they would SUPPORT the development of new initiatives in the ministry and mission of this local church

- 51% (Agree)
- 28% (Neutral/Unsure)
- 17% (Strongly Agree)
- 1% / 2% (Strongly Disagree / Disagree)

● Strongly Disagree   ● Disagree   ● Neutral/Unsure
● Agree   ● Strongly Agree

42% agree that this local church is always ready to TRY SOMETHING NEW

48% of attenders perform a LEADERSHIP OR MINISTRY ROLE

64% agree that this local church has good and CLEAR SYSTEMS for how it operates

Attenders agree:

40% Leaders encourage me to find and use my gifts and skills to a great or some extent

63% Leaders take into account ideas of people here to a great or some extent

49% Leaders here inspire me to action

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)

Your Local Neighbourhood

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CONTEXT

As your church reflects upon its ministry and mission, it is important to understand your local context. Demographic information about the people in your local area (e.g. age, country of birth) can help your church to be light and salt to the neighbourhood around you.
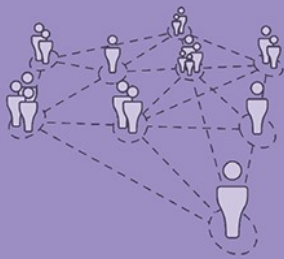
NCLS Research is usually able to provide such information about the local neighbourhood based on a radius around a church address. This is derived from the 2011 National Census* from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

However, at the time when this Profile was generated, NCLS Research did not have the geographic references (geocode) for your church building required to provide you with this information.

If you are interested in updating this information, contact NCLS Research.
info@ncls.org.au
Ph: 02 9701 4475

To find out more about NCLS Community Social Profiles go to:

www.communitysocialprofiles.com
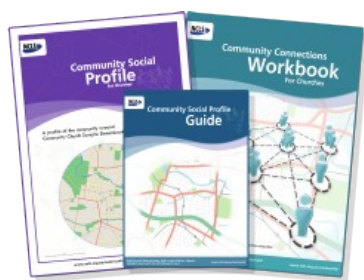
Community Social Profiles

Helping you connect with your community

* All statistics derived by NCLS Research from data supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics © Commonwealth of Australia www.abs.gov.au. The most recent Census data (2011) is used at the time of report production. As 2016 Census data becomes available, refer to the NCLS Research website for news and resources.

People of this Church
A Demographic Profile

Age Profile

63 years is the average age of attenders at this parish (aged 15+)

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Average age of church attenders aged 15+ years

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

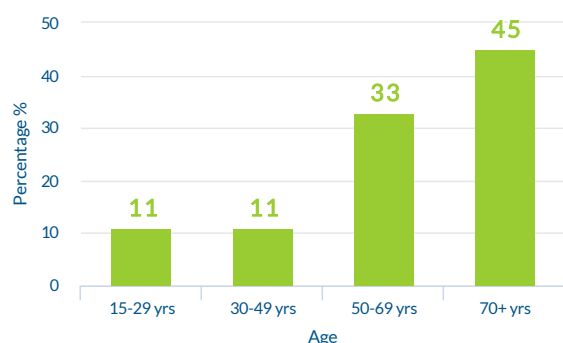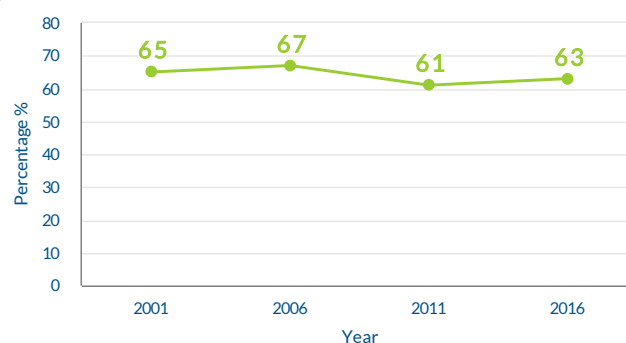| Demographics	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Gender			
Female	58	57	56
Male	42	43	44
Marital Status			
Never married	16	14	23
Married	61	62	65
In a defacto relationship	1	1	1
Separated or divorced	8	8	5
Widowed	15	16	6
Highest educational qualification			
Primary/secondary school	33	27	26
Trade certificate, diploma or associate diploma	17	22	22
University degree	50	52	53
Employment status			
Employed	42	47	57
Full-time home duties/family responsibilities	6	6	8
Retired	49	43	25
Country of birth			
Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin	0	1	1
Born in Australia (including above) [+]	71	71	71
Born in another country where English is the main language [+]	12	15	11
Born in a Non English-speaking country [+]	17	14	18
At least one parent born in a Non English-speaking country [+]	23	19	27
Speak a language other than English at home			
English plus other language(s)	14	N/A	14
Non-English language(s) only	2	N/A	4

[+]Note: "Don't know" was included in 2016 as a response option for country of birth.

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)

People of this Church
Children and Youth

Children and Church Attendance

63% is the proportion of attenders' children (aged 15+ and living at home) who attend a church

63% Attenders' children aged 15+ who attend a church
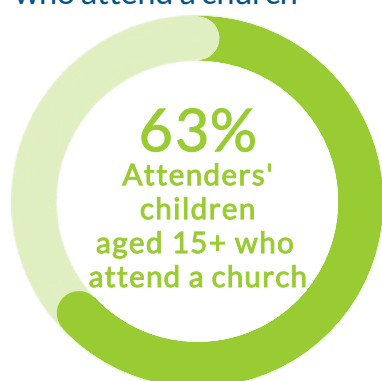
Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders' children (aged 15+ and living at home) who attend a church
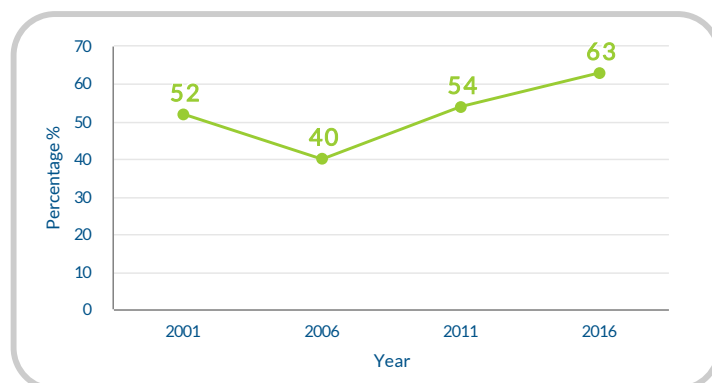
Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Children and Youth	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Young people (aged 15-19) at your parish			
Young people who completed the survey	7	5	7
Young people who have been attending more than 5 years	6	2	4
Young people who have been attending 5 years or less	1	3	3
Satisfaction with what is offered for particular age groups			
Satisfaction with what is offered here "for people your own age":			
All attenders very satisfied or satisfied	67	N/A	80
15-18 year olds very satisfied or satisfied	*	N/A	81
19-25 year olds very satisfied or satisfied	*	N/A	76
Satisfaction with what is offered here "for children aged under 12 years": [++]			
All attenders very satisfied or satisfied	33	24	78
Satisfaction with what is offered here "for youth aged 12-18 years": [++]			
All attenders very satisfied or satisfied	25	18	70
15-18 year olds very satisfied or satisfied	*	*	81
Church attendance pattern of attenders' children (still living at home)			
Attenders' children aged 15 and over still living at home: [+]			
Still attend this church	46	41	48
Attend elsewhere	17	13	17
Do not attend any church	37	46	35
Attenders' children aged 0-14 still living at home: [+]			
Still attend this church	82	80	92
Attend elsewhere	18	0	4
Do not attend any church	0	20	4

[+] Note: All child attendance options could be selected, so percentages may not add to 100%

[++] Note: A new instruction was added to this question in 2016: "Please answer even if nothing age-specific is offered"

* Results not provided as there were less than 6 responses

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)
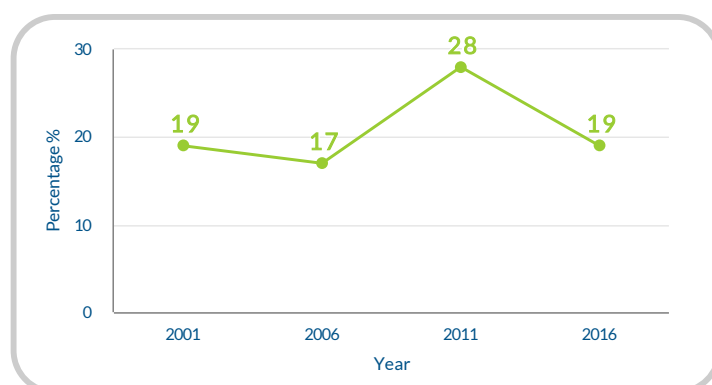
People of this Church
Church Background

New Arrivals

19% of attenders here are new arrivals to this parish in the past five years.

19%
New arrivals

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who were new arrivals in the 5 years prior to the survey

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Church Background	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Newcomers to church (who were not attending any church 5 years ago):			
Newcomers returning after an absence of several years	4	5	4
Newcomers who never regularly attended	2	3	3
Church attendance history: [+]			
Total newcomers (new to any church) in the last 5 years	6	8	8
Total who attended a different church in the last 5 years: [++]	11	20	29
Switchers from another denomination in the last 5 years [++]	7	2	13
Transfers from same denomination in the last 5 years [++]	4	18	16
Long-term attenders: attended here for more than 5 years	82	70	61
Visitors from other churches	1	2	1
Visitors who do not regularly go to church	0	1	1
Length of attendance at this church:			
Total new arrivals (new to your parish) in the last 5 years:	19	28	38
Less than 1 year	4	4	10
1-2 years	6	8	11
3-5 years	9	16	17
6-10 years	17	12	17
11-20 years	22	18	19
More than 20 years	42	41	23

[+]*Note: Church attendance history is calculated from three survey questions. The figures may not match those for length of attendance due to non-responses.*

[++]*Note: The wording of the response options to the survey question about the denomination of the previous church changed in 2016.*

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)
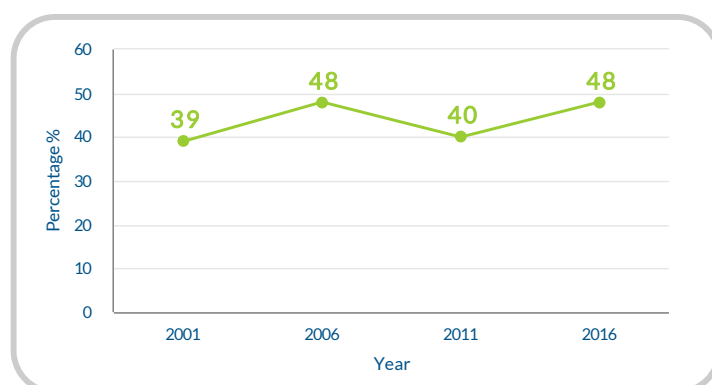
People of this Church
Leadership Roles

Leadership Roles

48% of attenders perform at least one leadership or ministry role here

48%
Leadership or
ministry role here

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who perform at least one leadership or ministry role here

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Gifts and Skills	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Attenders' gifts and skills			
Arts and Crafts: building, visual, textile	18	N/A	23
Communication: write, edit, speak	34	N/A	34
Education: teach, coach	28	N/A	34
Finances: accounts, financial management	18	N/A	12
Hospitality: welcome, host, provide food	25	N/A	39
Interpersonal: build relationships, care for people	20	N/A	35
Music: play, sing, write music	29	N/A	26
Leadership/Management: lead, manage, plan, organise	29	N/A	28
Research/Analytical: collect information, analyse, report	10	N/A	14
Technical: computers, sound, light	13	N/A	16
Other gift, skill or talent	16	N/A	13
Don't know	13	N/A	10
Strongly agree or agree that their gifts and skills are used well here	45	N/A	51
Attenders who perform leadership and ministry roles here			
Worship services (teach/preach, music, lead/assist in service)	30	28	30
Children's ministry/youth ministry role	3	3	18
Small group leadership	4	6	14
Administrator role [+]	8	N/A	4
Council/board/elder/deacon [+]	4	N/A	5
Committee/task force member	11	9	5
Pastoral care/visitation role	7	6	7
Perform any of above leadership/ministry roles here	48	40	50
Some other role	21	11	19

[+]Note: The wording of these response options changed in 2016.

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)

Church Vitality:
Core Qualities of Church Life

Over 20 years NCLS Research has identified 9 Core Qualities shown to be central to the life of a vital church. The blend of these qualities points to the unique character of each church, its areas of strength and its potential for growth.

These Core Qualities are measured and grouped into three areas of church life.

The **Internal Core Qualities** focus on the inner life of the community of faith, and a measure is made of the extent to which the community:
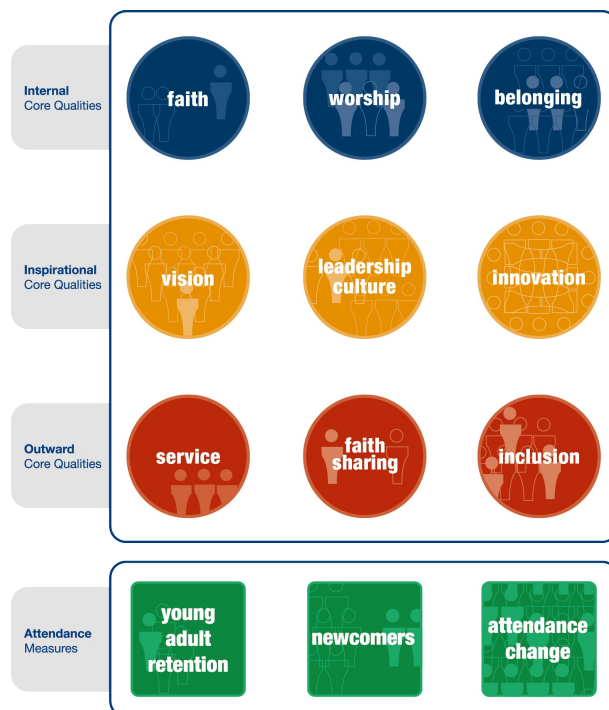- has an alive and growing **Faith**
- experiences vital and nurturing **Worship**
- feels a strong and growing **Belonging**

The **Inspirational Core Qualities** focus on the vigour of a church and the catalysts that inspire a church to move forward. They give a measure of the extent to which the church has:
- a clear and owned **Vision**
- inspiring and empowering **Leadership**
- openness to imaginative and flexible **Innovation**

The **Outward Core Qualities** focus on the outward looking life of the church, and a measure is made of the extent to which the church undertakes:
- practical and diverse **Service**
- willing and effective **Faith-sharing**
- intentional and welcoming **Inclusion**

Internal Core Qualities	faith	worship	belonging
Inspirational Core Qualities	vision	leadership culture	innovation
Outward Core Qualities	service	faith sharing	inclusion
Attendance Measures	young adult retention	newcomers	attendance change

NCLS Research also explores three attendance measures for every church:
- **Young adult retention** - the extent to which the children of the faith community remain regular attenders when they grow into young adulthood.
- **Newcomers** - the extent to which newcomers who have arrived in the previous five years make up the congregation.
- **Attendance change** - the extent to which attendance numbers have changed over the last five years through the inflow and outflow of people.
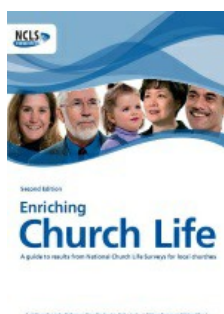
For more detail on the NCLS Research Vitality Framework refer to the book Enriching Church Life or go to www.ncls.org.au

Faith
Alive and Growing

Growth in Faith through this Local Church

22% said they had experienced much growth in faith through this local church in the last 12 months

22%
Growth in faith through this church

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who experienced much growth in faith through this local church in the last 12 months
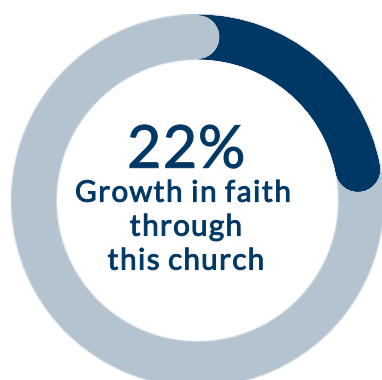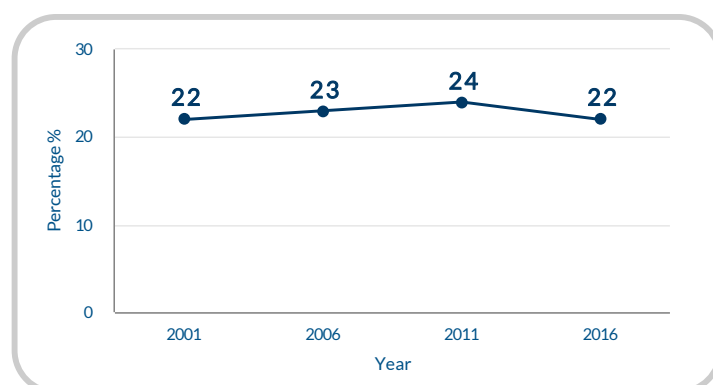

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Alive and Growing Faith	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Growth in faith			
Attenders' growth in faith in the past year:			
Much growth through this local church	22	24	32
Much growth through other groups or churches	7	7	7
Much growth through private activity	13	9	7
Some growth	43	47	45
No growth	14	13	9
Private devotional activity			
Time spent in private prayer, Bible reading, meditation:			
Every day/most days	48	55	43
A few times a week	19	12	29
Once a week	6	4	7
Occasionally	18	22	15
Hardly ever	7	5	5
Never	2	2	1
Identification with approaches to matters of faith			
Attenders chose up to 2 out of 11 options (e.g. Catholic, Charismatic, Evangelical, Liberal, Moderate, Pentecostal, Progressive, Reformed, Traditionalist). The 3 most common here were:			
Catholic or Anglo-Catholic	70	N/A	N/A
I do not identify with such descriptions	17	N/A	N/A
Traditionalist	16	N/A	N/A
Importance of God			
God is the most important reality in my life	41	46	65
God is more important to me than almost anything else	37	32	26
Fairly important, but many other things are more important	21	21	9

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)
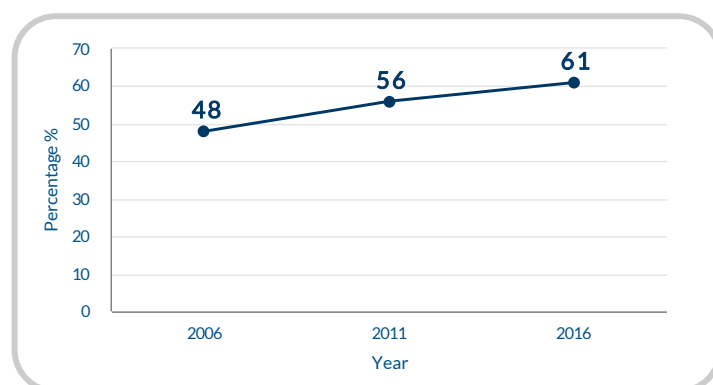
Worship
Vital and Nurturing

Inspired during Worship Services

61% of attenders said they always/usually experience inspiration during services

61%
Always/Usually experience inspiration

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who always/usually experience inspiration during services

48   56   61

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2006, 2011, 2016

Vital and Nurturing Worship	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
During church services here, attenders			
Always experience inspiration	18	16	27
Usually experience inspiration	43	40	45
Always experience a sense of God's presence	42	39	40
Usually experience a sense of God's presence	38	35	36
Always experience growth in understanding of God	26	21	38
Usually experience growth in understanding of God	42	51	45
Always experience being challenged to take action	17	19	28
Usually experience being challenged to take action	28	29	41
During church services here, attenders experience preaching very helpful to their life			
Always	25	20	40
Usually	45	50	46
Sometimes	26	30	13
Rarely / Never	5	1	2
During church services here, attenders experience music they appreciate			
Always	68	N/A	45
Usually	24	N/A	41
Sometimes	7	N/A	12
Rarely / Never	2	N/A	2

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
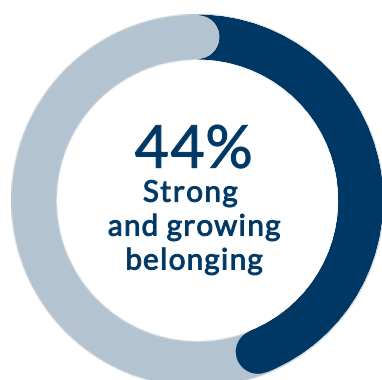You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)
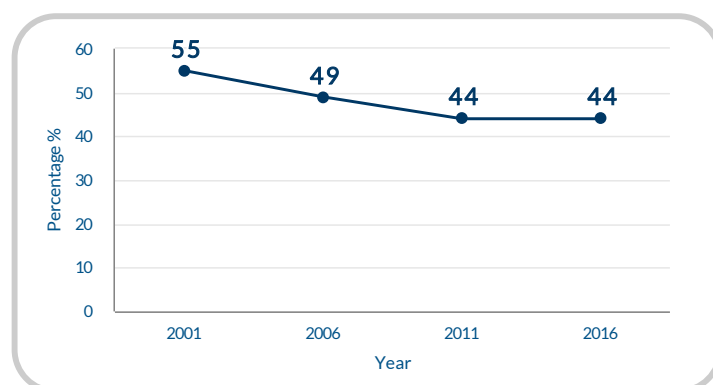
Belonging
Strong and Growing

Sense of Belonging

44% of attenders said they have a strong sense of belonging to this church, which is growing.

44%
Strong and growing belonging

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who have a strong and growing sense of belonging to this church

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Strong and Growing Belonging	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Sense of belonging to the local church			
Strong and growing	44	44	53
Strong and stable	37	35	27
Strong but weakening	10	7	9
No, but I am new here	1	2	4
No, and I wish I did by now	3	2	3
No, but I am happy as I am	6	9	3
Don't know/not applicable	0	2	2
Frequency of church service attendance here			
First time/ hardly ever/ special occasions only	0	3	2
Less than once a month	3	2	1
Once a month	2	2	2
Two or three times a month	14	21	9
Usually every week	73	60	76
More than once a week	8	11	11
Regular participation in this local church's activities			
Small prayer, discussion or Bible study groups	17	22	63
Fellowship, clubs or other social groups	37	36	32
Evangelistic or outreach activities	15	15	33
Community service, social justice or welfare activities	28	25	24
Financial giving			
Regularly give 10% or more of net income	13	13	26
Regularly give up to 9% of net income	57	62	48
Give a small amount whenever I am here	23	20	16

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
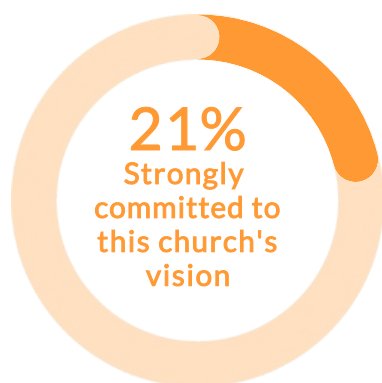You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)
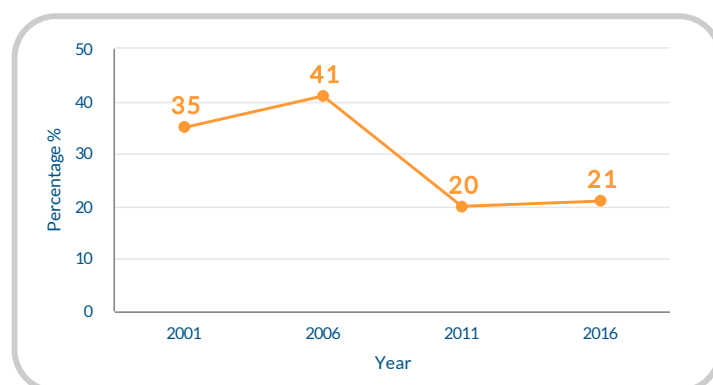
Vision
Clear and Owned

Committed to this Local Church's Vision

21% of attenders said they are aware of and strongly committed to this local church's vision, goals or directions

21%
Strongly committed to this church's vision

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who are aware of and strongly committed to this local church's vision, goals or directions

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Clear and Owned Vision	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Awareness of vision, goals and directions of the local church			
Attenders are aware and strongly committed	21	20	43
Attenders are aware and partly committed	35	40	33
Attenders are aware and not committed	9	10	8
Attenders are aware of ideas not of any clear vision/goals/directions	25	21	9
Attenders are unaware of any clear vision, goals or directions	10	10	7
Confidence that the local church can achieve its vision, goals or directions			
Fully confident the vision can be achieved	28	26	47
Partly confident the vision can be achieved	39	40	36
Not confident the vision can be achieved	8	12	4
Attenders' views on priorities for this local church in the next 12 months: [+]			
Spiritual growth (e.g. spiritual direction, prayer groups)	27	30	40
Worship services that are nurturing to people's faith	24	20	27
Building a strong sense of community within this local church	37	29	32
Creating a clear vision for this local church's future	17	21	14
Encouraging people here to discover/use their gifts	22	23	25
Encouraging new approaches to ministry and mission	10	13	12
Supporting social justice and aid to people in need	7	9	13
Encouraging people here to share their faith or invite others	11	14	24
Ensuring new people are included well in church life	22	21	28
Ministry to children and youth	31	39	21
Growing into a larger local church	13	23	11
Starting a new church or mission venture	1	0	3

[+]*Note: The wording on the introduction to this question changed slightly in 2016.*

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)

Leadership Culture
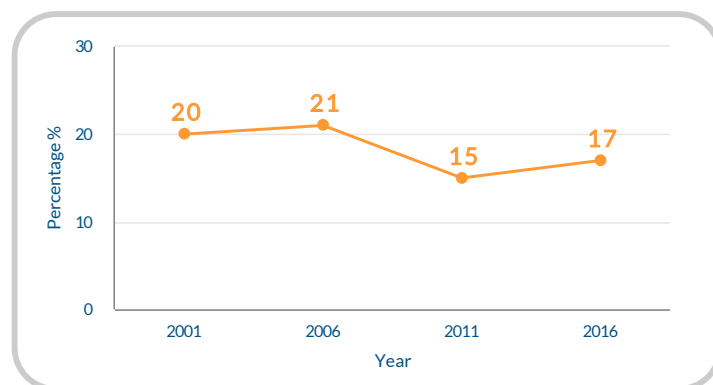## Inspiring and Empowering

Encouraging Gifts and Skills

17% of attenders said this local church's leaders have encouraged them to find and use their gifts and skills here to a great extent

17%
Encouraged to find/use gifts and skills to a great extent

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who said this local church's leaders have encouraged them to find and use their gifts and skills to a great extent

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Inspiring and Empowering Leadership Culture	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Attenders say this local church's leaders encouraged them to find and use their gifts and skills here:			
To a great extent	**17**	15	25
To some extent	**23**	29	34
To a small extent	**31**	20	22
Not at all	**19**	24	12
Attenders say that this local church's leaders take into account the ideas of the people here:			
To a great extent	**30**	27	37
To some extent	**33**	34	36
Attenders strongly agree or agree that...			
Leaders here inspire me to action	**49**	55	75
Leaders here keep strong focus on connecting with wider community	**70**	72	81
Leaders here encourage innovation and creative thinking	**52**	54	68
The local church has good and clear systems for how it operates	**64**	65	80
Attenders who perform a leadership or ministry role here	**48**	40	50
Attenders' evaluation of their involvement here			
I would like to be more involved	**12**	N/A	25
I am happy with my current level of involvement	**75**	N/A	66
I would like to be less involved	**5**	N/A	1

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)
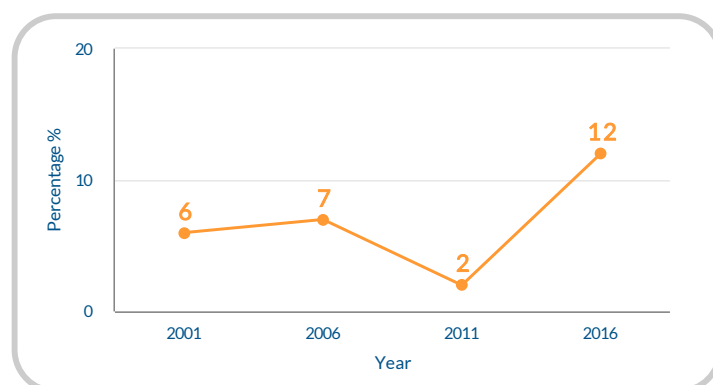
Innovation
Imaginative and Flexible

Ready to Try Something New

12% of attenders strongly agree that this local church is always ready to try something new

12%
Strongly agree this church is always ready to try something new

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who strongly agree that this local church is always ready to try something new

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Imaginative and Flexible Innovation	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Willingness of the local church to try new things			
This local church is always ready to try something new:			
Strongly agree	**12**	2	19
Agree	**30**	34	52
Neutral / Unsure	**42**	43	24
Disagree	**14**	17	4
Strongly disagree	**3**	4	1
Leaders encourage innovation			
Leaders here encourage innovation and creative thinking:			
Strongly agree	**8**	9	19
Agree	**45**	45	49
Neutral / Unsure	**36**	36	26
Disagree	**10**	8	5
Strongly disagree	**2**	2	1
Openness to new initiatives			
I would support the development of new initiatives in ministry and mission in this local church:			
Strongly agree	**17**	N/A	38
Agree	**51**	N/A	48
Neutral / Unsure	**28**	N/A	13
Disagree	**1**	N/A	1
Strongly disagree	**2**	N/A	0

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
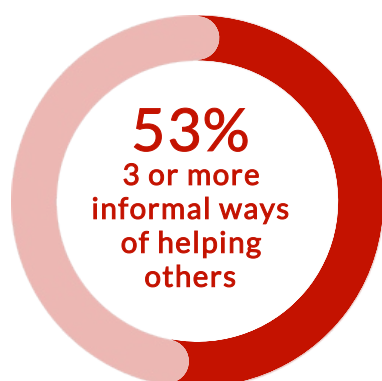You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)
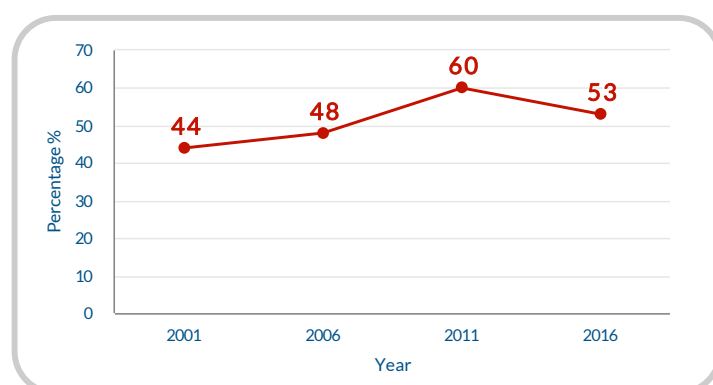
Service
Practical and Diverse

Informal Acts of Service

53% of attenders said they had informally helped others in three or more of a list of ways in the last year

53%
3 or more informal ways of helping others

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who informally helped others in three or more ways in the last year

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Practical and Diverse Service	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Informal ways of helping others (in the last year)			
Attenders who helped others in three or more of the ways below:	**53**	60	63
Lent or gave money outside family [+]	**40**	22	51
Cared for someone who was very sick	**26**	35	31
Helped someone through a crisis	**47**	43	46
Visited someone in hospital	**50**	59	50
Gave possessions to a needy person	**32**	37	38
Tried to stop someone abusing alcohol or drugs	**12**	10	12
Donated money to charity	**77**	86	76
Contacted a parliamentarian or councillor about an issue	**21**	24	16
Regular involvement in local church-based service activities			
Community service, social justice or welfare activities	**28**	25	24
Ongoing involvement in community groups not connected to this local church			
Community service, care or welfare groups	**21**	24	19
Social action, justice or lobby groups	**6**	7	6
Sport, recreation or hobby groups	**19**	20	20
School or youth groups (e.g. P&C, Scouts)	**10**	9	11
Another kind of group	**16**	14	10
Not involved with such groups	**48**	46	51
Beliefs about Christian responsibility to actively care for the environment			
Yes, Christians have a responsibility, and I am active	**49**	N/A	61
Yes, Christians have a responsibility, but I am currently not active	**39**	N/A	32
No, Christians do not have a responsibility	**7**	N/A	2
Unsure	**6**	N/A	4

[+]*Note: Was changed from "Lent money" in 2011 to "Lent or gave money" in 2016.*

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
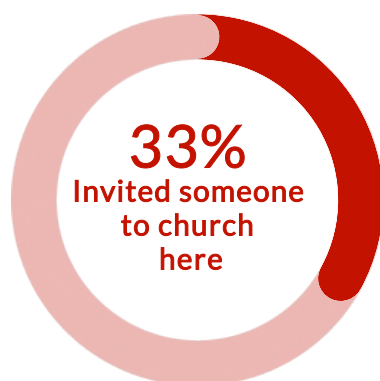You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)
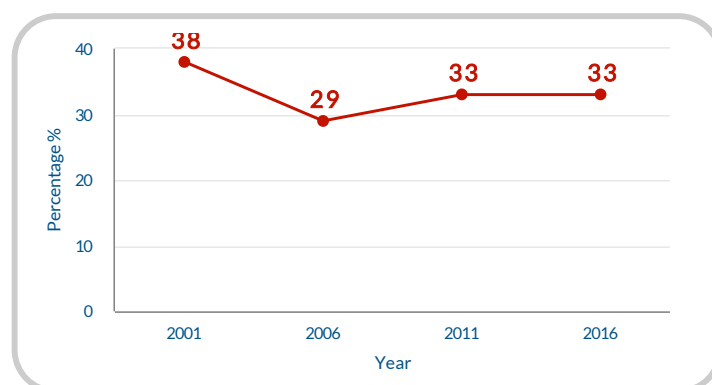
Faith Sharing
Willing and Effective

Inviting Others to Church

33% of attenders said they had invited a friend or relative who does not currently attend church to a service here in the last year

33%
Invited someone to church here

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who invited a friend or relative who does not currently attend church to a service here in the last year

Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

| Willing and Effective Faith-sharing	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Inviting others to church here			
Willingness to invite to a church service here any friends/relatives who don't currently attend a church:			
Willing and invited someone in the last 12 months	33	33	39
Willing, but didn't invite someone in the last 12 months	39	40	43
Probably wouldn't invite someone	17	16	7
Definitely wouldn't invite someone	0	2	1
Don't know	11	10	10
Involvement in evangelistic or outreach activities			
Attenders involved regularly in outreach or evangelistic activity	15	15	33
Readiness to share faith with others			
Feel at ease talking about their faith and look for opportunities	10	16	19
Mostly feel at ease talking about their faith, and do so if it comes up	58	44	52
Find it hard to talk about their faith in ordinary language	14	21	23
Do not like to talk about their faith; life and actions are sufficient	18	17	5
Do not have faith	1	2	1

Inclusion
Intentional and Welcoming

Follow-up of People Drifting Away

2% of attenders said they would certainly follow up someone they knew who was drifting away from church

2%
Certain to follow up a drifter

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Change over time: Percent of attenders who would certainly follow up someone they knew who was drifting away from church
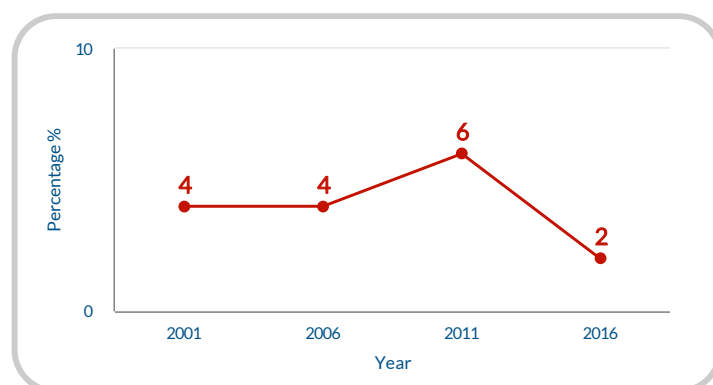
Source: Gordon, NCLS 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016

Intentional and Welcoming Inclusion	You in 2016 (%)	You in 2011 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Likelihood of attenders to follow up someone drifting away from church			
Certain	2	6	11
Very likely	15	21	23
Likely	28	27	32
Hard to say	39	30	28
Unlikely	17	16	5
Attenders personally seek out and welcome people they know who are new arrivals			
Always	17	12	19
Mostly	31	27	31
Sometimes	29	34	34
Rarely / Never	9	14	9
Attenders have found it easy to make friends here			
Among all attenders:			
Agree or strongly agree	79	76	83
Disagree or strongly disagree	5	8	5
Among those who have arrived in the last five years:			
Agree or strongly agree	55	69	80
Disagree or strongly disagree	18	11	5

*Results not provided as there were less than 6 responses

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
You in 2011 - Gordon Anglican Parish (ANS264, 134 forms)
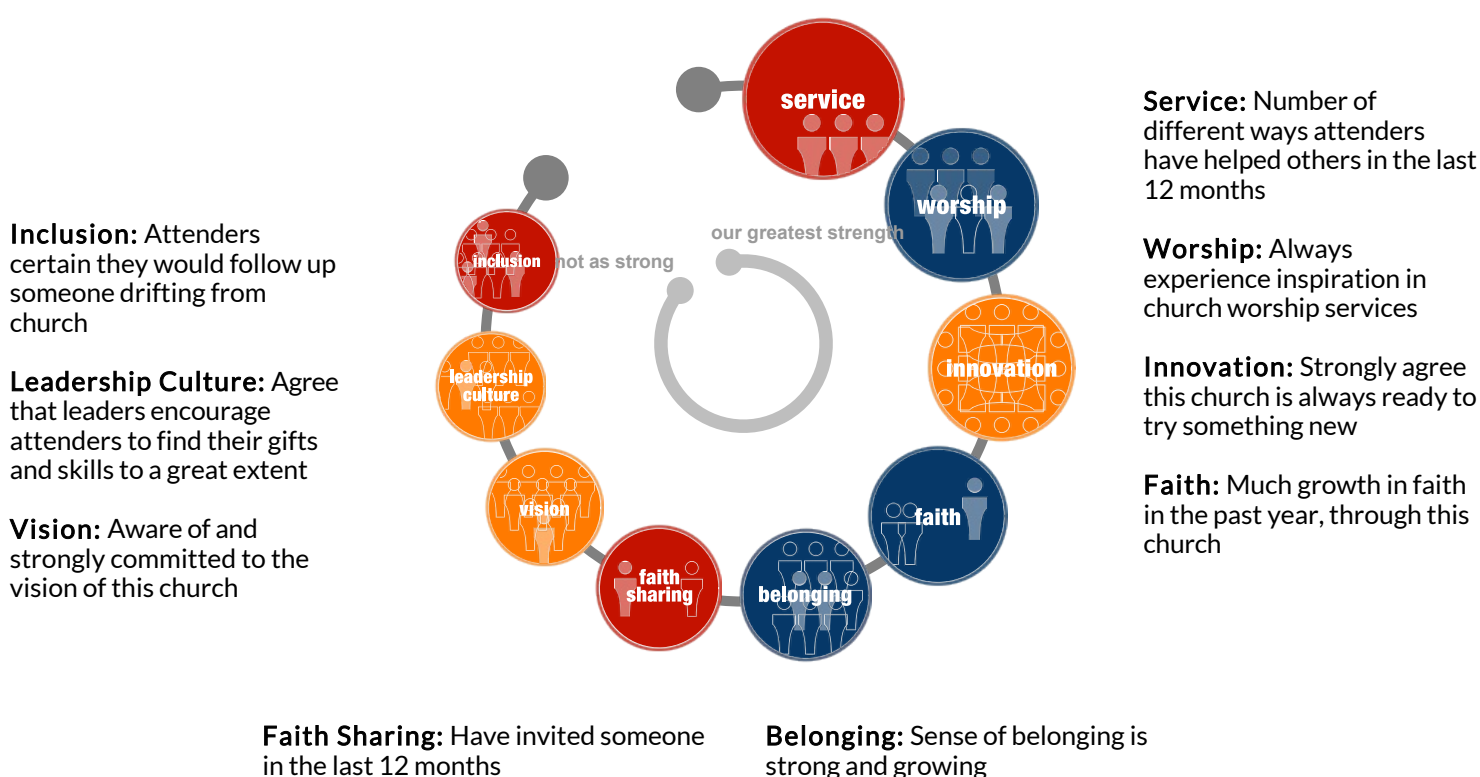Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 34797 forms, 305 churches)

Church Vitality:
Circle of Strengths

Core Qualities Overview

Over 25 years of research in Australian churches, the NCLS has highlighted key indicators for each of the nine core qualities of church health and vitality.

This circle of strengths is a simple 'broad brush' view of your church's survey results in each core quality of church life.

A single indicator of responses has been chosen for each core quality area. The order of the core qualities in the circle of strengths is based on ranking the indicator scores from highest to lowest.
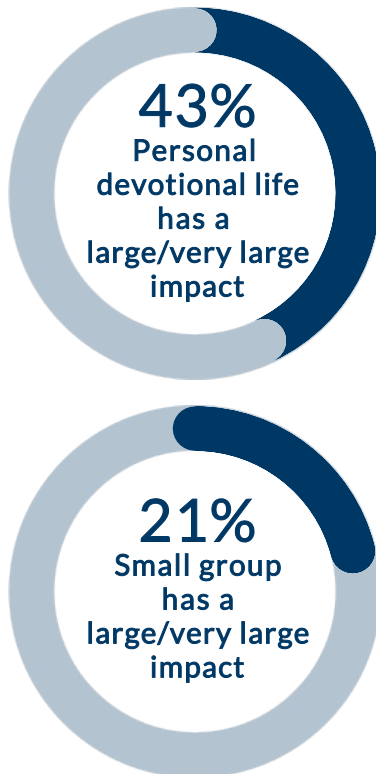

Inclusion: Attenders certain they would follow up someone drifting from church

Leadership Culture: Agree that leaders encourage attenders to find their gifts and skills to a great extent

Vision: Aware of and strongly committed to the vision of this church

Service: Number of different ways attenders have helped others in the last 12 months

Worship: Always experience inspiration in church worship services

Innovation: Strongly agree this church is always ready to try something new

Faith: Much growth in faith in the past year, through this church

Faith Sharing: Have invited someone in the last 12 months

Belonging: Sense of belonging is strong and growing

Core Qualities in 2016: Headline Indicator Scores out of Ten

Faith	Worship	Belonging	Vision	Leadership Culture	Innovation	Service	Faith sharing	Inclusion
4.5	5.5	4.2	3.9	3.4	5.1	5.9	4.1	1.3

How does it work? For each indicator question, the percentage of the people in the church who selected a given response is converted into a score between 1 and 10, where a score of 5 is the average in the context of all participating churches in Australia.

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)

Denominational Questions:
Anglican Diocese of Sydney

Impacts on Growth in Faith

43%
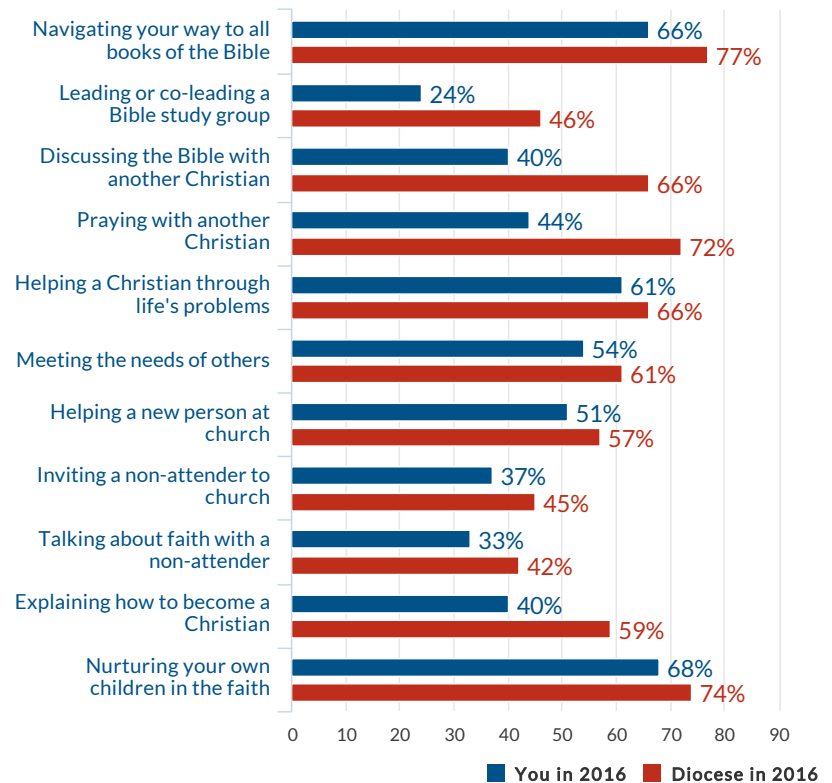Personal devotional life has a large/very large impact

21%
Small group has a large/very large impact

Source: 2016 NCLS, Gordon

Confidence in the Christian Life
(Percent completely/mostly confident)

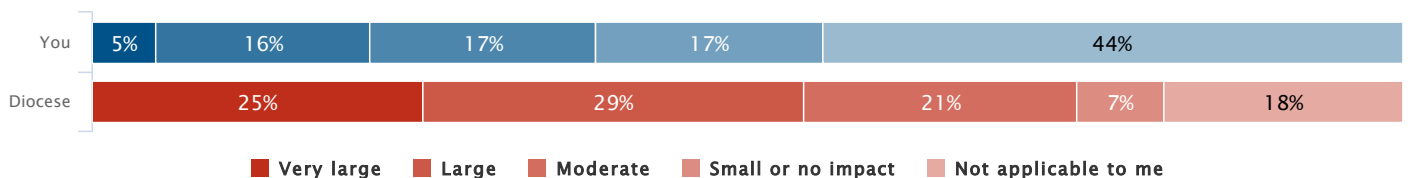| Category	You in 2016	Diocese in 2016
Navigating your way to all books of the Bible	66%	77%
Leading or co-leading a Bible study group	24%	46%
Discussing the Bible with another Christian	40%	66%
Praying with another Christian	44%	72%
Helping a Christian through life's problems	61%	66%
Meeting the needs of others	54%	61%
Helping a new person at church	51%	57%
Inviting a non-attender to church	37%	45%
Talking about faith with a non-attender	33%	42%
Explaining how to become a Christian	40%	59%
Nurturing your own children in the faith	68%	74%

■ You in 2016   ■ Diocese in 2016

Current impacts on growth in faith

Impact of personal devotional life (e.g. praying or reading the Bible alone) on growth in faith (adds to 100%)

	Very large	Large	Moderate	Small or no impact	Not applicable to me
You	18%	25%	42%	8%	8%
Diocese	29%	30%	30%	9%	2%
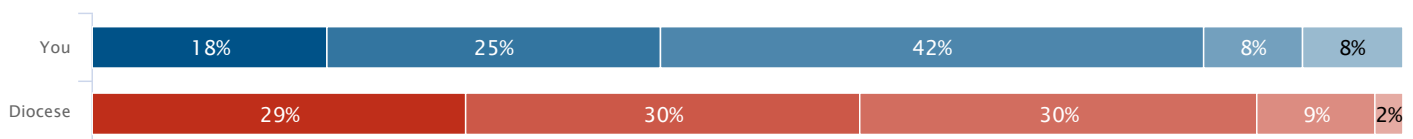
Impact of small group involvement (e.g. Bible study group) on growth in faith (adds to 100%)

	Very large	Large	Moderate	Small or no impact	Not applicable to me
You	5%	16%	17%	17%	44%
Diocese	25%	29%	21%	7%	18%

■ Very large   ■ Large   ■ Moderate   ■ Small or no impact   ■ Not applicable to me

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 28611 forms, 303 churches)

Denominational Questions:
Anglican Diocese of Sydney

Confidence in the Christian Life	You in 2016 (%)	Diocese in 2016 (%)
Navigating your way to all books of the Bible		
Completely confident	**22**	37
Mostly confident	**44**	41
A little confident	**20**	18
Not at all confident	**13**	5
Leading or co-leading a Bible study group		
Completely confident	**3**	20
Mostly confident	**21**	26
A little confident	**26**	24
Not at all confident	**50**	30
Discussing the Bible one-to-one with another Christian		
Completely confident	**11**	28
Mostly confident	**29**	38
A little confident	**38**	25
Not at all confident	**23**	9
Praying one-to-one with another Christian		
Completely confident	**19**	39
Mostly confident	**25**	33
A little confident	**32**	19
Not at all confident	**24**	9
Helping another Christian to work through life's problems		
Completely confident	**11**	19
Mostly confident	**50**	47
A little confident	**26**	28
Not at all confident	**13**	6
Identifying the practical needs of others and setting about to meet those needs		
Completely confident	**10**	13
Mostly confident	**44**	48
A little confident	**35**	33
Not at all confident	**11**	7
Helping a new person at church to make connections with others		
Completely confident	**12**	14
Mostly confident	**40**	42
A little confident	**36**	34
Not at all confident	**13**	9
Personally inviting a non-attender to a church service/group		
Completely confident	**6**	11
Mostly confident	**31**	34
A little confident	**37**	41
Not at all confident	**25**	14
Starting a conversation about the Christian faith with a non-attender		
Completely confident	**7**	10
Mostly confident	**26**	31
A little confident	**40**	42
Not at all confident	**26**	17
Explaining to another person how to become a Christian		
Completely confident	**9**	21
Mostly confident	**31**	39
A little confident	**34**	29
Not at all confident	**27**	11
Nurturing and instructing your own children in the faith		
Completely confident	**23**	27
Mostly confident	**45**	46
A little confident	**18**	20
Not at all confident	**15**	7

You in 2016 - Gordon Parish (ANS264, 128 forms)
Diocese in 2016 - Diocese of Sydney (ANS00000, 28611 forms, 303 churches)

What Next?

A positive, inclusive process

Involving your churchgoers in a process of review and setting goals or vision can build unity and vitality in churches. It can be a positive, inclusive process of affirmation, discernment and moving forward together in ministry and mission.

After completing the survey, we encourage you to explore and apply your survey results and take some action, as you step into the future. Inviting your churchgoers to celebrate, set goals or determine vision will help them own and contribute to any future directions.

Respond to your survey results in your own way

Many factors make your church unique so we provide a range of exercises to choose from to help your church move forward.

- Do you want to celebrate and affirm the people of your church?
- Do you want to identify the key insights from your survey feedback?
- Do you want to workshop a particular part of your results with a group?
- Do you want to deeply reflect on your results in order to set future direction, or pursue a vision?

You can use various elements in the Church Life Workbook to tailor a process to suit your particular context, stage and people.

Three tips to get the most out of your survey results

Evaluate

Communicate

Act
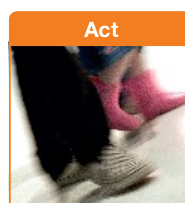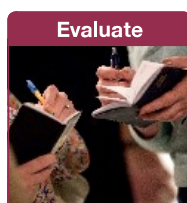
For more, see your Church Life Workbook, or go to 2016ncls.org.au/after-survey

What Next?

Each church is unique, so a range of processes are provided to help your church to determine the best way to explore and apply your survey results. Options are provided in the Workbook to equip churches to evaluate, communicate and act.

If you would like to work through the recommended process systematically, follow the steps below.

Before you begin: assess what your church is ready for

What are we ready for?

Reflect on the current capacity of your church and determine the best approach to explore and apply your results. Consider the most suitable way to allow your churchgoers to respond to their survey results. Using the Workbook, determine some goals for your church.

After you receive your survey results: evaluate, communicate and act

Evaluate

Meet with leaders when you have the results

What are we seeing?

How does this fit with our calling?

Explore and evaluate your survey results

Gain An Overview: Review your *Summary Profile* to gain a brief summary of your key survey results.

Dig Deeper: Engage with more in-depth information in your *Detailed Review* to assess specific core qualities of church life.

Communicate

Share insights and plans with the church

Celebrate these strengths!

Let's pray for these challenges and plans

Identify key points and communicate them

Choose from several communication tools and ideas to share your survey results with your church. Browse through the Workbook and decide the best way to inform your church of your survey results. Invite churchgoers, leaders or groups to participate in future planning or action.

Act

Identify and do the actions that reach goals

Let's pursue our calling by...

Participate with us in being the church

Plan and act for your future

Take steps of action together, forming a plan that empowers attenders to contribute their gifts and skills. Several styles of process are available to help your church to explore your NCLS results and plan for the future. Choose a process and begin:

- Short Process,
- Reflection Action Process, or
- Comprehensive Process.

For more, see your Church Life Workbook, or go to 2016ncls.org.au/after-survey

The Church Life Pack

After the survey, use your *Church Life Pack* to explore your results and take steps of action into the future.

The *Church Life Pack* of resources is designed to help churches to get the greatest benefit from the survey process. It's practical and easy to use.

The *Church Life Profile* contains your church's full survey results. It represents the voices of your local attenders and creates an opportunity for your church to reflect on their feedback.

The *Workbook* aims to help your church to explore and understand your survey results and offers processes to help form future direction and vision.

The *Enriching Church Life* eBook provides background research on church vitality and national trends in church life in Australia.

Supporting resources for facilitators are also provided, including workshop outlines and multimedia resources online.
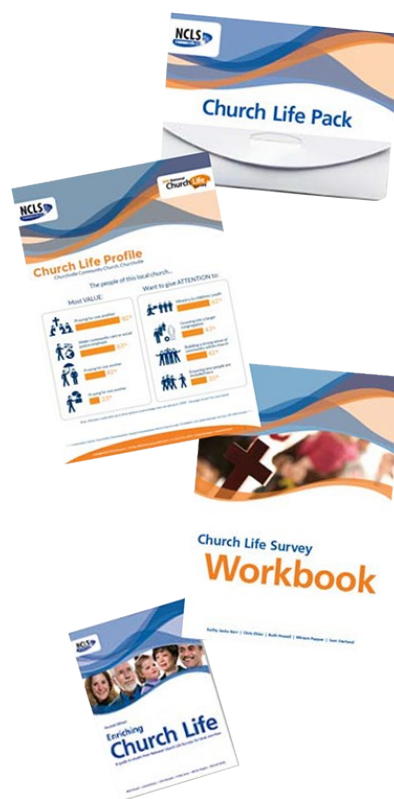
Use your Profile Number **6Y6Y9E** to access this profile online
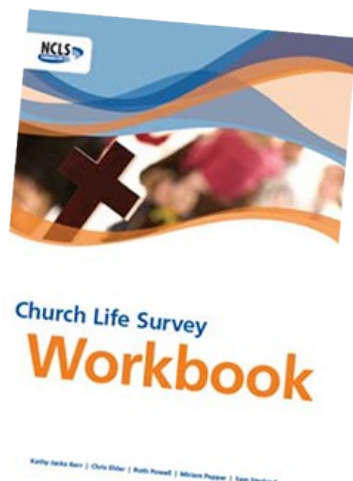2016ncls.org.au
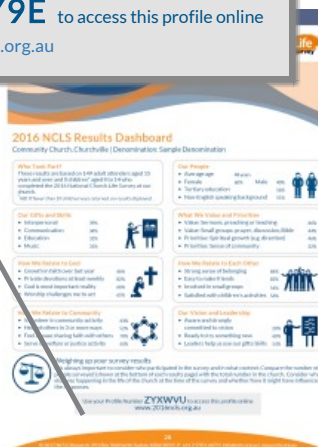
Online access for easy sharing

You can access your Church Life Profile online, using your **Profile Number** (shown on the back page of your Profile).

Share your Profile Number with a group of people for easy access online.

For more information go to 2016ncls.org.au/church-life-pack

The Church Life Survey
Workbook

Completing a Church Life Survey is just the first step. Once you've gained the feedback of church attenders it's important to do something with it.

Taking some actions based on the results is essential to getting the most benefit from the survey process.

Evaluate your results, communicate your insights, then act on them.

Use the Workbook to evaluate, communicate and act.

Explore and evaluate your survey results

Reflect on your church attenders' feedback through the survey results. Use the worksheets and reflection exercises to gain a summary of your key survey results or engage your detailed results in core areas of church life.

Identify key points and communicate them

Share the findings of your survey with the whole church to help them own any further plans, directions or mission goals. Use the communication tools, ideas and templates to share your results and involve churchgoers.

Plan and act for your future

Form an action plan that empowers attenders to contribute their gifts and skills. Move to action together. Select from several styles of process to explore and apply your results and plan for the future.

For more information go to 2016ncls.org.au/church-life-pack

2016 NCLS Results Dashboard

Gordon Parish
Denomination: Anglican Church

Who Took Part?

These results are based on 128 adult attenders aged 15 years and over and 0 children* aged 8 to 14 who completed the 2016 National Church Life Survey at our church.

NB: If fewer than 10 child surveys returned, no results displayed.

Our People

- Average age — 63 years
- Female — 58% — Male — 42%
- Tertiary education — 50%
- Non-English speaking background — 17%

Our Gifts and Skills

- Communication — 34%
- Music — 29%
- Leadership/Management — 29%
- Education — 28%

What We Value and Prioritise

- Value: Traditional style of worship or music — 80%
- Value: Sharing in Holy Communion — 67%
- Prioritise: Sense of community — 37%
- Prioritise: Ministry to children and youth — 31%

How We Relate to God

- Growth in faith over last year — 42%
- Private devotions at least weekly — 72%
- God is most important reality — 41%
- Worship challenges me to act — 45%

How We Relate to Each Other

- Strong sense of belonging — 90%
- Easy to make friends — 79%
- Involved in small groups — 17%
- Satisfied with children's activities — 33%

How We Relate to Community

- Volunteer in community activity — 38%
- Helped others in 3 or more ways — 53%
- Feel at ease sharing faith with others — 67%
- Serve in welfare or justice activity — 52%

Our Vision and Leadership

- Aware and strongly committed to vision — 21%
- Ready to try something new — 42%
- Leaders help us use our gifts/skills — 40%

Weighing up your survey results

It is always important to consider who participated in the survey and in what context. Compare the number of people surveyed (shown at the bottom of each results page) with the total number in the church. Consider what else was happening in the life of the church at the time of the survey and whether/how it might have influenced the responses.

Use your Profile Number 6Y6Y9E to access this profile online
www.2016ncls.org.au