

21st Century Evangelicals

A snapshot of the beliefs and habits of evangelical Christians in the UK

The data report

Supporting the results presented in the first report on groundbreaking research by the Evangelical Alliance and Christian Research.



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1. Introduction

In 2010 the Evangelical Alliance, together with Christian Research, took a snapshot of the beliefs and practices of evangelical Christians in the UK. Over 17,000 people completed questionnaires, making it the most extensive piece of research of its kind.

The headline results were published in an initial report in January 2011. This first report provided a glimpse of a wide range of subjects and identified some key findings. It revealed that there are many beliefs and practices that connect evangelicals, as well as considerable diversity. The results also indicated that evangelical Christians are distinct from Christians who do not consider themselves to be evangelical. There is much in this report that will encourage, but there are also challenges.

This 'data report' underpins the results presented in the initial report. If you have already read the report, the pages that follow will provide additional information and hopefully answer any questions you have. If you haven't read the initial report yet, we recommend that you do so before attempting to plough your way through this data report! A copy can be viewed online or downloaded from www.eauk.org/snapshot

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2. Methodology

This research aimed to gather data that would be as representative as possible of evangelical Christians in the UK. There were three strands of data collection. Christian festivals popular amongst evangelical Christians, randomly selected Evangelical Alliance member churches and a selection of black majority churches and conferences.

Christian festivals

The questionnaires were distributed at festivals considered to be popular amongst evangelical Christians. Seven festivals agreed to participate with this research; they were CLAN (Scotland), ECG (Wales), Grapevine, Keswick, New Horizon (Northern Ireland), New Wine and Spring Harvest.

To ensure as many people completed the questionnaires as possible they were handed out by stewards as festival goers arrived at one of the festivals main meetings. Pens were available to anyone who needed one. People were then asked to complete the questionnaire while they waited for the meeting to start. Completed questionnaires were collected by stewards as people left the meeting. However, most festivals also gave people the opportunity to drop completed questionnaires off at a pre-determined location. This enabled festival goers to complete the questionnaire at another time. There was also a postal address to which questionnaires could be returned.

Member churches

We were aware that evangelical festival goers may not be representative of evangelicals Christians throughout the UK. Therefore, we conducted the questionnaire at randomly selected Evangelical Alliance member churches in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The methodology used was very similar to the one used at the festivals. Questionnaires were distributed as people arrived at one of the main Sunday services and they were then encouraged to complete the questionnaire as they waited for the service to start. In addition, some churches gave people time during the service to finish completing the questionnaires.

The festival sample, when compared to the church sample, is extremely similar. Therefore, although there is the occasional notable difference (which can be seen in this data report), we are confident that evangelical festival goers are broadly representative of UK evangelicals.

Black majority churches and conferences

Black majority churches (BMCs) in the UK are growing both in term of their number and influence. Many are an integral part of the evangelical constituency. Consequently, it was essential that BMCs were part of this research. A range of black majority churches and conferences were asked to participate in this research, however, only a few agree to do so. Those which did used the same methodology as the randomly selected member churches.

Although approximately 900 questionnaires were completed by evangelical Christians who attend BMC's it was not possible to present data that is representative of all evangelical BMs. However, it was possible to identify some clear findings.

3. Sample and weighting

In total 17,298 questionnaires were received and processed. Table 3.1 provides a detailed breakdown.

The festival sample

The questionnaires were distributed at festivals considered to be popular amongst evangelical Christians. Seven festivals agreed to participate with this research; they were CLAN, ECG, Grapevine, Keswick, New Horizon, New Wine and Spring Harvest.

We asked festivals to provide us with the total number of people (aged 16 and over) that attended their festival, over its entire duration. Some festivals, which provide accommodation and/or require passes to enter the site were able to provide more accurate numbers than those festivals which do not require the purchases of tickets/passes or accommodation. The total estimated numbers of people (aged 16 and over) were rounded up to the nearest thousand and was approximately 88,000 (not allowing for any overlap).

Although not everyone had the opportunity to complete a questionnaire, we had responses from over 16% of festival goers. However, this varied by festival from 4% to 38%. In order to provide as representative picture as possible, a decision was taken to weight the results so that the sample matched the total number of festival goers at each festivals. The weighting applied to each festival's sample is presented in table 3.1. The same weighting factors were used in all analyses, no matter whether we were looking at the total sample, Christians only or evangelical Christians only.

Although we are confident in our weighting method, we also viewed the results with no weighting applied and a variety of different approaches to weighting. In doing so we found that, although there were some differences, the overall findings were remarkably similar, regardless of weighting model used.

The church sample

The main purpose of the church sample was to see if evangelical festival goers are representative of evangelical Christians throughout the UK. We found that the festival sample and church sample were extremely similar. That's not to say there were no noticeable differences, however, the key findings were visible in both the festival and the church sample.

The churches who participated in this research were randomly selected Evangelical Alliance member churches, from England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. As with festivals, due to the disproportionate response from churches in each country, a decision was taken to weight the data from churches. The following three factors were taken into account when calculating the weighting factor:

- 1) The number of individual responses from each country.
- 2) The average number of Evangelical Alliance member churches in each country: England – 2879, Wales – 165, Scotland – 135 and Northern Ireland – 43.
- 3) The average number of churchgoers at evangelical churches on a typical Sunday (as estimated from the last Christian Research Census in 2005): 85.

The church weighting details can be seen in table 3.1.

Table 3.1 – Sample and weighting

		Questionnaires completed	Results weighted up to	Weighting factor
Festivals	New Wine	7,038	20,000	2.84
	Grapevine	2,170	7,000	3.23
	Spring Harvest	1,699	40,000	23.54
	Keswick	1,333	12,000	9.00
	New Horizon	792	5,000	6.31
	ECG	759	2,000	2.64
	CLAN	720	2,000	2.78
	Sub total	14,511	88,000	
Churches	England	727	244,715	336.6
	Northern Ireland	321	3,655	11.4
	Wales	64	14,025	219.1
	Scotland	47	11,475	244.1
	Sub total	1,159	273,870	
Other	Black Majority Churches	1,239		
	Received by post ¹	190		
	Completed online ²	199		
	Grand total	17,298		

¹ When we received questionnaires by post we included them in the sample if we knew which festival or church they came from. However, these 190 questionnaires were not included as we were unsure of their origin.

² We planned for the online sample to be another way to compare and contrast the festival and church sample. However, due to the low response were unable to include them.

Some more information about the sample

Table 3.2: Christian?

Question: Do you consider yourself to be a Christian?

	Yes Un-weighted	Yes Weighted	No, Unsure, or No Reply Un-weighted	No, Unsure or No Reply Weighted
Festival sample	13,535 (93%)	82,742 (94%)	976 (7%)	5258 (6%)
Church sample	1050 (91%)	257,893 (94%)	109 (9%)	15,977 (6%)

Table 3.3: Evangelical?

Question: Do you consider yourself to be an evangelical Christian? (This table only includes participants who said they were Christians)

	Yes Un-weighted	Yes Weighted	Unsure Un-weighted	Unsure Weighted	No Un-weighted	No Weighted	No Reply Un-weighted	No Reply Weighted
Festival sample	10,665 (79%)	64,563 (78%)	1,507 (11%)	8,805 (11%)	953 (7%)	6763 (8%)	410 (3%)	2611 (3%)
Church Sample	811 (77%)	196,133 (76%)	140 (13%)	34,833 (14%)	63 (6%)	17,614 (7%)	36 (3%)	9313 (4%)

Table 3.4: Gender

Question: Are you...male or female? (This table only includes participants who said they were Christians)

	Male Un-weighted	Male Weighted	Female Un-weighted	Female Weighted	No Reply Un-weighted	No Reply Weighted
Festival sample	5186 (38%)	32,096 (39%)	8070 (60%)	49,093 (59%)	279 (2%)	1553 (2%)
Church sample	395 (38%)	97,564 (38%)	618 (59%)	154,569 (60%)	37 (3%)	5760 (2%)

Table 3.5: Age

Question: How old are you? (This table only includes participants who said they were Christians)

	16-24 Weighted	25-34 Weighted	35-44 Weighted	45-54 Weighted	55-64 Weighted	65-74 Weighted	75+ Weighted	No Reply Weighted
Festival sample	9%	9%	15%	26%	23%	13%	4%	1%
Church sample	10%	11%	15%	20%	19%	15%	6%	3%

Table 3.6: Marital Status

Question: Which of these best describe your marital status? (This table only includes participants who said they were Christians)

	Single, not in a relationship Weighted	Single, in a relationship Weighted	Cohabiting Weighted	Married Weighted	Separated/ Divorced Weighted	Widowed Weighted	No Reply Weighted
Festival sample	14%	5%	0% (0.4%)	70%	5%	4%	2%
Church sample	19%	5%	1%	61%	6%	7%	1%

4. Typically evangelical

There are many beliefs and practices that connect evangelicals in the UK.

There is widespread consensus* on issues from Jesus to the miraculous gifts of the Spirit to the environment. There are also many practices that are common to the majority of evangelicals; these include reading the Bible, giving money and volunteering.

*For all issues included in this section at least 74% of evangelicals strongly agreed with the statement.

Jesus

Table 4.1: Jesus is the only way to God

Question: I believe that Jesus is the only way to God.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	91%	3%	1%	2%	3%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	94%	2%	1%	1%	2%

Church

Table 4.2: Church service attendance

Question: Please indicate approximately how often you... attend a church service.

	More than once a week	Once a week	Once a fortnight	About once a month	Less than once a month
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	33%	63%	2%	1%	1%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	25%	70%	2%	1%	2%

Table 4.3: Small group attendance

Question: Please indicate approximately how often you... attend a small group meeting (e.g. house group).

	Once a week (or more)	Once a fortnight	Once a month	A few times a year	Once a year or less
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	58%	19%	7%	6%	10%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	58%	18%	7%	7%	10%

Bible

Table 4.4: Bible reading frequency

Questions: Please indicate approximately how often you... read (or listen to) the Bible on your own.
Please indicate approximately how often you...read (or listen to) the Bible with others.

	Daily	A few times a week	Once a week	Once a fortnight	Once a month or less
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	53%	29%	9%	2%	7%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	55%	26%	10%	3%	6%

Table 4.5: Bible – Inspiration

Questions: The Bible is the inspired Word of God.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	93%	2%	0%	3%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	94%	2%	0%	3%	1%

Prayer

Table 4.6: Prayer frequency

Questions: Please indicate approximately how often you... pray alone.

	Daily	A few times a week	Once a week	Once a fortnight	Once a month or less
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	77%	19%	2%	1%	1%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	78%	17%	3%	0%	2%

Giving

Table 4.7: Giving – receivers

Question: In the past year, have you given money to any of the following?

	Your church	Individual missionaries	Christian Charities	Non-Christian charities	Individual homeless people
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	96%	47%	86%	56%	19%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	97%	47%	77%	48%	22%

Faith

Table 4.8: Importance of faith in life

Question: My faith is the most important thing in my life.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	88%	11%	1%	0%	0%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	88%	10%	1%	1%	0%

Table 4.9: Faith in decision making

Question: My faith is a key factor in my decision making.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	83%	14%	1%	2%	0%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	85%	11%	1%	3%	0%

Environment

Table 4.10: Caring for the environment

Question: It's a Christian's duty to care for the environment.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	77%	17%	1%	3%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	77%	18%	1%	3%	1%

Engagement

Table 4.11: Voting

Question: Did you vote in this year's General Election?

	Yes	No	Can't recall
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	86%	12%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	85%	13%	2%

These results do not include the question "Are you likely to vote in this year's General Election?" which was on questionnaires conducted prior to the 2010 General Election.

Table 4.12: News

Question: Please indicate approximately how often you... watch, listen or read the news.

	Daily	A few times a week	Once a week	Once a fortnight	Once a month or less
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	76%	18%	2%	1%	3%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	72%	21%	3%	1%	3%

Miracles

Table 4.13: Miraculous gifts

Question: I believe that the miraculous Gifts of the Spirit (tongues, prophecy, miraculous healings, words of knowledge) stopped in the 1st Century and are not seen today.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	2%	2%	4%	9%	83%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	2%	1%	5%	7%	85%

Volunteering

Table 4.14: Volunteering

Question: The combined results from the following three questions. Please indicate how often you...
 ...work as a volunteer for your church in an activity that serves the local community. OR
 ...work as a volunteer for a Christian organisation. OR
 ...work as a volunteer for a non-Christian organisation.

	Once a week or more	Once a fortnight	Once a month	A few times a year	Hardly ever/never
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	58%	8%	15%	18%	1%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	56%	7%	15%	21%	1%

Unity

Table 4.15: United in truth

Question: It is important for Christians to be united in truth.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	81%	13%	2%	3%	1%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	87%	8%	1%	3%	1%

Table 4.16: United in mission

Question: It is important for Christians to be united in mission.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	75%	17%	2%	4%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	79%	14%	2%	4%	1%

Voice

Table 4.17: Voice in the media

Question: It is important for Christians to have a voice in the media.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	74%	19%	3%	3%	1%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	72%	20%	3%	4%	1%

Table 4.18: Political engagement

Question: It is important for Christians to engage with government, national assemblies/parliament.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	76%	18%	3%	2%	1%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	72%	21%	4%	2%	1%

5. Distinctly evangelical

There are significant differences between Christians who consider themselves to be evangelicals, and those who do not.

This research was conducted at festivals popular amongst evangelical Christians, and at Evangelical Alliance member churches. However, over 1000 of those who participated in this research said they did not consider themselves to be evangelical Christians (and a further 1500 were unsure). Therefore, although these results cannot be taken to be representative of all 'non-evangelical Christians', the results do highlight key differences between Christians who consider themselves to be evangelical, and those who do not.

Faith

Faith takes a more prominent place in the lives of evangelical Christians

Table 5.1: Importance of faith in life

Question: My faith is the most important thing in my life.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	88%	11%	1%	0%	0%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	88%	10%	1%	1%	0%
'Non-evangelical' Christian (festival sample)	54%	36%	6%	4%	0%

Table 5.2: Faith in decision making

Question: My faith is a key factor in all my decision making.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	83%	14%	1%	2%	0%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	85%	11%	1%	3%	0%
'Non-evangelical' Christian (festival sample)	51%	37%	5%	6%	1%

Bible

The Bible has a more significant role in the lives of evangelicals

Table 5.3: Biblical authority

Question: The Bible has supreme authority in guiding my beliefs, views and behaviour.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	83%	11%	1%	3%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	88%	6%	1%	4%	1%
'Non-evangelical' Christian (festival sample)	43%	41%	6%	7%	3%

Table 5.4: Bible reading frequency

Question: Please indicate approximately how often you...read (or listen to) the Bible on your own.

	Daily	A few times a week	Once a week	Once a fortnight	Once a month or less
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	52%	27%	7%	3%	11%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	54%	24%	7%	4%	11%
'Non-evangelical' Christian (festival sample)	26%	23%	14%	6%	31%

Relationship with God

Evangelicals pray more frequently and are more likely to believe that Jesus is the only way to God.

Table 5.5: Prayer frequency

Question: Please indicate approximately how often you... pray alone.

	Daily	A few times a week	Once a week	Once a fortnight	Once a month or less
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	76%	19%	2%	0%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	77%	17%	2%	1%	3%
'Non-evangelical' Christian (festival sample)	57%	26%	6%	3%	8%

Table 5.6: Jesus is the only way to God

Question: I believe that Jesus is the only way to God.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	91%	3%	1%	2%	3%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	94%	2%	1%	1%	2%
'Non-evangelical' Christian (festival sample)	75%	12%	5%	3%	5%

Evangelism

Evangelicals place more emphasis on evangelism

Table 5.7: Evangelism

Question: It is a Christian's duty to be actively engaged in evangelism.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	71%	22%	2%	3%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	69%	22%	4%	3%	2%
'Non-evangelical' Christian (festival sample)	27%	43%	17%	10%	3%

Table 5.8: Talking about faith

Question: Please indicate approximately how often you...talk about your faith with someone who wouldn't call themselves a Christian.

	At least once a week	Once a fortnight	Once a month	A few times a year	Hardly ever / never
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	29%	11%	18%	32%	10%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	29%	8%	21%	33%	9%
'Non-evangelical' Christian (festival sample)	18%	6%	14%	38%	24%

Right & Wrong

Evangelicals tend to have stronger views on what's right and wrong

Table 5.9: Sex before marriage

Question: I believe that sexual intercourse outside of marriage is always wrong.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	62%	17%	9%	7%	5%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	71%	11%	8%	7%	3%
'Non-evangelical' Christian (festival sample)	26%	17%	17%	24%	16%

Table 5.10: Assisted suicide

Question: I believe that assisted suicide is always wrong.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	42%	18%	24%	10%	6%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	50%	12%	23%	10%	5%
'Non-evangelical' Christian (festival sample)	21%	13%	29%	21%	16%

6. Divergence and uncertainty

The beliefs of evangelicals are not uniform, and uncertainty is common.

The questions asked in this research were stark. Therefore care has to be taken drawing conclusions. However, it is possible to make two assertions.

Firstly, although evangelical Christians are similar to each other in many ways, there is also considerable diversity on a range of issues. Evangelicals are certainly not the homogeneous group that the media frequently portray them to be.

Secondly, it is not uncommon for evangelicals to be unsure of their beliefs.

Further research is required to explore the exact nature of this divergence and uncertainty.

The Bible

There is widespread consensus and certainty amongst evangelicals that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that it has supreme authority in their lives. However, there is less certainty, and a broader range of opinions as to whether or not the Bible, in its original manuscript, is without error.

Table 6.1: Bible – original manuscript

Question: The Bible, in its original manuscript, is without error.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	54%	18%	14%	9%	5%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	69%	13%	11%	5%	2%

Abortion

The results to this question provide a complete spectrum of opinions. It is younger evangelicals who are more likely to think that abortion can never be justified (27% of 16-24s agree a lot that abortion can never be justified), while older people are more likely to think that abortion, in some instances, is justifiable (39% of 16-44s disagree, to some extent, that abortion can never be justified, compared to 47% of 45+). However, until more research is conducted to explore the circumstances where evangelicals find abortion justifiable, it's unwise to interpret the findings in any great detail.

Table 6.2: Abortion

Question: I believe that abortion can never be justified.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	20%	17%	18%	28%	17%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	30%	19%	18%	22%	11%

Assisted Suicide

Although the majority of evangelicals agree, to some extent, that assisted suicide is wrong, less than half strongly hold this opinion.

Table 6.3: Assisted suicide

Question: I believe that assisted suicide is always wrong.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	42%	18%	24%	10%	6%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	50%	12%	23%	10%	5%

Hell

34% of evangelicals strongly agree that hell is a place where the condemned will suffer eternal conscious pain. It's the issue where there is the greatest uncertainty.

Table 6.4: Hell

Question: I believe that hell is a place where the condemned will suffer eternal conscious pain.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	37%	13%	31%	8%	11%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	47%	12%	27%	6%	8%

Evolution

6 out of 10 evangelicals believe that, to some extent, evolution and Christianity are compatible.

Table 6.5: Evolution

Question: I believe that evolution and Christianity are incompatible: you cannot believe both.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	18%	8%	14%	20%	39%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	30%	9%	18%	16%	27%

Women in Leadership

Just over half of evangelicals strongly agree that women should be eligible for all roles within the church in the same way men are. A further 20% agree a little with this statement.

Table 6.6: Women in leadership

Question: I believe that women should be eligible for all roles within the church in the same way men are.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	51%	20%	9%	10%	10%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	54%	19%	9%	9%	9%

Homosexuality

It is common for evangelical Christians to distinguish between homosexual 'feelings' and 'actions'. The results reveals that while the majority of evangelicals do not consider homosexual feelings to be 'wrong', the majority do believe that homosexual actions are 'wrong'. 8 out of 10 evangelicals do not think homosexual couples should be able to have civil partnerships blessed in churches.

Table 6.7: Homosexual feelings

Question: I believe that it is wrong to have homosexual feelings.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	13%	11%	21%	25%	30%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	24%	12%	22%	21%	21%

Table 6.8: Homosexual actions

Question: I believe that homosexual actions are always wrong.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	59%	14%	11%	8%	8%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	68%	12%	10%	5%	5%

Table 6.9: Blessing civil partnerships

Question: I believe homosexual couples should be able to have civil partnerships blessed in churches.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	4%	4%	11%	12%	69%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	4%	2%	10%	10%	74%

7. Community engagement

Evangelicals provide a significant contribution to their community through working as volunteers.

Headline data

99% of evangelical Christians do some type of volunteering each year.

Table 7.1: Volunteering – any form of

Question: The combined results from the following three questions. Please indicate how often you...
 ...work as a volunteer for your church in an activity that serves the local community. OR
 ...work as a volunteer for a Christian organisation. OR
 ...work as a volunteer for a non-Christian organisation.

	Once a week or more	Once a fortnight	Once a month	A few times a year	Hardly ever/never
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	58%	8%	15%	18%	1%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	56%	7%	15%	21%	1%

43% of evangelical Christians volunteer for their church in an activity that serves the local community at least once a fortnight.

Table 7.2: Volunteering – for their church

Question: Please indicate how often you... work as a volunteer for your church in an activity that serves the local community.

	Once a week or more	Once a fortnight	Once a month	A few times a year	Hardly ever/never
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	37%	6%	13%	20%	24%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	37%	5%	12%	21%	25%

85% of evangelical Christians say that their church is engaged with the local community.

Table 7.3: Church engagement with local community

Question: Would you describe the church you attend as...engaged with the local community.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	85%	9%	6%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	93%	3%	4%

81% of evangelical Christians say that their church is working together with other churches in their area.

Table 7.4: Churches working together

Question: Would you describe the church you attend as...working together with other churches in your area.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	81%	12%	7%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	88%	6%	6%

The congregations of Evangelical Alliance member churches provide over half a million volunteer hours for activities that serve the local community each week.

Table 7.5: Volunteering hours – Evangelical Alliance member churches

Question: Typically, how many hours a week do you volunteer in activities that serve/benefit the local community, and not just your church members?

Table includes all respondents from Evangelical Alliance member churches, included non-Christians.	Church sample (all respondents)	Number of hours (under estimated)	Total Value
None	39.3%	0	0
2 or fewer	28.6%	1	28.6
3 or 4	17.4%	3	52.2
5 or 6	6.5%	5	32.5
7 or 8	2.5%	7	17.5
9 or more	5.8%	9	52.2
Average number of volunteer hours per week given by someone who attends an Evangelical Alliance member church (Total value / 100)			1.83

At the time this research was conducted the Evangelical Alliance had 3222 member churches and research conducted by Christian Research concluded that the average congregation size of an evangelical church in the UK is 85. Therefore, 3222 multiplied by 85 equals 273870. Then, 273870 multiplied by 1.83 equals 501182.1.

Motivated by duty?

9 out of 10 evangelicals believe, to some extent, that it is a Christian’s duty to be involved in activities that benefit the local community. Those who don’t think it is a Christian’s duty are less likely to volunteer.

Table 7.6: Volunteering – a Christian’s duty?

Question: It is a Christian’s duty to volunteer in activities that serve the local community.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	54%	34%	5%	5%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	55%	33%	5%	4%	3%

Table 7.7: Volunteering – duty and frequency

Questions: It is a Christian's duty to volunteer in activities that serve the local community. AND Please indicate approximately how often you... work as a volunteer for your church in activity that serves the local community.

Evangelical Christian (festival sample)		It's a Christian's duty to volunteer in activities that serve the local community	
		Agree a lot	Disagree a lot
Please indicate approximately how often you... work as a volunteer for your church in an activity that serves the local community	Once a week or more	45%	32%
	Once or twice a month	21%	16%
	A few times a year	18%	17%
	Hardly ever / never	16%	35%

Faith in action?

Evangelicals who consider their faith to be the most important thing in their life undertake an average of 2 hours of volunteering each week, compared to an average of 1 hour 15 minutes by evangelicals who do not consider faith to be the most important thing in their life.

Table 7.8: Volunteering – faith and number of hours

Questions: Typically, how many hours a week do you volunteer in activities that serve/benefit the local community, and not just your church members? AND My faith is the most important thing in my life.

Evangelical Christian (festival sample)		My faith is the most important thing in my life		
		Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure / Disagree a little / Disagree a lot
Typically, how many hours a week do you volunteer in activities that serve/benefit the local community, and not just your church members?	None (0)	31%	38%	46%
	2 or fewer (1)	33%	32%	34%
	3 or 4 (3)	20%	19%	14%
	5 or 6 (5)	6%	5%	2%
	7 or 8 (7)	4%	2%	1%
	9 or more (9)	6%	4%	3%
	Average (rounded to the nearest 15 mins)	2 hours	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 15 minutes

Who volunteers?

Although volunteering is a common activity for the majority of evangelicals, it is women over the age of 55 who provide the most volunteer hours while men between the ages of 35-54 provide the least.

Table 7.9: Who volunteers?

Typically, how many hours a week do you volunteer in activities that serve/benefit the local community, and not just your church members?	Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	Male (16-34)	Female (16-34)	Male (35-54)	Female (35-54)	Male (55+)	Female (55+)
	None (0)		37.0%	35.1%	39.9%	32.3%	30.8%
2 or fewer (1)		33.9%	30.9%	36.5%	34.1%	31.2%	28.7%
3 or 4 (3)		14.6%	22.0%	13.2%	17.7%	20.9%	26.5%
5 or 6 (5)		5.7%	4.5%	4.2%	6.9%	5.2%	8.2%
7 or 8 (7)		3.9%	2.4%	1.8%	3.2%	3.7%	5.0%
9 or more (9)		4.9%	5.0%	4.5%	5.8%	8.2%	6.4%
Average (rounded to the nearest 15 mins)		1 hour 45 minutes	1 hour 45 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes	2 hours	2 hours 15 minutes	2 hours 30 minutes

Working collaboratively?

7 out of 10 evangelicals believe, to some extent, that Christians should work collaboratively with people of other faiths on community projects. A further 2 out of 10 are unsure. The older you are the more likely you are to strongly agree to working collaboratively.

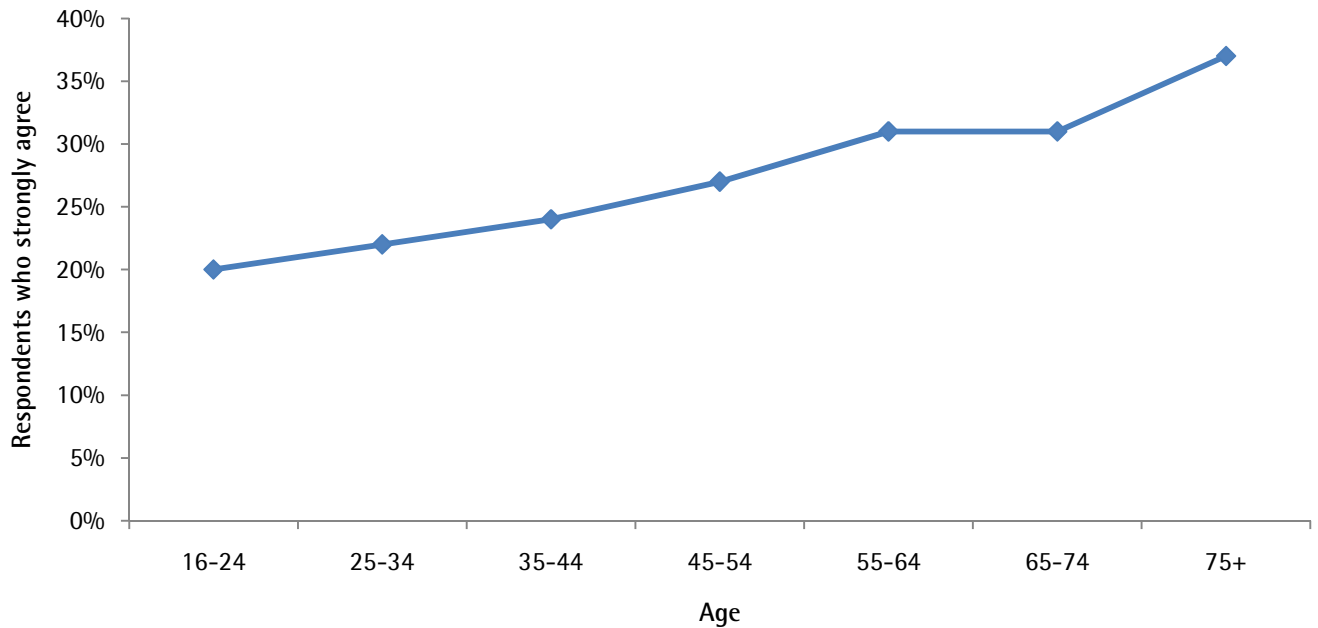
Table 7.10: Working collaboratively with people of other faiths

Question: I believe that Christians should work collaboratively with people of other faiths on community projects.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	28%	39%	20%	8%	5%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	29%	34%	23%	10%	4%

Graph 7.1: Working collaboratively by age

Percentage of respondents (by age group) who strongly agree that Christians should work collaboratively with people of other faiths on community projects.



Evangelism and Social Action

The majority of evangelicals believe that evangelism and social action are equally important and complementary tasks. However, 35% believe, to some extent, that many churches and organisations are placing too much emphasis on social action, with a further 24% being unsure. The over 55s are almost twice as likely to think this as the under 54s (47% compared to 26%).

Table 7.11: Evangelism and social action are equally important tasks

Question: I believe that evangelism and social action are equally important tasks.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	54%	26%	7%	9%	4%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	56%	26%	7%	8%	3%

Table 7.12: Evangelism and social action are complementary tasks

Question: I believe that evangelism and social action are complementary tasks.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	59%	26%	8%	5%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	55%	25%	13%	5%	2%

Table 7.13: Too much emphasis on social action?

Question: I believe that many churches are placing too much emphasis on social action.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	9%	26%	25%	25%	15%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	11%	28%	29%	21%	11%

Community engagement in the workplace

The community in which many evangelicals spend the greatest amount of time is the workplace. 8 out of 10 evangelicals believe that they are called by God to do their job and/or vocation. 5 out of 10 consider themselves to be well equipped to apply their faith to their work and/or vocation and a further 3 out of 10 consider themselves to be fairly well equipped.

Table 7.12: Called by God?

Question: I believe that I am called to God to do my job/vocation.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	69%	16%	9%	4%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	72%	17%	6%	3%	2%

Table 7.13: Equipped?

Question: I believe that I am equipped to apply my faith to my work/vocation.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	54%	32%	7%	5%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	64%	25%	6%	3%	2%

8. Giving

Evangelicals are generous, but do we need to nurture more generosity?

Headline Data

6 out of 10 respondents had given at least 10% of their household income to their church and charities in the previous month.

Table 8.1: Tithing to church and charities

Question: In the past month, have you given at least 10% of your household income...in total to your church and any charities?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	63%	24%	13%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	62%	24%	14%

Table 8.2: Tithing to church and charities, by age

Percentage of evangelicals (by age group) who give at least 10% of their household income to their church and other charities (16-24s are not included because a significant proportion of this age group are not likely to be responsible for the household income.)

	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	53%	60%	64%	68%	75%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	58%	62%	60%	70%	69%

3 out of 10 respondents had given at least 10% of their income to their church in the past month.

Table 8.3: Tithing to church

Question: In the past month, have you given at least 10% of your household income...to the church that you attend?

	Yes	No	Unsure	No Response
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	28%	38%	8%	26%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	40%	28%	9%	23%

'No responses' were not excluded from this question as the number of them was significantly higher than for all other questions. It is possible that once people had responded to the '...in total to your church and any charities' question they moved on if the answer to the second question was no. Therefore, excluding the 'no responses' could have provided an over-inflated estimated.

4 out of 10 respondents strongly agreed that 10% of a Christian's income should be given to the church they attend.

Table 8.4: The principle of tithing

Question: It is a Christian's duty to give 10% of their income to the church they attend.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	41%	28%	10%	13%	8%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	50%	23%	11%	10%	6%

Receivers and givers

Table 8.5: Receivers and givers

Question: In the past year, have you given money to any of the following?

Evangelical Christian – festival sample. (Church sample in brackets)	Total	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Your church	96% (97%)	86% (92%)	94% (93%)	97% (99%)	97% (94%)	97% (98%)	97% (98%)
Individual missionaries	47% (47%)	28% (20%)	40% (40%)	45% (47%)	48% (47%)	49% (55%)	56% (56%)
Christian charities	86% (77%)	70% (56%)	81% (63%)	85% (80%)	88% (79%)	89% (84%)	90% (84%)
Non-Christian charities	57% (48%)	42% (31%)	53% (44%)	59% (44%)	59% (47%)	55% (52%)	59% (48%)
Individual homeless people	19% (22%)	24% (31%)	24% (33%)	18% (24%)	20% (18%)	18% (19%)	16% (18%)

9. Engaging with the Bible

The Bible is a key feature of an energised faith

Headline Data

8 out of 10 evangelical Christians read (or listen to) the Bible at least a few times a week.

Table 9.1: Bible reading frequency

Questions: Please indicate approximately how often you... read (or listen to) the Bible on your own.
Please indicate approximately how often you...read (or listen to) the Bible with others.

	Daily	A few times a week	Once a week	Once a fortnight	Once a month or less
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	53%	29%	9%	2%	7%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	55%	26%	10%	3%	6%

9 out of 10 evangelical Christians strongly agree that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.

Table 9.2: Bible – inspiration

Question: The Bible is the inspired Word of God.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	93%	2%	0%	3%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	94%	2%	0%	3%	1%

8 out of 10 evangelical Christians strongly agree that the Bible has the supreme authority in guiding their beliefs, views and behaviour.

Table 9.3: Bible – authority

Question: The Bible has supreme authority in guiding my beliefs, views and behaviour.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	83%	11%	1%	3%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	88%	6%	1%	4%	1%

Age and Bible Reading

Table 9.4: Daily Bible reading, by age

Question: Please indicate approximately how often you...read (or listen to) the Bible on your own.

Percentage of respondents who read (or listen to) the Bible everyday	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	38%	38%	38%	50%	59%	69%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	43%	41%	41%	54%	59%	71%

Amount of time spending reading the Bible

Table 9.5: Amount of time spent reading the Bible

Question: In a typical week, how long to you spend reading the Bible?

	Less than 30 minutes	Up to 2 hours	More than 2 hours
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	19%	49%	32%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	23%	45%	32%

Vibrancy and the Bible

The results reveal that the more time an evangelical spends reading the Bible each week, the more active they are in other areas of their faith. They are more likely to volunteer, to give money, to pray frequently and talk about their faith.

Table 9.6: Bible reading and volunteering

Question: In a typical week, how long do you spend reading the Bible? AND Typically, how many hours a week do you volunteer in activities that serve/benefit the local community, and not just your church members?

	Average time spent volunteering
Time spent reading the Bible each week Less than 30 minutes	1 Hour 30 Minutes
Up to 2 hours	2 Hours
More than 2 hours	2 Hours 15 Minutes

Table 9.7: Bible reading and giving money

Question: In a typical week, how long do you spend reading the Bible? AND In the past month, have you given at least 10% of your household income in total to your church and any charities.

	In the past month, have you given at least 10% of your household income in total to your church and any charities?		
	Yes	No	Unsure
In a typical week, how long do you spend reading the Bible? Less than 30 minutes	49%	38%	13%
Up to 2 hours	64%	23%	13%
More than 2 hours	69%	19%	12%

Table 9.8: Bible reading and prayer

Question: In a typical week, how long do you spend reading the Bible? AND Please indicate approximately how often you... pray alone

Please indicate approximately how often you... pray alone.

		Daily	A few times a week	Once a week	Less than once a week
In a typical week, how long do you spend reading the Bible?	Less than 30 minutes	56%	35%	5%	4%
	Up to 2 hours	77%	20%	2%	1%
	More than 2 hours	88%	9%	2%	1%

Table 9.9: Bible reading and evangelism

Question: In a typical week, how long do you spend reading the Bible? AND Please indicate approximately how often you... talk about your faith with someone who wouldn't call themselves a Christian.

Please indicate approximately how often you...talk about your faith with someone who wouldn't call themselves a Christian

		At least once a month	A few times a year	Hardly ever / never
In a typical week, how long do you spend reading the Bible?	Less than 30 minutes	50%	35%	15%
	Up to 2 hours	58%	33%	9%
	More than 2 hours	64%	29%	7%

10. Evangelism

Evangelicals are talking, but more think they should

Headline Data

9 out of 10 evangelicals agree that all Christians should be actively involved in evangelism. 7 out of 10 believe this strongly.

Table 10.1: Evangelism is a Christian’s duty

Question: It is a Christian's duty to be actively engaged in evangelism.

	Agree a lot	Agree a little	Unsure	Disagree a little	Disagree a lot
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	71%	22%	2%	3%	2%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	69%	22%	4%	3%	2%

6 out of 10 evangelicals talk to someone who wouldn't call themselves a Christian about their faith at least once a month.

Table 10.2: Talking about faith

Question: Please indicate approximately how often you...talk about your faith with someone who wouldn't call themselves a Christian.

	At least once a week	Once a fortnight	Once a month	A few times a year	Hardly ever / never
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	29%	11%	18%	32%	10%
Evangelical Christian (church sample)	29%	8%	21%	33%	9%

When it comes to talking about faith, are younger evangelicals leading the way?

Table 10.3: Talking about faith, by age

Question: Please indicate approximately how often you... talk about your faith with someone who wouldn't call themselves a Christian.

Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
At once a fortnight	55%	42%	41%	39%	40%	34%
Once a month	22%	22%	20%	19%	15%	17%
A few times a year	19%	28%	29%	31%	35%	39%
Hardly ever / never	4%	8%	10%	11%	10%	10%

Evangelicals who strongly agree that all Christians should be actively involved in evangelism are, when compared to those who disagree, more likely to think that...

...followers of all religions should be free to promote their faith in the UK.

64% of evangelical festival goers who strongly agree that all Christians should be actively involved in evangelism agree, to some extent, that the followers of all religions should be free to promote their faith in the UK.

33% of evangelical festivals goers who strongly disagree that all Christians should be actively involved in evangelism agree, to some extent, that the followers of all religions should be free to promote their faith in the UK.

...it's getting more difficult to live as a Christian in an increasingly secular country.

79% of evangelical festival goers who strongly agree that all Christians should be actively involved in evangelism agree, to some extent, that it's getting more difficult to live as a Christian in an increasingly secular country.

33% of evangelical festivals goers who strongly disagree that all Christians should be actively involved in evangelism agree, to some extent, that it's getting more difficult to live as a Christian in an increasingly secular country.

...it's becoming more difficult for Christians to speak freely about what they believe.

77% of evangelical festival goers who strongly agree that all Christians should be actively involved in evangelism agree, to some extent, that it's becoming more difficult for Christians to speak freely about what they believe.

41% of evangelical festivals goers who strongly disagree that all Christians should be actively involved in evangelism agree, to some extent, that it's becoming more difficult for Christians to speak freely about what they believe.

11. The future of evangelical Christianity

Under 25s are markedly different, but what does this mean?

Young people are less likely to consider themselves to be evangelical Christians:

Table 11.1: Evangelical Christian, by age

Question: Do you consider yourself to be an evangelical Christian?

Christians (festival sample)	Yes	No	Unsure
16-24	67%	11%	22%
25-34	77%	8%	15%
35-44	78%	11%	11%
45-54	82%	9%	9%
55-64	82%	8%	10%
65+	87%	6%	7%

However, before evangelicalism's obituary is written this trend needs to be investigated further. These results could simply reveal that younger people are rejecting the name 'evangelical' or that Christians start referring to themselves as 'evangelical Christians' later on in life.

Possible evidence for this is the fact that 16-24 year olds are two times more likely to be unsure whether or not they are evangelical than any other age group. If half of these decided to consider themselves evangelicals, there would be the same percentage of 16-24 year old evangelicals as there are 25-44 year olds.

That all said, these results cannot be ignored, especially when compared alongside other results that have been outlined in this report. 16-24 year olds who consider themselves to be evangelical Christians are markedly different from other evangelical Christians.

Therefore more research is required to pinpoint whether this age group are evangelical in all but name, evangelicals in formation or whether evangelicalism is in decline, or at least changing. Whatever the conclusion, this is a significant issue.

Typically evangelical...

16-24 year olds are typically evangelical on a range of issues (within plus or minus 3% of the average – festival sample).

Table 11.2: Attend a church service at least once a week

Percentage of respondents who attend a church service at least once a week.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	94%	96%

Table 11.3: Volunteer in activities that serve the local community

Percentage of respondents who work as a volunteer for their church in an activity that serves the local community at least once a month.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	54%	56%

Table 11.4: Consider faith to be the most important thing in their life

Percentage of respondents who strongly agree that their faith is the most important thing in their life.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	87%	88%

Table 11.5: Believe that Jesus is the only way to God

Percentage of respondents who strongly agree that Jesus is the only way to God.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	91%	92%

Table 11.6: Believe that all Christians should be involved in evangelism

Percentage of respondents who strongly agree that all Christians should be actively involved in evangelism.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	74%	71%

Table 11.7: Agree that sex before marriage is wrong

Percentage of respondents who strongly agree that sexual intercourse outside of marriage is always wrong.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	63%	66%

...markedly different

On many issues, 16-24 year olds are markedly different (at least a 7% different, unless there is an * which indicates that the difference is at least 13% from the average).

Table: 11.8: Less likely to strongly agree that the Bible has supreme authority in guiding their beliefs, views and behaviour.

Percentage of respondents who strongly agree that the bible has supreme authority in guiding the beliefs, views and behaviour.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	76%	83%

Table 11.9: More likely to talk about their faith with ‘non’ Christians*

Percentage of respondents who talk about their faith with someone who wouldn't call themselves a Christian at least once a month.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	77%	58%

Table 11.10: Less likely to give money

Percentage of evangelicals who have given money to the following causes in the past year.	16-24	Average
Their church	86%	96%
Individual missionaries	28%	47%
Christian charities	70%	86%
Non-Christian charities	42%	57%
Individual homeless people	24%	19%

Table 11.11: Less likely to pray every day

Percentage of respondents who pray alone every day.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	69%	76%

Table 11.12: Less likely to read (or listen to) the Bible every day*

Percentage of respondents who read (or listen to) the Bible alone every day.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	38%	52%

Table 11.13: Faith is less likely to be key factors in their decision making

Percentage of respondents who strongly agree that their faith is a key factor in their decision making.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	73%	82%

Table 11.14: Less likely to agree that women should be eligible for all roles within the church in the same way men are*.

Percentage of respondents who strongly agree that women should be eligible for all roles within the Church in the same way men are.	16-24	Average
Evangelical Christian (festival sample)	38%	51%

12. The next step

We have taken a snapshot; now a comprehensive and detailed picture of 21st century UK evangelicals needs to be painted.

We will delve deeper in order to understand more fully the beliefs of evangelical Christians. It's important that we go to the heart of evangelicalism. We need to look at the core tenets of the evangelical faith to establish the degree of similarity and the extent of the diversity. However, the aim is not just to establish what people believe, but also to investigate why people believe what they do. In addition we plan to explore people's understanding of a range of apologetic issues.

We do not just want to find out more about what people believe – we also want to discover how these beliefs impact their lives. What does discipleship look like in the 21st century? Do people feel equipped to follow Jesus in the day-to-day realities of life? What's the condition of the relationships and family life among evangelicals?

It's essential for us to confront the potential challenges that this research presents. Is evangelicalism in decline? Are people rejecting the name 'evangelical'? What needs to be done in order to engage effectively with the younger generations? These are timely questions and future research will provide us with a fuller picture of UK evangelicals. However, it's important that we don't just look at the picture. We need to prayerfully reflect on what it reveals. We need to have the conversations that it stimulates.

And then we need to take action.

13. Thank you

We would like to thank the following **festivals** for participating in this research...

CLAN Gathering (Scotland), ECG (Wales), Grapevine, Keswick Convention, New Horizon (Northern Ireland), New Wine and Spring Harvest.

We would like to thank the following **churches** for participating in this research...

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