



21st Century Evangelicals

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

It's time to get talking

This report has got us talking! The Evangelical Alliance has no plans to put it on a bookcase and forget about it. We plan to keep it open, explore the data in more depth and keep talking about how we should respond. Already we have had many fascinating and thought provoking conversations. We hope you'll join us in these conversations.

Let me encourage you not to file your copy of this report away. Make sure it's well thumbed, lend it to people and talk about it. We're doing everything we can to make this report widely available. It can be viewed online, it can be downloaded and it's available as a printed booklet. If you're involved in church leadership go to www.eauk.org/snapshot and get your hands on more copies of this report. Make sure everyone in your church's leadership team takes a look at a copy, then spend some time discussing some of the questions that this research raises.

Steve Clifford, General Director, Evangelical Alliance

Introductory questions

How well do we know the people that are part of our church? Do we know what they believe and how this impacts their everyday lives? Why is this important? What can we do to get to know our congregation better?

What do you find encouraging about these results? What do you find challenging? Which results surprise you?

Do you think the results presented in this report are representative of our church? What do we expect would be the main areas of difference and similarities?

Typically evangelical (Page 4 & 5)

There is a high level of consensus amongst evangelicals in many key areas. How can we reinforce these?

What other beliefs and practices would we like to see on this list?

Distinctly evangelical (Page 6 & 7)

Is the evangelical 'label' a help or a hindrance? What might put people off using the word 'evangelical' to describe themselves?

Do evangelicals have an identity crisis? If so, what should we be doing about it?

How would you define the term 'evangelical'? What can we do to ensure that the evangelical 'label' is a positive one?

Divergence and uncertainty (Page 8 & 9)

On many issues evangelicals are not as black and white as they are often portrayed. Do we consider this divergence to be positive or negative? Expected or unexpected? Why? How much divergence exists within our church?

How can we engage in conversations that will help us come to a greater understanding of these often complex issues?

How do we ensure that we remain united while providing space for us to explore areas where we disagree? How can we make sure that we not only arrive at godly conclusions, but also wrestle in a godly manner?

Community engagement (Page 10 & 11)

How engaged is our church with the local community? In what ways do those in our congregation engage with their communities independently of activities organised by our church?

What opportunities does the Government's 'big society' idea provide us with?

How can our church integrate evangelism and social action to ensure that we speak good news as well as being good news?

What can we be doing to ensure that our congregation is equipped to apply their faith in their workplaces?

Giving (Page 12)

Does our church talk about money enough? How can we unleash the generosity of God's people?

Do we consider tithing to be an appropriate principle today? If so, have we effectively communicated this to our church? Are there steps we can take to enable people to tithe?

How can we best serve the quarter of evangelicals who strongly agree that a tithe should be given to their local church yet do not put that principle into practice?

Engaging with the Bible (Page 14)

How can we enable people to engage effectively with the Bible?

Why are the younger generations less likely to read (or listen to) the Bible on a daily basis? Is this a problem? If so, how can it be addressed?

Evangelism (Page 16)

6 out of 10 evangelical Christians talk to someone who wouldn't call themselves a Christians about their faith at least once a month. Is this good news, or concerning?

How can we help people become more confident in talking about their faith? What can we learn from young adults in this?

Are we equipping those who belong to our church to evangelise in a multi-faith context?

The future of evangelical Christianity (Page 18 & 19)

What are the key strengths displayed by the younger generations? What concerns you most about the differences amongst young people?

How can we engage effectively with the younger generations?

The report suggests three possible conclusions, these are; this age group are evangelical in all but name, evangelicals in formation and the possibility that evangelicalism is in decline, or at least changing. Which of these do you consider to be the most likely?

Concluding questions

If we were to focus our energies on addressing one issue this research raises which issue would you choose? Why? What action do we need to take?