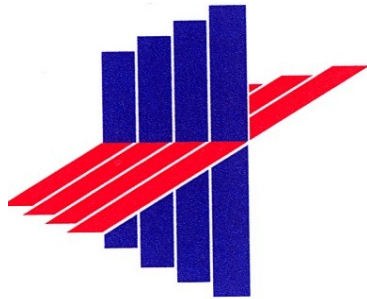


# Trends in British Society - and their implications

Presentation to Sheriff's Conference, Norwich, 17th April 2007

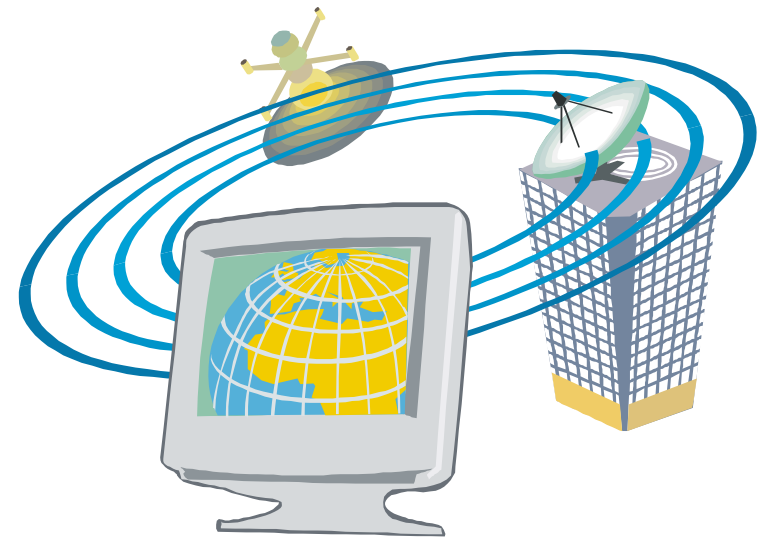


CHRISTIAN RESEARCH



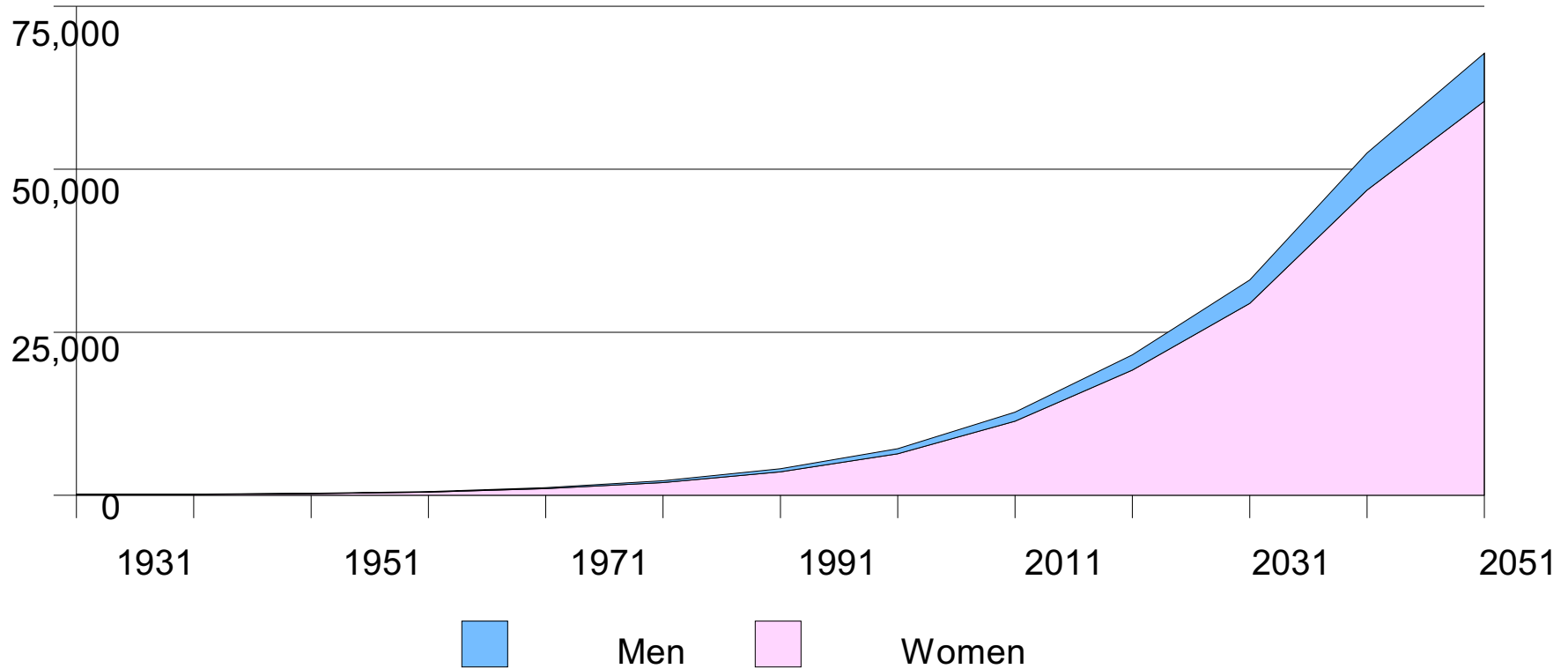
# Seven key trends

and what they mean for the church

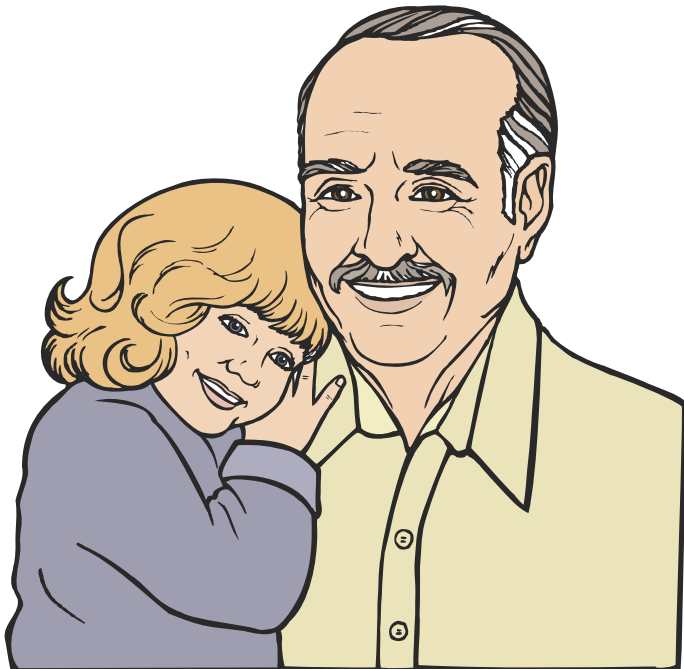


# 1: We are living longer

Number of UK Centenarians



So Grandparents  
are increasingly  
important



# Grandparents: Number and Circumstances

13½ million in the UK, each with an average of 4.4 grandchildren

Half still have a living parent

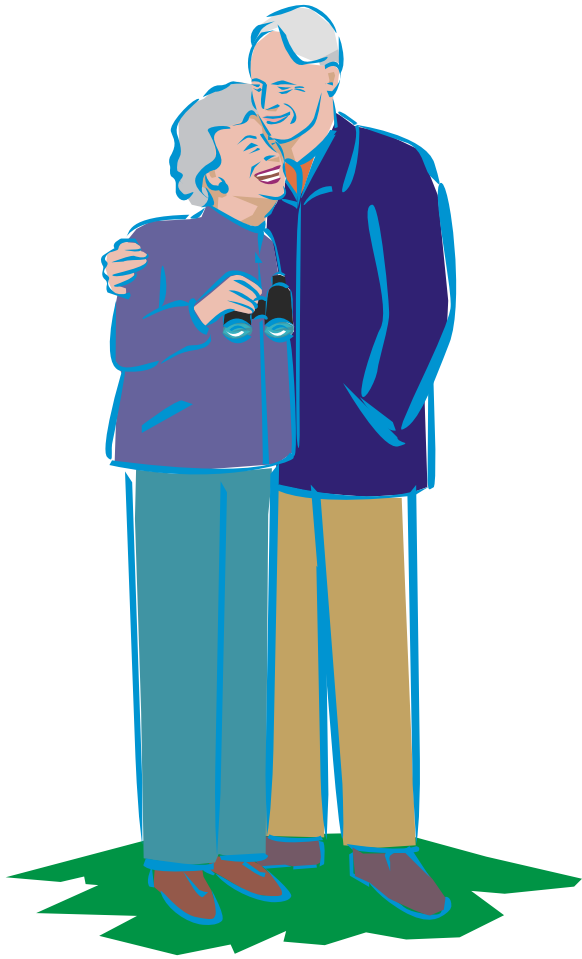
A third of those under 60 still have a dependant child of their own at home

# Grandparents: Caring for their Grandchildren

1% of church children are brought up by their grandparents, not their parents

5 million grandparents, 37%, spend 3 days a week caring for their grandchildren

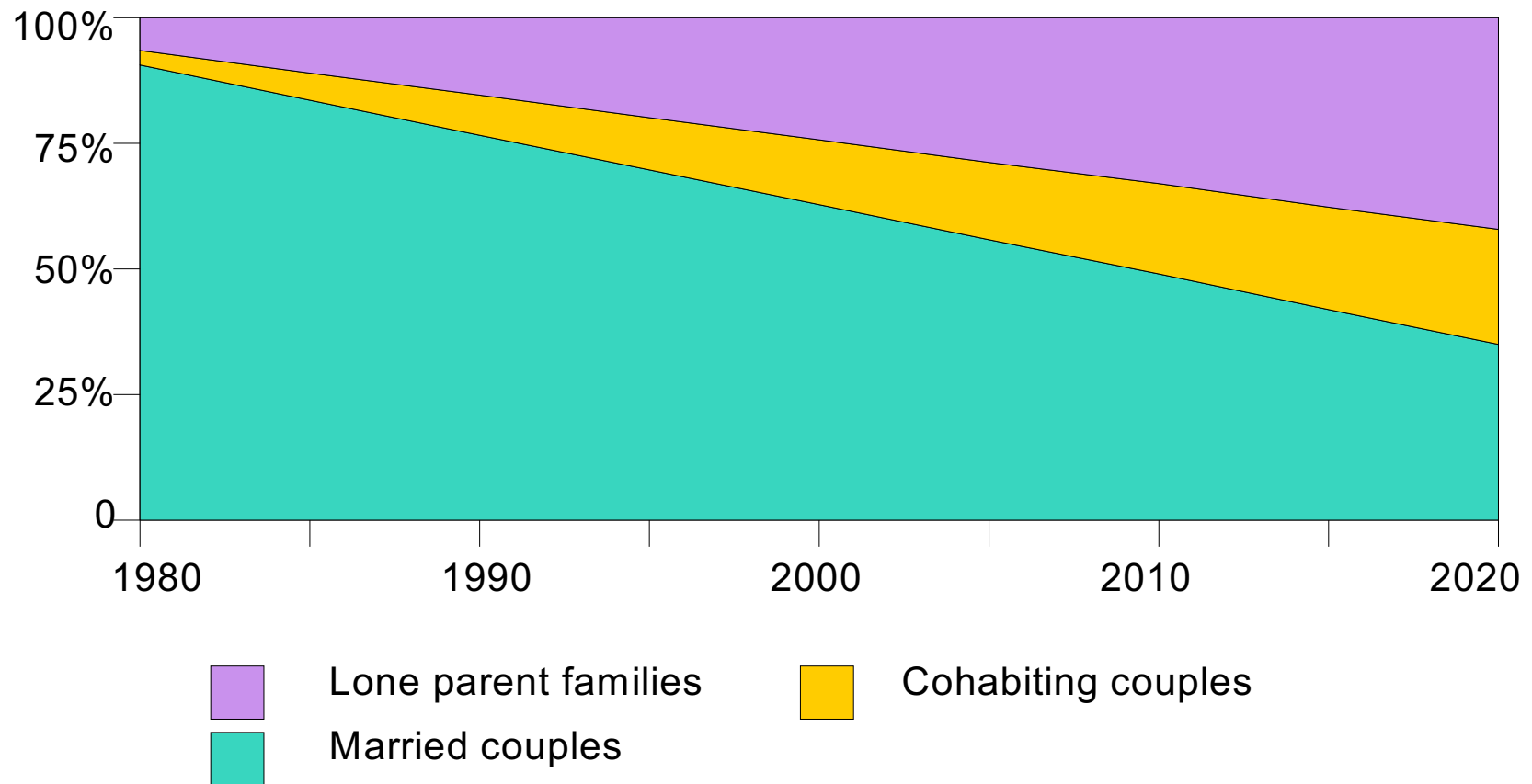
82% of children are cared for sometimes by their grandparents



Could your  
church hold a  
"Grandparents'  
Day"?

# 2: Married couples are decreasing

Family composition in Great Britain





# Lone parenthood rapidly increasing

Live births outside marriage tripled between 1992 and 2002

“The proportion of births outside marriage in England and Wales could reach 50% by 2012” (Daily Telegraph, 21/02/06)

Between 2001 and 2011 there will be a 41% increase in the number of dependent children in lone parent households

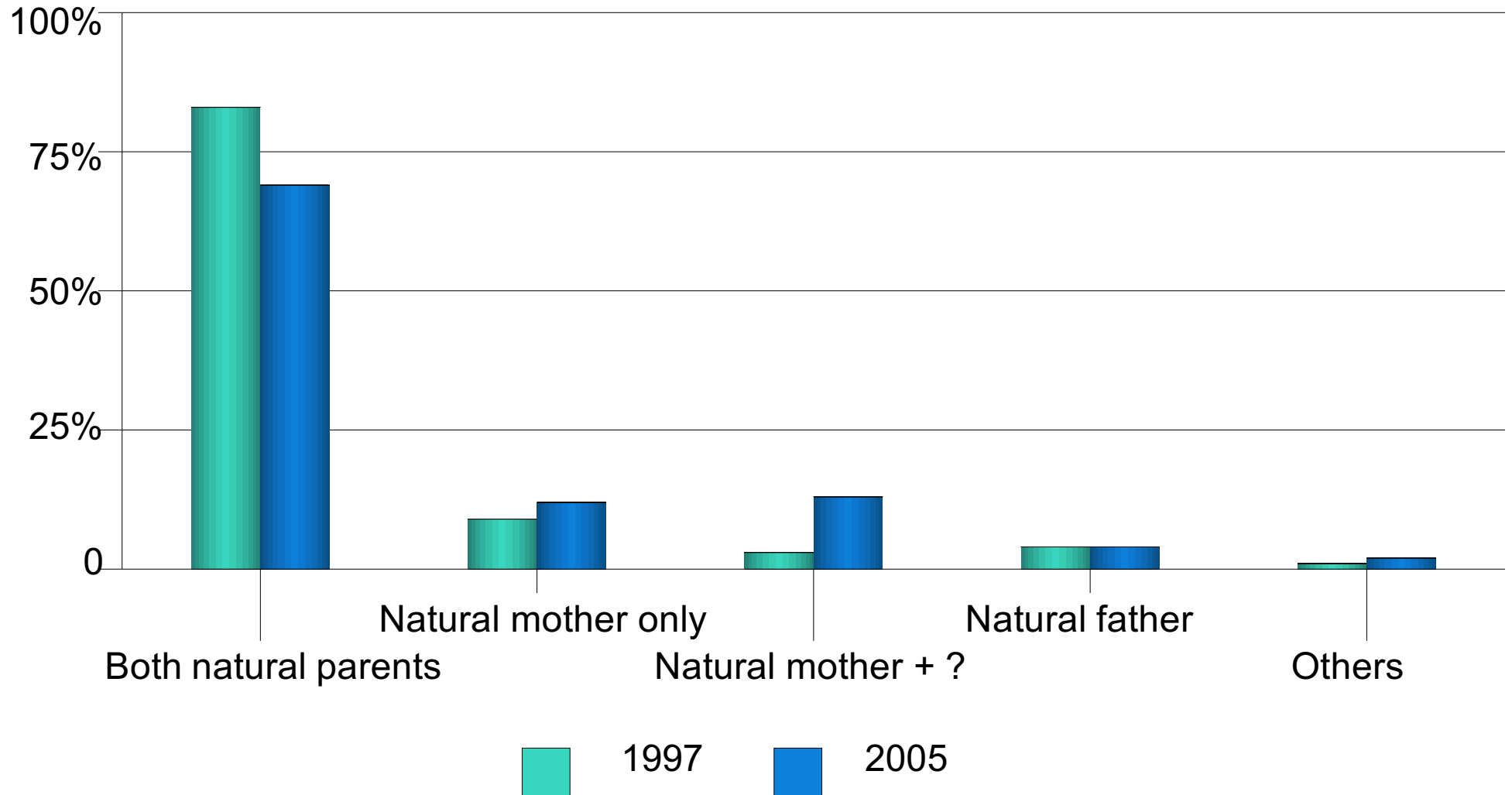
# Implications for churches of changing families

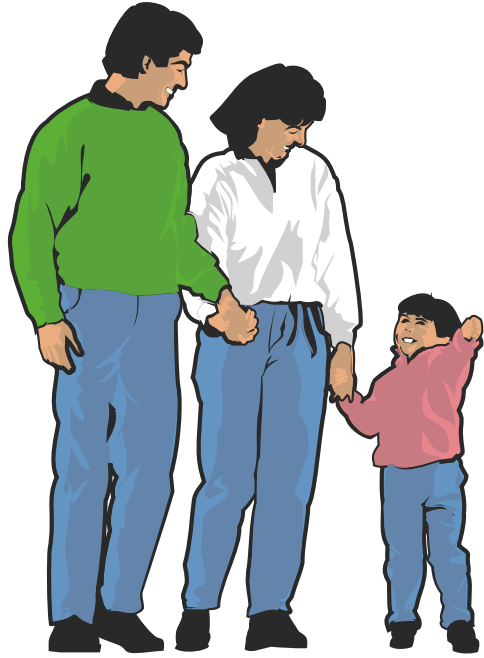
Could your church start an After  
School Club?

How else attract more children from  
lone parent households?

How best help families bring up their  
children to be churchgoers?

# 3: Family changes include church children





# What is a Family?

**56%** Any group who care about you deeply

**37%** Where all the members are related to each other

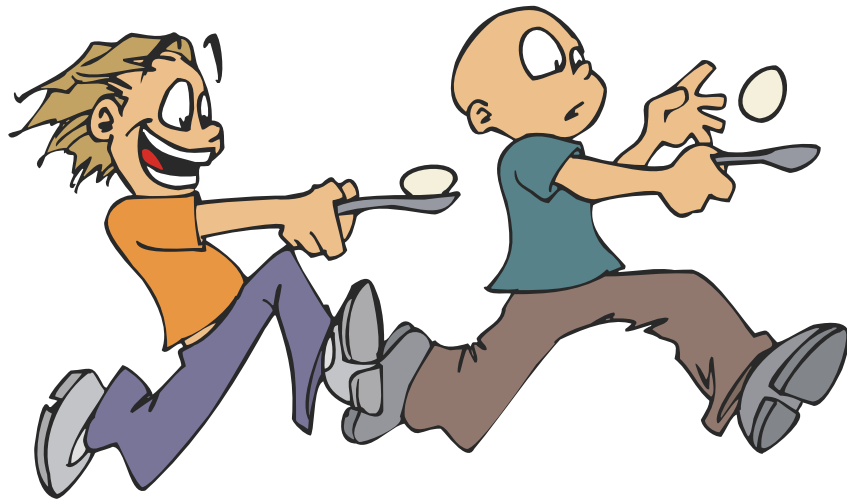
## Discussion issues

How do we help children cope with step-brothers and step-sisters?

Is "Dad" the man in the house or my real father?

How enable tweenager children to keep going when their parents divorce?

What model of marriage can children learn to emulate?



# 4: Huge pressures on children



# Some yp pressures

Media (owning the latest iPod)

Bullying

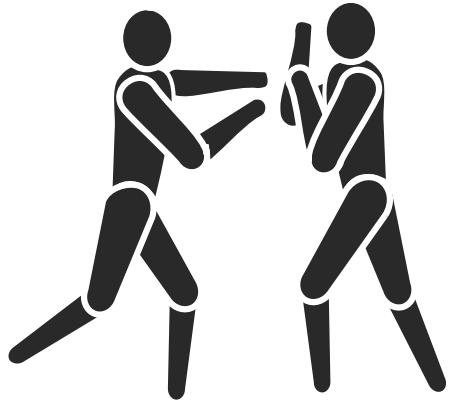
Morality (sex, alcohol, smoking, drugs)

Being "successful" (cheating)

Parents

Peers

Church (or religion)



# Bullying

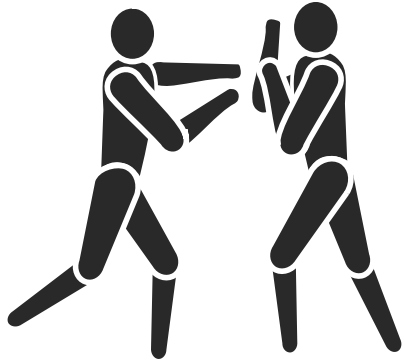
**22,000** calls a year to ChildLine  
on bullying

**66%** Name-calling

**49%** Physical

**27%** Threats





# Bullying

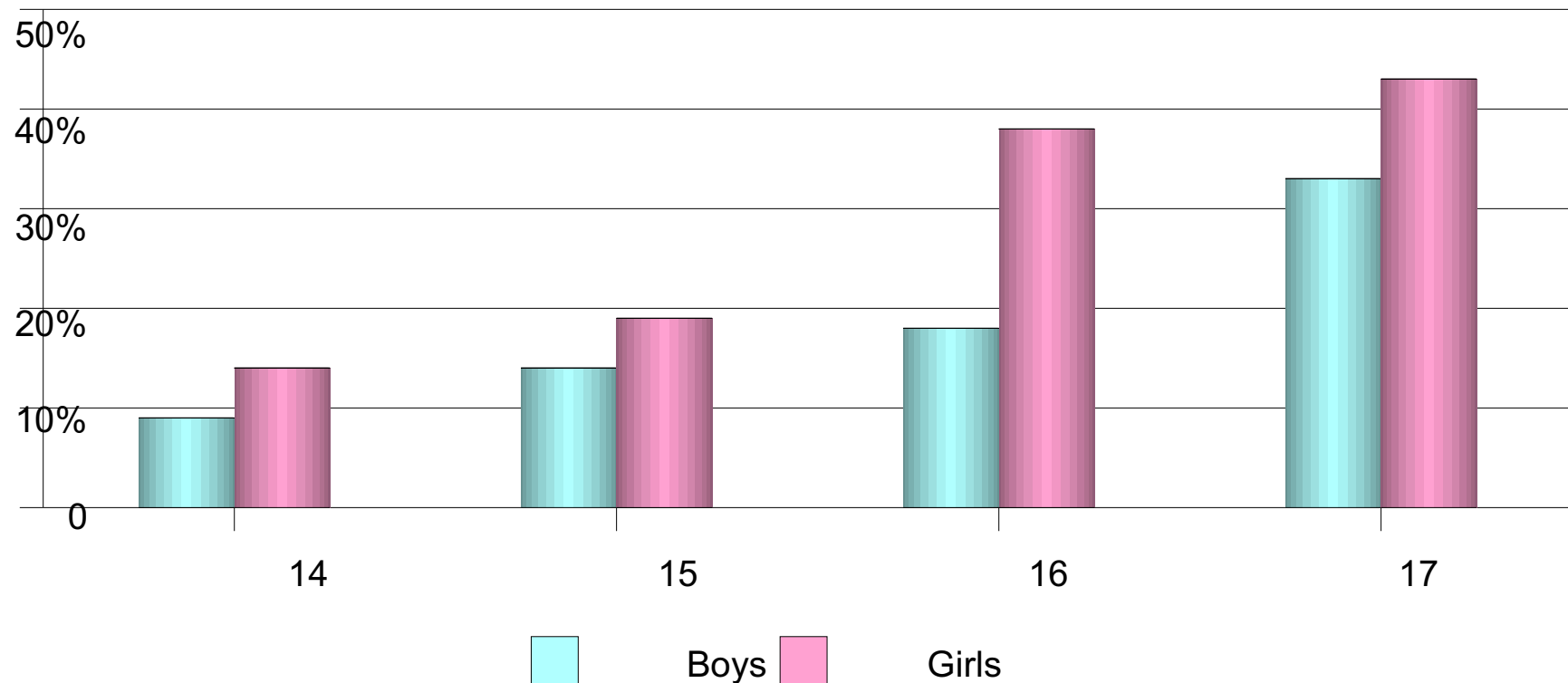
32% of school children feared being bullied in both 2003 and 2004

3% overall said they were bullies:  
2% who got Grade A,  
22% who got Grades E or F

17% had tried to hurt someone physically in previous 3 months

# Girls often more than boys

Percentage having had sexual intercourse, 2005





# Reaching Tweenagers

Work with a group of friends

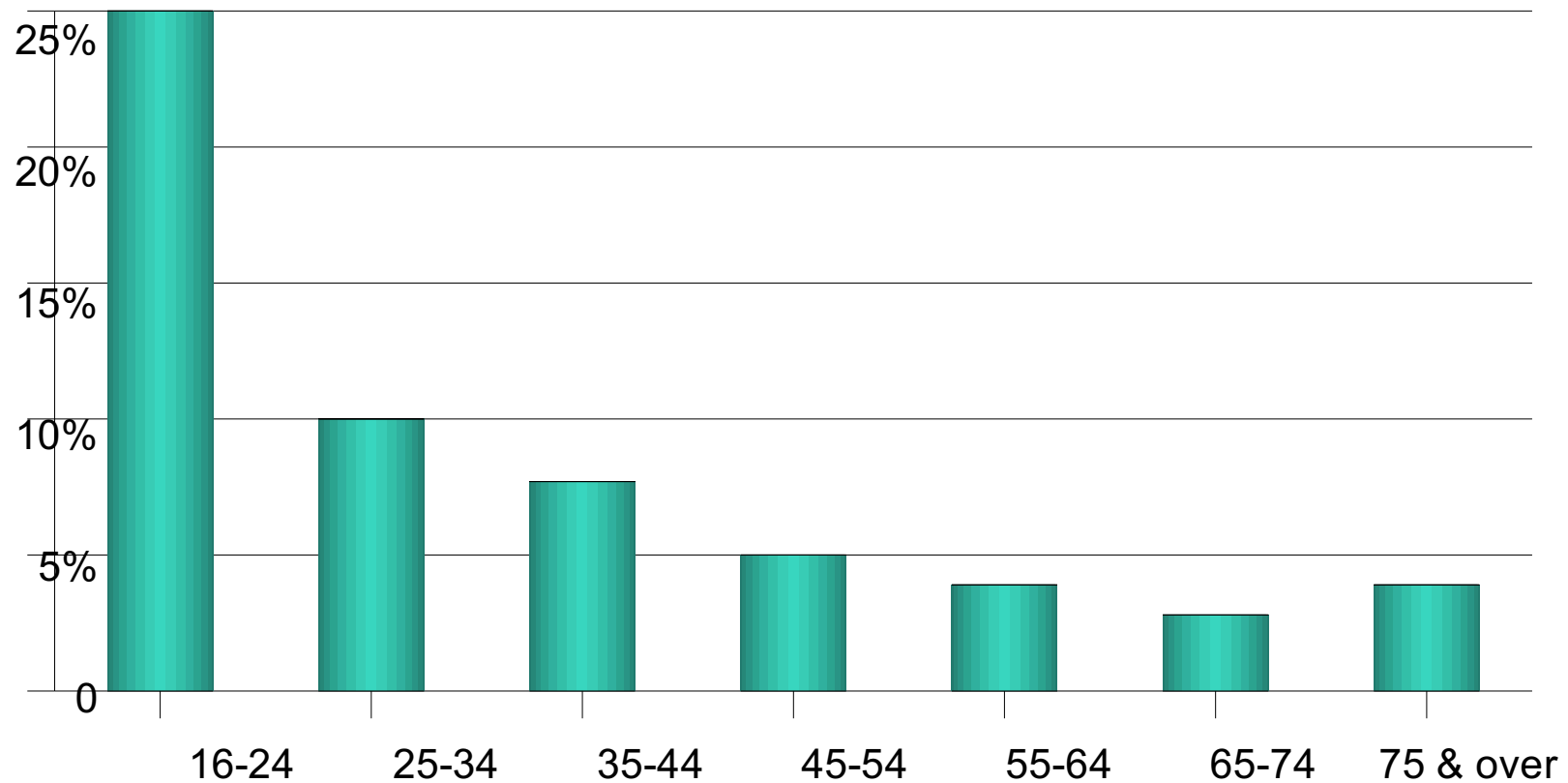
Ensure church is a good place to meet old friends

Make it fun, and provide food at every opportunity

Appoint a Children's Worker if at all possible

# 5: People are moving!

Percentage who move in any one year





# Churchgoers move also

65,000 churchgoers change  
church every year

In a church of 100 people, 7  
are likely to move in any one  
year

# Churches have to expect movement

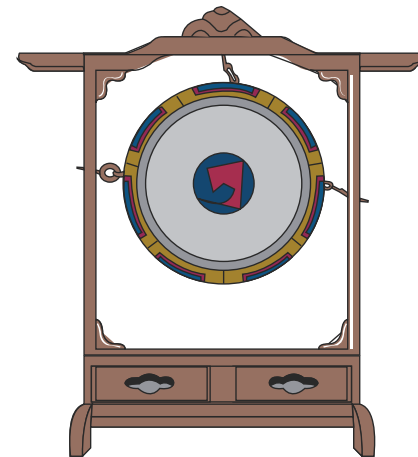
How can existing churchgoers be helped to locate and integrate into a new church in the area to which they have moved?

How can churches spot people moving into their area?

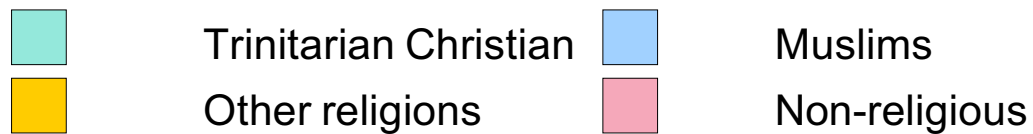
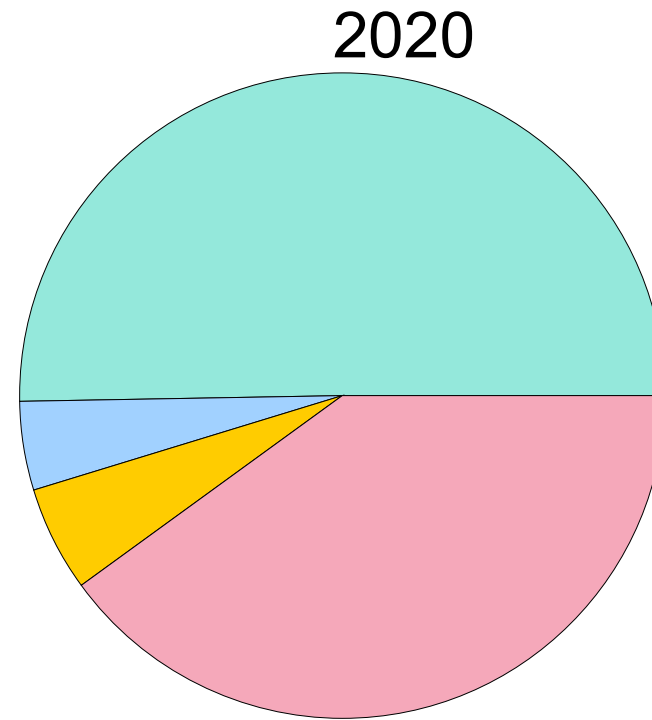
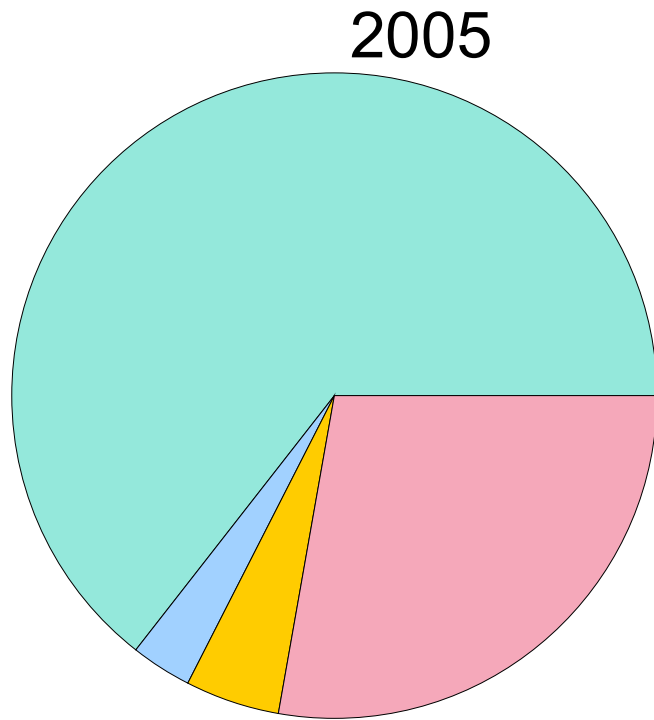
Does your church have a welcoming strategy for those visiting or moving into your area?



# 6: Growth of other religions



# Religious composition of the UK





# Religiousness of the English population

7% go at least once a month

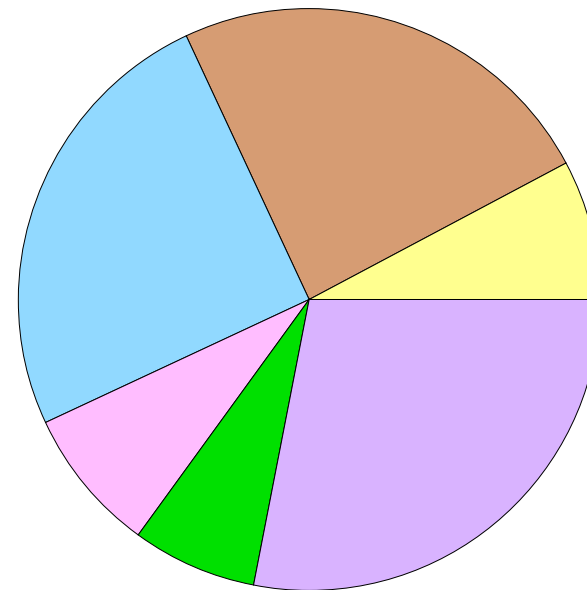
8% go just once a year

25% have stopped going

24% have never gone

8% Other religions

28% non-Christian or not known



Other religions

Ex-church

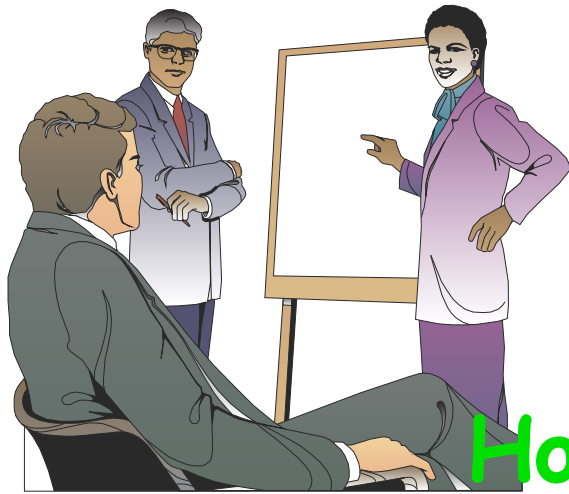
At least monthly



In name only

Once-a-year only

Non-Christian or n/a



## Each group needs it own strategy

How do we spot people becoming  
less interested? [6 weeks before they stop]

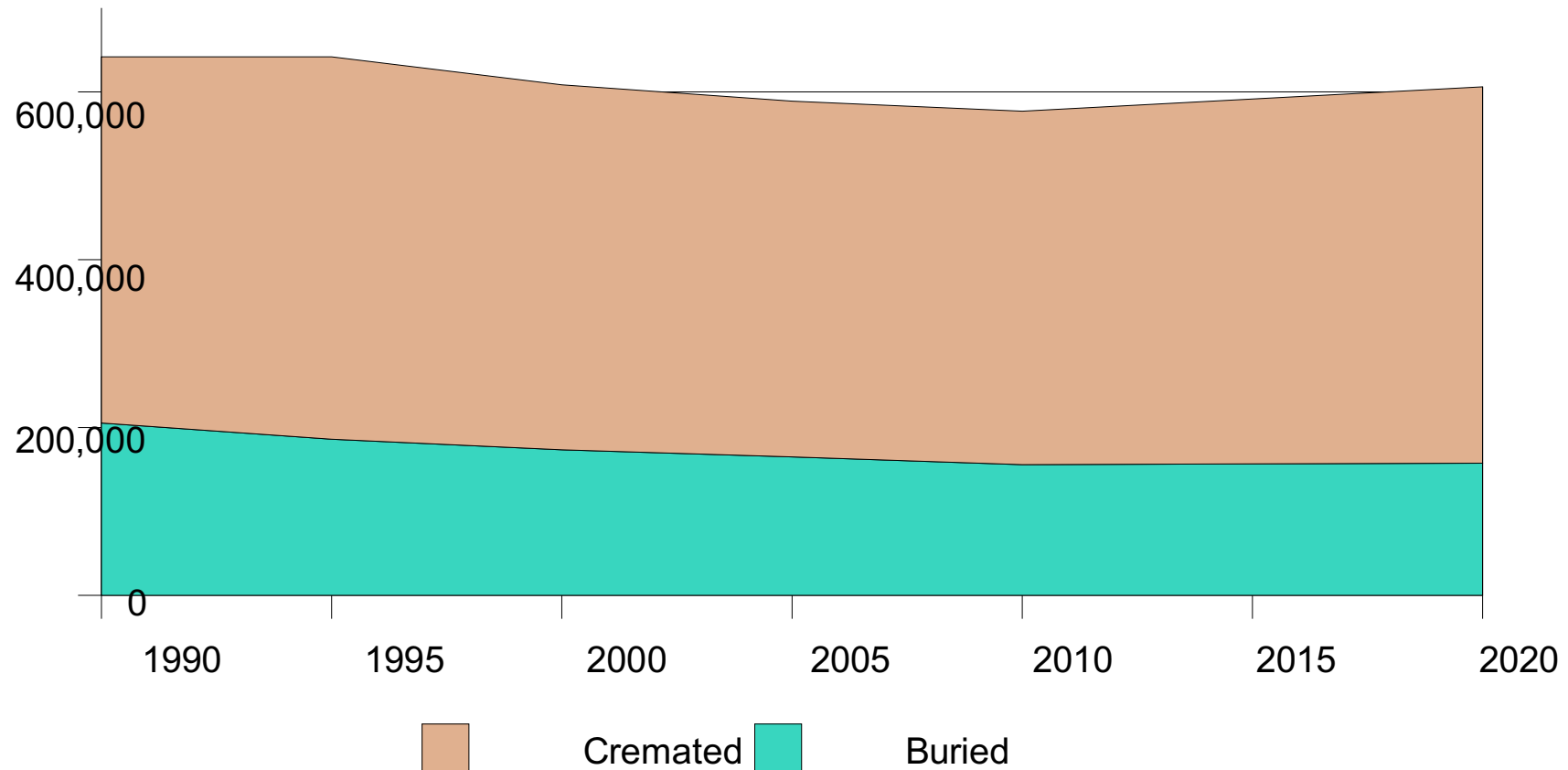
How encourage people to come back to  
church? [Hold a "Back to church" Sunday?]

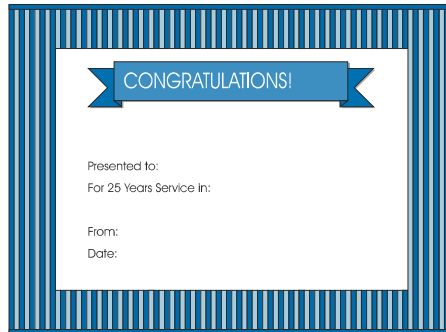
How help "Christian" people see that  
attending church is vital?

How reach those who have no interest at all?

# 7: Deaths in the UK

About 600,000 people die every year;  
72% were cremated in 2005





# Deaths in the church

In an average congregation of 100  
about 4 people die every year

These presumably would have a  
Christian funeral

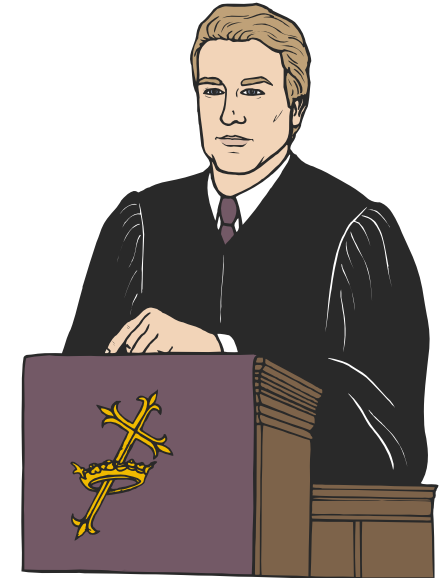
Perhaps 75% of all funerals are  
conducted with a Christian ceremony

# Challenges for leaders

How can the church best use the opportunities provided by bereavement?

How can church leaders prepare Christian people for death?

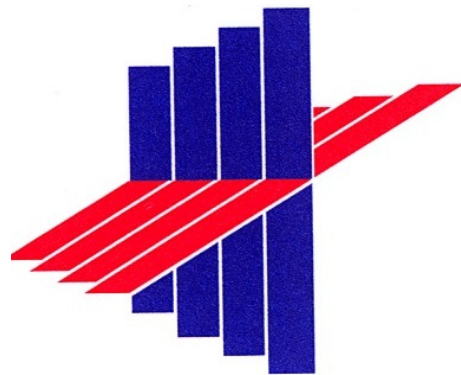
What should they teach to help prevent suicide?





**We have to  
think, plan,  
pray and  
work more  
strategically**

**Thank you again  
for listening!**



**CHRISTIAN RESEARCH**

**Dr Peter Brierley,  
Executive Director**

