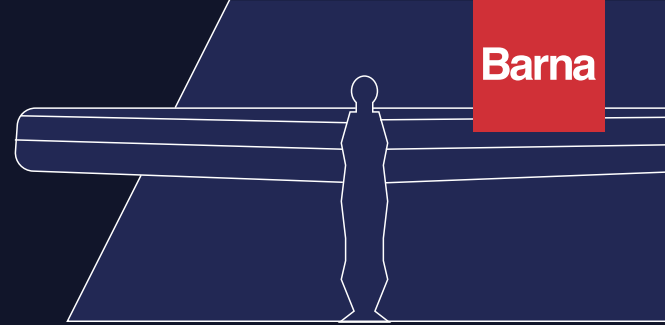




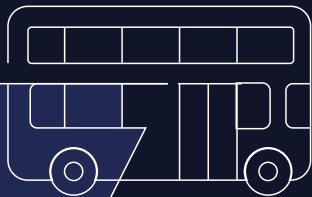
A BARNA REPORT
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PARTNERSHIP WITH
WORLD VISION UK

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THE UK CHURCH IN ACTION

PERCEPTIONS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSION IN A CHANGING WORLD





For more information about this study and to see the complete findings, check out our 2018 report:

The UK Church in Action

The full report is available at shop.barna.com or through Barna Access membership.

PROJECT PARTNERS



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worldvision.org.uk

'UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES & KNOWING WHAT TO DO.'

1 CHRONICLES 12:32

WHAT GOOD IS THE CHURCH?



AT A GLANCE

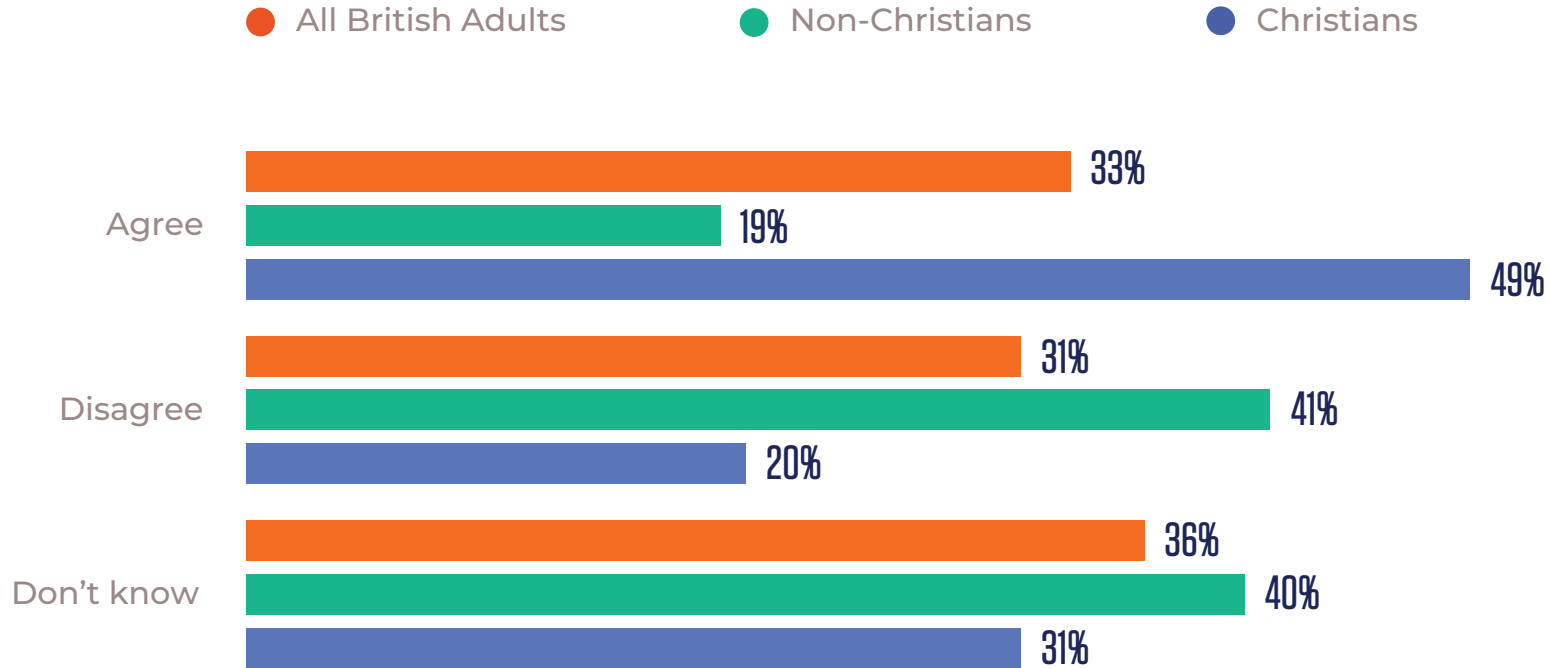
MANY IN THE UK ARE UNAWARE OF THE GOOD WORK OF THE CHURCH

... OR OFFER MIXED REVIEWS.

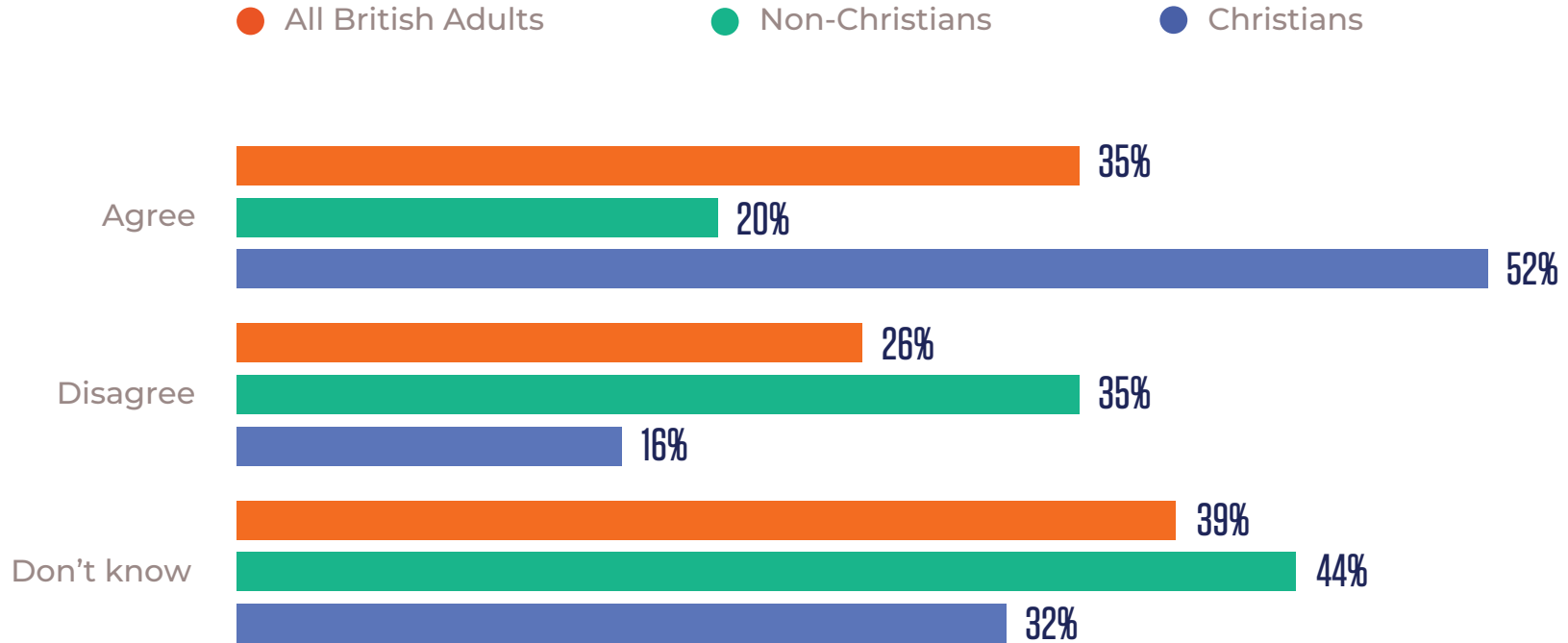
ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF UK ADULTS (31%) STRUGGLES TO IDENTIFY NEEDS THE CHURCH SHOULD MEET.

ACTIVE CHRISTIANS COULD HELP ADDRESS THE CHURCH'S IMAGE PROBLEM.

'CHRISTIAN CHURCHES IN THE UK ARE MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD'



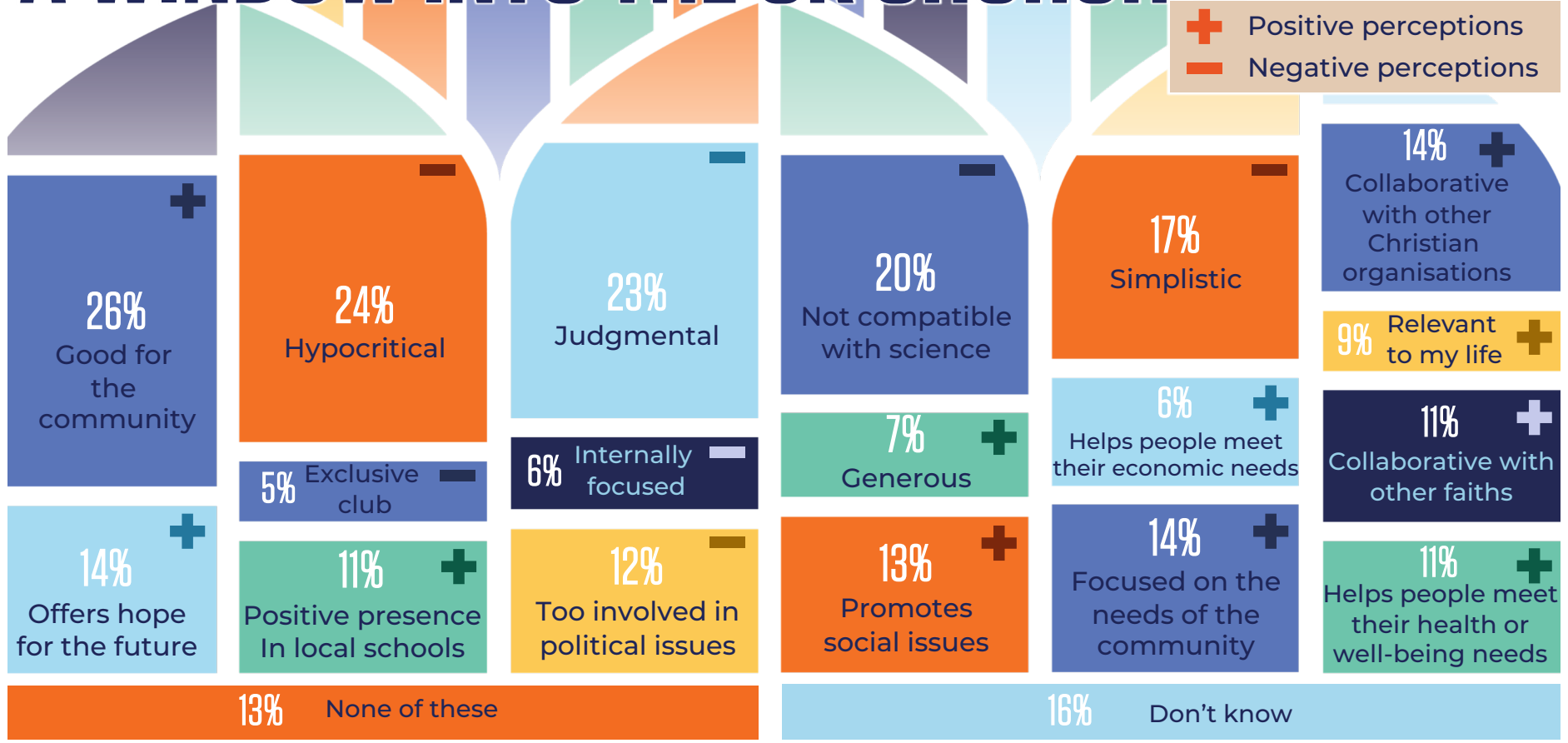
'LOCAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES ARE MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN MY COMMUNITY'



A WINDOW INTO THE UK CHURCH

Barna

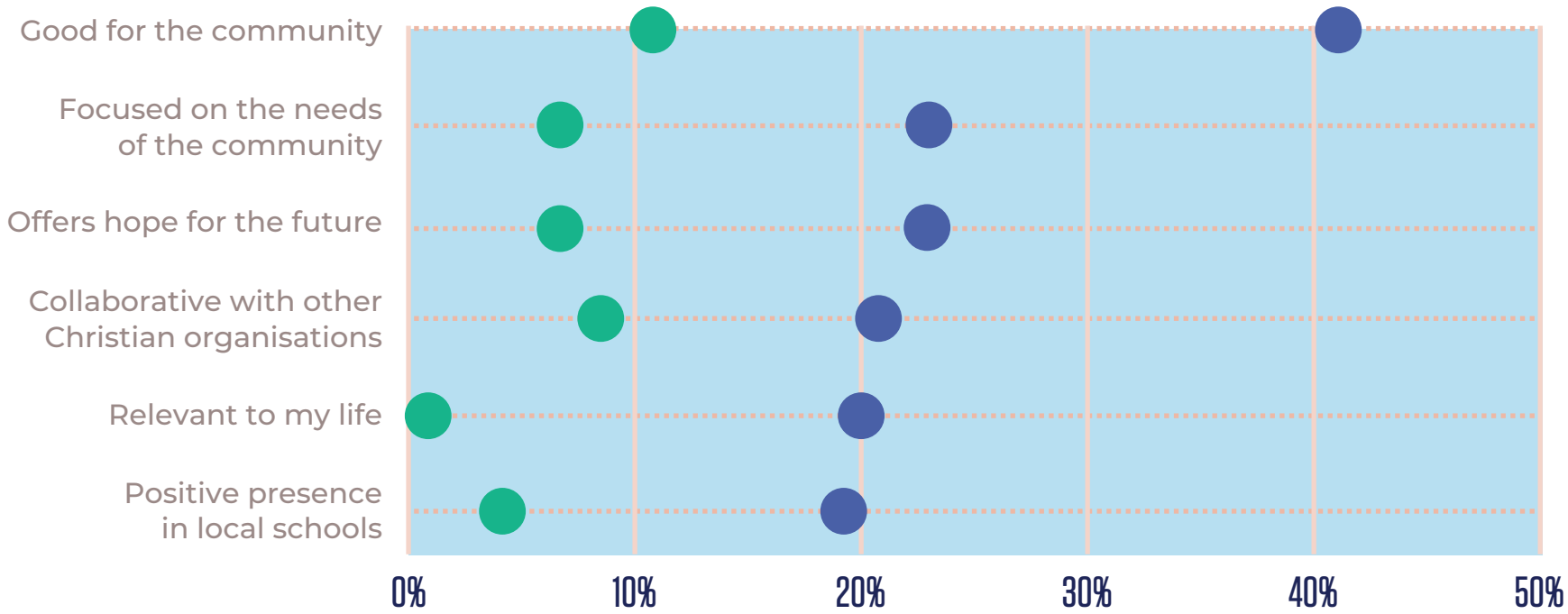
+ Positive perceptions
- Negative perceptions



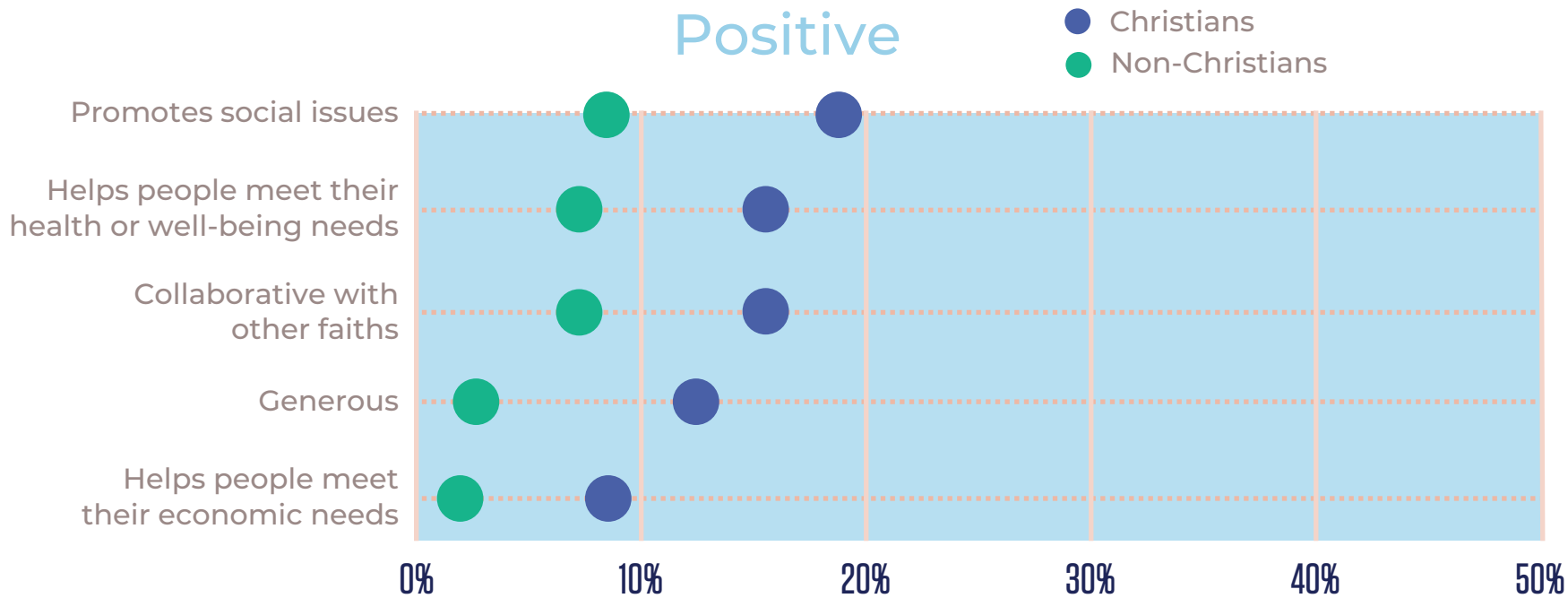
OPINIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BY FAITH PT 1

Positive

● Christians
● Non-Christians



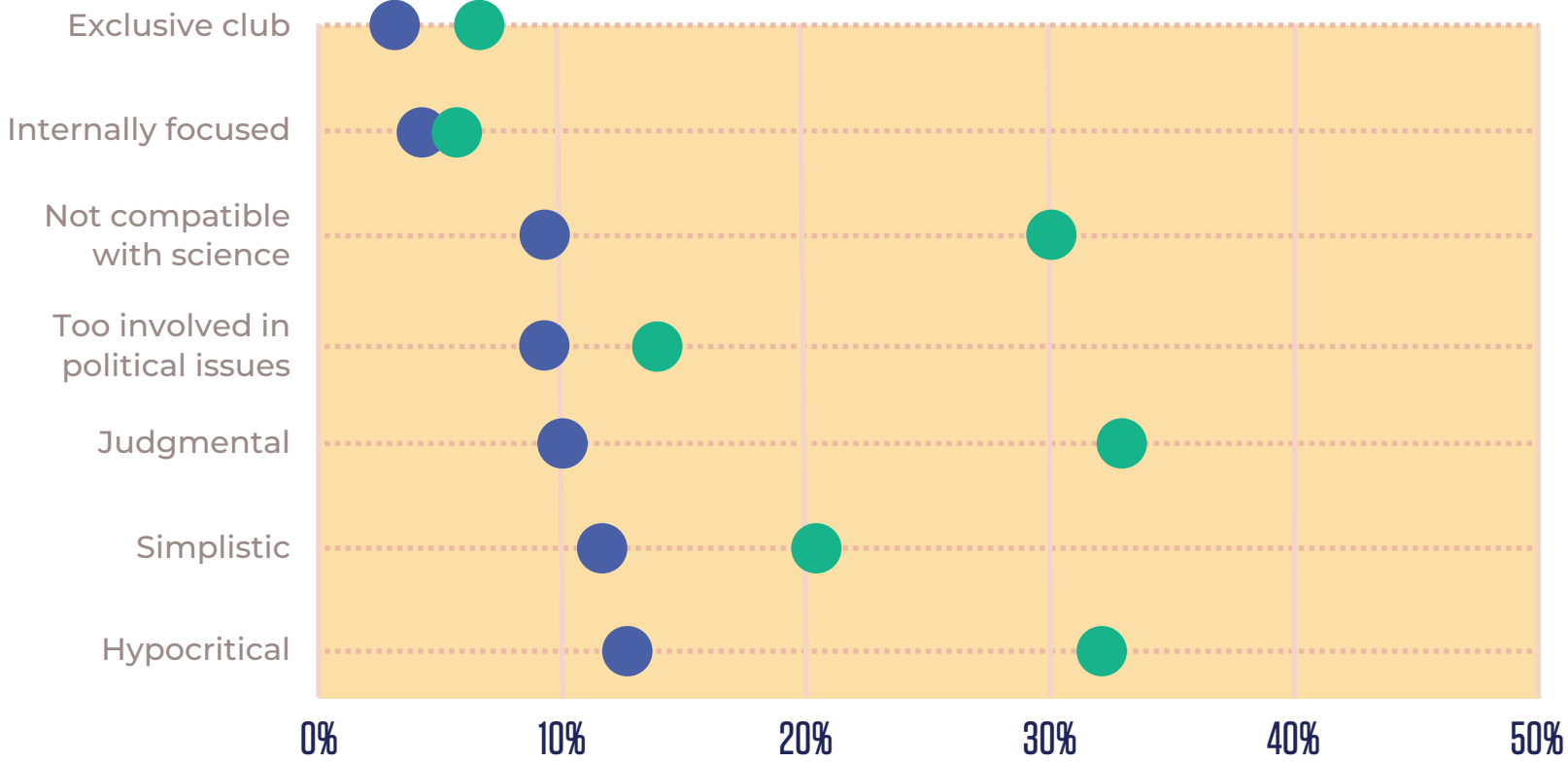
OPINIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BY FAITH PT 2



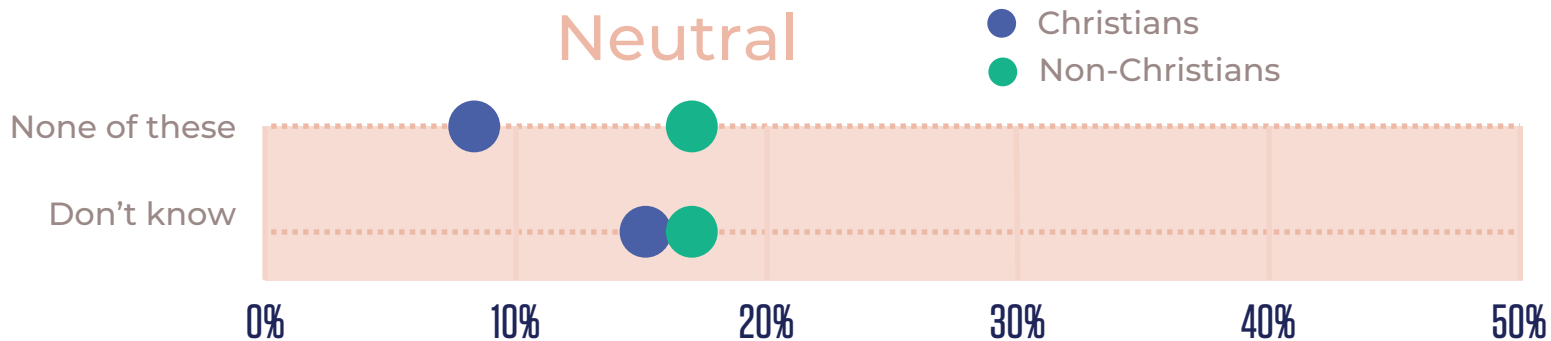
OPINIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BY FAITH PT 3

Negative

● Christians
● Non-Christians

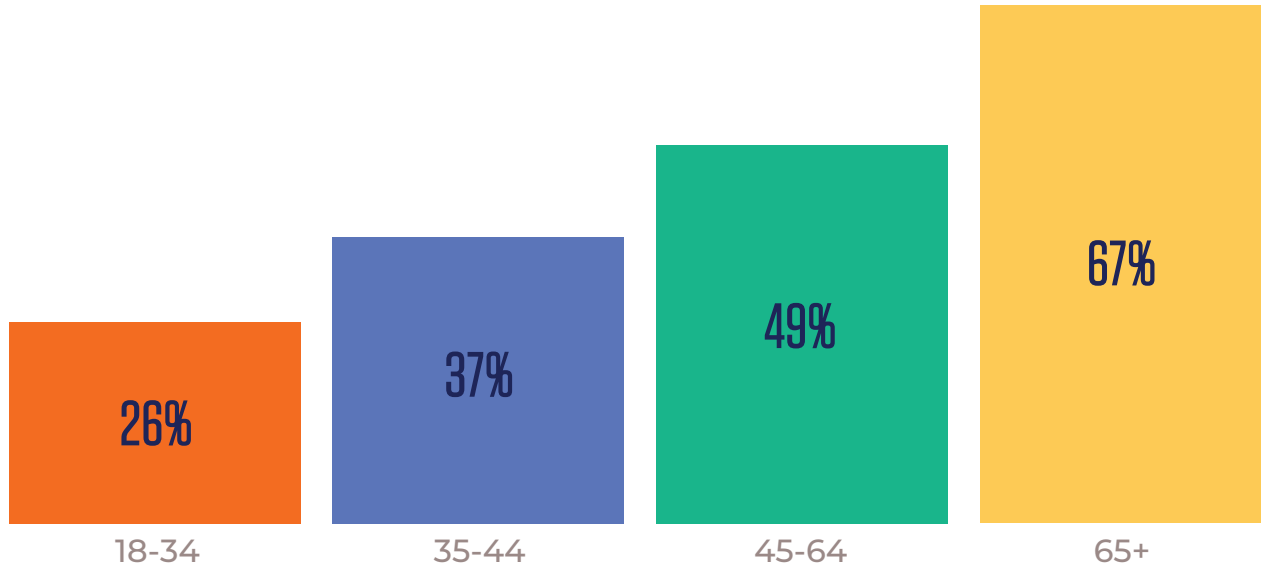


OPINIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BY FAITH PT 4



WHAT GOOD IS THE CHURCH?

PROPORTION OF EACH AGE GROUP THAT IDENTIFIES AS CHRISTIAN

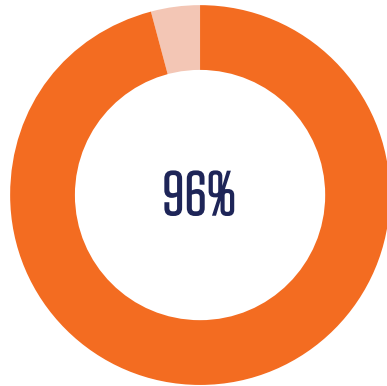


WHAT GOOD IS THE CHURCH?

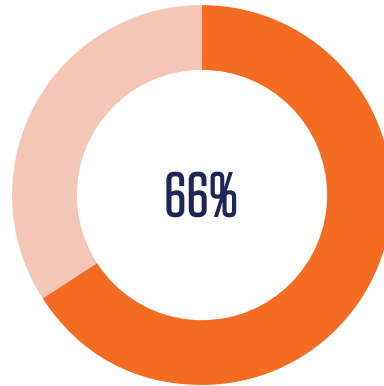
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JUST HOW ENGAGED ARE ACTIVE CHRISTIANS?

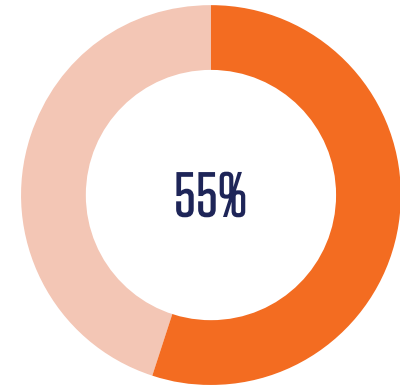
'I attend church
about once a week,
or more often'



'I read the
Bible more or less
every day'

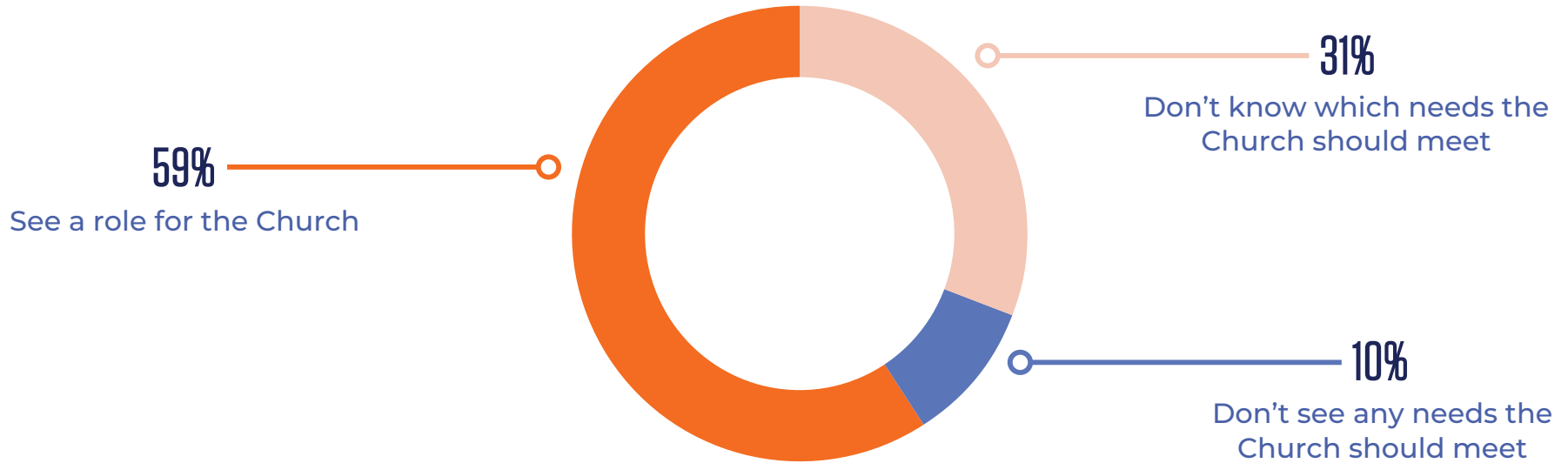


'I pray during the
day, sharing my life
with God'



WHAT GOOD IS THE CHURCH?

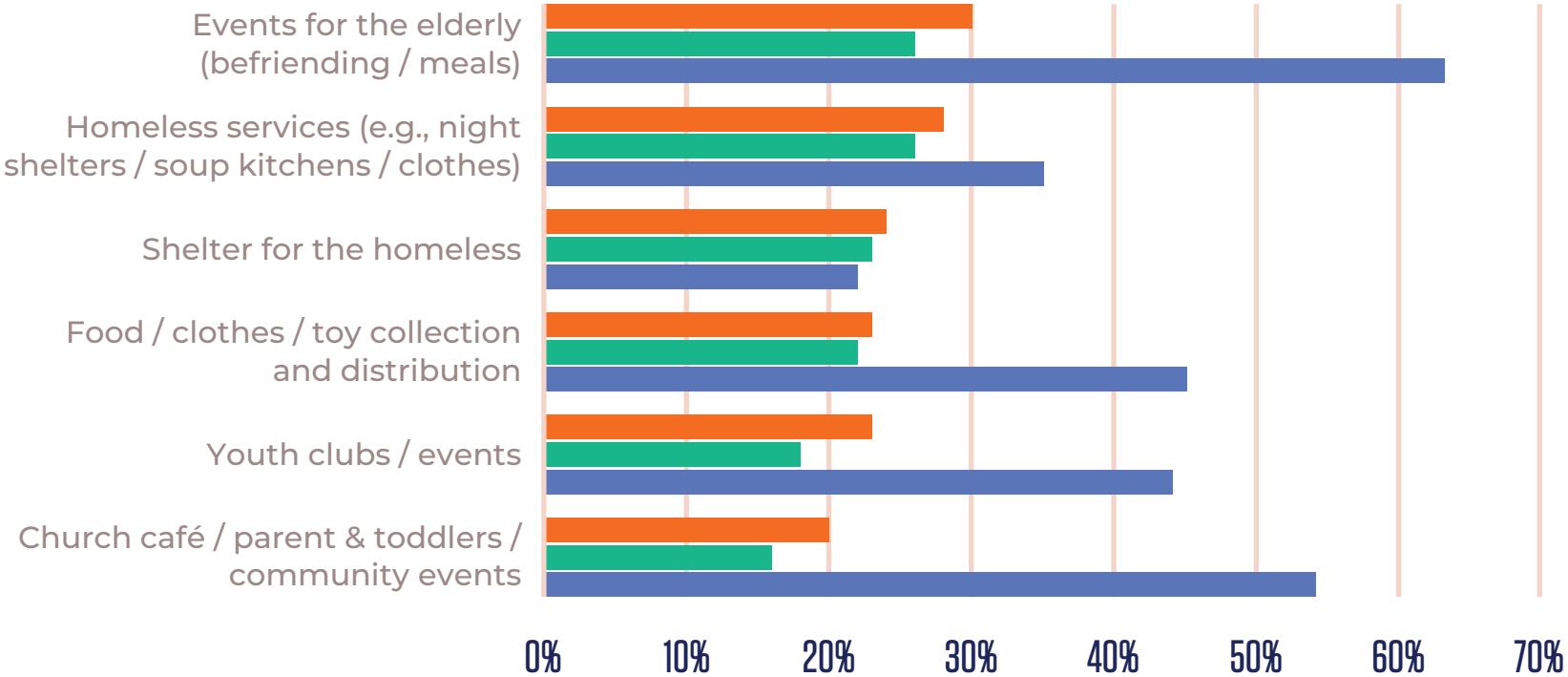
MOST UK ADULTS SEE SOME ROLE FOR THE CHURCH



WHAT DO UK ADULTS FEEL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES COULD PROVIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY? PT 1

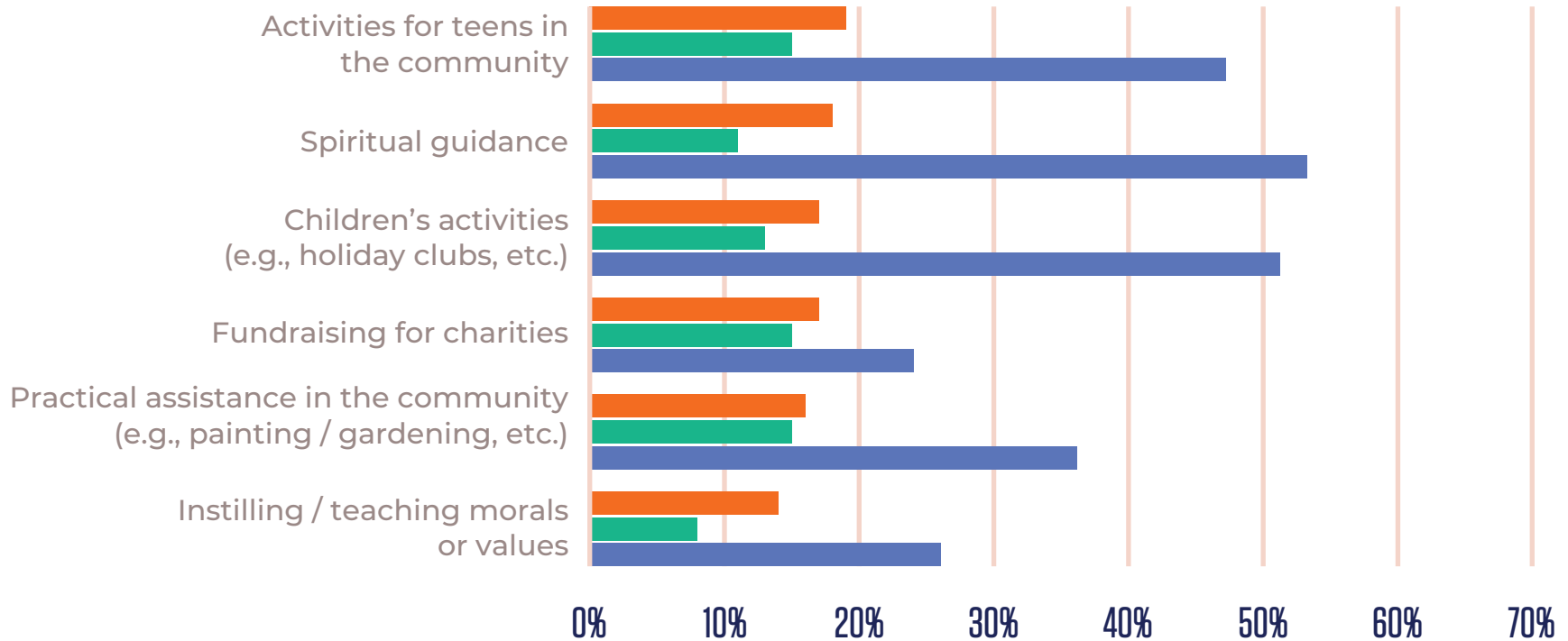


● All British Adults ● Non-Christians ● Christians



WHAT DO UK ADULTS FEEL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES COULD PROVIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY? PT 2

● All British Adults ● Non-Christians ● Christians

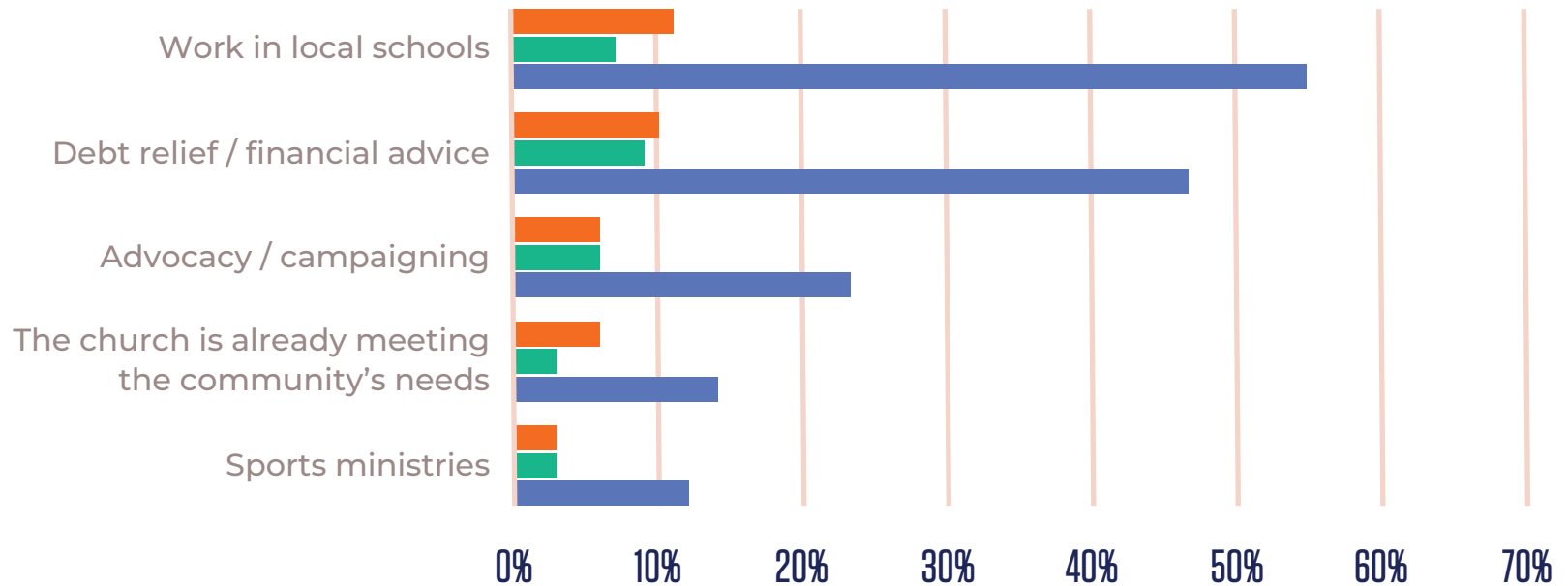


WHAT DO UK ADULTS FEEL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES COULD PROVIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY? PT 3

● All British Adults

● Non-Christians

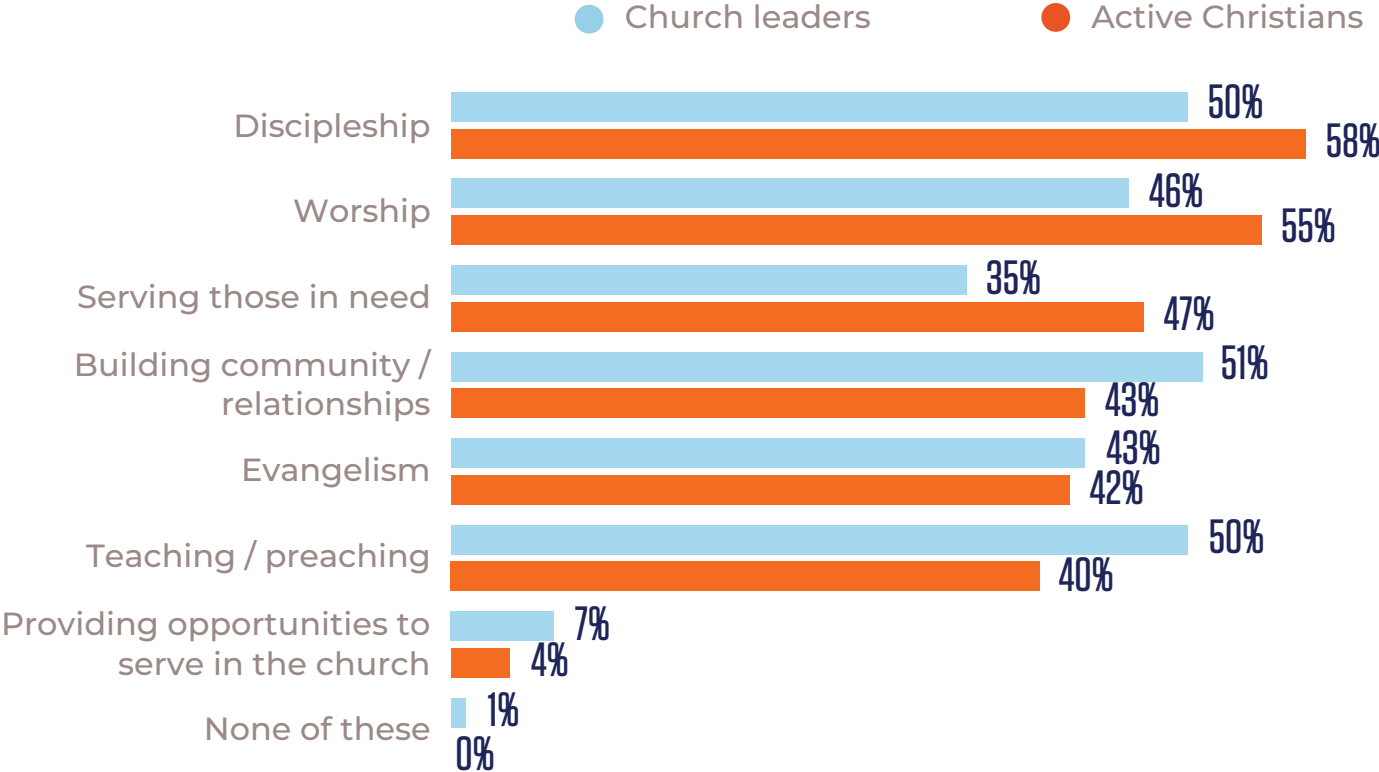
● Christians



GENERAL MINISTRY PRIORITIES



Which of the following do you think should be top priorities at your church?



SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSION



AT A GLANCE

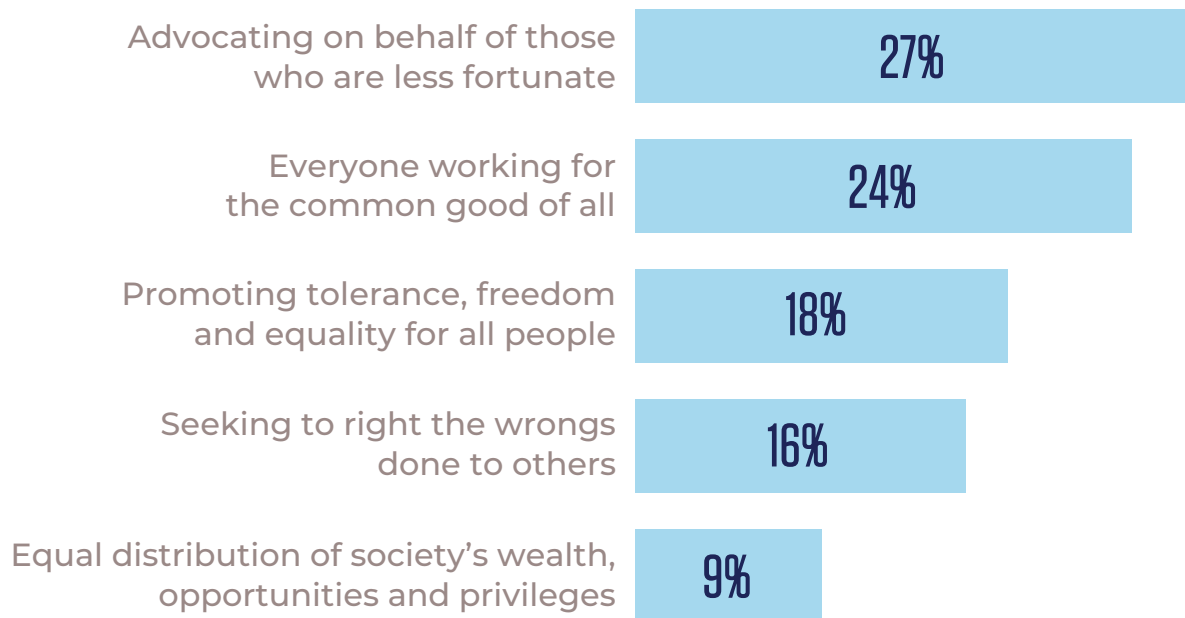
UK CHURCH LEADERS PRIMARILY ASSOCIATE 'SOCIAL JUSTICE' WITH ADVOCACY OR WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF OTHERS.

THE CHURCH REGARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE AS A CRUCIAL COMPONENT IN THE CHURCH'S MISSION.

MOST CHURCH LEADERS MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF MISSION INFORMALLY, BY OBSERVING THE CHANGES IN PEOPLE'S LIVES.

ACTIVE CHRISTIANS ARE MOSTLY PLEASED WITH HOW THEIR OWN CHURCH IS REACHING OTHERS.

UK CHURCH LEADERS' DEFINITIONS OF 'SOCIAL JUSTICE'



UK CHURCH LEADERS' DEFINITIONS OF 'MISSION'



Actively and intentionally proclaiming the truth of Jesus Christ wherever you are



42%

Bringing transformation in the world to make it more like the Kingdom of God



27%

An attitude of the heart and mind to be about the business of God



15%

The transformation of people's lives by caring for their physical, social and spiritual needs



12%

A calling to proclaim the gospel to a specific people group or region



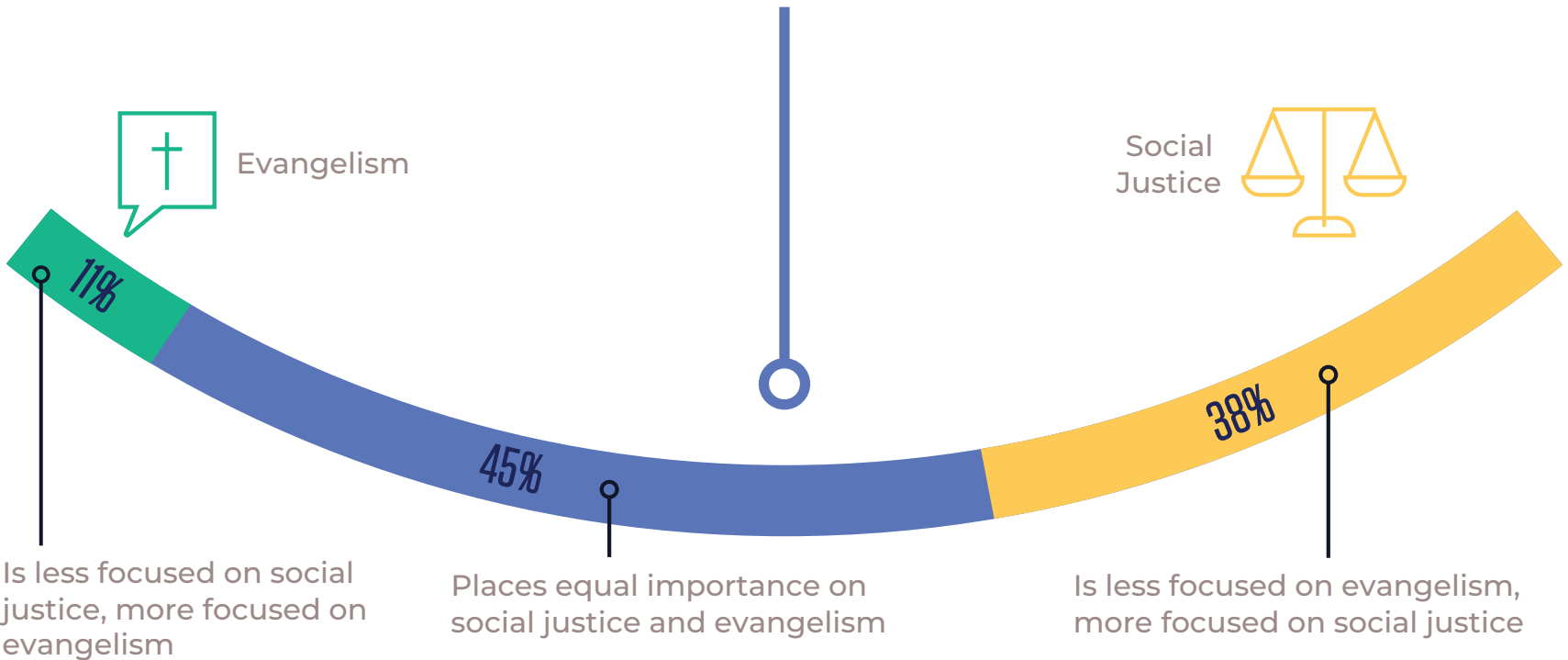
3%

An all-encompassing word for social justice, advocacy and relief work



0%

ACTIVE CHRISTIANS IN THE UK SAY MISSION...



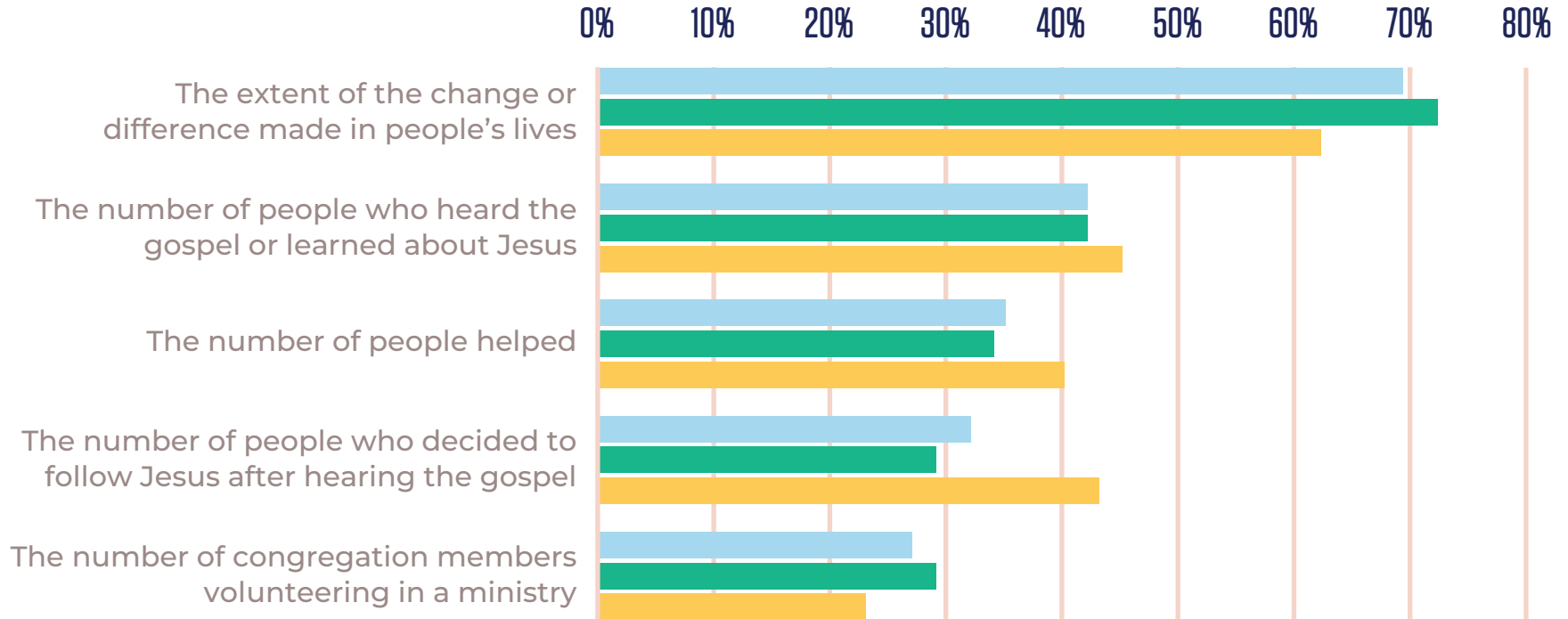
CHURCH LEADERS' METRICS OF SUCCESS IN MISSION BY AGE PT 1

select up to three

● All church leaders

● Church leaders 45+

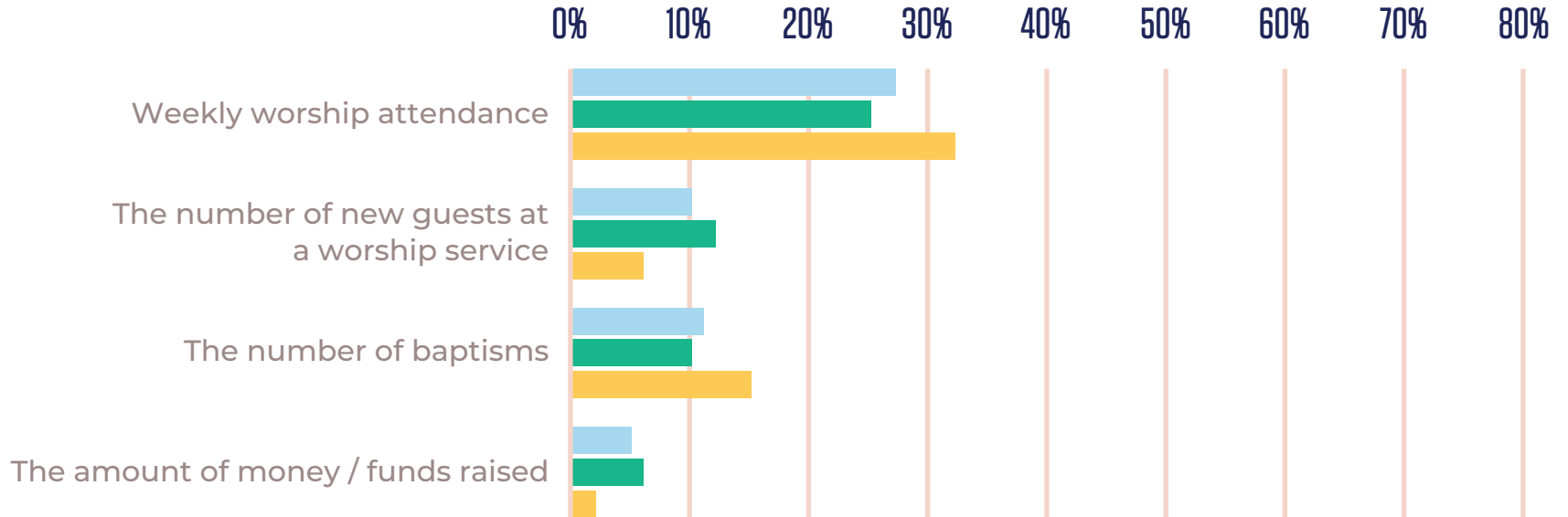
● Church leaders <45



CHURCH LEADERS' METRICS OF SUCCESS IN MISSION BY AGE PT 2

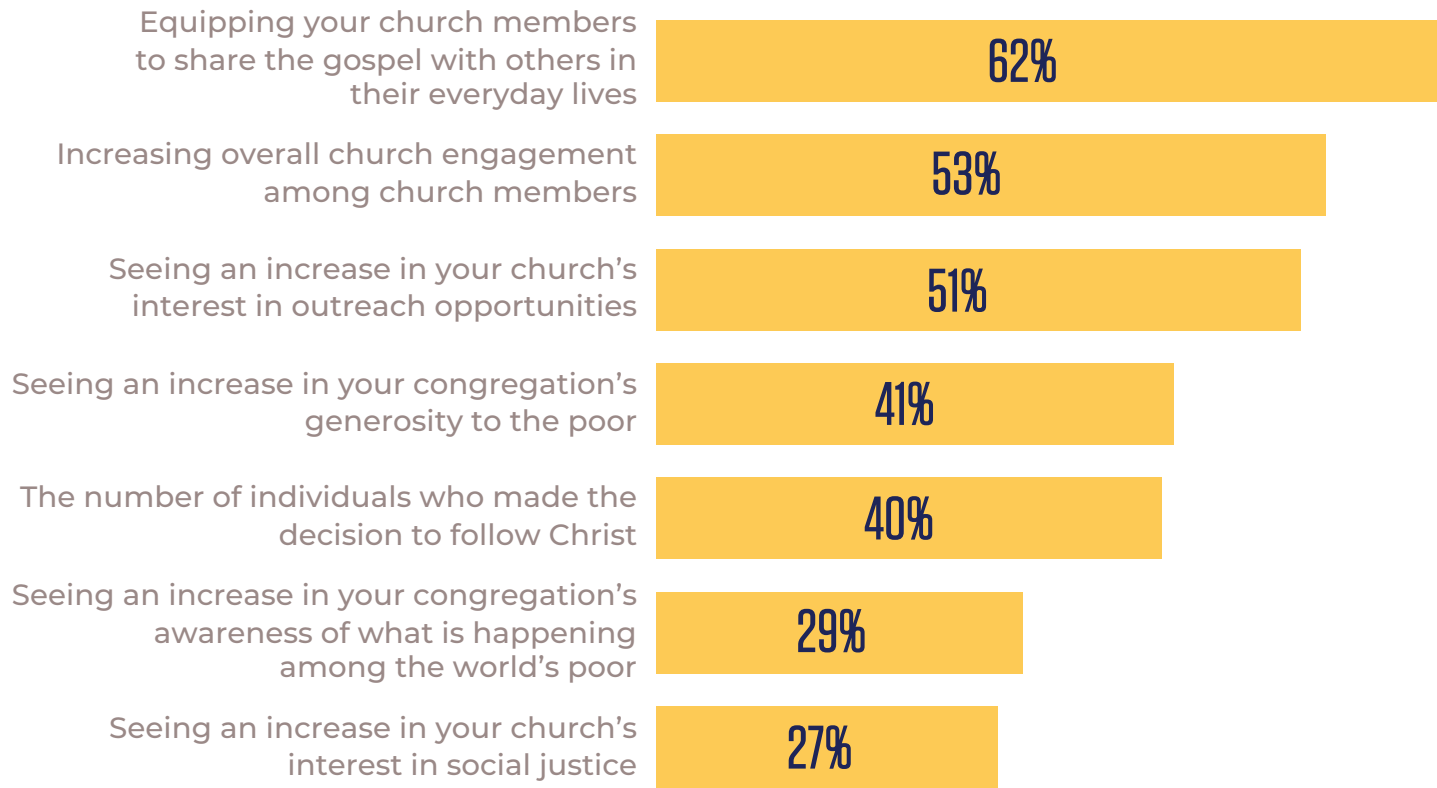
select up to three

● All church leaders ● Church leaders 45+ ● Church leaders <45



MILESTONES IN THE UK CHURCH'S WORK PT 1

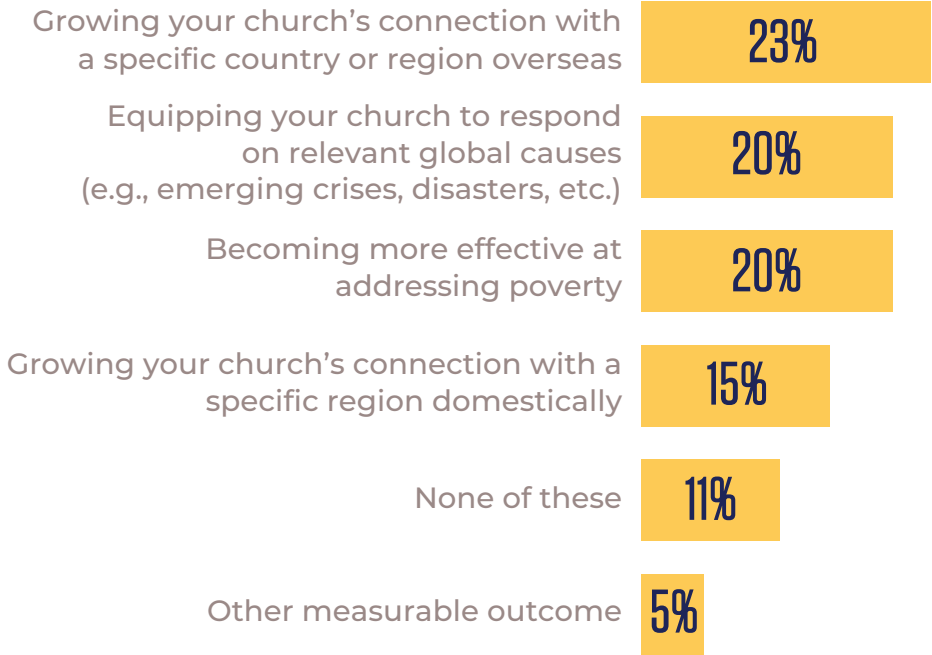
The following is a list of measurable objectives or goals a church may have, related to mission. Which, if any, does your church regularly track? Select all that apply.



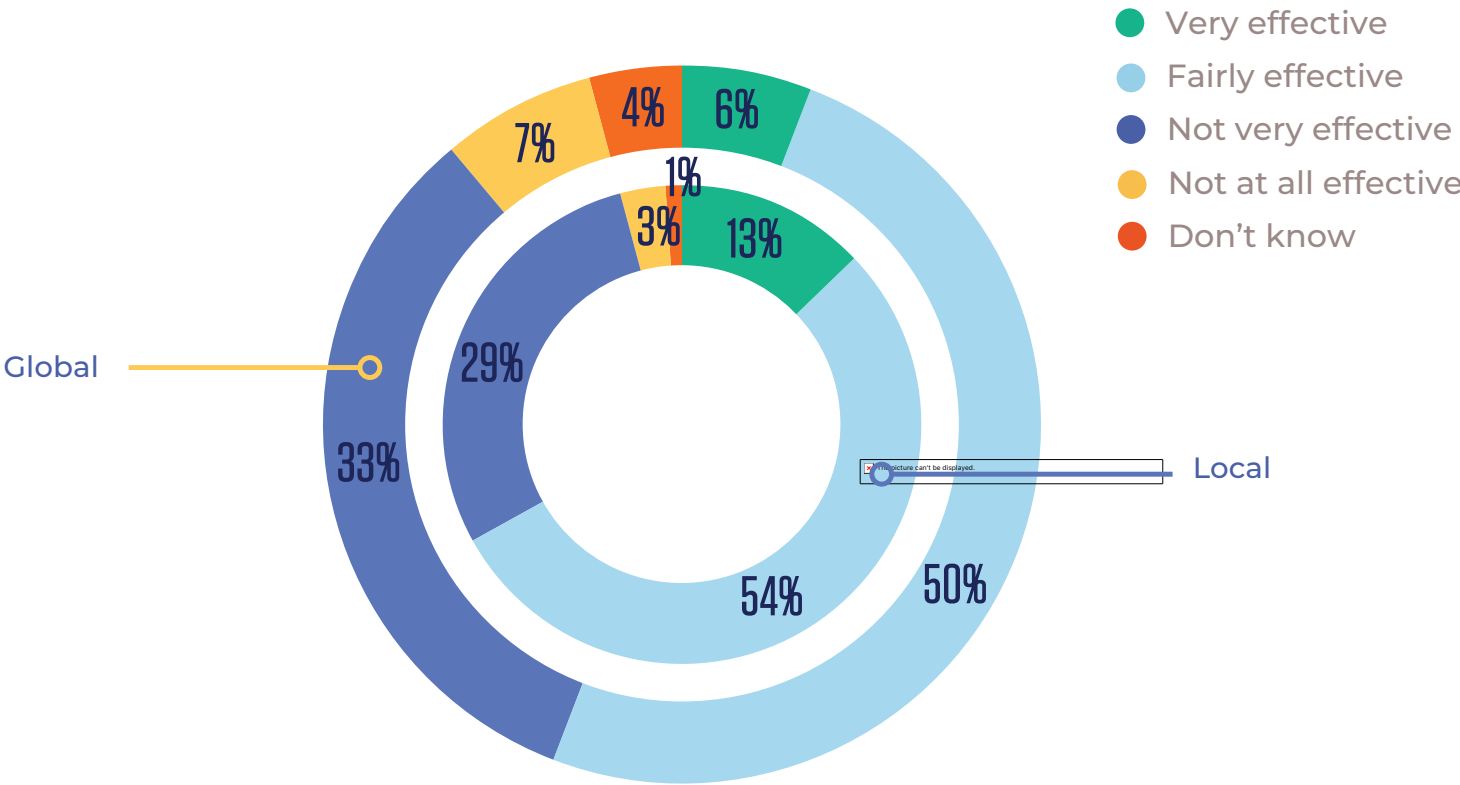
MILESTONES IN THE UK CHURCH'S WORK PT 2



The following is a list of measurable objectives or goals a church may have, related to mission. Which, if any, does your church regularly track? Select all that apply.



ACTIVE CHRISTIANS RATE THEIR CHURCHES' EFFECTIVENESS IN MISSION



THE UK CHURCH: A CURRENT PORTRAIT



AT A GLANCE

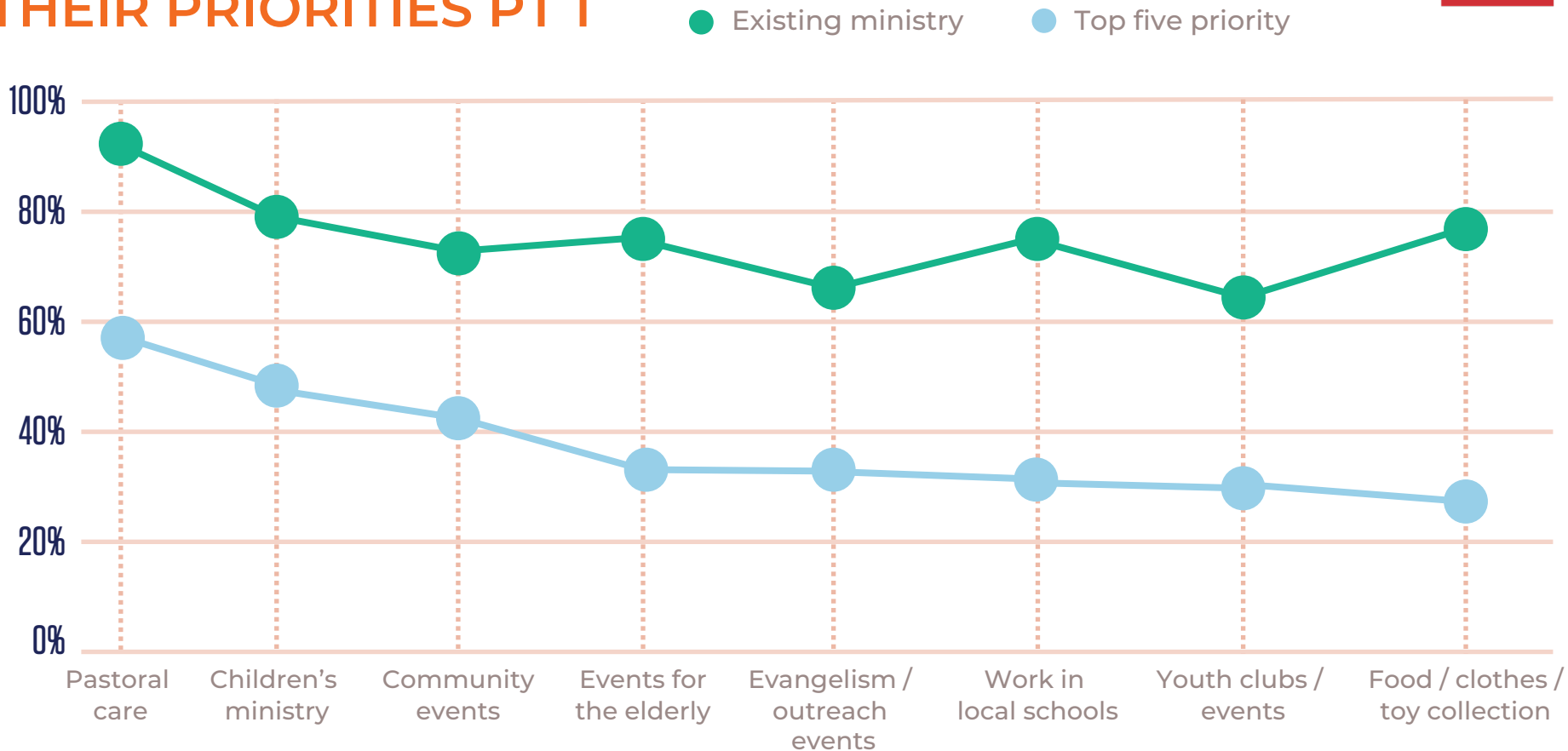
POVERTY ASSISTANCE TOPS THE LIST OF WAYS THE CHURCH HOPES TO PURSUE SOCIAL JUSTICE.

ACTIVE CHRISTIANS ARE PERHAPS MORE INTENTIONALLY FOCUSED THAN THEIR LEADERS.

FOR THE MOST PART, UK CHURCH LEADERS ARE MAKING GOOD ON THEIR EXPRESSED PRIORITIES.

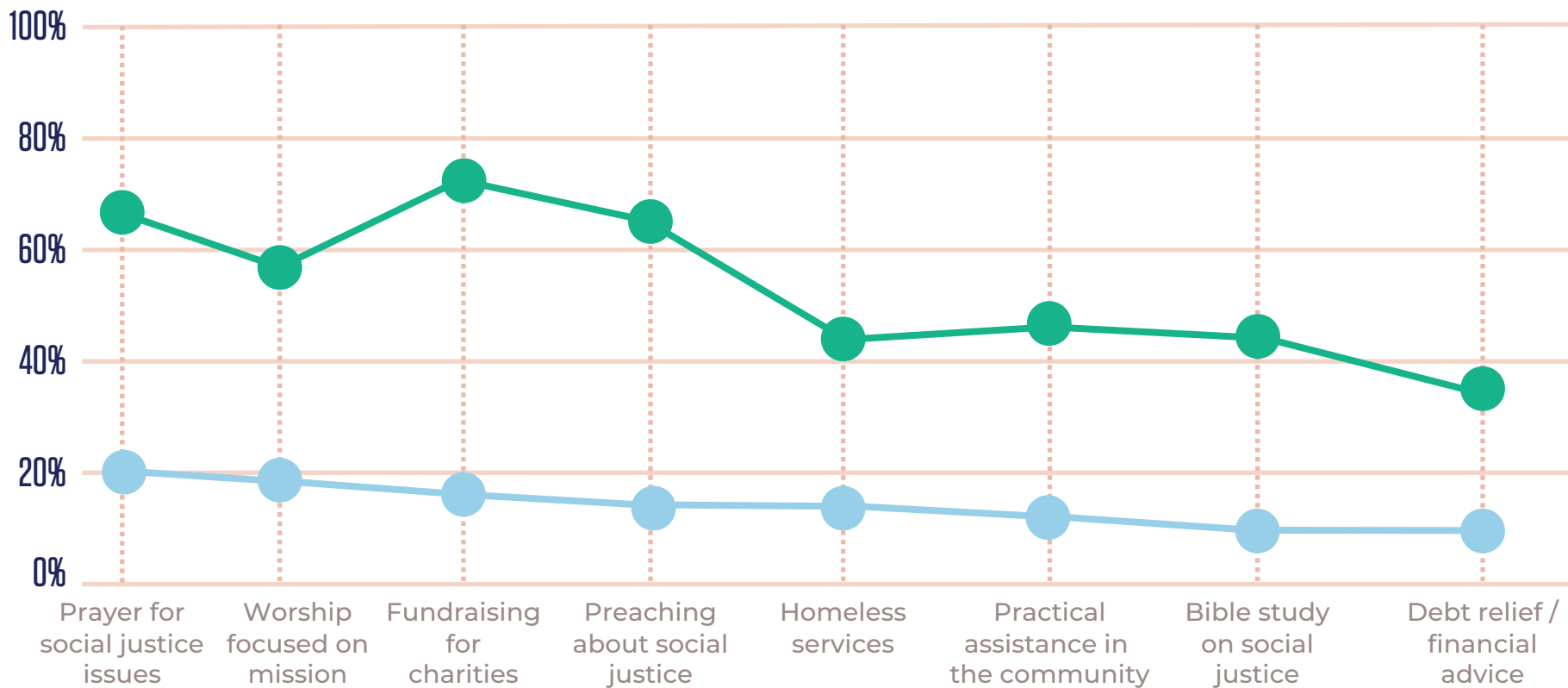
THE SIZE OF THE CHURCH IS CORRELATED WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY.

UK CHURCHES' ENGAGEMENT OFTEN EXCEEDS THEIR PRIORITIES PT 1



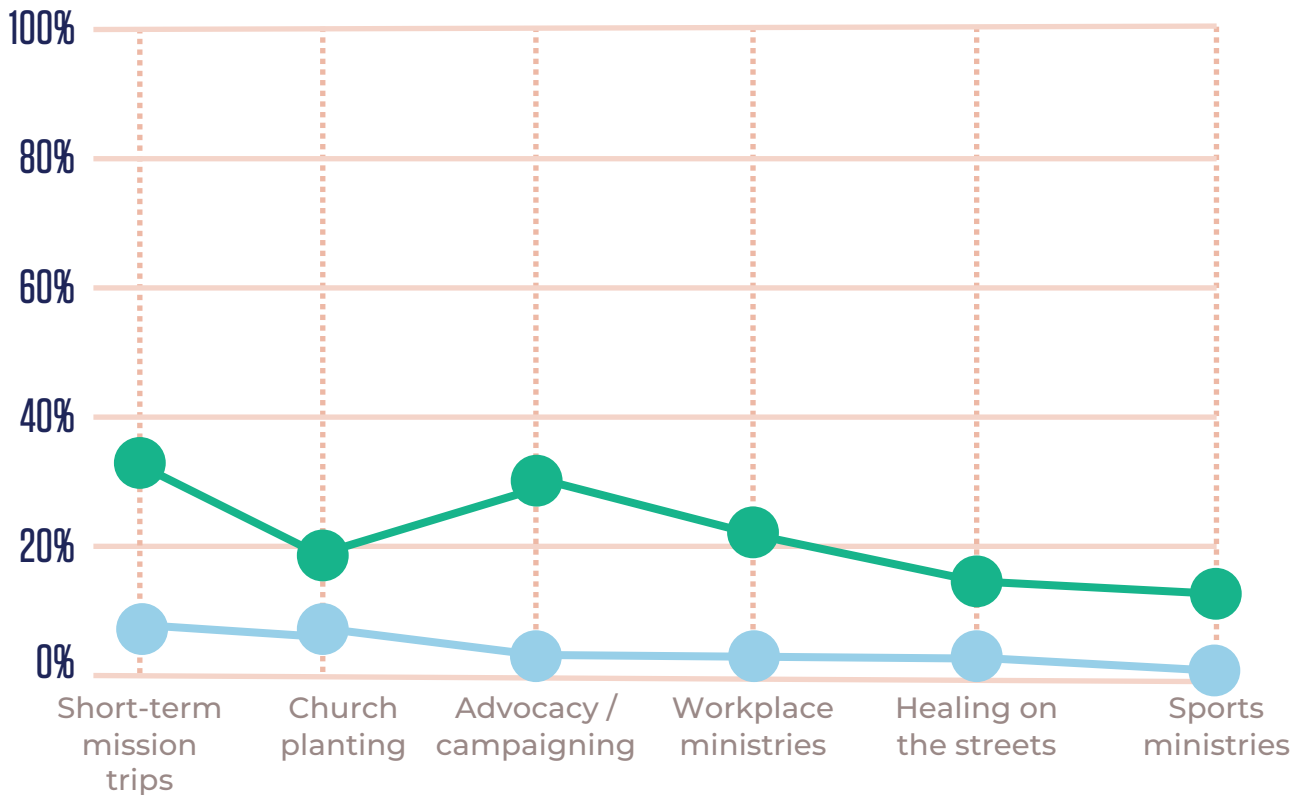
UK CHURCHES' ENGAGEMENT OFTEN EXCEEDS THEIR PRIORITIES PT 2

● Existing ministry ● Top five priority

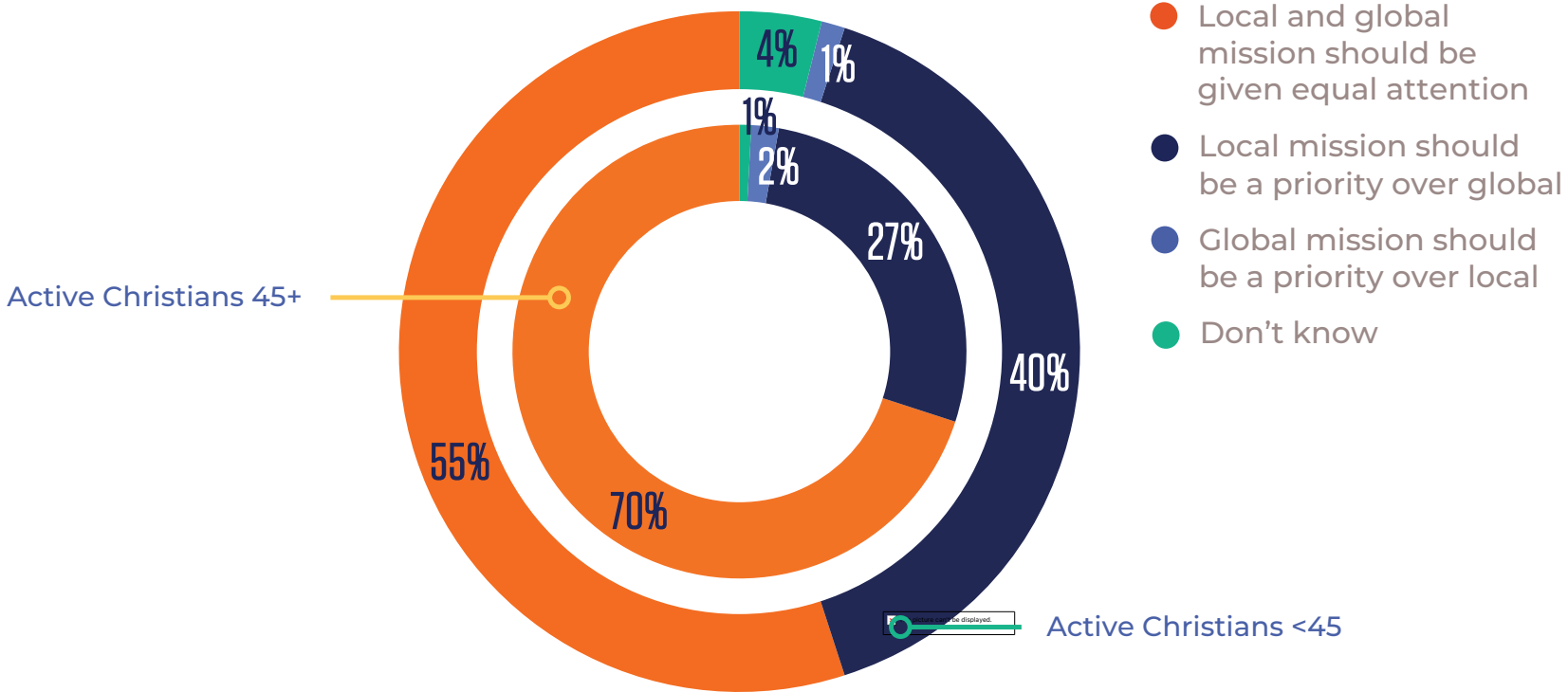


UK CHURCHES' ENGAGEMENT OFTEN EXCEEDS THEIR PRIORITIES PT 3

● Existing ministry ● Top five priority



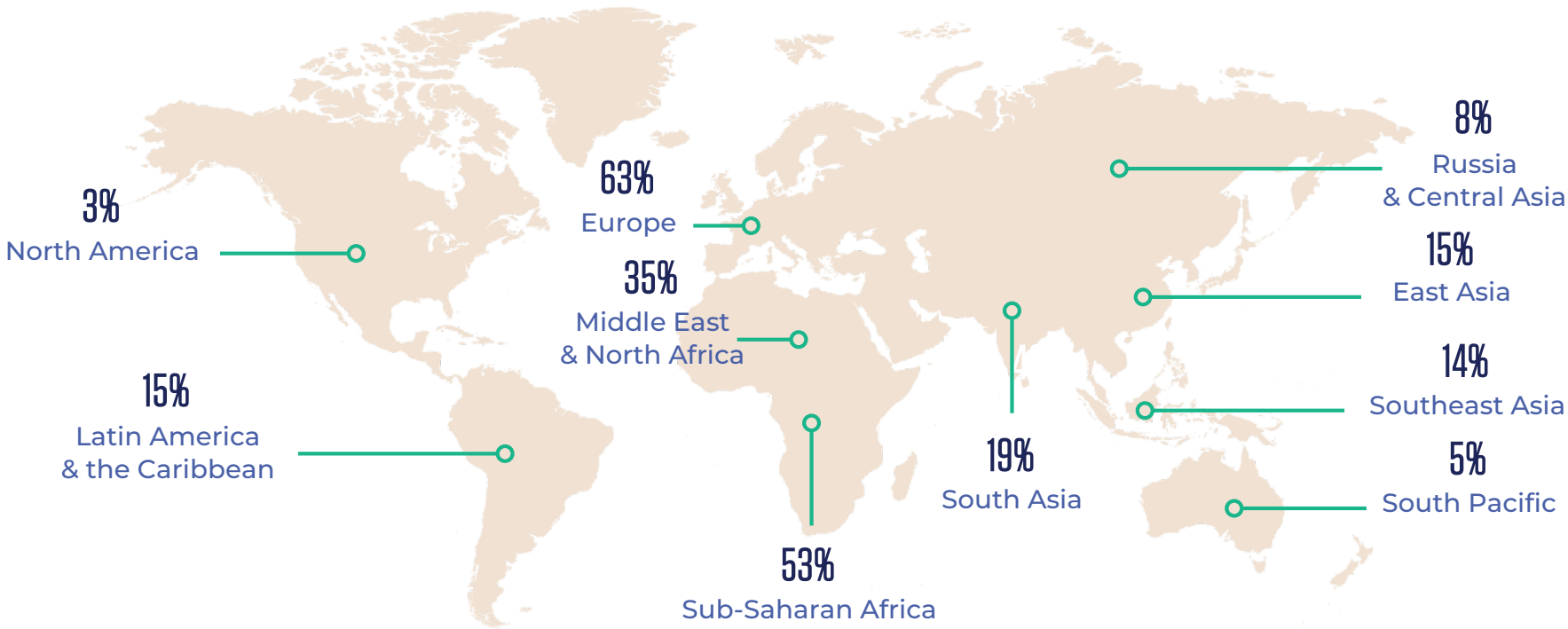
WHAT'S THE IDEAL BALANCE BETWEEN GLOBAL AND LOCAL MISSION?



WHERE UK CHURCHES FOCUS ON SUPPORTING MISSION

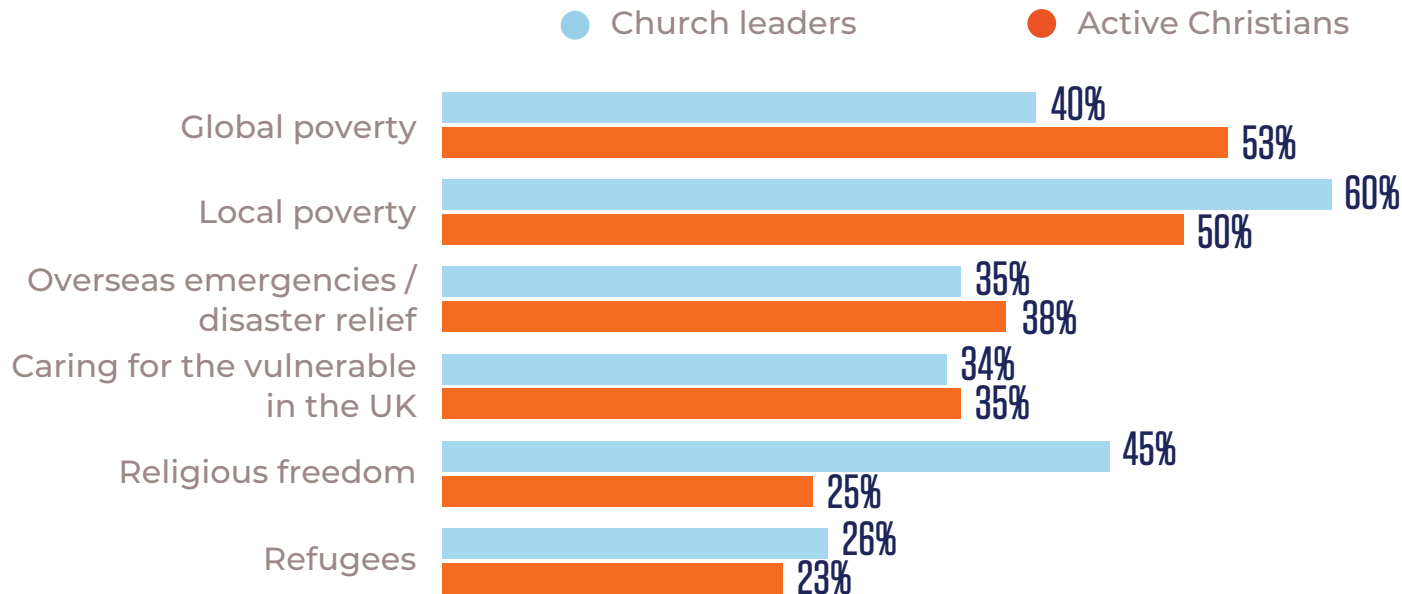


According to church leaders



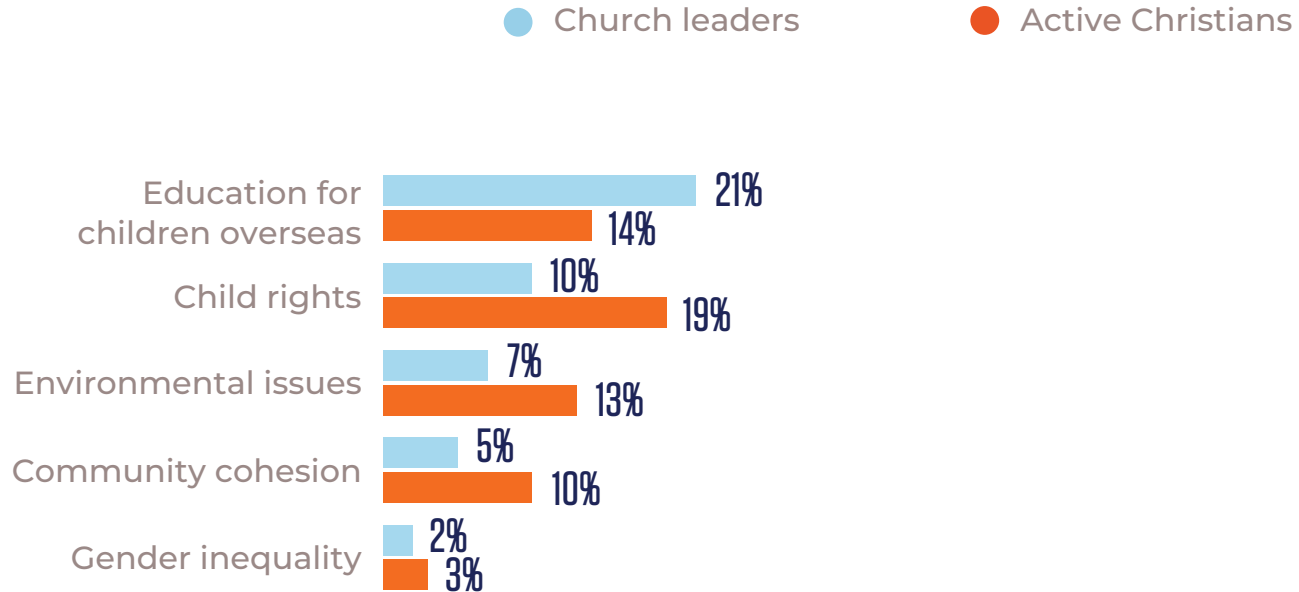
HOW SHOULD THE UK CHURCH SUPPORT SOCIAL JUSTICE? PT 1

When it comes to financial donations or volunteering for a cause, which three of the following social issues do you consider to be most important for you / your church to support?



HOW SHOULD THE UK CHURCH SUPPORT SOCIAL JUSTICE? PT 2

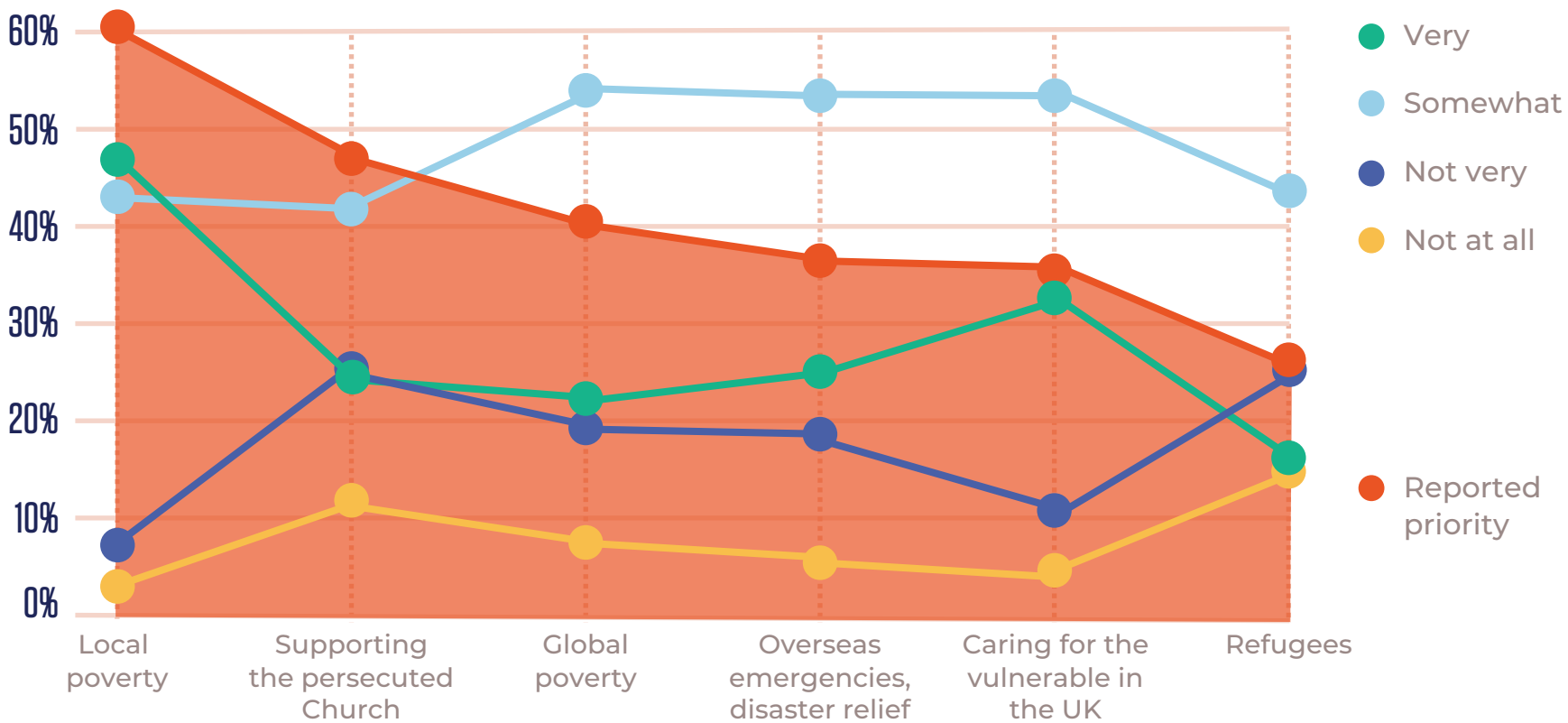
When it comes to financial donations or volunteering for a cause, which three of the following social issues do you consider to be most important for you / your church to support?



UK CHURCHES' INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL JUSTICE PT 1

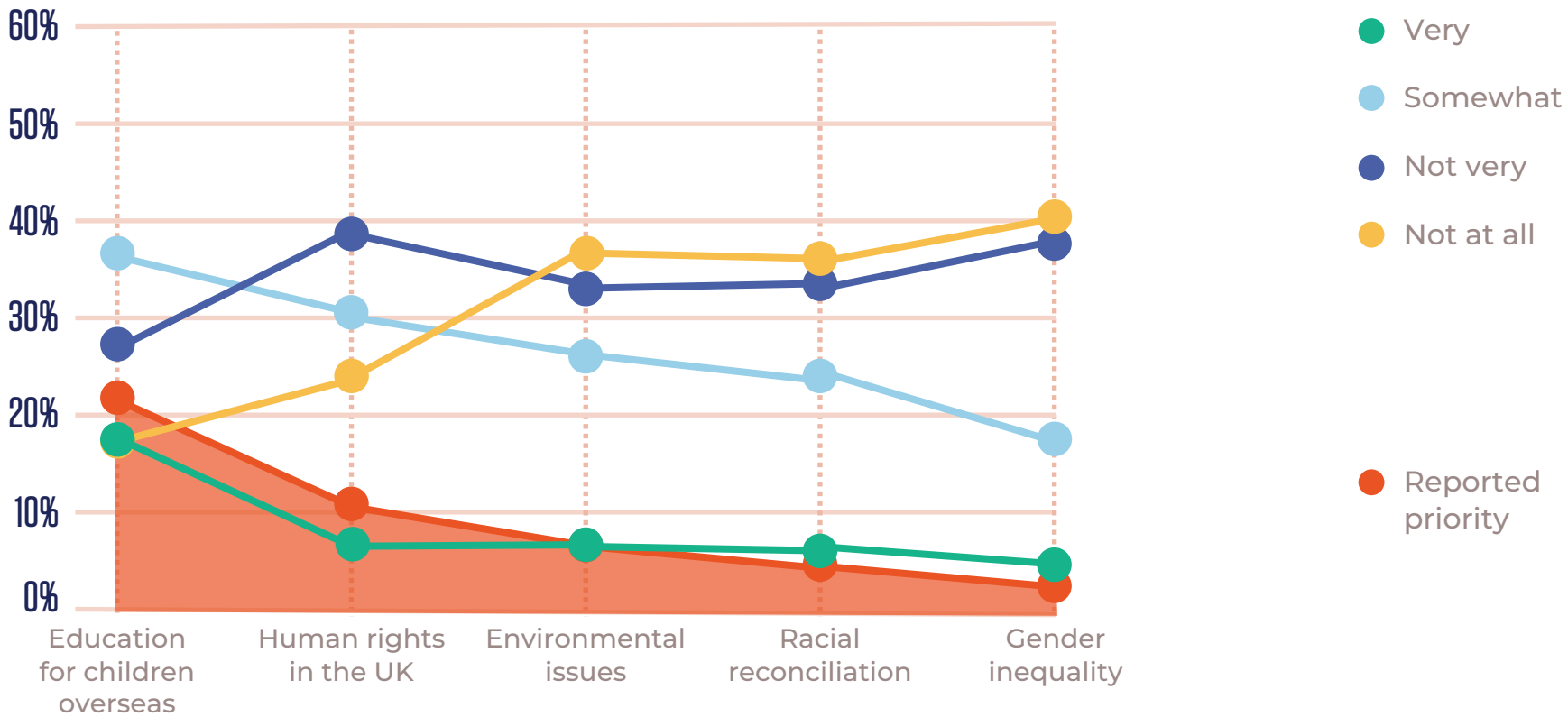


How involved would you say your church is in each of the following social issues?



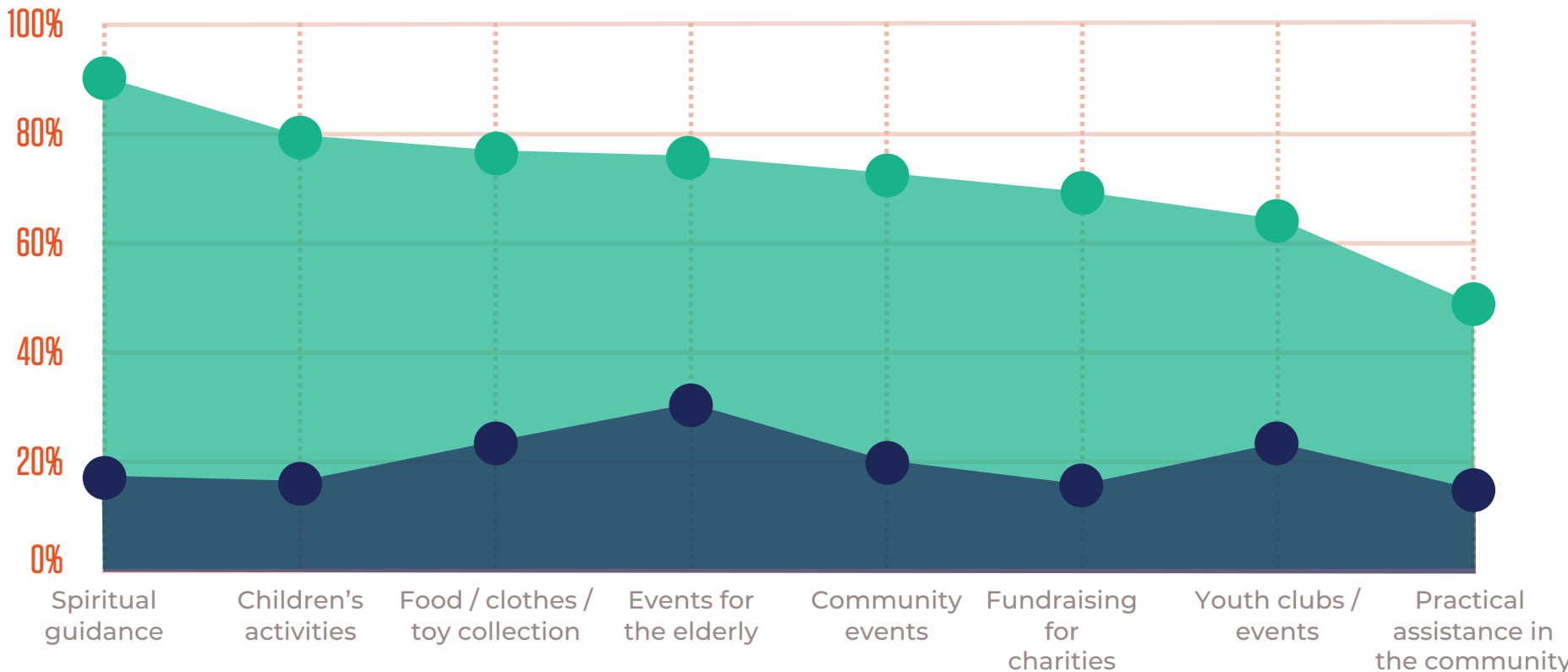
UK CHURCHES' INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL JUSTICE PT 2

How involved would you say your church is in each of the following social issues?



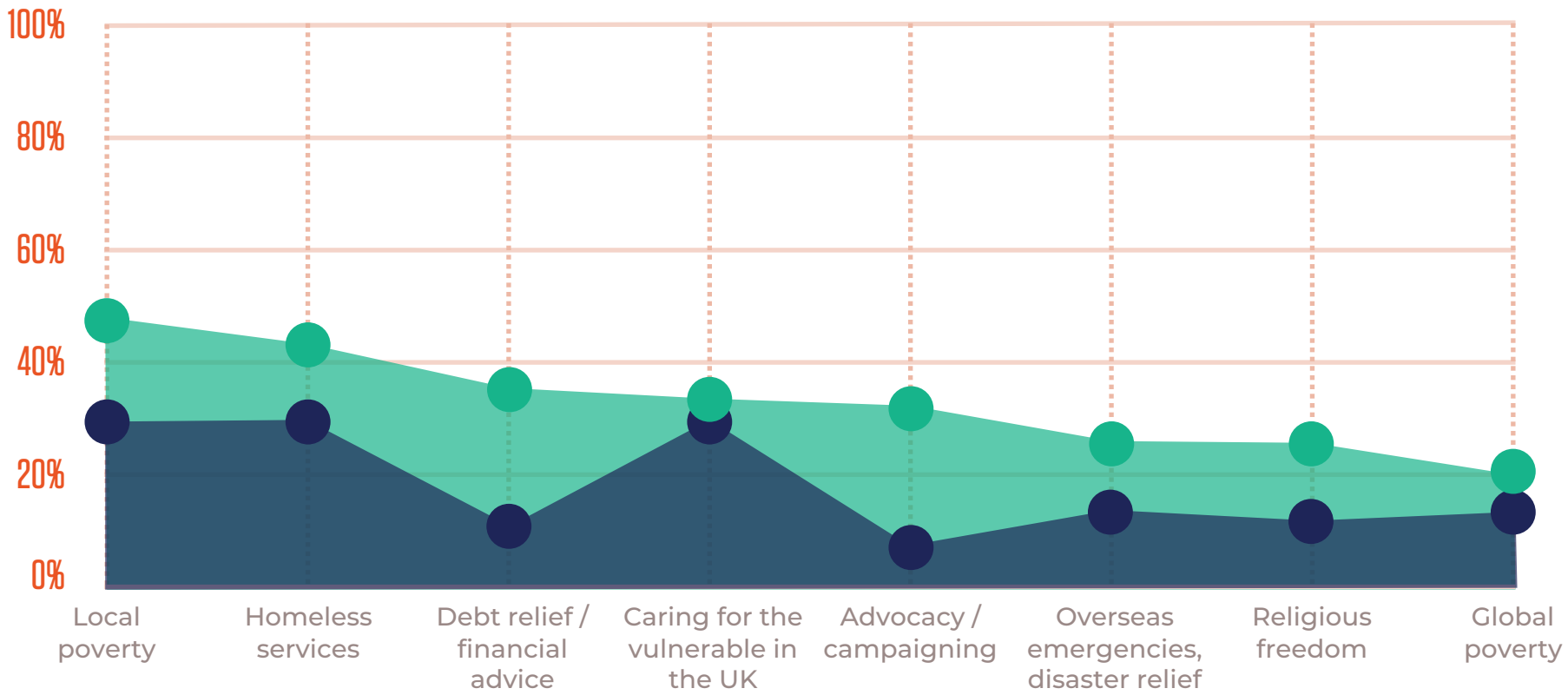
SUPPLY & DEMAND PT 1

- Needs that UK adults want churches to address
- Needs that churches report addressing



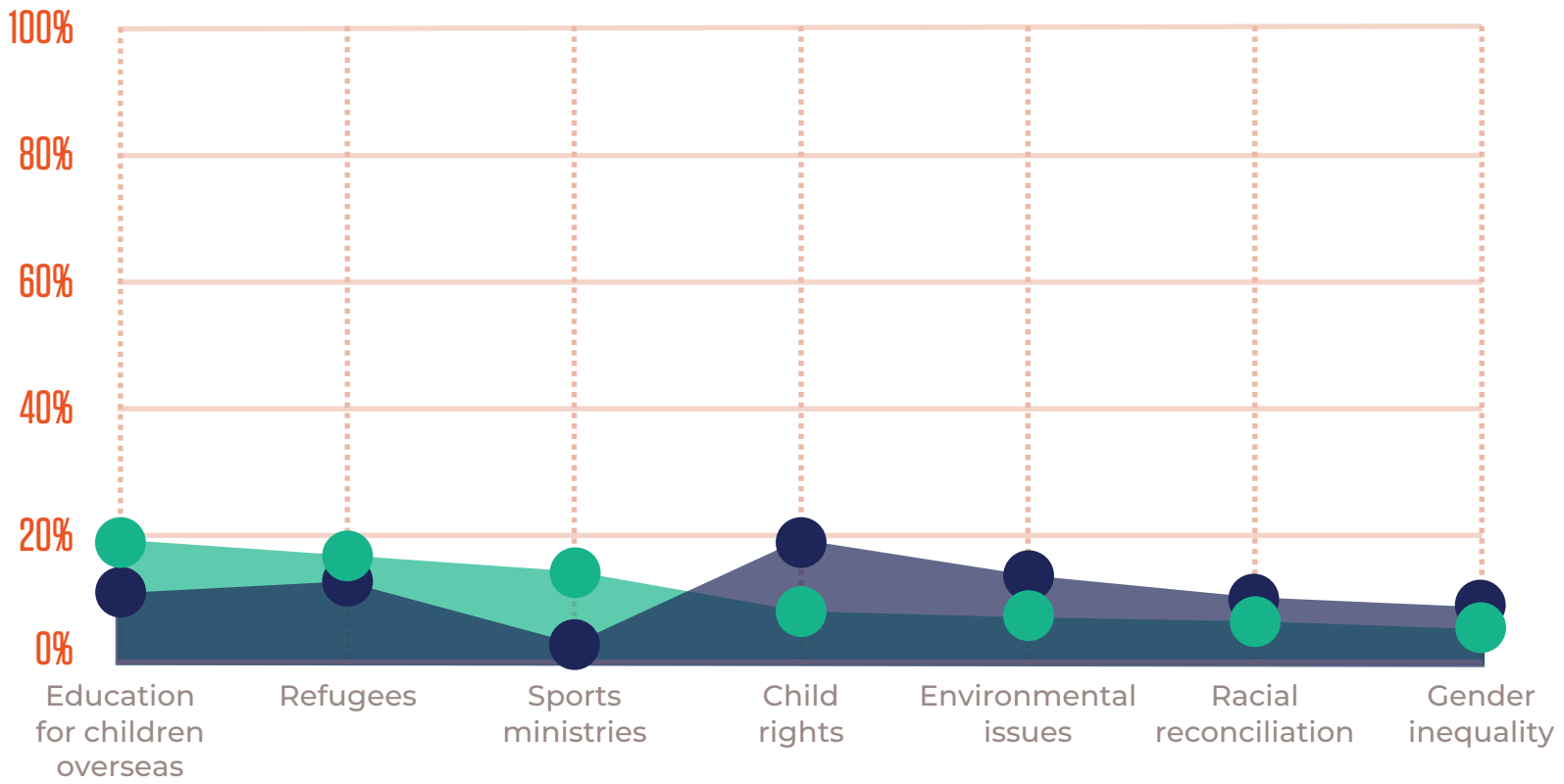
SUPPLY & DEMAND PT 2

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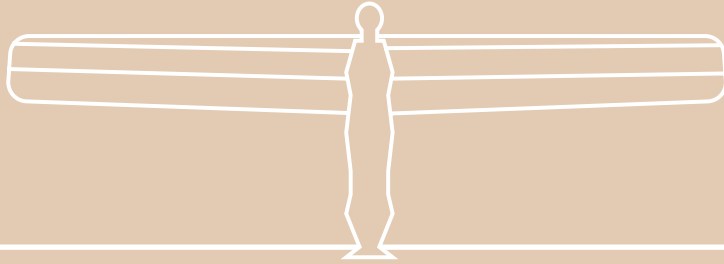


SUPPLY & DEMAND PT 3

- Needs that UK adults want churches to address
- Needs that churches report addressing



**PARTNERS FOR
THE FUTURE**



AT A GLANCE

SIX IN 10 CHURCH LEADERS (60%) FEEL THAT APPROACHING SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EVANGELISM IN TANDEM WILL BE THE WAY FORWARD.

UK CHURCH LEADERS LOOK FIRST TO GOVERNMENTS, CHARITIES OR LAYPEOPLE TO ADDRESS MOST SOCIAL JUSTICE CONCERNS.

NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF CHURCH LEADERS (72%) SAY THEIR CHURCH HAS A CLEARLY DEFINED STRATEGY FOR MISSION.

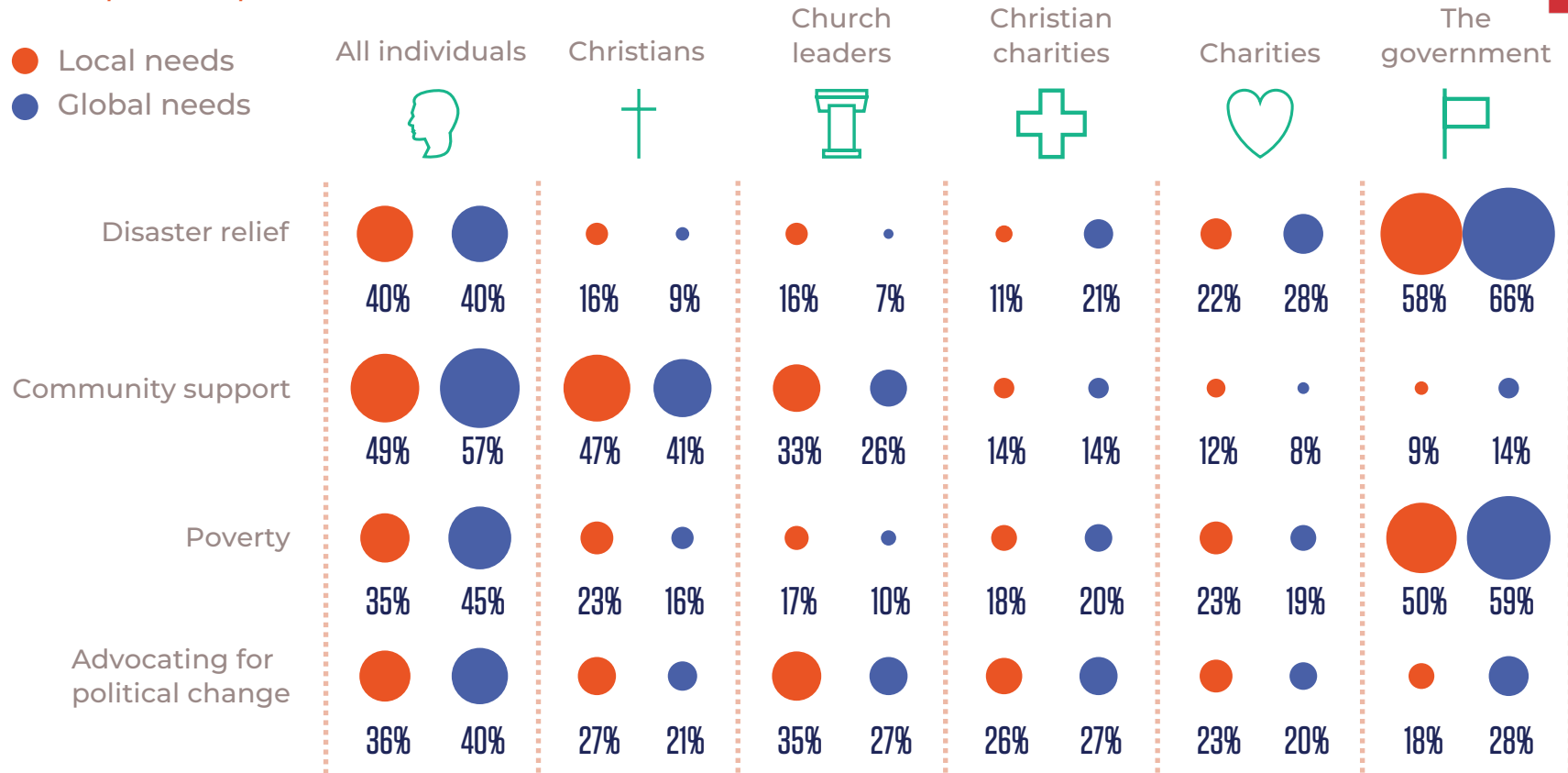
ACTIVE CHRISTIANS ARE EAGER TO SUPPORT SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSION BY GIVING TO THEIR CHURCH AND CHARITIES.

Which group should be most responsible for ...?



Select up to two parties for each.

- Local needs
- Global needs

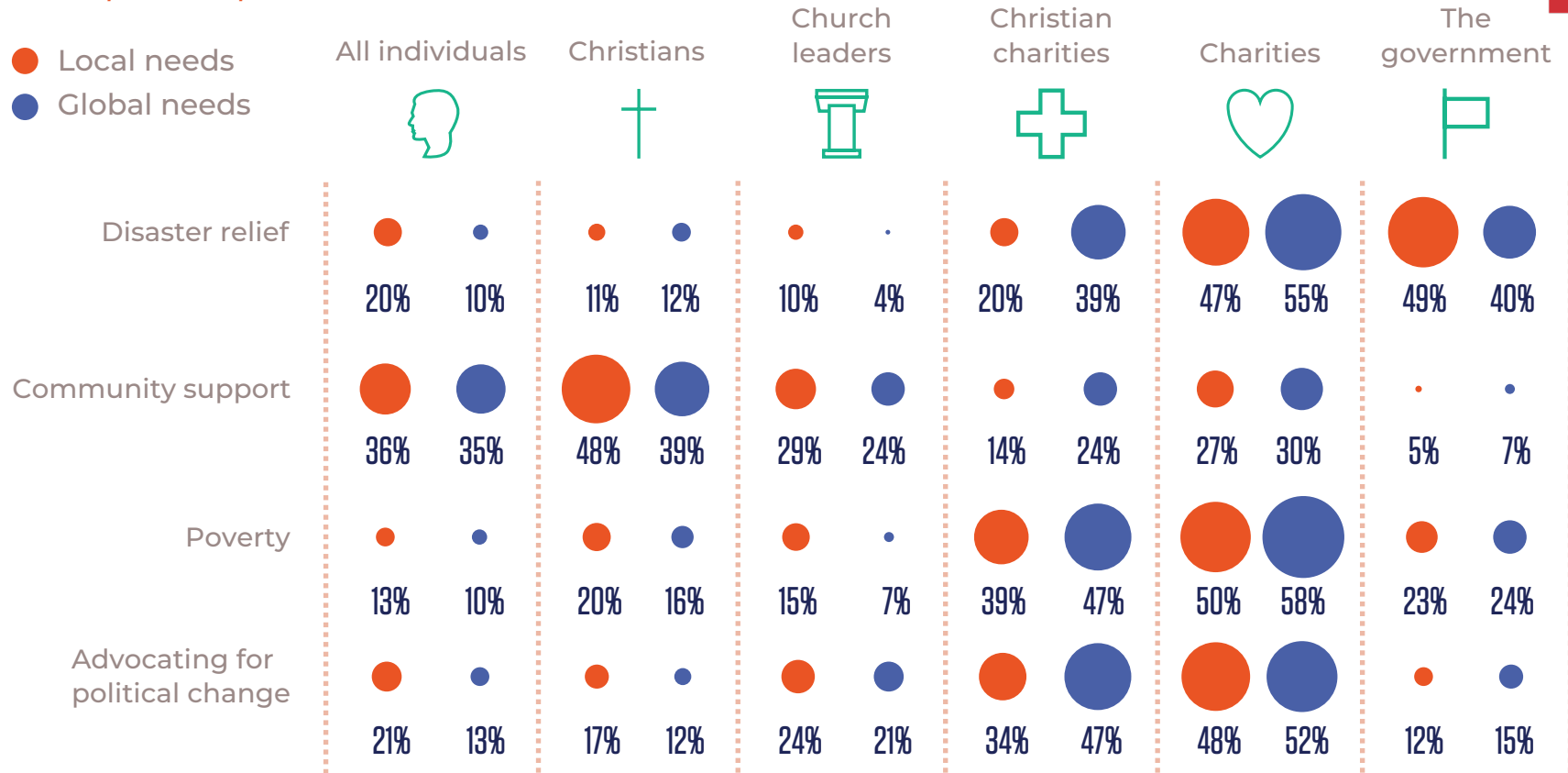


Which group is actually doing the most for ...?



Select up to two parties for each.

- Local needs
- Global needs

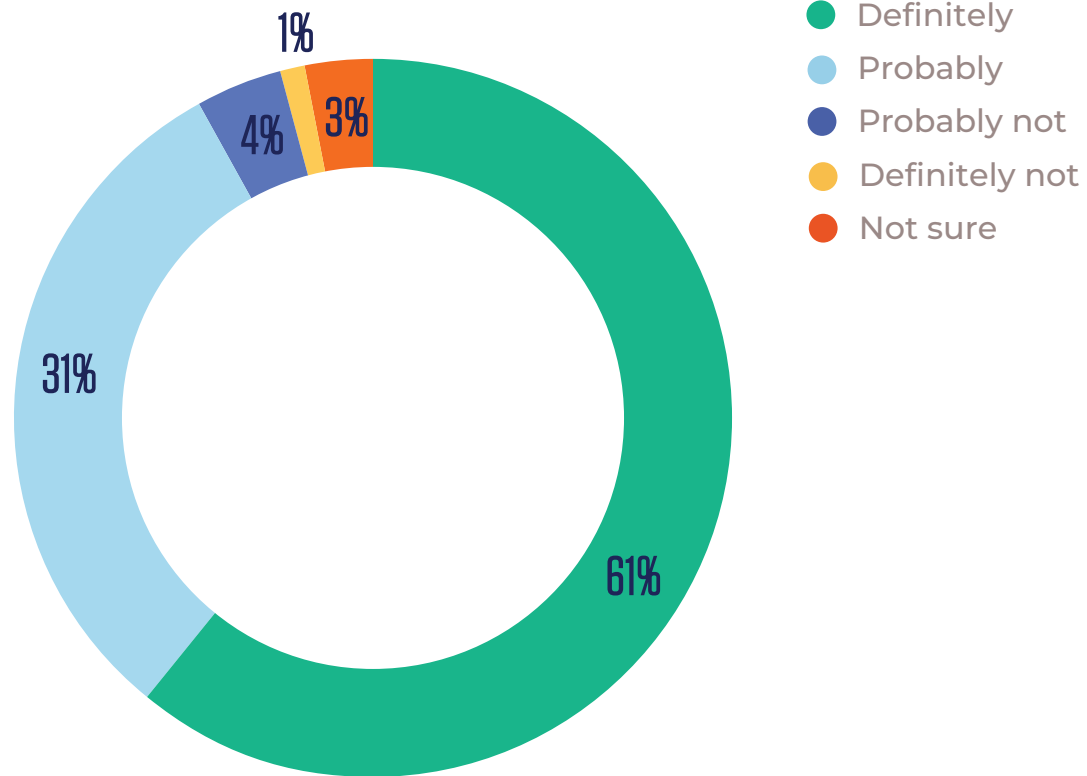


PASTORS' FIRST CHOICES FOR CHARITY PARTNERSHIPS

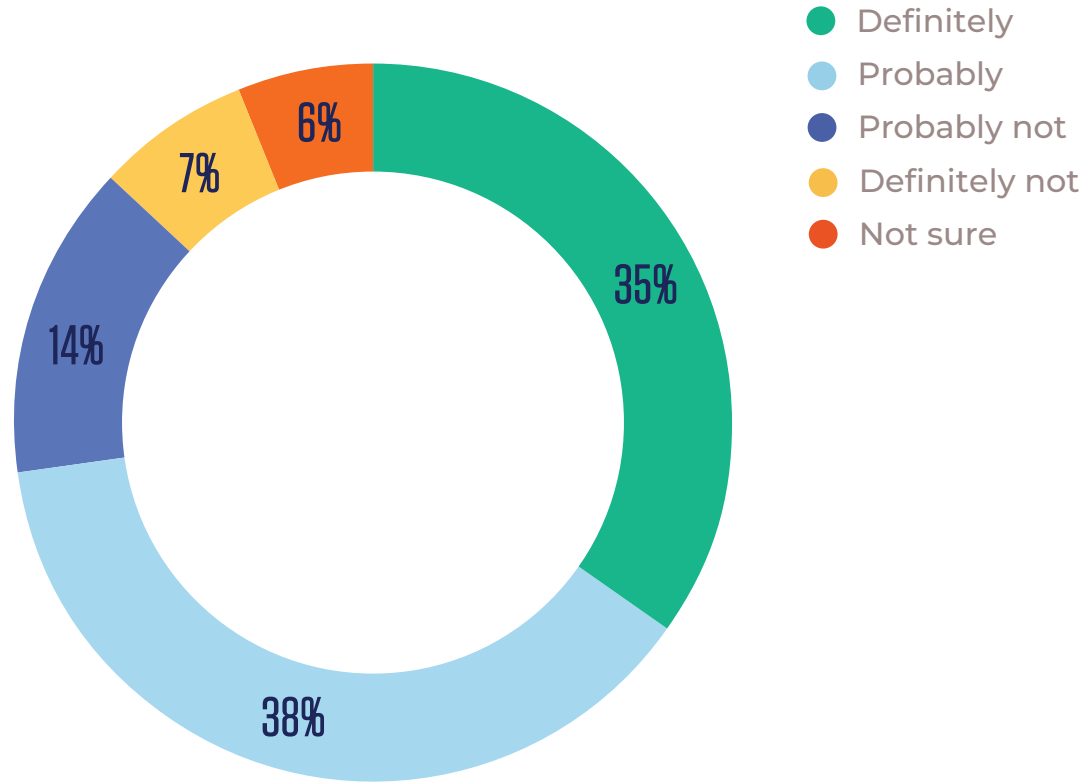
- Agree strongly
- Disagree somewhat
- Agree Somewhat
- Disagree strongly



IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR A CHRISTIAN CHARITY TO WORK IN THE SECULAR SECTOR?

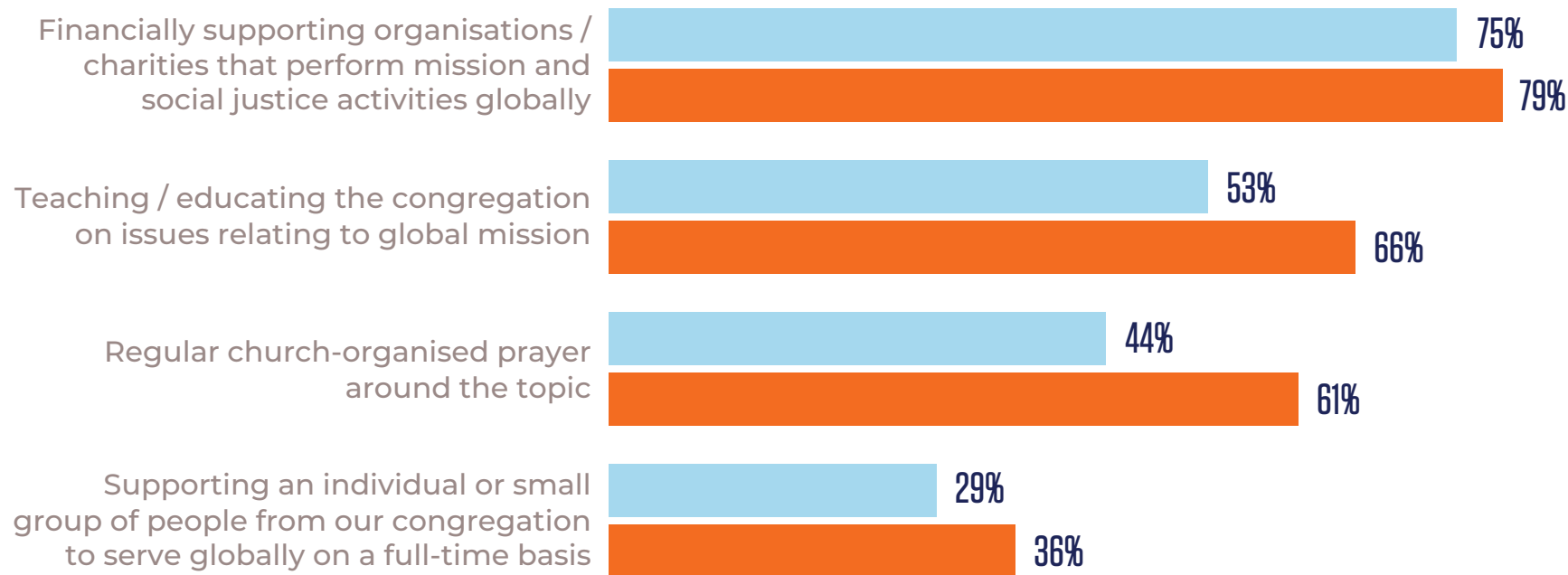


IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR A CHRISTIAN CHARITY TO WORK WITH A NON-CHRISTIAN CHARITY?



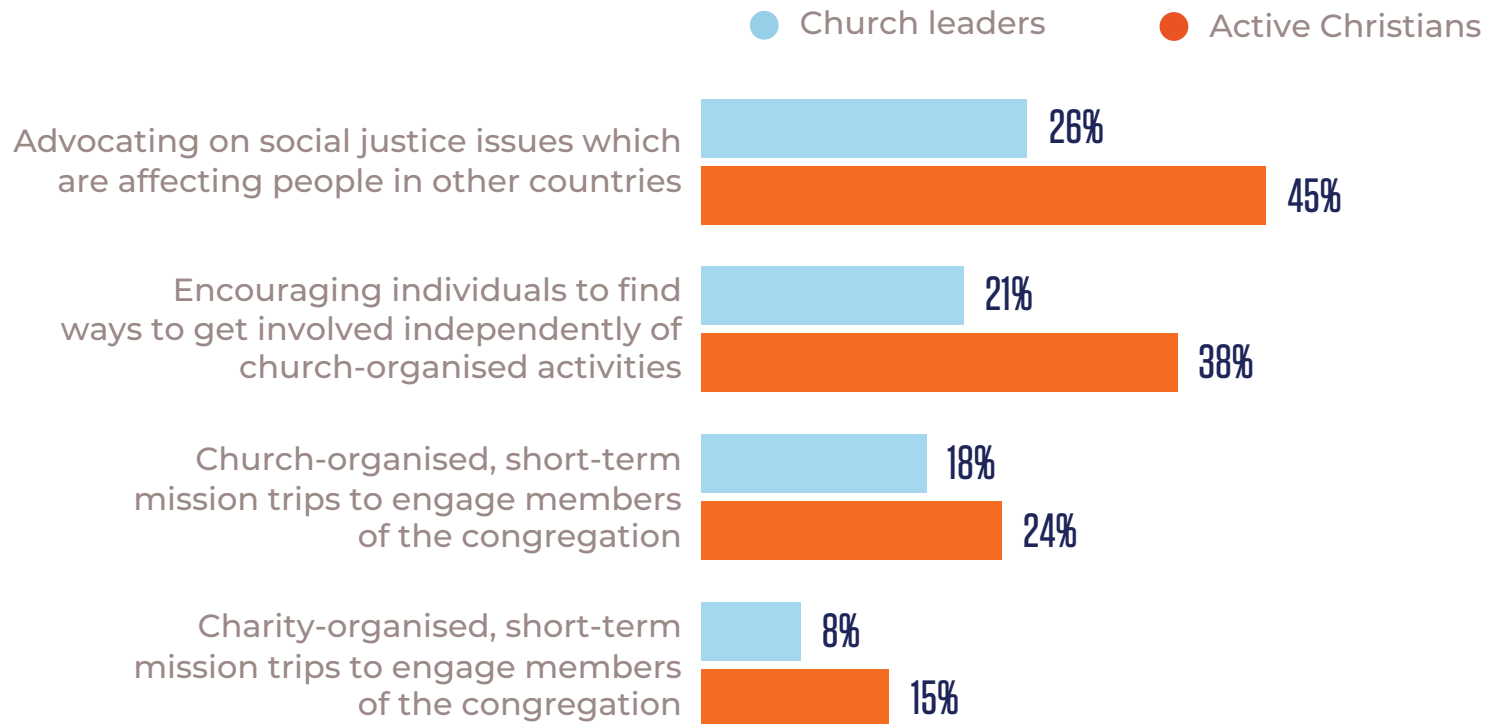
A BLUEPRINT FOR GLOBAL IMPACT PT 1

- Church leaders: How does your church prioritise different ways of doing global mission?
- Active Christians: What activities should your church prioritise when doing global mission?

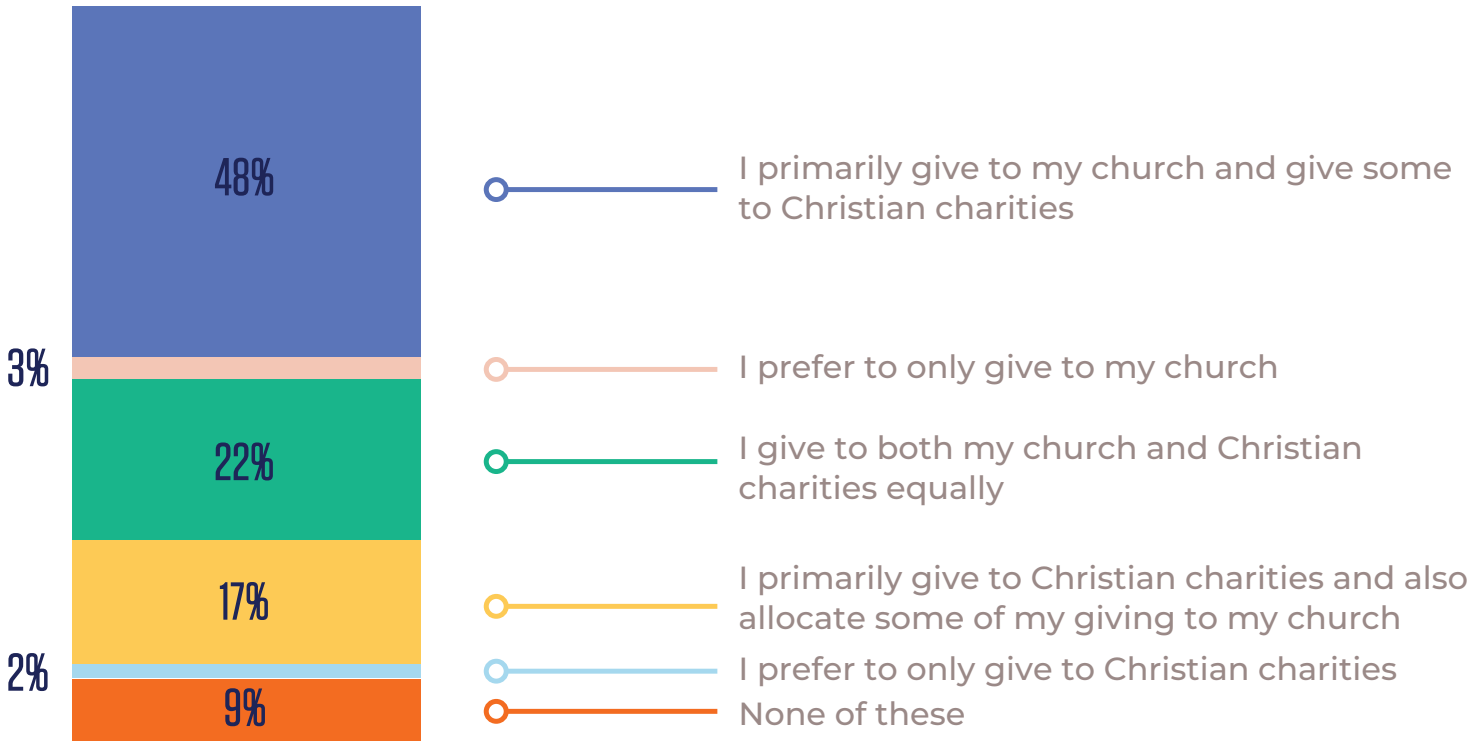


A BLUEPRINT FOR GLOBAL IMPACT PT 2

- Church leaders: How does your church prioritise different ways of doing global mission?
- Active Christians: What activities should your church prioritise when doing global mission?



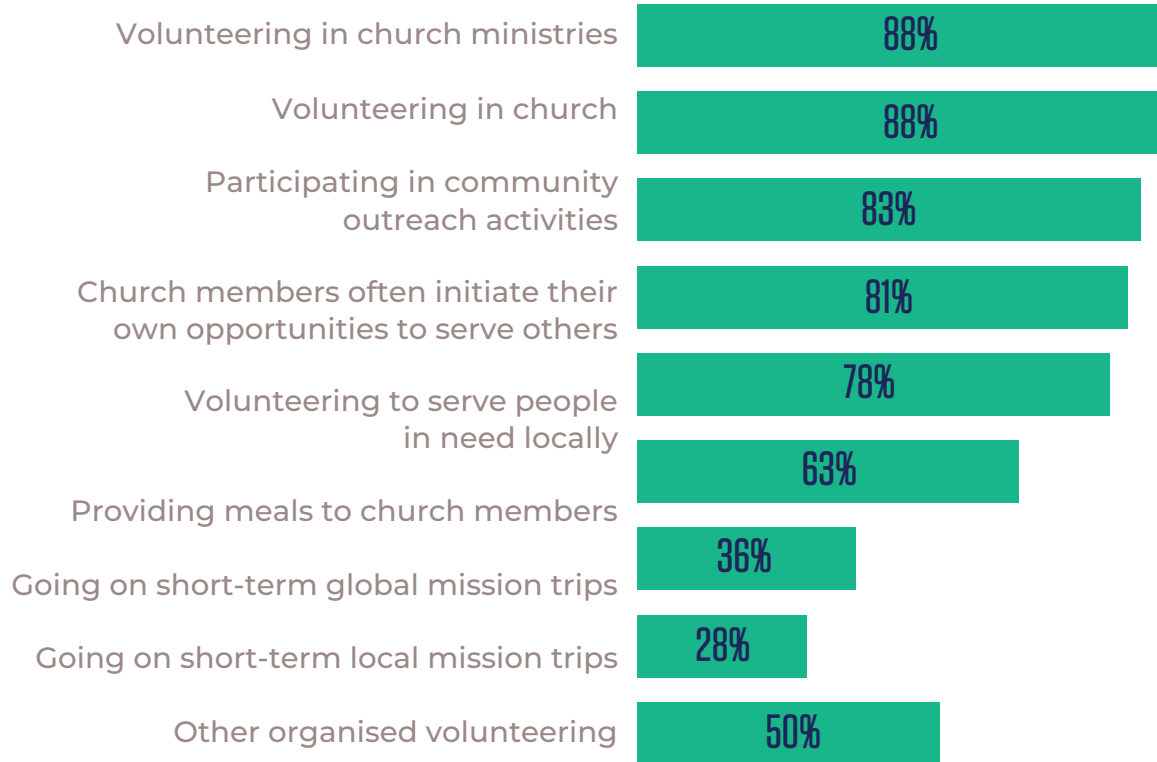
DISTRIBUTING DONATIONS



OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS TO DONATE GOODS AND / OR MONEY

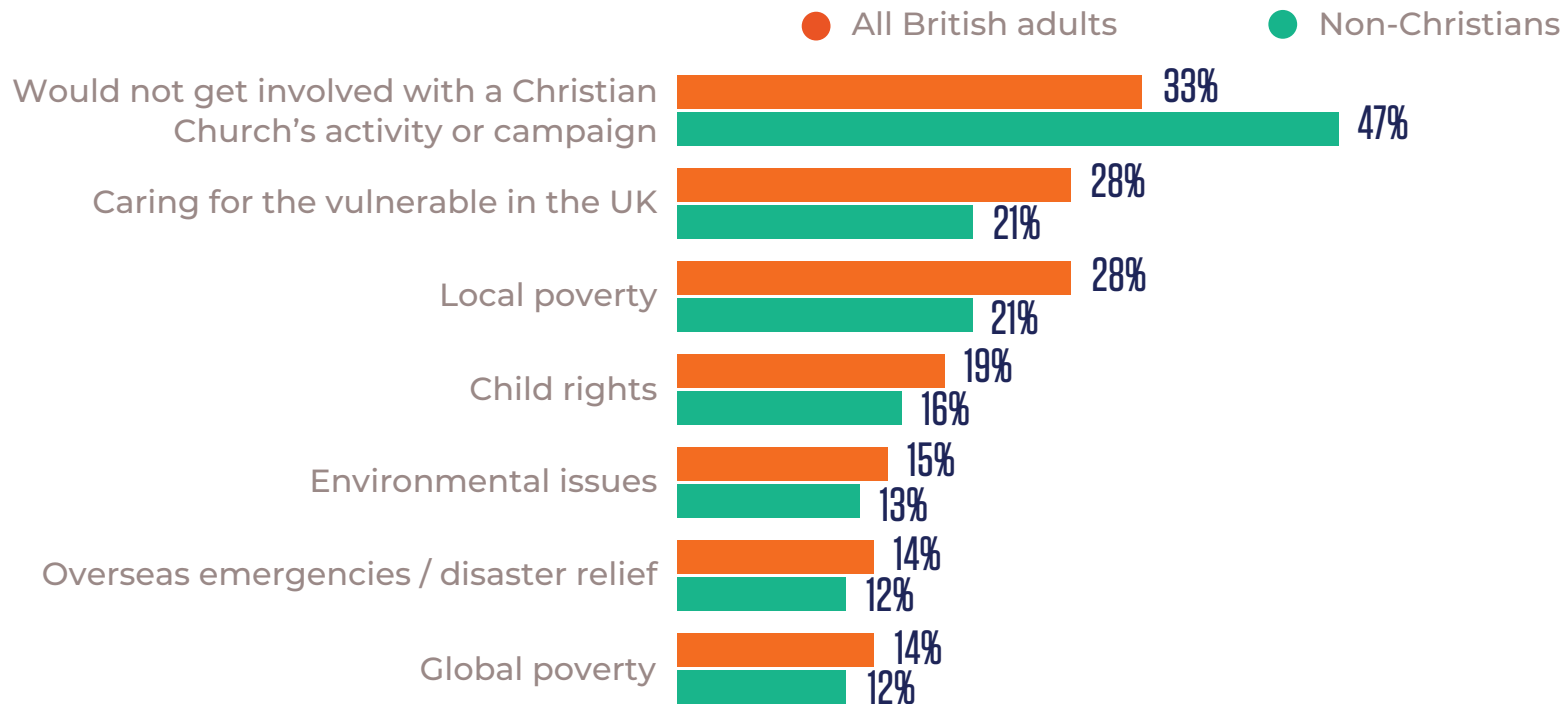


OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHURCHGOERS TO SERVE OTHERS OR VOLUNTEER



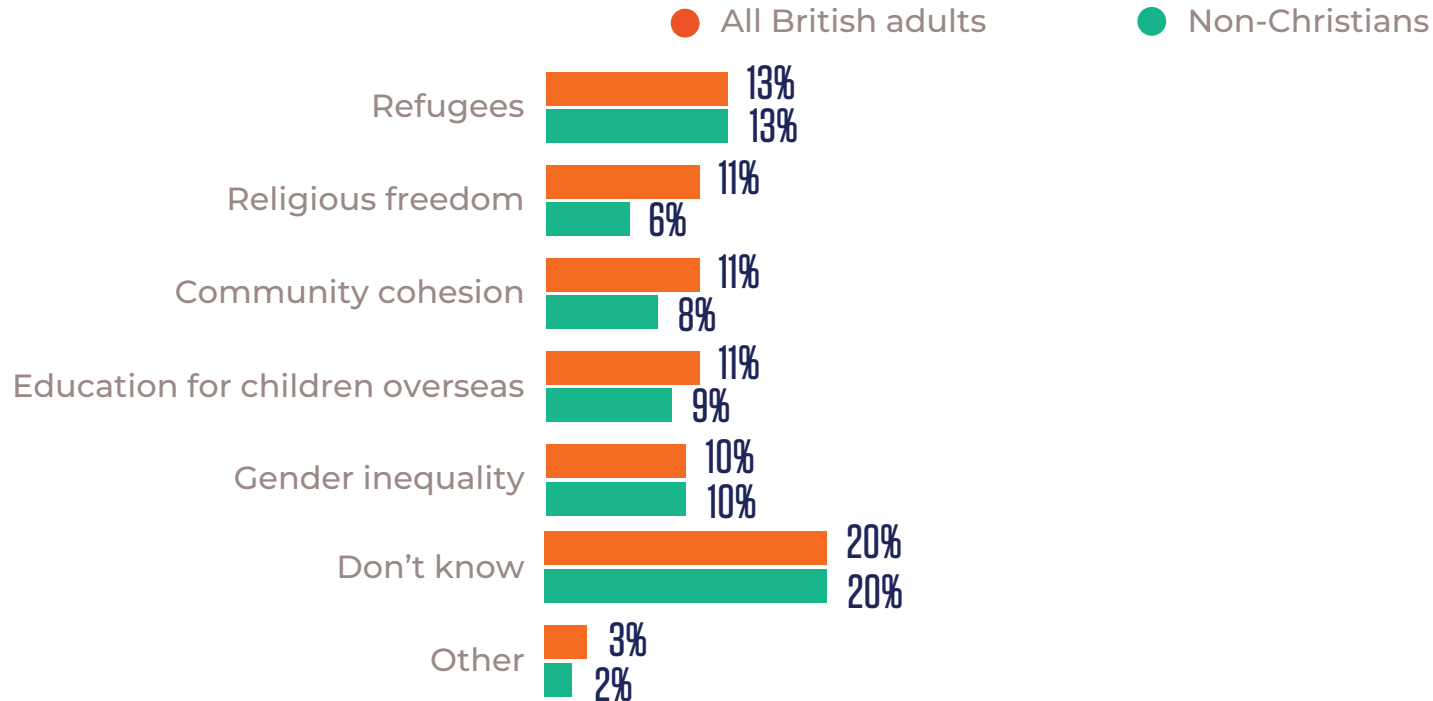
LACK OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN UK CHURCHES AS PARTNERS PT 1

If a Christian church organised an activity or campaign on any of the following issues, which, if any, would you be willing to support?



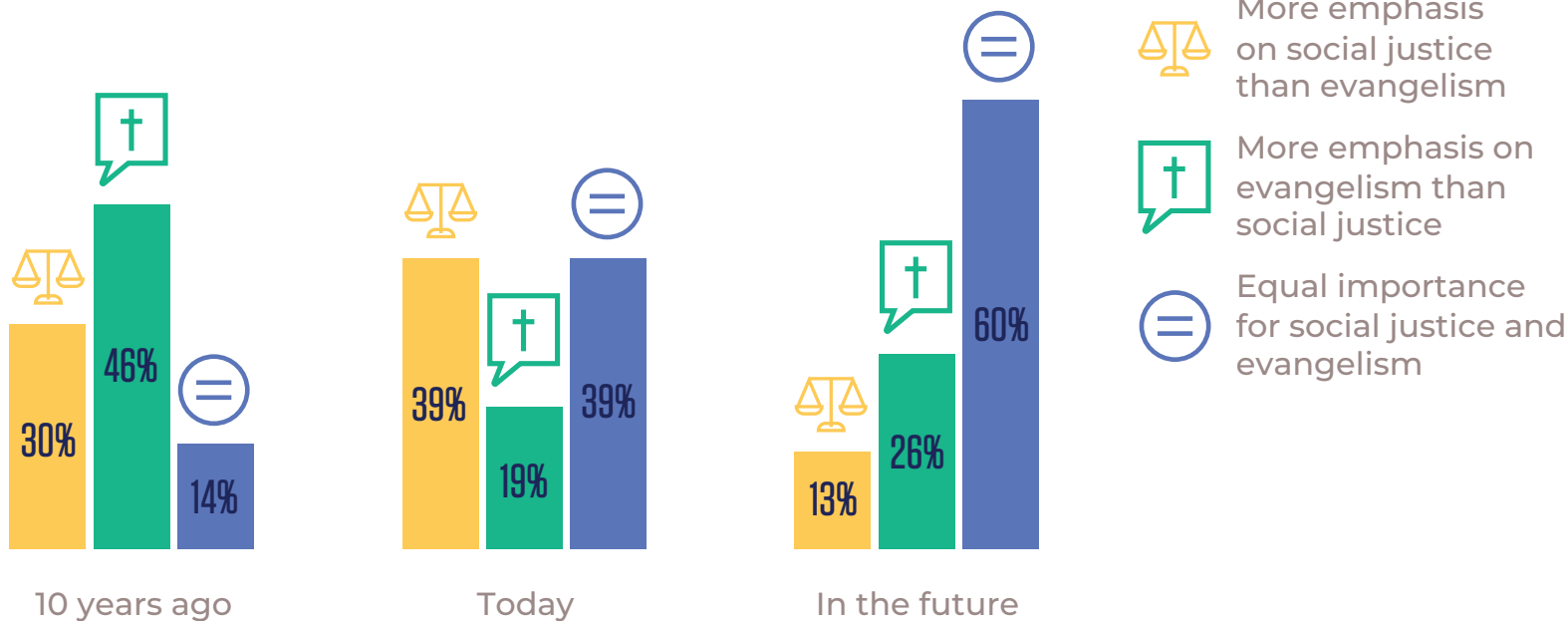
LACK OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN UK CHURCHES AS PARTNERS PT 2

If a Christian church organised an activity or campaign on any of the following issues, which, if any, would you be willing to support?



THEN AND NOW: UK CHURCH LEADERS PERCEIVE A SHIFT TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE

How has the relationship between evangelism and social justice, within the context of mission, changed over time?



METHODOLOGY

THIS STUDY INVOLVED QUANTITATIVE SURVEYS WITH BRITISH ADULTS, CHURCH LEADERS AND ACTIVE CHRISTIANS.

BARNA INTERVIEWED 302 CHURCH LEADERS FOR THIS STUDY.

- Online survey conducted from 6 April 2017 to 9 May 2017
- Phone survey conducted 28 April 2017 to 9 May 2017

BARNA ALSO SURVEYED:

- 2,054 British adults (18 and older, representative of the general population)
- 1,170 active Christians (a panel recruited primarily from Christian media sources)
 - Two separate shared polls online (both hosted by ComRes) from 6 April 2017 to 11 April 2017.

GLOSSARY

UK / BRITISH ADULT: a person over 18 who lives in the UK (this particular panel did not include those who live in Northern Ireland)

CHURCH LEADER: a UK adult who confirms that they currently lead a church or congregation in the UK

ACTIVE CHRISTIAN: a UK adult who actively engages in a minimum of monthly churchgoing, Bible reading and prayer

Non-Christian: a UK adult who identifies with a religion other than Christian (selected Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh, Buddhist, other, none or declined to answer)

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The Most Post-Christian Cities in America: 2019

Over the past year, Barna's research of faith trends in the U.S. has continued to point to an increasingly secularized nation made up of increasingly secularized cities. This infographic examines the changing religious makeup of American cities using our "post-Christian" metric.

VIEW NOW

Learn where your city ranks and get an in-depth look at individual metrics from FaithView, our new subscription-based online database of city, state and national spiritual profiles.

VIEW NOW

FaithView

This new, interactive, customizable database offers clear and relevant insights into the spiritual climate, faith trends and practices in your city or region. Combine and compare from 200+ data points to get the wisdom you need to lead your ministry or workplace with confidence.



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Millennial Non-Christians Show Greater Spiritual Curiosity Than Older Adults

[Read More](#)



Millennials Bring Ambition and Optimism to Their Work

[Read More](#)

The Mercy Journey

A critical element is missing in how we relate to one another today: mercy. In embracing *The Mercy Journey*, the presence of Christians and the work of





For more information about this study and to see the complete findings, check out our 2018 report:

The UK Church in Action

The full report is available at shop.barna.com or through Barna Access membership.