# **Research Reports & Articles – Young People**

## **Church/ Faith Reports**

**Youth for Christ – Faith and Spirituality 2021**

63% of young people believe in a God and 53% believe Jesus was a real historical figure. 36% of young people would be interested to find out more about God and spirituality if invited to.

[Z-A of Faith & Spirituality - Youth for Christ (yfc.co.uk)](https://yfc.co.uk/faithandspirituality/)

**Youth for Christ - Gen Z: Digital Generation 2019**

[Digital Generation - Youth for Christ (yfc.co.uk)](https://yfc.co.uk/digitalgeneration/)

**Youth for Christ – GenZ: Rethinking Culture 2017**

[Gen Z: Rethinking Culture - Youth for Christ (yfc.co.uk)](https://yfc.co.uk/rethinkingculture/)

**Youthscape: Losing Heart Dec 2016**

Children’s ministry is more common than youth ministry as churches lack confidence in working with teenagers

[Losing Heart | Youthscape](https://www.youthscape.co.uk/research/losing-heart)

**Church of England: Rooted in the Church 2016**

Examined the factors that enabled young people to stay in the church long-term – importance of inclusion, equality, leadership & space

[Layout 1 (churchofengland.org)](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/Rooted%20in%20the%20Church%20Summary%20Report.pdf)

Sarah Holmes – 2021- 22

[Full Report - Do church structures encourage children/family ministry? (nurturingyoungfaith.org)](https://www.nurturingyoungfaith.org/post/full-report-do-church-structures-encourage-children-family-ministry)

[Research Report: What is the place of families in church post-Covid? (nurturingyoungfaith.org)](https://www.nurturingyoungfaith.org/post/research-report-what-is-the-place-of-families-in-church-post-covid)

**Peer Evangelism 2022**

77% of youth leaders saw lack of confidence amongst young people as a barrier to faith-sharing, but only 31% of young people identified this as a challenge. 65% of young Christians surveyed agreed they had the confidence to share their faith with others.

[Hope Together : Influencers: Peer to Peer](https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/385741/Influencers_Peer_to.aspx)

**Training & Employment of Youth Workers**

The pipeline of experts & trained practitioners to guide the Church’s work with YP is declining. Students training in Christian youth & childrens work have dropped by 52% since 2011. Anecdotally, many are leaving when they need money & time to start a family.

Longitudinal research into student numbers on higher education programmes in Christian youth work/ministry and/or Children’s work/ministry programmes – 2011-12 to 2021-22 David Howell July 2022

[File.aspx (paraklesis.org.uk)](https://www.paraklesis.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=314811)

**Ali Campbell – Terms and Conditions of Youth Workers 2019**

74% of youth & children’s workers would remain in the profession until retirement if they could.

[Terms and Cons Summary Report (theresource.org.uk)](https://theresource.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Terms-and-Cons-Summary-Report.pdf)

**SWYM: Mapping the Landscape 2022**

40% of youthworkers have been in their role for 3 years or less. 59% of churches say a lack of volunteers is a challenge in delivering youth ministry. Smaller churches found the problem of a lack of volunteers more challenging than larger churches.

[Mapping the Landscape | South West Youth Ministries (swym.org.uk)](https://swym.org.uk/mapping-the-landscape/)

**Hope Together - Talking Jesus 2022**

Report on Evangelism across all ages

[2022 Research - Talking Jesus](https://talkingjesus.org/2022-research/)

**Hope Together - Talking Toddlers**

62% of all non-church parents with under 5s are connected to church activities in some way; there are more Christians in this age group than any other.

[Hope Together : Talking Toddlers](https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/369055/Talking_Toddlers.aspx#summ)

**Tear Fund: Climate Change and Young people**

9 out of 10 young people are concerned about climate change, only 1 in 10 think the church is doing enough

[Burning Down The House – We Are Tearfund](https://wearetearfund.org/burning-down-the-house/)

1. **General Reports on Young People**

**Report by YMCA Feb 2022**

Government spending in the youth service has reduced by 74% nationally since 2010. That’s a drop of £1.1 billion. Churches running drop-in youth clubs or similar are stepping into a huge gap in their community

[Devalued by a decade of cuts, dramatic fall in spend per head and a debilitating postcode lottery: the latest picture of youth service funding - YMCA England & Wales](https://www.ymca.org.uk/latest-news/devalued-by-a-decade-of-cuts-dramatic-fall-in-spend-per-head-and-a-debilitating-postcode-lottery-the-latest-picture-of-youth-service-funding)

**BBC –** **Young people loneliest generation 2018**

[16-24 year olds are the loneliest age group according to new BBC Radio 4 survey - Media Centre](https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2018/loneliest-age-group-radio-4#:~:text=16-24%20year%20olds%20are%20the%20loneliest%20age%20group,of%20loneliness%20to%20date.%20Published%3A%201%20October%202018)

In 2018 (pre-pandemic), 16-24 year olds officially became the loneliest generation, with 40% of respondents reporting they feel lonely often or very often. Only 29% of 65-74 year olds and 27% of 75+ said the same.

**BBC – Rise in mental health referrals amongst young Feb 2022**

More children than ever have been referred to the NHS for mental health issues such as self harm and eating disorders. 409,347 under 18s were referred between April and October 2021, 77% higher than the same period in 2019.

[Children's mental health: Huge rise in severe cases, BBC analysis reveals - BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-60197150)

**The Guardian – Self image January 2023**

[Social media triggers children to dislike their own bodies, says study | Children | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jan/01/social-media-triggers-children-to-dislike-their-own-bodies-says-study)

**The Children’s Society - Good Childhood Report 2022**

Shows continued decline in children’s wellbeing

[The Good Childhood Report 2022 | The Children's Society (childrenssociety.org.uk)](https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/good-childhood-report-2022)

**Children’s Commissioner – The Big Answer 2023**

Results from a survey of young people reveals a n heroic generation who have survived a global crisis.

[The Big Answer | Children's Commissioner for England (childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-answer/)

**Archbishop’s Anti-Racism Taskforce Report 2021**

Although not specifically focused on young people, includes recommendations for youth ministry

[FromLamentToAction-report.pdf (churchofengland.org)](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/FromLamentToAction-report.pdf)