

CORE PRACTICES OF GROWING CHURCHES

Research findings



While there is no magic formula for growing a church, there are various factors that are found to be associated with growing churches. The eight practices of growing churches set out below are taken from research conducted by the Church of England in 2011-2013 and by The Methodist Church in 2015-2016.¹

¹ The Church Commissioners for England (2014) *From Anecdote to Evidence: Findings from the Church Growth Research Programme 2011-2013*; www.fromevidencetoaction.org.uk; Orton, A. and Hart, P. (2017) *Leading Together in Growing Methodist Churches: Learning from Research and Practice in the North East of England*, Durham: Durham University.

Research has found that growing churches:

- ✓ **have a clear mission and purpose**
- ✓ **know and serve their community**
- ✓ **welcome and follow up**
- ✓ **offer discipleship pathways**
- ✓ **have transformational leaders**
- ✓ **involve all people**
- ✓ **change and adapt**
- ✓ **connect with young people**