



THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME

THE SURVEY

In the last few years, we have seen an increasing openness to Jesus within the student demographic.

This year we conducted a worldview survey with 1395 students from 45 University locations across the UK. It was incredible to spend so much face-to-face time with students, asking them how they see the world. The results are consistent with testimonies we have heard throughout the academic year. The encouraging headline is that 74% of students who currently don't attend church regularly would go to church if a friend invited them. In fact, many students have little or no experience of a local church. The challenge is how to equip Christian students with the confidence to share their faith and invite their friends to church.

Methodology

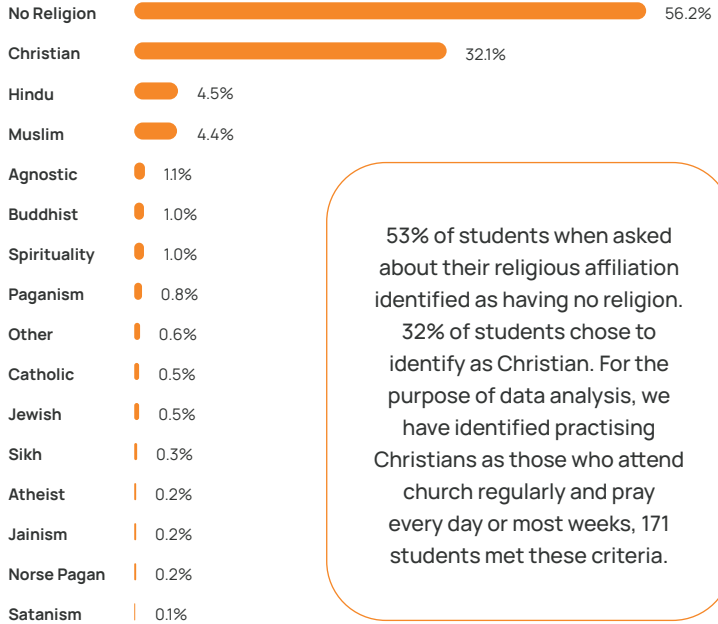
Participants were invited to complete the survey in person at Freshers fairs, in student housing areas and on campus. The survey ran from 1st September 2022 to 31st May 2023. Where data was incomplete or the survey was unfinished we have removed these participants from our sample. The total sample size was 1237 students.



74%

of students who currently don't attend church regularly would go to church if a friend invited them

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION



53% of students when asked about their religious affiliation identified as having no religion.

32% of students chose to identify as Christian. For the purpose of data analysis, we have identified practising Christians as those who attend church regularly and pray every day or most weeks, 171 students met these criteria.



Using the Student World View survey, has been an incredible tool for discussing students' perspectives on life and how they lean on a higher power for support. Not only has it been a tool for understanding the views of this student generation, but we have been using it as an evangelistic tool to do student mission, and reach the heart of our university. This has led to incredible conversations about life and faith, providing the opportunity to share the gospel with many students on their doorsteps. The survey has opened doors, both physically and conversationally, allowing for invites to church events and the Alpha course. This opportunity has been an incredible encouragement to me personally, within my own evangelism, leaving me so excited for future faith conversations, growing my desire for seeing students come to faith.

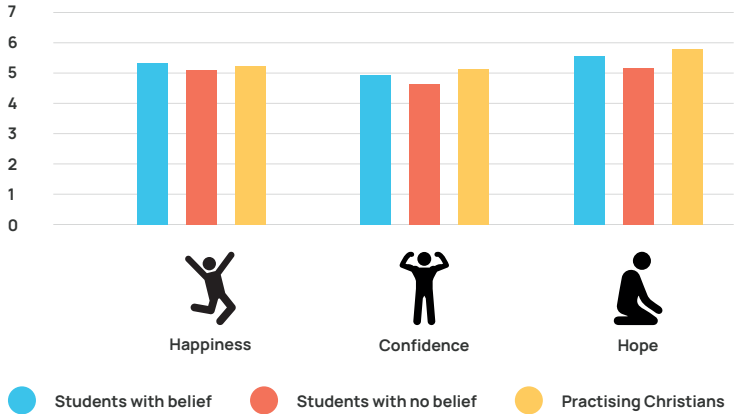
PYERS

Student, Loughborough

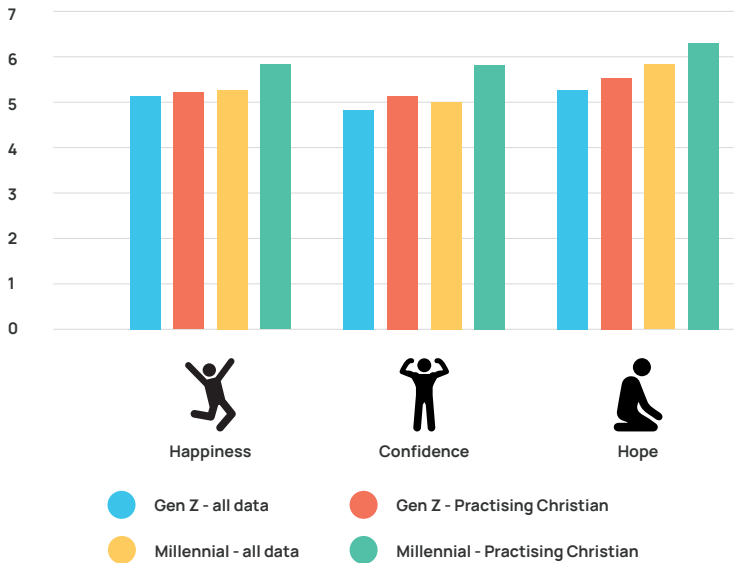


HOW STUDENTS PERCEIVE THE WORLD

The survey asked a range of questions to engage students in conversation about how they perceive the world including how happy, confident and hopeful they felt (scored out of seven, where seven is high).



When students were asked to score how happy, confident and hopeful they were, those who identified as having a faith-based belief correlated with higher hope, happiness and confidence scores than those students without any religious belief.



HOW STUDENTS PERCEIVE THE WORLD

The age of the participants made a difference to how they rated their happiness, confidence and hopefulness. Overall, Gen Z (those born after 1996) are less happy, confident and hopeful than millennials (those born 1981-1996). This is especially pronounced for the difference in how practising Christians of different ages rated their hope and their confidence. These results are in line with other studies of Gen Z's mental health and well-being and reflect the greater-than-ever need of young people to find hope in Jesus.

34%

of participants said friendship and family would increase their happiness.

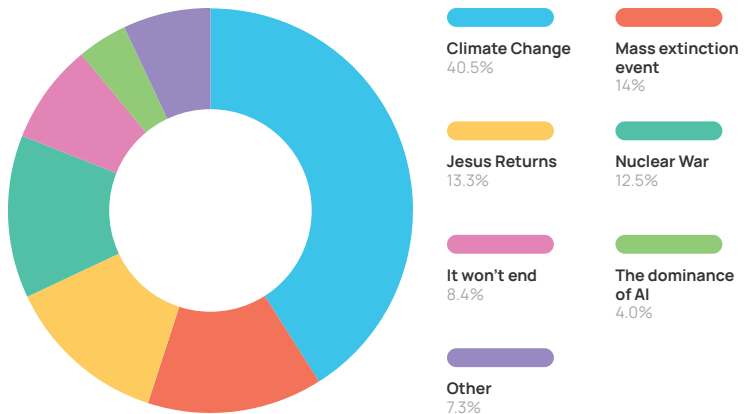
27%

of participants say people and humanity give the most hope for the future.

51%

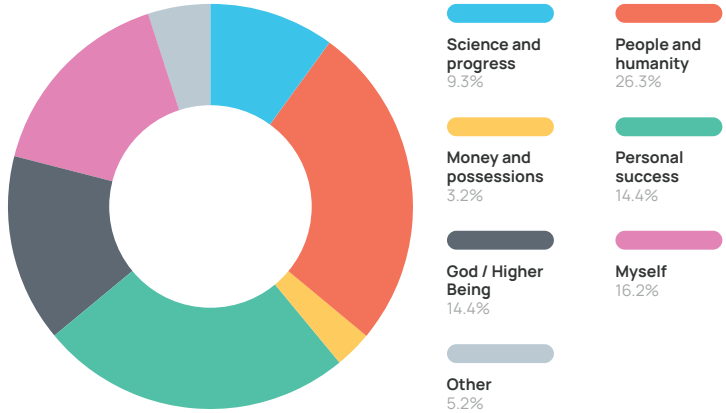
of participants said, friends and family is where they get their primary sense of identity.

How do you think the world as we know it will end?

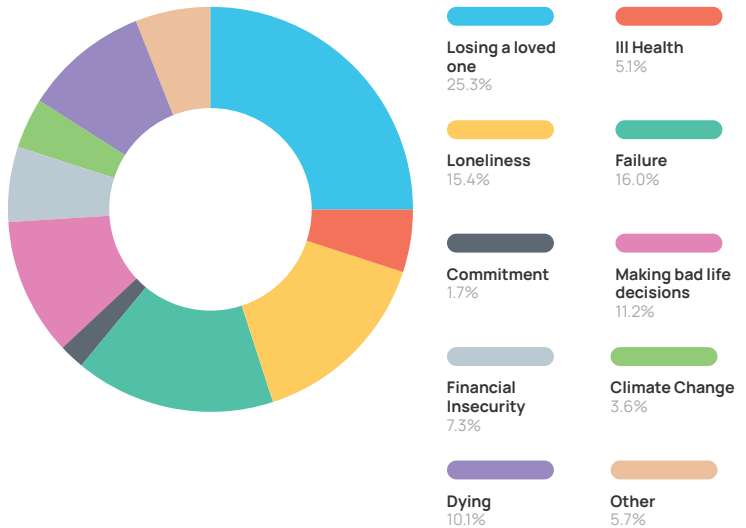


HOW STUDENTS PERCEIVE THE WORLD

What gives you the most hope for the future?



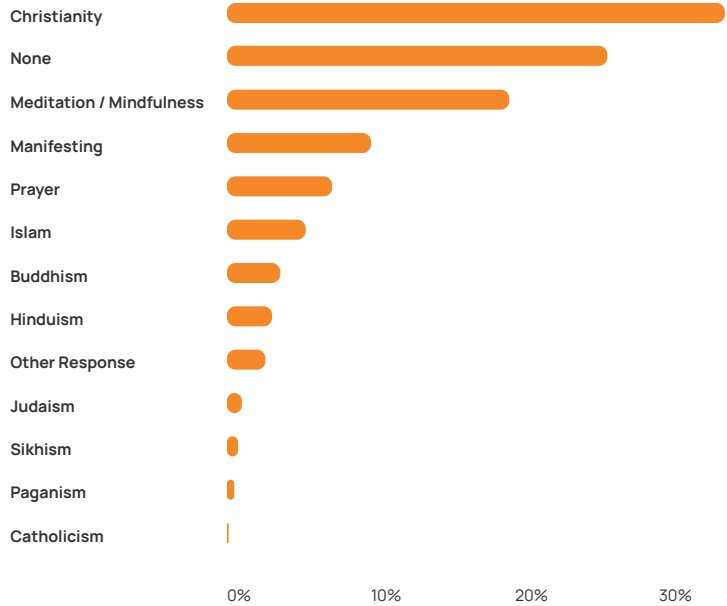
What are you most afraid of?



Respondents overwhelmingly felt that the world as we know it will end due to humanity (climate change, nuclear war, AI) and they also say that humanity is what gives them the most hope for the future (people & humanity, science & progress etc). This isn't necessarily a paradox but it is fascinating. It could be that they think a previous generation caused the issues and their generation will fix them.

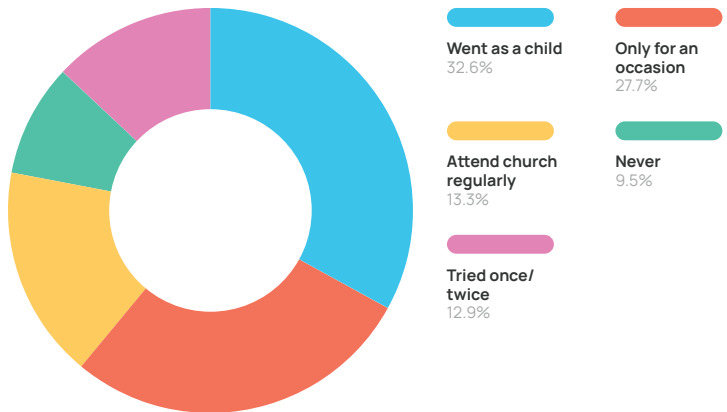
SPIRITUALITY CHURCH & THE GOSPEL

What types of spirituality do you engage with?



Participants were able to select multiple options when asked what types of spirituality they engage with, 14% of students are engaging with a mix of numerous religions and forms of spirituality.

Have you ever been to church?

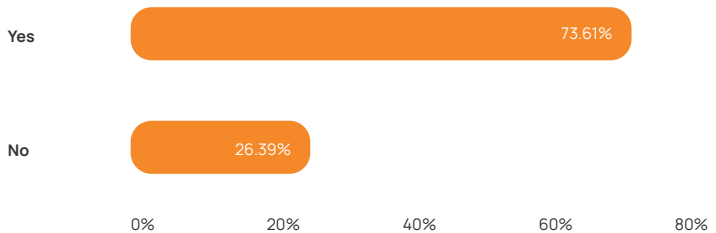


SPIRITUALITY CHURCH & THE GOSPEL

For this survey, we didn't define what we meant by "regularly" which could account for the high percentage of students saying they attend church regularly. We know the number of students who are active members of a local church community is much lower in reality.

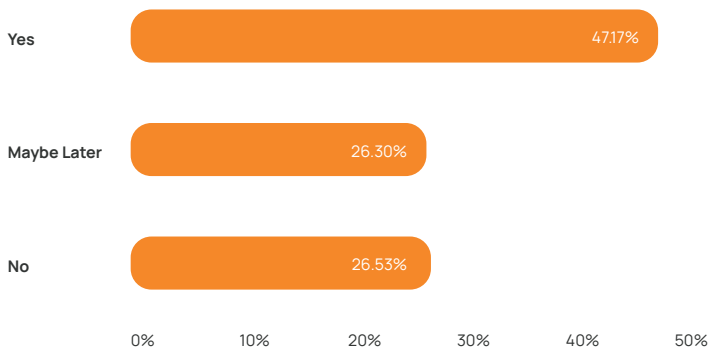
It is also worth noting how high the proportion of students is who went to church as a child, but no longer go. Correlating this with the spiritual openness in the student generation, it is entirely possible that we may see a prodigal generation return. Let's pray for it!

Would you go to church if a friend invited you?



Excluding those students we consider to be practising Christians, 25% of students surveyed had never heard the story of Jesus. When asked if they would be interested in hearing the story of Jesus 47% said 'yes' and 26% said 'maybe later'.

Would you be open to hearing the story of Jesus



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In November, I approached someone of student age at a cafe and after asking whether she was a student or not, I introduced myself and the student worldview survey to her and she seemed keen to participate. As she was answering the questions, I picked up on a few interesting responses. I noticed that she used to go to church as a child, that she did pray occasionally, and that she was open to trying church if someone invited her. She then carried on saying she left the church and hasn't been for a few years, but is keen to reconnect. I swapped numbers with her and invited her to church and to my home for food. She has since come back to church and is on a journey of reconnecting with God and rediscovering her faith. This all happened as a result of a two-minute survey conversation!”



MARAL

Student Mission Developer, Cardiff

OUR RESPONSE

We believe every student deserves an opportunity to find hope in Jesus and home in the local church.

If you are compelled by these findings, we would love you to join us in prayer and finance to fuel the Fusion Movement.

[FUSIONMOVEMENT.ORG/GIVE](https://fusionmovement.org/give)

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