

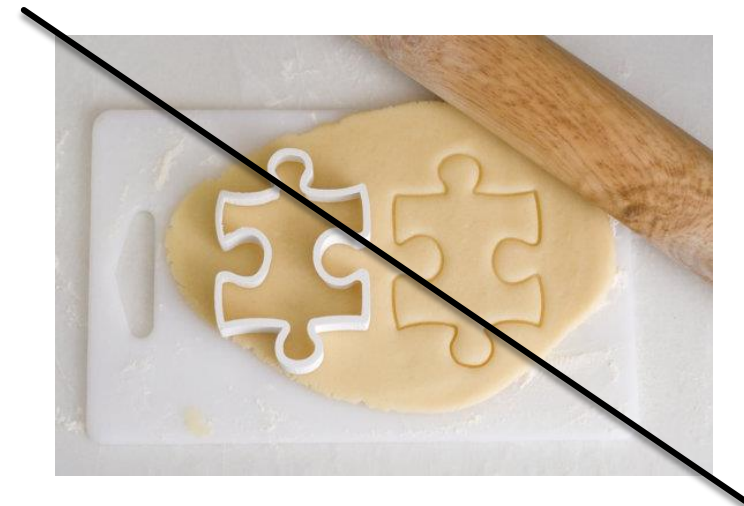
Growing Churches

- ▶ RE-FOCUSING
- ▶ CAN WE FIX IT- WITH GOD'S HELP, YES WE CAN
- ▶ PREPARING THE SOIL
- ▶ HEALTHY VESTRIES
 - HEALTHY LEADERS
 - HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS



Givens – of our people

- ▶ Faith filled people who long to leave a legacy for their next generation
 - Want the church to be present in the community after they have gone
- ▶ Love the Lord
 - All of us are on a journey towards God
- ▶ Every parish / church has it's own context – story
 - Not a cookie cutter approach
- ▶ God's heartbeat is to grow his church
 - to bring his people home.



This Season – This Journey

- ▶ Spiritual and Numerical growth
- ▶ Diocese on a new trajectory
- ▶ Lay and ordained
- ▶ Choice - If you choose
- ▶ We all make mistakes, we all fail – God's grace

Prayer

- ▶ Individual
- ▶ Corporate – Acts 12. 1-17 - fervent prayer
- ▶ Diocesan – strategies / connected

- ▶ Celebrate the wins – Be grateful

- ▶ Don't stop praying

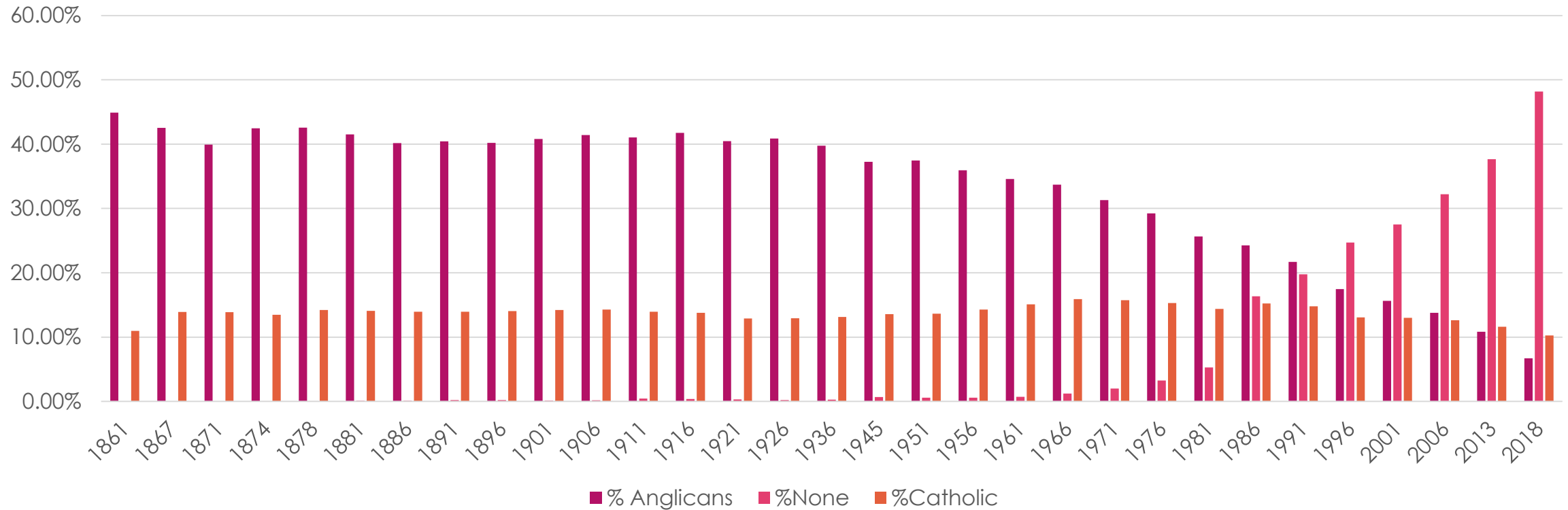
Decline in nominal Anglicans – The Why

Total number of Anglicans in New Zealand



Anglicans, Catholics and Nones

% of total population 1861-2018



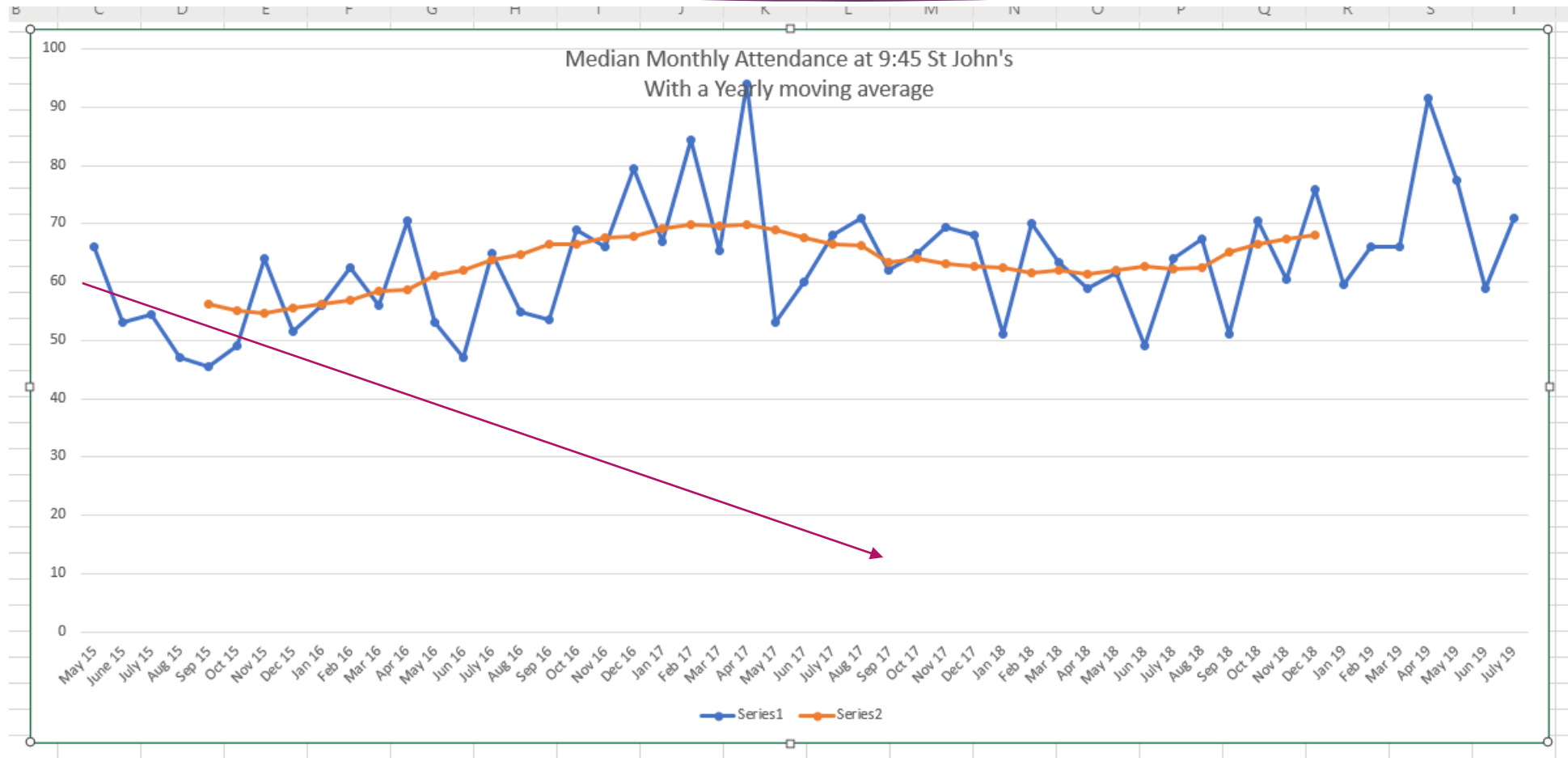
Two different experiences of growing churches

- ▶ Diocesan support – There was a commitment
 - ▶ Alone and together - silos
 - ▶ Just doing what came naturally as opposed to a shared journey
 - ▶ Not for the faint hearted –
-
- ▶ 1st step who are you as the people of God, what do you want to do to build God's Kingdom

How do you engage with the wider world?

- ▶ Anecdote to Evidence - <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/church-growth-research-programme/anecdote-evidence>
- ▶ 5 Dysfunctions of a team Patrick Lencioni <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHpB1EBufFo>
- ▶ Jim Collins – Good to Great
- ▶ Crucial Conversations
- ▶ Canoeing the mountains: Christian leadership in uncharted territory
- ▶ Wilberforce report 2018 - <https://faithandbeliefstudynz.org/>

Speak the Truth



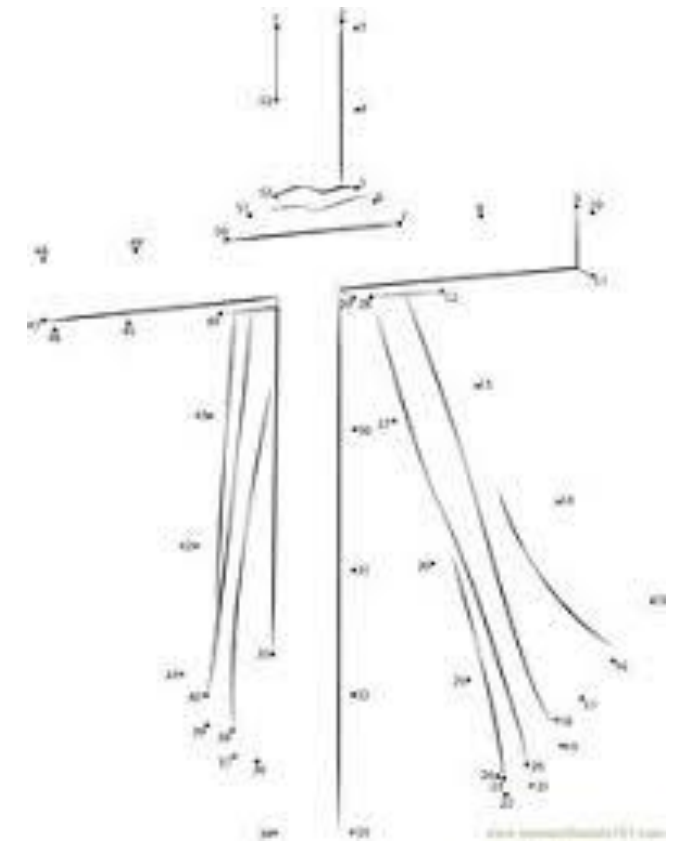
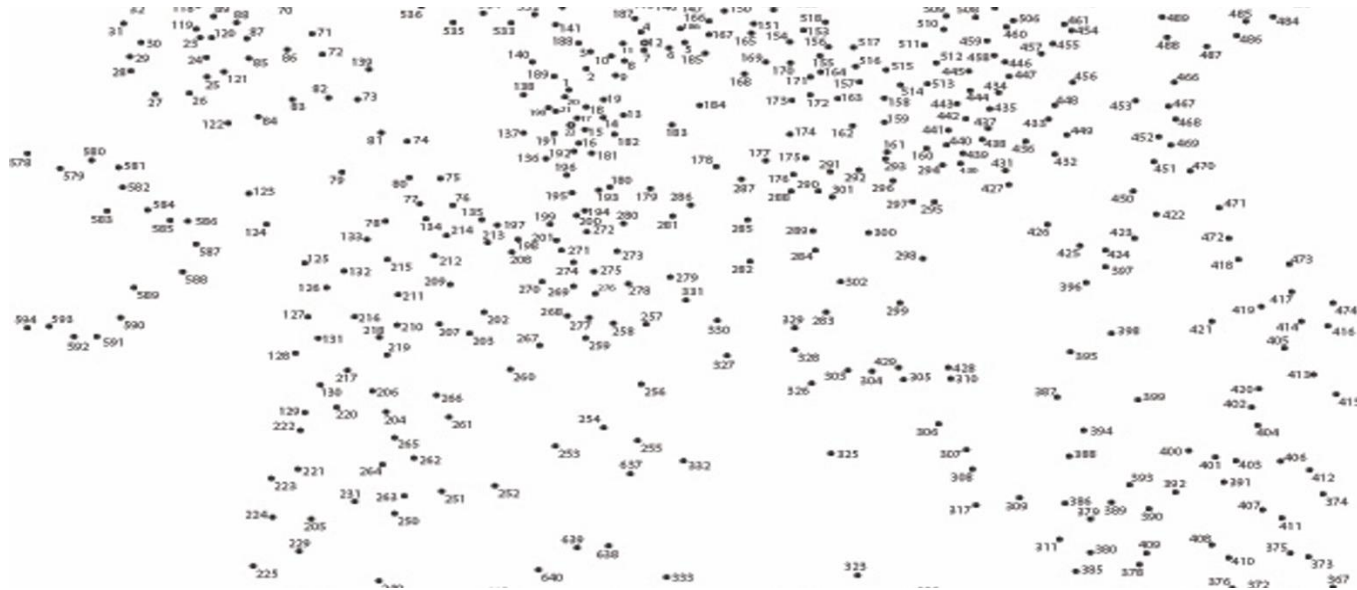
Know what your reality is



Vision Goals Principles Values

- ▶ The words don't matter parish /leader must have a direction that you are heading towards.
- ▶ Our values drive us forward (not the way we've always done things)
 - ▶ Vocabulary – focused (change, closure are the swear words of the church)
- ▶ Set of vehicles – things your going to use to move you forward
- ▶ Evaluation – against your goals, every vestry meeting, every ministry meeting – built into the life of the parish.
 - ▶ What worked – what can we do better, how are we drawing in new people

COMMUNICATION – JOINING THE DOTS



Preach it – AGM - Pew Sheet- Web Site –
Notice Boards – Signage
Vestry – how are we working using our vision

Pause and Chat

- ▶ What have I said that resonates with your situation?
- ▶ What do you want to challenge?

Things that stop us growing

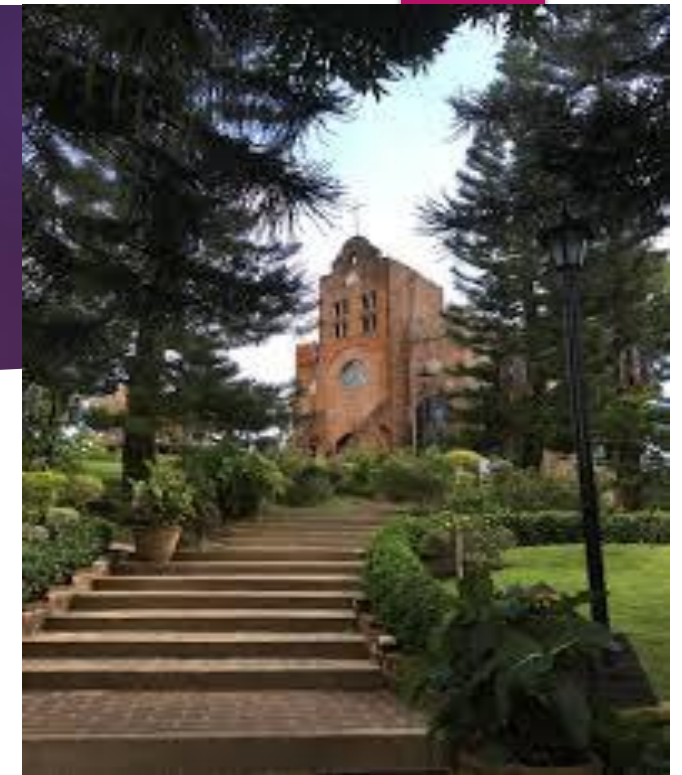
- ▶ Preparing the soil – Healthy vestries – Healthy leaders
- ▶ Gate Keepers
- ▶ We have an old understanding of who we are – invite someone to come and critique your service
- ▶ We kill our freshness
- ▶ How do you make space for the new?
- ▶ **Not my will but yours** - Mat 6.10, 26.39, Mark 3.35, 14.36, Luke 22.42, John 4.34, 7,17, 9.31

Parish competencies

- ▶ Hospitality
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Preaching / teaching
- ▶ Discipleship
- ▶ Pastoral Care
- ▶ Children & Youth
- ▶ Worship
- ▶ Evangelism
- ▶ Administration systems

Stair Casing

- ▶ Healthy church growth was measured – stay focused –Not all at once – we can only move when we have the passion and the people
- ▶ Plateau then move – plateau allows for rest and reflection
- ▶ Always evaluate everything you do, don't be afraid to say it needs reshaping
- ▶ Stop start – keep going dynamic



**None of our business' would survive if we keep them as they were 30 years ago. Why do we choose to hold onto the past. It is both new and old
Mat 13. 51-53**

If you want to get off the waka

- ▶ Continue to pray
- ▶ Generation to generation – what might God want to do in the future?
- ▶ Ask yourselves the hard questions
- ▶ Recognise you're asking a lot of your people especially your leaders
- ▶ Step aside – don't stand in the way of development

Work for the future -

- ▶ Where is the joy in your gatherings in your people?
- ▶ How are you speaking the truth into your congregation?
- ▶ How does your parish deal with the gate keepers?
- ▶ Do you want to grow your church – understanding that it will take energy, commitment and new ways of being?
- ▶ Do you have a vision that your all working towards?
- ▶ What vehicles can you use to help people to join the dots about your challenges