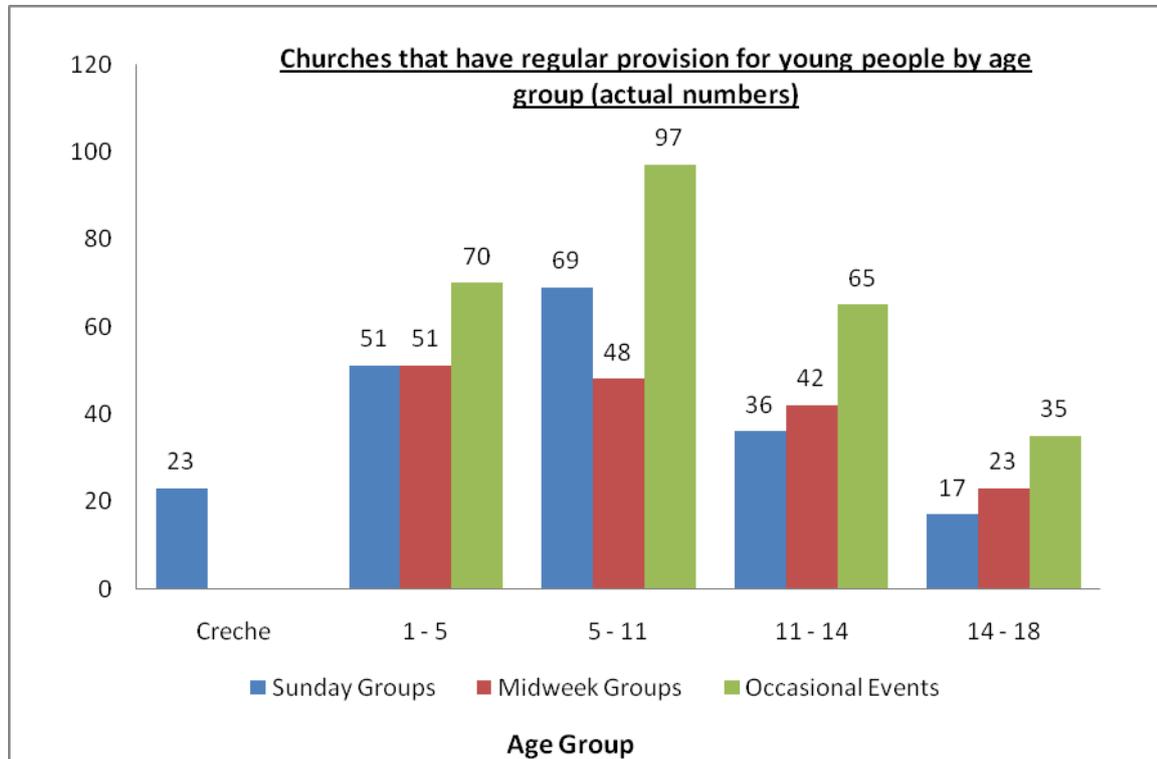# Analysis of Archdeacons' Articles of Inquiry: Young Diocese
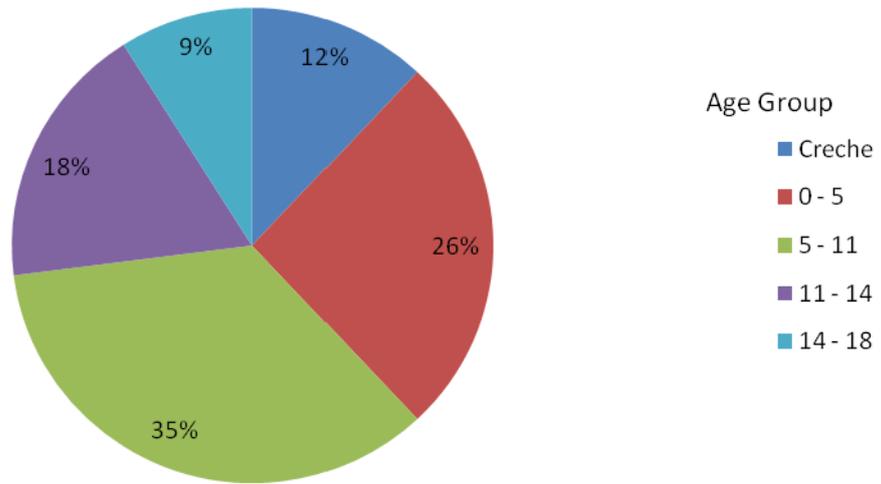
294 Responses received.

1) **How many churches have regular (either Sunday or mid week) provision for young people by age group?**
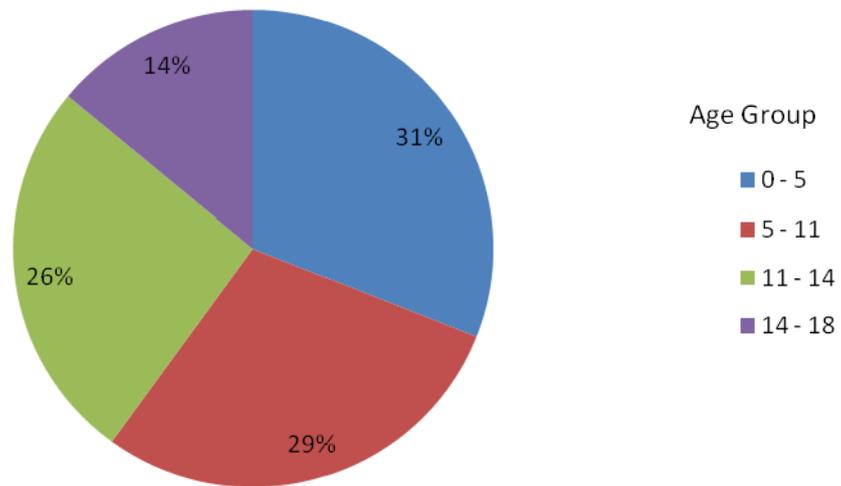

	Crèche	1 – 5	5 – 11	11 – 14	14 - 18	Totals
Sunday	23	51	69	36	17	**196**
Midweek		51	48	42	23	**164**
Occasional		70	97	65	35	**267**
Totals	**23**	**172**	**214**	**143**	**75**	627

Sunday Groups (Percentage of positive respondents)

Age Group
- Creche
- 0 - 5
- 5 - 11
- 11 - 14
- 14 - 18

12%
26%
35%
18%
9%

Midweek Groups (Percentage of positive respondents)

Age Group
- 0 - 5
- 5 - 11
- 11 - 14
- 14 - 18

31%
29%
26%
14%

Occasional Events (Percentage of all respondents)

Age Group
- 0 - 5
- 5 - 11
- 11 - 14
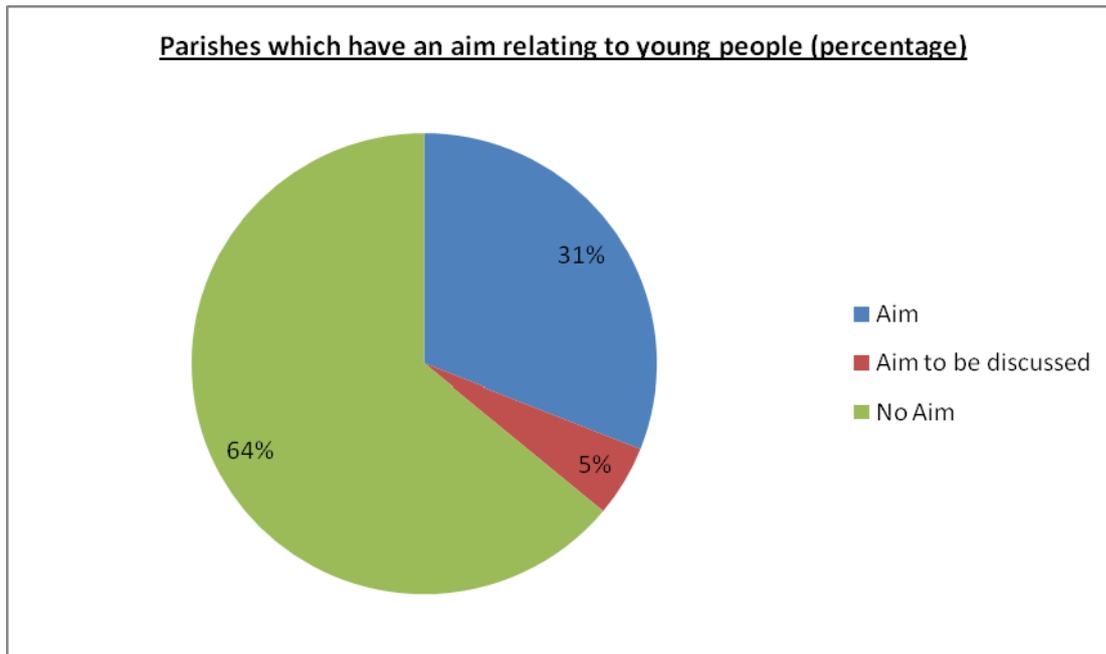- 14 - 18
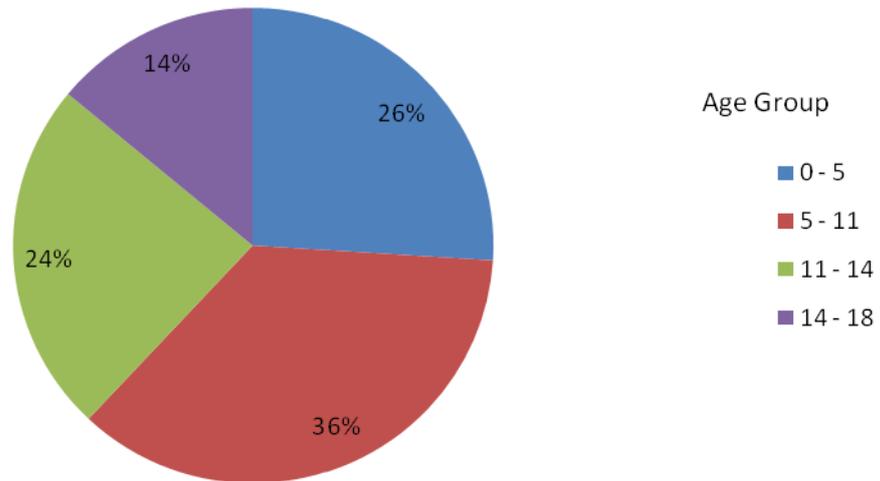
2) **What percentage of churches has nothing either regular or occasional for any age? + same question but by age group**

74% of churches have no Sunday provision for any age group
72% of churches have no midweek provision for any age group
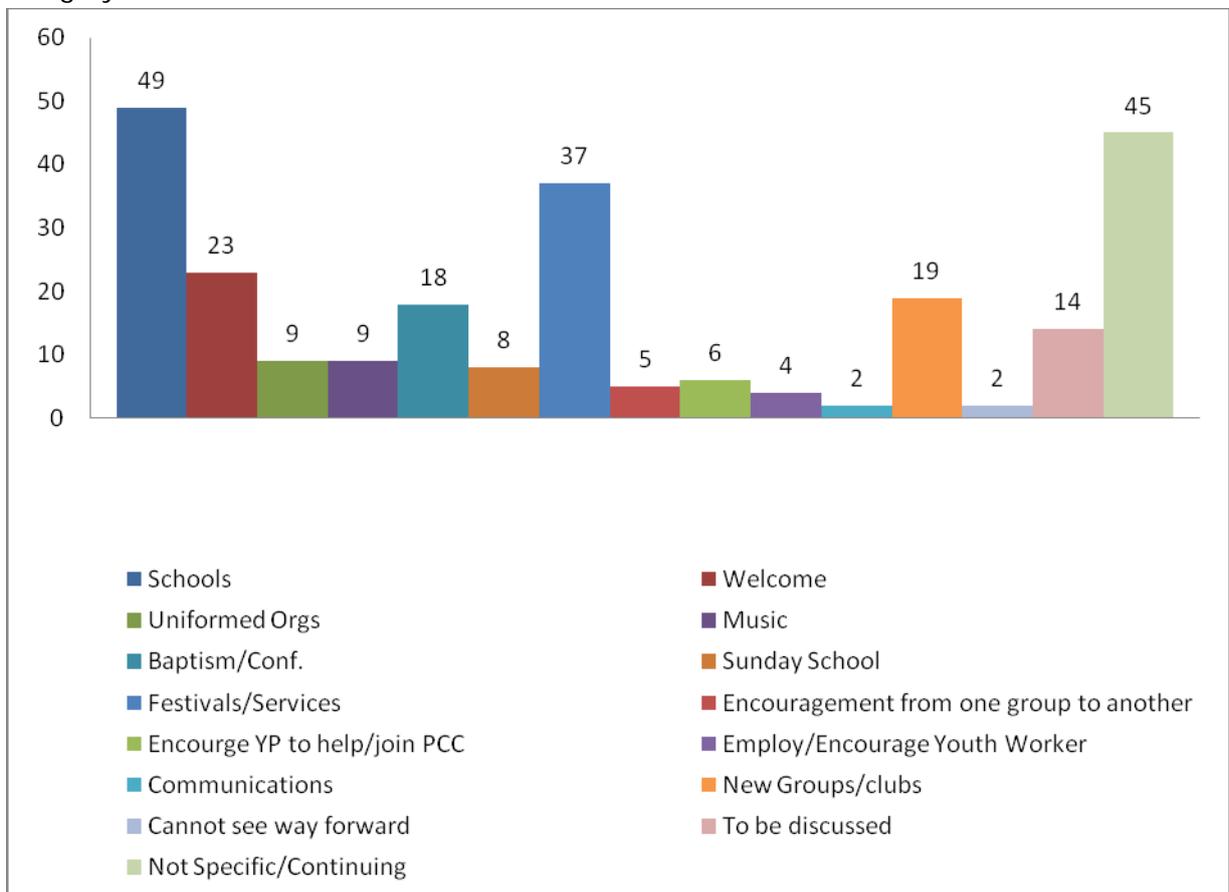59% of churches have no occasional provision for any age group

3) What percentage has a parish aim relating to young people?

Parishes which have an aim relating to young people (percentage)

- Aim — 31%
- Aim to be discussed — 5%
- No Aim — 64%

Breakdown of aims – not scientific! Some parishes have more than one aim and so it has been counted in more than one category

Values shown: 49, 23, 9, 9, 18, 8, 37, 5, 6, 4, 2, 19, 2, 14, 45

Legend:
- Schools
- Welcome
- Uniformed Orgs
- Music
- Baptism/Conf.
- Sunday School
- Festivals/Services
- Encouragement from one group to another
- Encourage YP to help/join PCC
- Employ/Encourage Youth Worker
- Communications
- New Groups/clubs
- Cannot see way forward
- To be discussed
- Not Specific/Continuing

<u>Notes:</u>

The categories are just a rough guide. Below are examples of what might be included in each category:

Schools – develop or build on links. Also includes after school clubs and assemblies.

Welcome/Tourism – reordering building/making it child friendly. Ministry to tourist's children, open churches

Uniformed Organisations – develop or build on existing links. Regular invite to family service (i.e. parade)

Music/Choir – outreach through children's choir, informal worship styles

Baptism/Confirmation – building on links made through baptisms – i.e. celebrating anniversaries of baptism. Encouraging confirmation groups.

Sunday School – both developing and setting up

Festivals/Services - making most of the seasons. Developing family services. Exploring time of services and venue.

Encouragement from one group to another – i.e. a fringe/social group to a more overt church group or to the church service

Encourage young people to assist/join PCC – i.e. active role in Sunday services (servers, taking collection)

Employ/Encourage Youth Worker – a few churches keen to explore employing a Young Worker and some already have one so seeking to encourage them

Communications – keeping in touch with young people, i.e. through email newsletters

New Groups – various! From mum and toddler groups to youth groups and most things in-between

Cannot see a way forward/no young people – a couple of parishes said that they have no aim because they cannot see any way forward either because they do not have resources or simply because they do not have any young people in their parish

To be discussed – a number of parishes said that they hadn't yet had the chance to discuss this/it was on the PCC agenda for next meeting.

Not specific/continuing - several parishes didn't actually specify an aim other than 'encourage young people into church family/life' or they are continuing to develop the work they already have going on.

4) How many churches are specifically asking for help with young people related work and of what sort?

21 respondents were asking for help with young people and related work. Here are the comments roughly categorised:

Attracting/Retaining families/children:
- 'attracting and retaining younger congregation, with special reference to children'
- 'advice over how to encourage families to become more involved and improved attendance at services'
- 'attracting children & young people'
- 'how to attract more young people to church'
- 'getting more people into church'
- 'how to gather busy parents into the church'

Youth evangelism/outreach:
- 'scout leader; youth evangelism'
- 'outreach'
- 'outreach ideas that worked'
- 'any ideas/examples of successful ministry to 12-16 year olds'
- 'getting more people into church! - outreach into the community'
- 'work with young people - share specific events'
- 'advice on working with young people'

Ministry to young people in rural set up:
- 'ideas on ministry for young people in a rural area'
- 'attracting locals and children to church in a sparsely populated rural parish'

Ministry to older children:
- 'any successful projects with older children'
- 'working with older children'

Services/Liturgy for young people:
- 'youth work including youth liturgy & music'

Messy Church/Fresh Expressions:
- 'new Expressions of Church and what is working in similar areas'
- 'Messy Church'
- 'Café Church/Fresh Expressions (teenagers)'

11 respondents had things to share relating to work with young people. The comments are below:
- 'the Betty Bear Club (0-5s) - use of Tiddlywinks resources (also reviews of Bubbles, Splash and Light - Scripture Union materials for young people'
- 'football and faith'
- 'working with young children - Holiday Club etc'
- 'J-Club after school church 0-11 yr olds & parents'
- 'work with Young people'
- 'youth work, soccer schools, evangelistic netball schools'
- 'annual events for children'
- 'monthly messy Church for families'

- 'Café Church'
- 'Messy Marks'
- 'Buzz Club/Messy Church, Fresh Expressing Sunday am Service'

5) From the information we have, how many children by age group do we have contact with across the Diocese through regular (either Sunday or mid week) groups?

Actual numbers – where a range has been given the top figure has been counted:
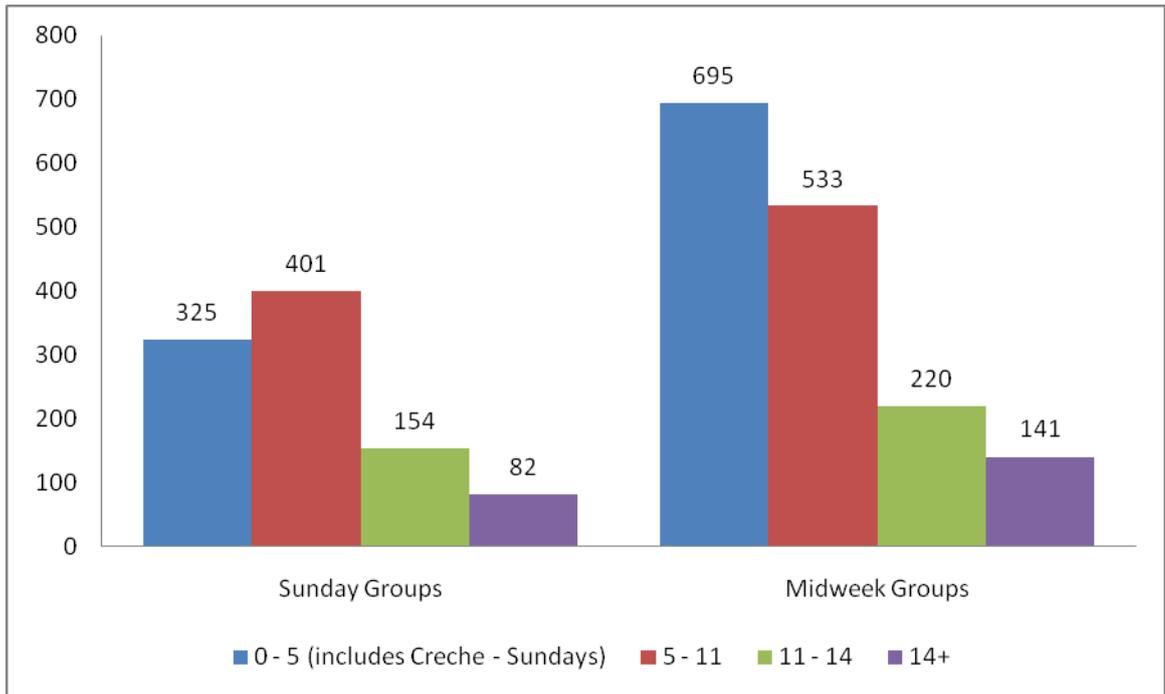
6) If at all possible could you find out how many children there are in Cumbria in each age group.

From the County Council – rounded to nearest hundred (NB. Age ranges slightly changed to avoid counting an age group twice)

0 – 5	29,800
6 – 11	31,400
12 – 14	18,100
15 – 18	26,300

Additional data

183 churches report having all age worship
1 – weekly
64 x monthly
1 X 3 per month
9 X 2 per month
11 seasonal

19 have regular mid week all age.

This is clearly a slightly more encouraging piece of data although we don't have attendance figures, and it is not completely certain how robust these figures are because some may represent double counting.