



Generation Z (born 1997-2012) and the ‘Quiet Revival’

United Kingdom

After decades of talk of a decline in Christianity in the UK, a survey in April 2025 appeared to prove the opposite. The polling organisation ‘YouGov’ reported that in 2018, 4% of young adults aged 18-24 years attended a church service once a month. By 2024, this figure was said to have risen to 16%! However, in early March 2026, YouGov admitted that this survey was of poor methodological quality. Nevertheless, the theory of a ‘quiet revival’ in the UK is not far-fetched. Sales figures for Christian books, particularly Bibles, rose between 2019 and 2025, as did the use of Bible apps.

In 2024, the Roman Catholic Church reported a 21% increase in baptisms among people aged over 7 years compared to the previous year. In the Church of England, baptisms of young people and adults rose by 11.5% in 2024 compared to 2023. Among Baptists, too, there were more baptisms in 2024 than in 2023, the highest figure in a decade. Alpha courses report a 35% increase in attendance for 2025 compared to 2024, as well as a 25% rise in the number of groups.

France

In the Roman Catholic Church in France, the number of baptisms of adults (13,200) and young people (8,200) reached a new high during the Easter Vigil in 2026. The number of baptisms has tripled over the last 10 years, particularly among younger adults: 42% of those seeking baptism were aged between 18 and 25. Interestingly, 46% of those baptised came from atheist families. According to a survey conducted in spring 2026, the most common reason was a personal crisis (40%), such as illness (either their own or that of someone close to them) or existential questions raised by deaths among family or friends. The second most common reason (33%) for taking an interest in the faith was intense personal spiritual experiences.

Almost two-thirds of those being baptised had already explored the basics of Christianity on their own by reading the Bible prior to baptism. Roman Catholic priests report that many young adults are tired of leading a superficial, digital life on social media and long for authentic friendships. Fears of climate change and war, as well as uncertainties regarding work and politics, create a sense of unease. In a world where nothing seems certain anymore, many are searching for something stable to hold on to.

Other European countries

Sweden’s annual Youth Barometer, which surveys 15,000 people aged between 15 and 24, reported a growing interest in religion and spirituality. Respondents voted Jesus ‘Influencer of the Year’ for 2025. The proportion of young Swedes who had attended a church service during the year doubled between 2020 and 2024, from 17% to 34% – the highest attendance figure in almost twenty years (SOM Institute). Belief in God also rose in this age group from 20% to 34%, reaching its highest level since data collection began in 2010.

In 2025, 38% of young **Spaniards** say that religion is “quite” or “very” important in their lives – the highest figure recorded to date (Spanish Youth Report 2026). The trend is clear: 16% in 2016, 22% in 2020, and now a figure approaching two in five young people. This points not only to a cultural affiliation with Christianity, but to a renewed perception of faith as something meaningful.

According to a representative survey, the lingering effects of the post-war division of **Germany** are still evident when it comes to religious affiliation among 12- to 25-year-olds. While just under a quarter of young people in former West-Germany have no church affiliation, this is true of the majority in former East-Germany, at six in ten. The secularism of the former East-German socialist state still has an effect.

However, in 2025, surprisingly, Roman Catholics in **Eastern Germany** reported that an increasing number of young people without a church background were finding faith in their church, many of them from atheist families. These young people are finding answers to their questions about the meaning of life and feel at home in the spiritual community. Through baptism, they profess that their sins have been forgiven and that they have received a new life in faith.

In the study “What Does **Austria** Believe?”, 2,160 people aged between 14 and 75, selected to be representative of the population, were surveyed about their beliefs and values in 2024. The findings regarding religion were unexpected. For instance, 14–25-year-olds reflect on religious issues more frequently than the average across all age groups. A total of 30% stated that they believe in God or a divine reality. Those aged 14–25 years were also more likely to say they regularly attend church services or devotions, read the Bible more frequently, and engage in further study of faith-related issues more often than the average. Similar unexpected results are emerging among the younger generations in **Belgium**, the **Netherlands**, **Norway** and **Denmark**.

Reasons for the spiritual awakening

In the midst of the decline of Christianity in Europe as we have known it, God is revealing that He is saving this young generation. These recent developments in European countries show that a spiritual longing can arise among young people even when they grow up largely detached from the Church. It is not merely a matter of young people feeling uncertain. According to a Roman Catholic woman from eastern Germany who helps run faith courses for young people, it is “the search for the sacred in an increasingly brutal world, for purity amidst growing decay, for millennia-old constancy in the chaos, and for mystery amidst self-destructive materialism”.

Prayer requests:

- Pray that the new young believers will be welcomed with open hearts, even if they sometimes disrupt the usual routine. Pray for spiritual **fathers** and **mothers** who will accompany young people on their journey towards a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray for the older and younger generations in churches that God will “turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers” (Malachi 4:6).
- Please pray that these young people will be **multipliers** in their communities. That leaders in churches and congregations may recognise the signs of the times and create a creative, open environment where young people can become actively involved in sharing the Christian gospel.
- Pray that this development may be a **wake-up call** for all Christians in Europe. That they may share the Good News of Jesus Christ more powerfully through the Holy Spirit.

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