

TOGETHER NETWORK⁺

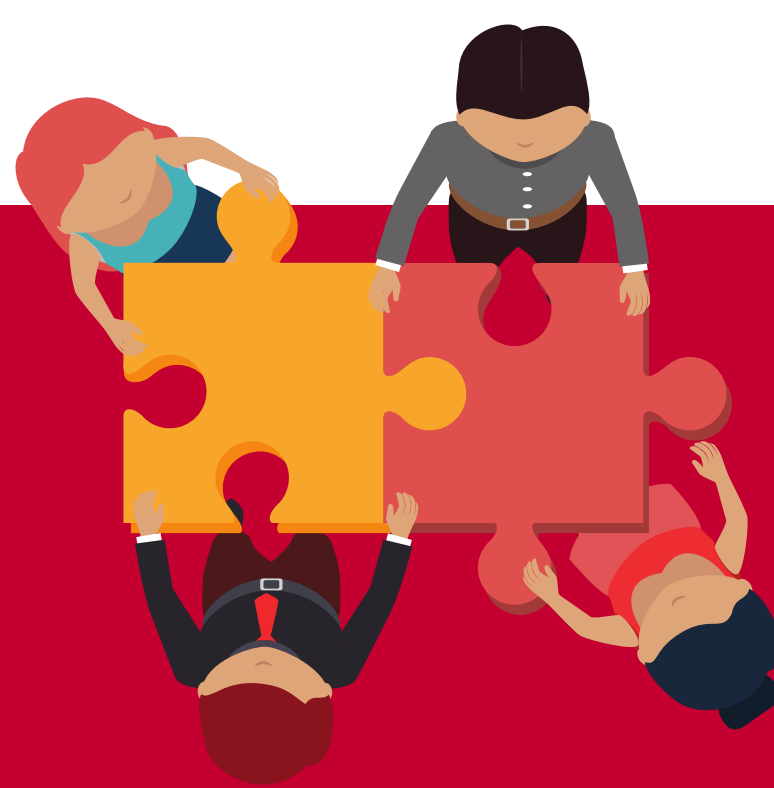
Year to Date Report Q1+ Q2 2019



556

Projects supported

76% involve a Church



64

Projects delivered

directly by JVs



246

Events contributed to

as organiser, speaker, trainer,
facilitator or exhibitor



626

Churches supported

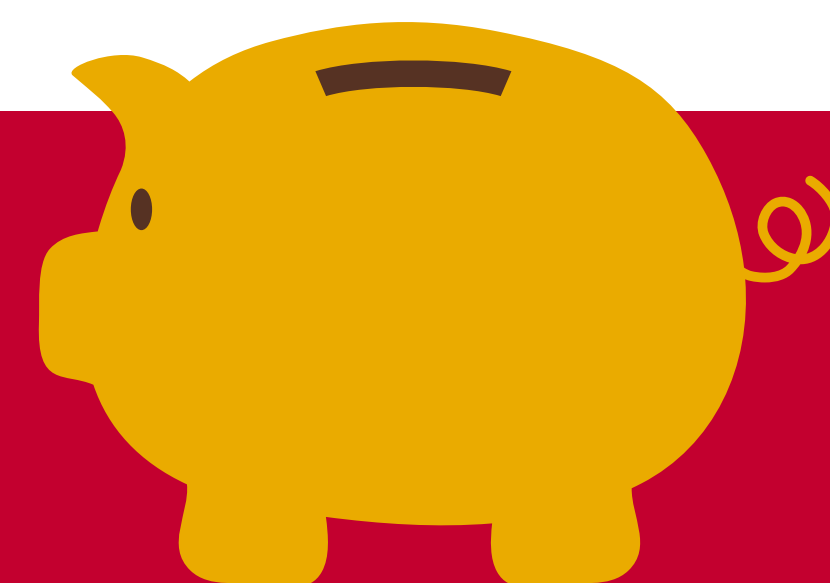
over 9+
denominations



75,154

People reached

includes volunteers,
participants and beneficiaries



£193,787

Funding secured

for other organisations





626

Total number of churches the Together Network supported directly with social action activities

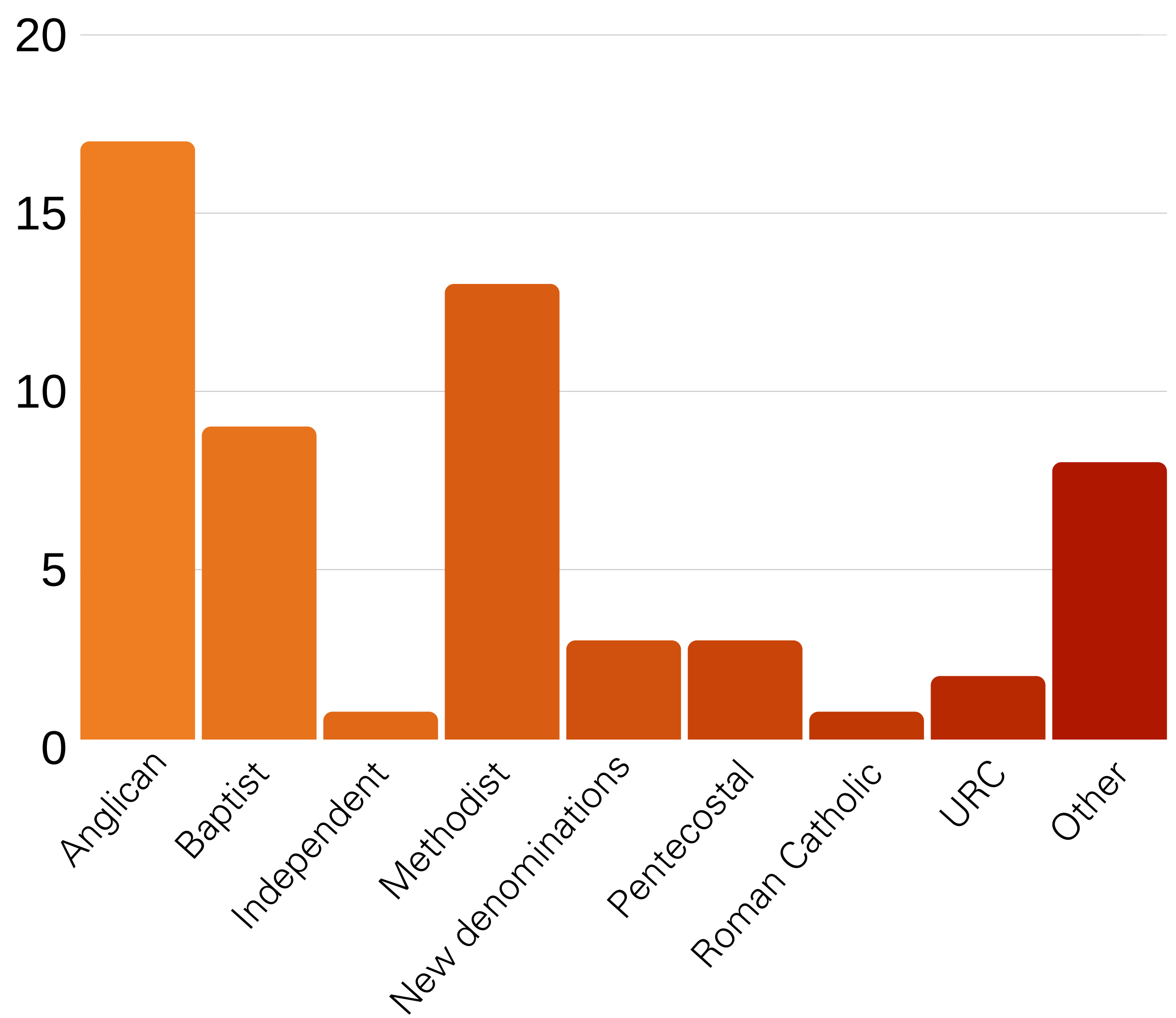
9+

different denominations supported by JVs this quarter

Getting Engaged

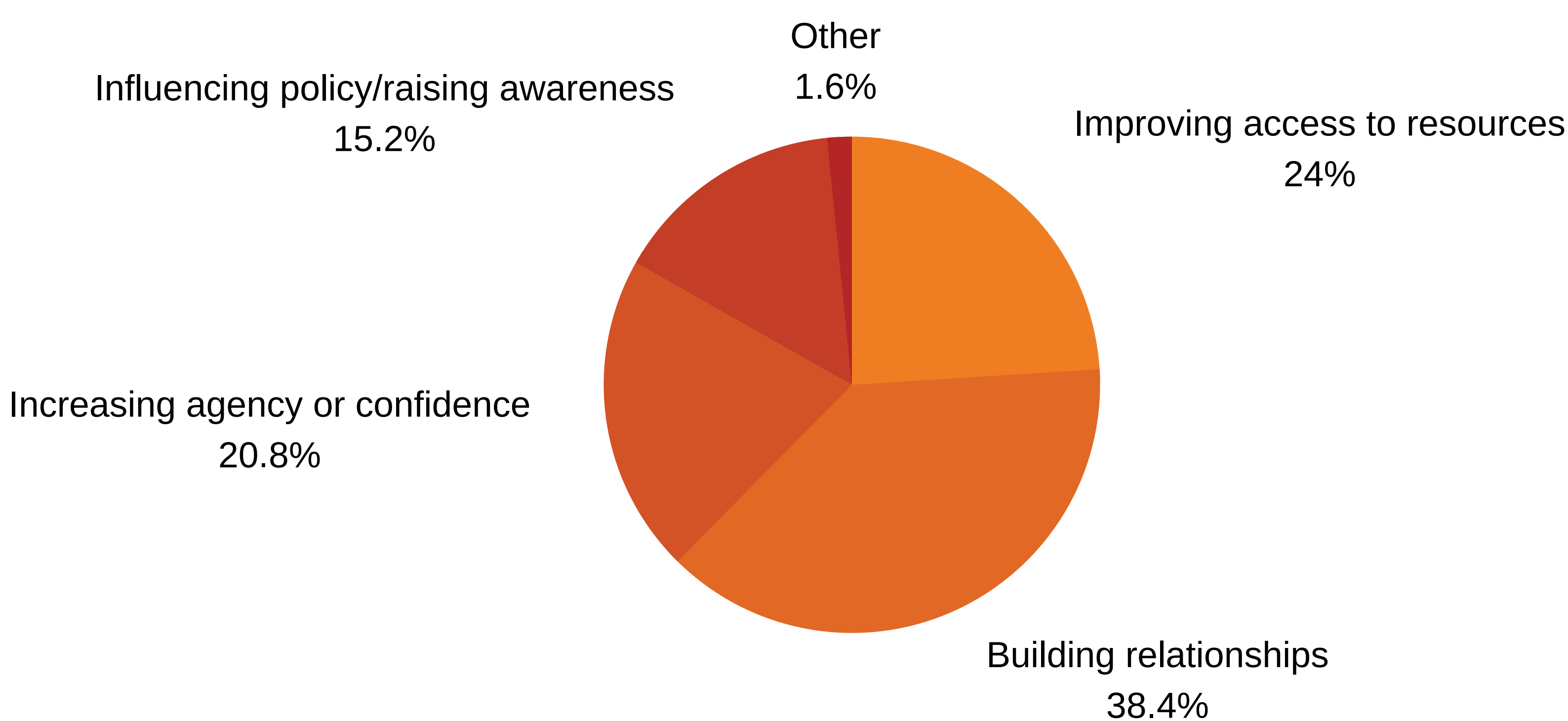
Transforming Lives Together supported a church in Weaverham, who wanted to make better use of their new premises, to creatively explore their community and how they will engage with social action. TLT altered the 'Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood' programme to suit the context, reducing the number of sessions and giving it a more asset-based focus. This included church members collecting feedback from the community about the area and how the church could be more involved. As a result of these conversations, a congregational survey, prayer walks and much discussion over five sessions, the church came up with firm ideas of what social action they wanted to focus on and what the next steps would be. A presentation of the outcomes of the process was made to the full congregation, and three sub-groups will form to take forward the main focus topics: communications, loneliness and young families.

Number of JVs supporting churches that are:



Projects delivered

Purpose of Projects Delivered:



64

Projects delivered

39 of these are ongoing projects

6,400

Number of beneficiaries of projects delivered by the Together Network (estimate)



556

Projects supported

424

Number of projects involving a church - 76%

Total number of people expected to benefit from projects supported (estimate)

47,784

6,888

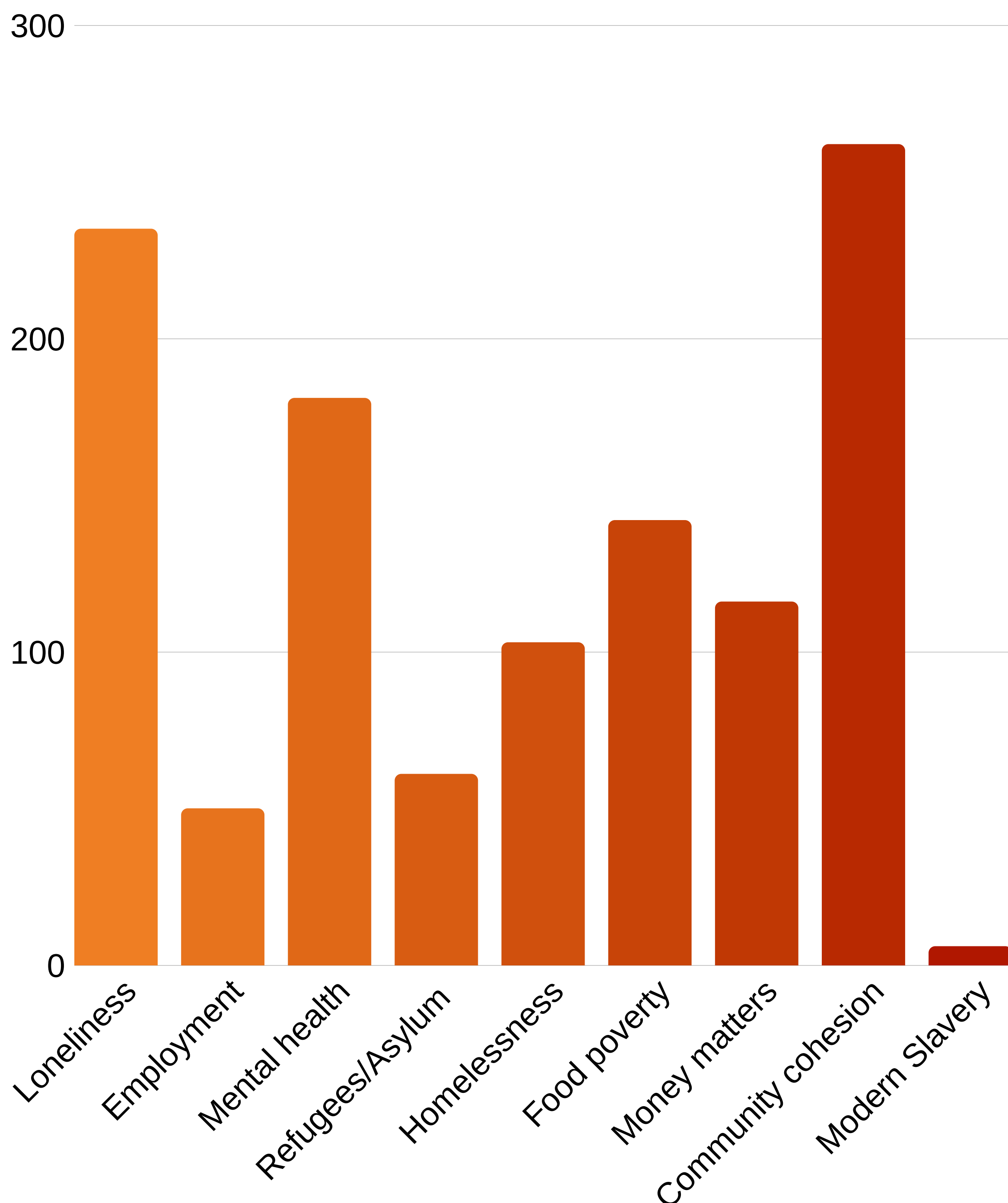
Total number of volunteers involved in projects supported (estimate)

The Power of Encouragement

Eve*, A community worker based at a church in Runcorn was new in post and wanted to set up a holiday food and activities programme. She was struggling to get support or information from anywhere and at the time the church was in vacancy. Transforming Lives Together took Eve to visit a Filling the Gap project, where they were able to talk Eve through what steps she needed to take to get started, and the possible challenges to look out for. Eve also attended a Filling the Gap networking event TLT were running, and spent time with the JV worker to talk about evaluation and get general moral support. Eve was able to begin and run a successful Filling the Gap programme with the help of volunteers which was very well received by the community.

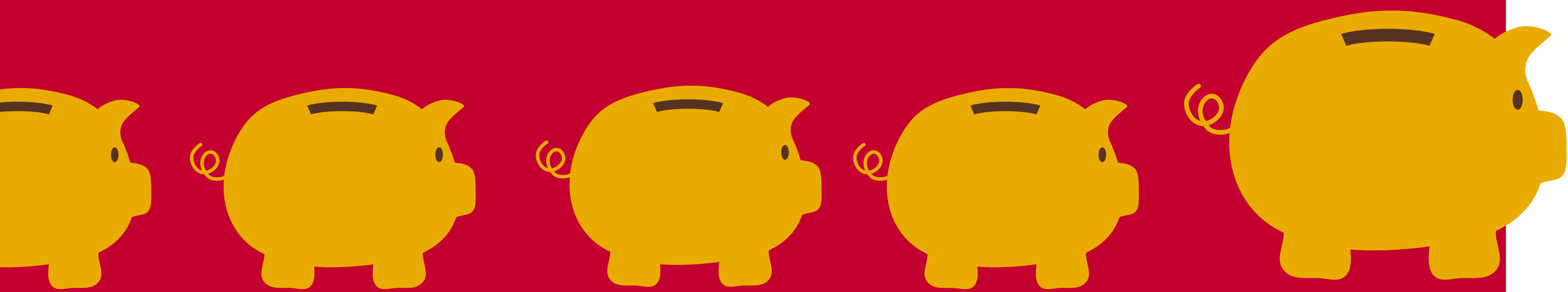
Erin said, "Thank you for fuelling us into action with your keenness and enthusiasm. From the very first time we met, to the inspiring project visit and your continued support throughout the holiday project."
*name changed

Number of projects supported by the Together Network that respond to:



Projects that received the following kinds of support from the JV:





£193,787

Total funding JVs supported other organisations to secure for community or social action projects

Average amount secured (per successful application)

£7,117

75%

Success rate

Transformed Lives

Together for Change have been supporting an Iranian couple, Ahmed and Rosa*, who were seeking asylum. TfC's Fresh Start Project Coordinator met them at an event organised by the Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre, and they subsequently started attending TfC's English Conversation Cafes twice a week. They said that they were incredibly lonely and isolated, and since arriving in the UK had spent most of their time alone in their home - this was having a very detrimental impact on their mental health and wellbeing. They have made some good friends through the café and Ahmed has regularly participated in TfC's weekly football sessions. Ahmed and Rosa were also invited to come to church by a volunteer after they expressed an interest in learning more about Christianity. They absolutely loved the experience, and have regularly attended since then. Ahmed and Rosa have become much more confident and brighter. They have gone from from having nothing to do but stay at home all day, to having a packed weekly schedule: English classes, volunteering, arts and crafts, home group and playing sport. They have recently been granted asylum, and the first thing that Ahmed said was "thank you Jesus Christ: we have prayed so much for our decision to be a positive one, and now He has answered our prayers. We are so happy." *names changed

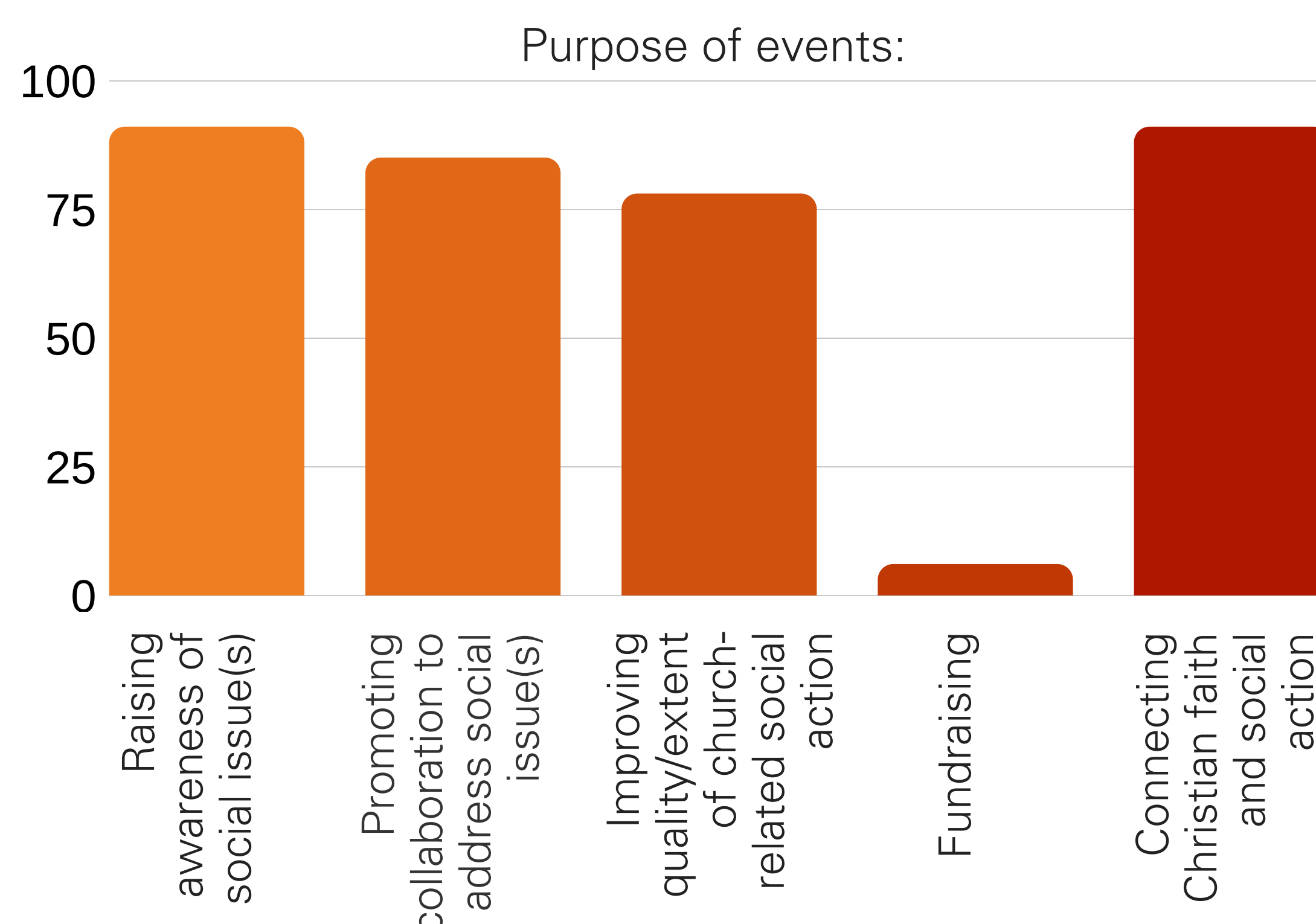


246

Events contributed to

Total participants in events

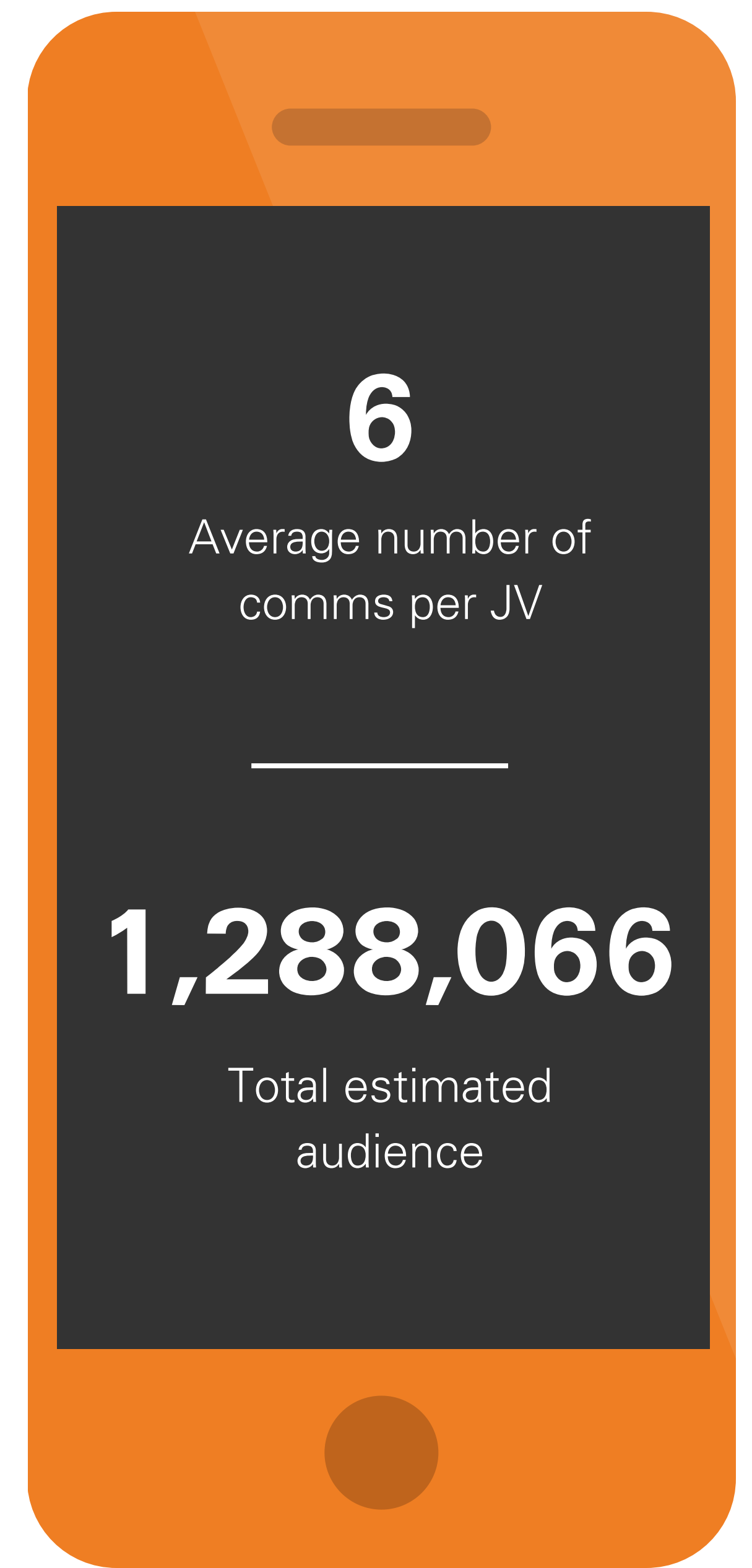
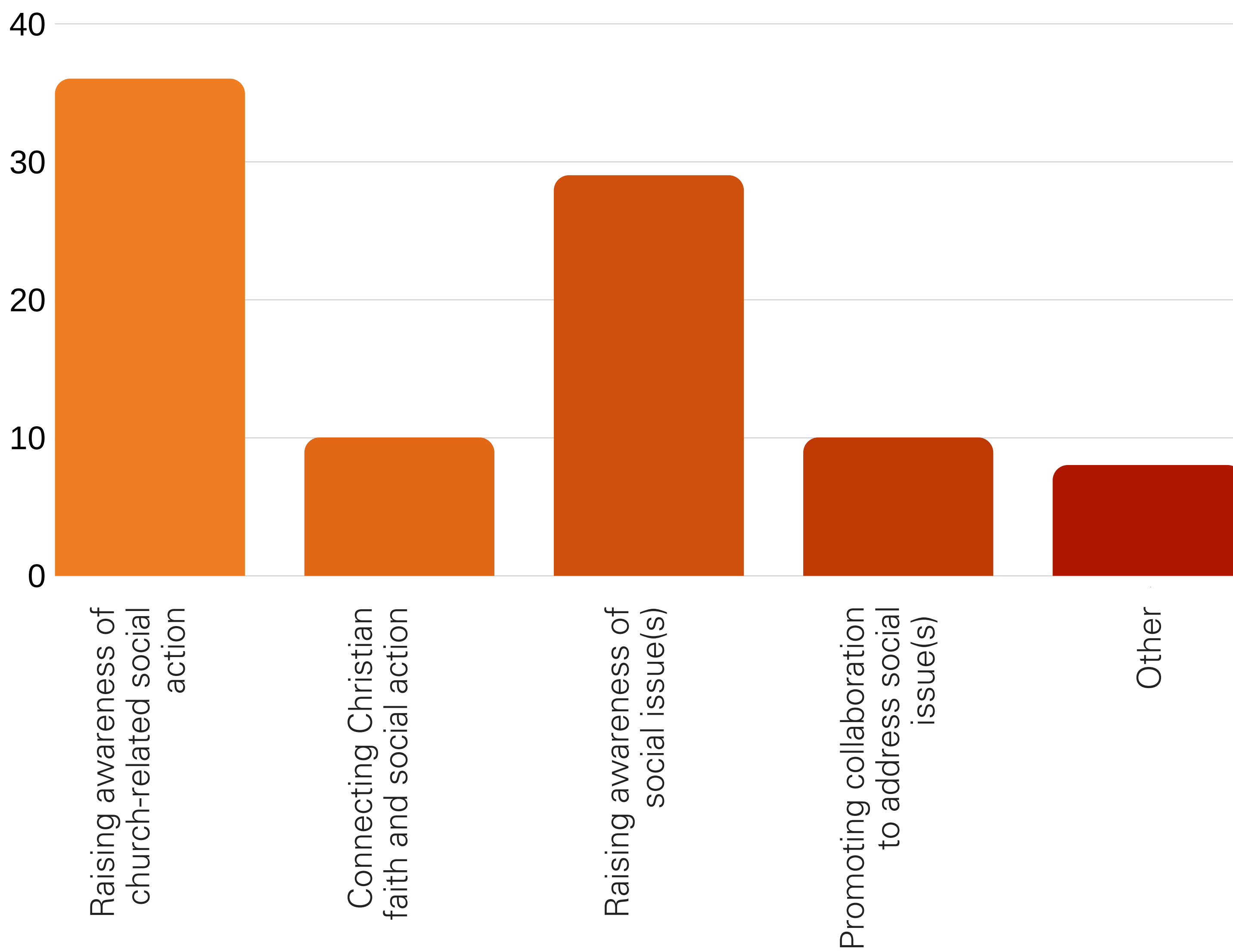
14,082



It takes a Parish to Raise a Child

Capital Mass hosted an evening with Home for Good and PACT to help parishioners to explore fostering or adoption: 'It takes a Parish to Raise a Child - An introduction to Fostering and Adoption'. The session framed fostering and adoption as a Justice Call, affirmed that fostering and adoption had to be seen in a whole parish context, spoke of the realities of growing up in care, and provoked action. 29 guests attended, of whom 4 have signed up to start the process of fostering or adoption and 3 who are meeting with the partner organisations to explore further.

Number of communication activities whose main purpose was:



37

Number of influencing activities reported

Number of JVs reporting influencing activities

14

Bridging Government and Charity

Together in Kent heard that local charities were continuing to find issues with the completed Universal Credit roll-out, which were causing hardship and unnecessary stress to clients. The DWP insisted that its local Job Centre Workcoaches had all received their full training and systems were in place to support those in need. Local organisations felt that they were not being listened to at the DWP or that the DWP were unable to effect the changes that were needed.

The MP for Canterbury is on the APPG for Universal Credit and has the opportunity to make representations to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the DWP and central government on the subject.

The JV organised and chaired a meeting of invited representatives from local charities and the DWP to meet with MP's staff. All present agreed it had been a really useful meeting, felt that they had been listened to and that the DWP had been helpful. The DWP, whilst under pressure during the meeting, were happy that they had been able to assist attendees on some issues and had been given the chance to raise other issues with central government direct.

Together in Kent continues to follow up actions from the meeting. Comments were received that it was probably only the church that could have organised the meeting and run it with a collaborative approach.