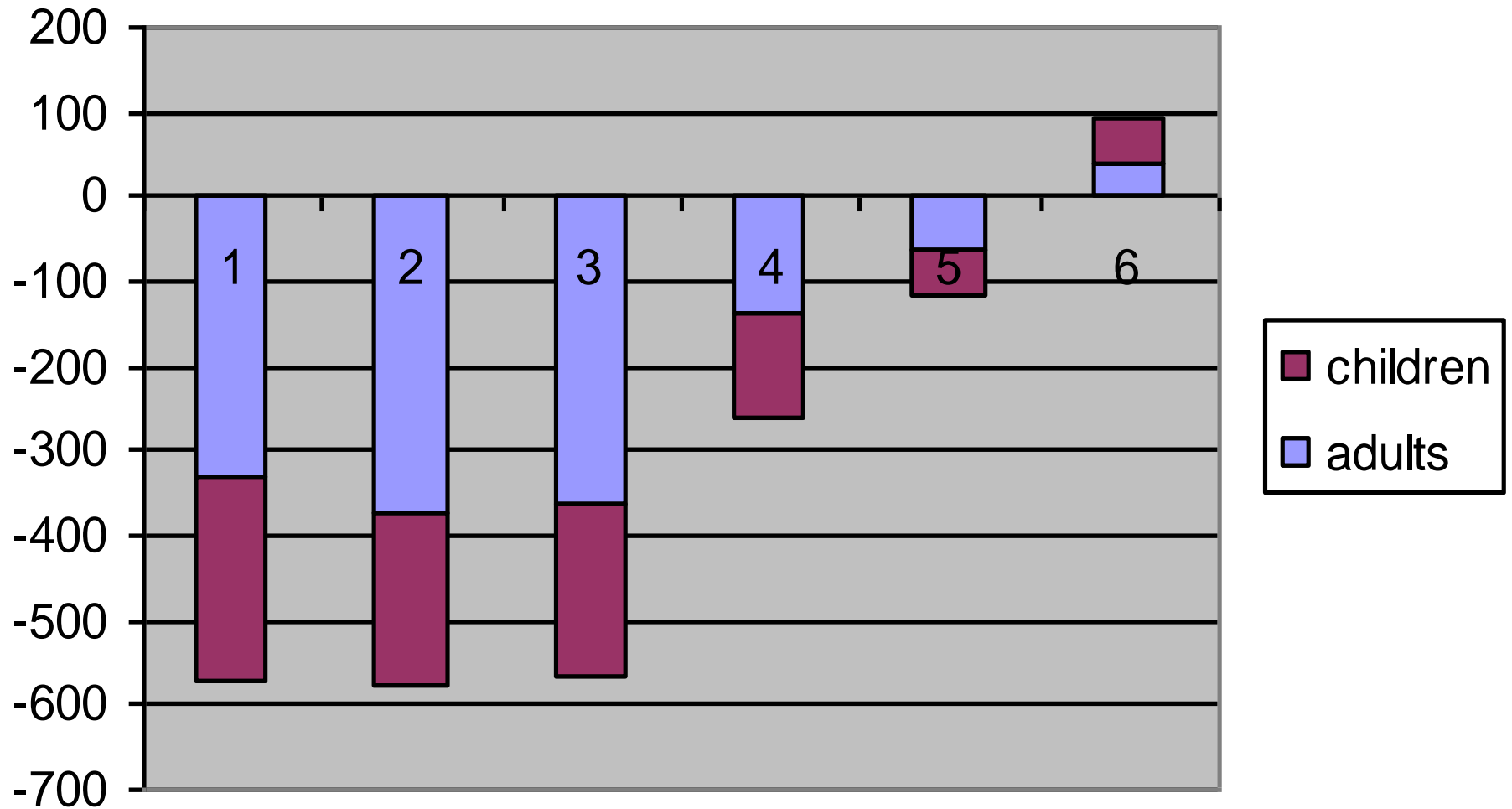


Going for Growth

IN ALDRIDGE

September 2007

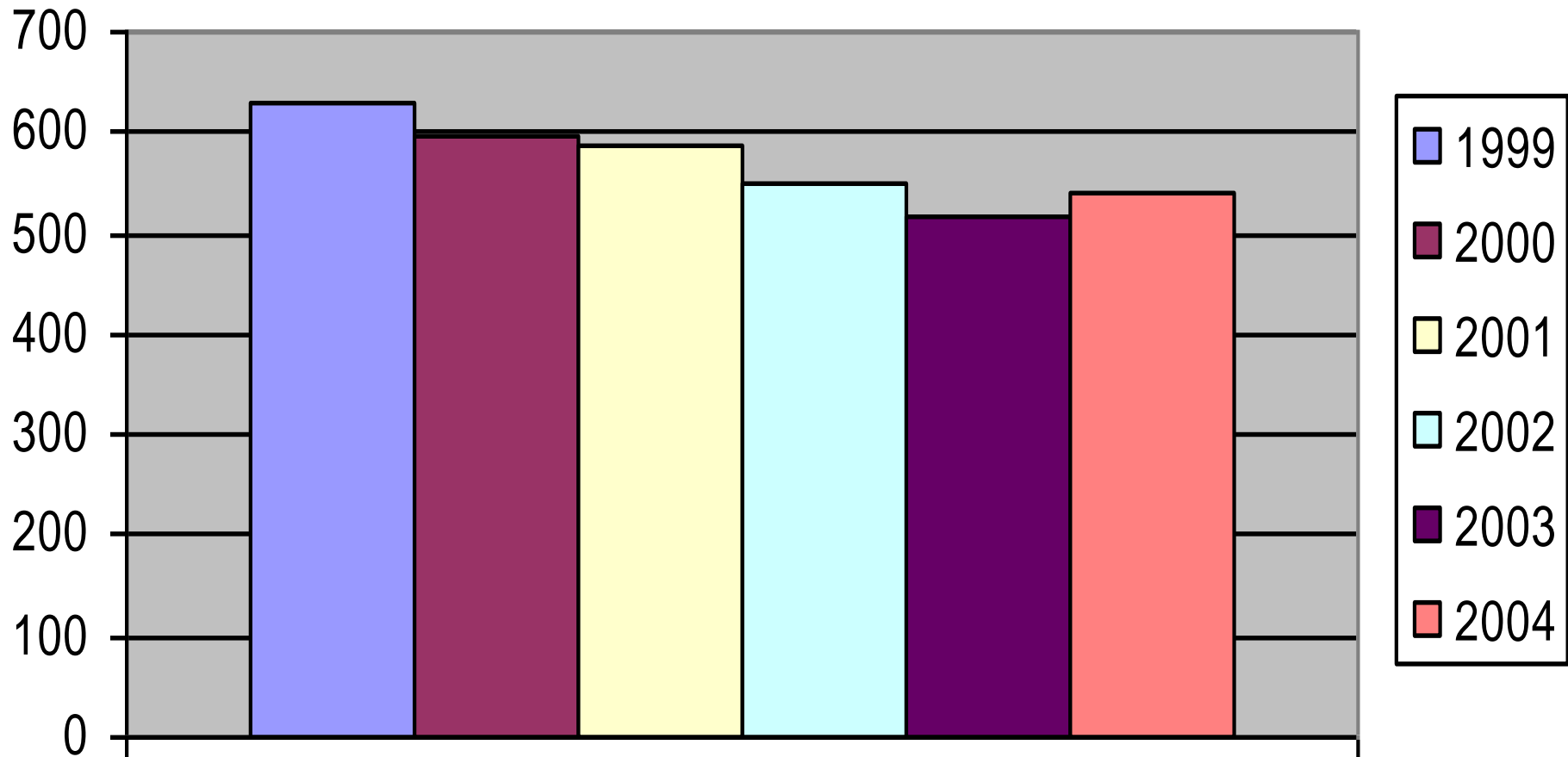
Wolverhampton Episcopal Area Sunday attendance change 2001-2006



What is causing the turnaround?

- Churches with mission & growth plans
- Larger Churches process
- Children's, youth and families workers
- Growth Fund grants
- Planting new worshipping communities
- Shorter vacancies
- Back to Church Sunday
- God the Holy Spirit!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Usual Sunday Attendance at all the churches in the Aldridge team

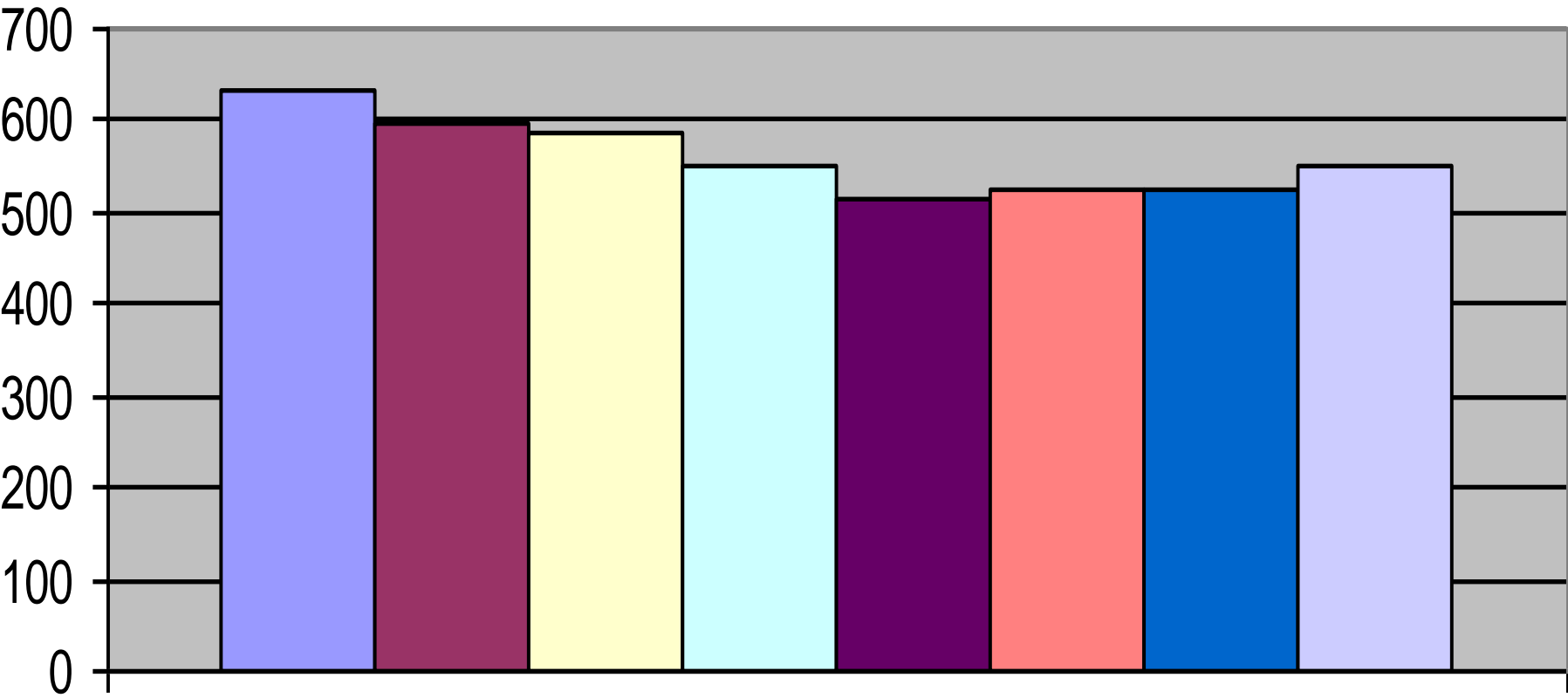


What will the future hold?

(Feb 2005 slide)

- You are at a moment of great opportunity with a new team of three capable clergy all under forty and a relatively youthful congregation
- The years of declining numbers and of vacancies are over
- You have the opportunity and capability to grow in numbers quite fast through a well thought out growth strategy
- The centrepiece of this will be the growing of new worshipping communities

Usual Sunday Attendance at all the churches in the Aldridge Team 1999-2006



Year	Attendance
1999	631
2000	598
2001	587
2002	551
2003	515
2004	525
2005	527
2006	549

But there is more than that!

- The Youth Fellowship has grown a lot
- Plus school-based groups
- The Hot House has developed as Church
- Wednesday services have grown
- Sunday numbers may well be up again this year

Main changes over last 3 years

Parish Church

- New Workers (youth, schools, growth)
- Two main morning services
- New technology – screens & songpro
- Youth Initiatives
- Discipleship course post Alpha leading on to housegroups

Main changes over last 3 years (Tynings)

- New technology – screen, projector
- Better facilities at 4 Tynings Lane
- The Zone and Reel Faith – new worship events
- Changing clergy – Mike, Richard

Main changes over last 3 years (St Thomas)

- Restructured DCC & leadership team
- Turnover in worship leadership
- Increased giving
- New technology – projector & screen
- The Hub and Soul Space – new services
- New kitchen & improved premises
- Minister now oversees Tynings as well

Main changes over last 3 years (Hot House)

- New team – 3 workers - & new Team Leader
- New vision and fresh energy
- Better links with local churches
- New work with adults
- Now clearly a ‘church’ with teaching & worship events on Wed and Thursday

How this growth will be sustained

- Two morning services at the Parish Church
- From 2007 we'll count 2 Hot House events as church services
- Paid youth and evangelism posts (Gr Fund)
- Good leadership & strategy (always need renewing)
- New children's and schools worker
- Planned improvements to buildings
- Partnership – with diocese, deanery, ecumenical

Challenges and Opportunities – Parish Church

- New church rooms
- Helping people mature in their faith
- Making prayer the bedrock
- Building bridges with the community
- Working with the other churches as a team

Challenges and opportunities - Tynings

- Need to increase giving
- Make the leadership structures more effective
- Develop work with children and teens
- Clergy shared with St Thomas

Challenges and Opportunities – St Thomas

- Children & Family Worker starts 09/07
- Newer & younger members taking more responsibility
- Demography of parish – age range coming down
- Sharing vicar with Tynings

Challenges and Opportunities – Hot House

- Growing right mix of volunteers
- Transition from children's work to church
- Introducing new initiatives eg supporting the teens as well as the children

What else is needed

For the churches to grow?

Improving welcome & integration

- Like many large churches, Aldridge has quite a large throughput of people
- Lots of groups drawing people in—a big front door
- You can grow simply by helping a higher proportion of newcomers to stay long-term
- People need relational glue – several friends in the first few weeks
- Small congregations and small groups help
- Alpha - Beta - Housegroup = good transition
- You need a lay-run welcome system that spots and integrates newcomers even without Alpha-Beta

Stopping people drifting away

- People don't come every week any more
- So its hard to know why they are not here this week – on holiday or ill in bed?
- Everyone needs a place in the small as well as the large where they are known, missed, prayed-for and loved
- How can each church best hold people so they don't just drift away?
- Small group networks for many but don't forget those who won't join the 'official' small groups

Stopping people drifting away

- Encourage a sense of ownership – help everyone to share in the ministry of the church
- And to encounter the Living God in the life and worship of the church
- And to share in serving God's world together

Partnership with the Diocese

- Going for Growth Visits
- The Growth Fund
- Help with staffing
- The Parish Share experiment – your giving to the other churches in the deanery
- Wider youth scene
- Next generation leaders – your gift to the wider church
- Talented people to help run things!