The 1950s saw a post-war baby boom, but with free contraception being introduced in 1974 by the NHS, the fertility rate started dropping. With increased inward immigration from EU countries, fertility rates rise again.

In 1950 the most popular month for marrying was May, at 49,860, while by 1980, August was top with 47,306, and remained so in 2010, with 36,562.

Overall participation in higher education increased from 3.4% in 1950, to 8.4% in 1970, 19.3% in 1990 and 33% in 2000.

The rate of infant baptisms is considered a good indicator of the UK population's churchgoing trends. While there was a resurgence after the Second World War the decline has been steady ever since.

Source: ONS unless otherwise indicated.

1 For England and Wales only.
2 For definition of TFR visit ONS.
3 Based on 2011 Census.
4 Baptisms per thousand births.