

# Statistics for Mission 2020

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## Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic had a marked impact on the worshipping activities of Church of England churches in 2020.

The restrictions that were in place for much of 2020 meant that in-person attendance was much lower than in previous years, as were numbers of baptisms and marriages. Numbers of funerals were steady, but with a sizeable shift from funerals in churches to funerals in crematoria and cemeteries.

The majority of churches offered services online, and/or by telephone, post or email as well as in-person services when permitted.

The Worshipping Community of regular worshippers (whether worshipping in church or at home) fell slightly from 2019 to 2020 but when compared to most other measures was reasonably stable.

## Background

2020 was a year like no other for many parts of society, including Church of England churches. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in lockdowns and restrictions, as well as death, illness, uncertainty, and fear. Most churches were closed for public worship from March-July 2020 and again in November 2020; at other times, even when open, churches were encouraged to ensure that services were “socially distanced”, with most congregations wearing masks. Many activities that depend on face-to-face contact were suspended. Strict regulations were in place about the number of people permitted to attend a baptism, wedding, or funeral.

Many churches switched rapidly to offering “Church at Home” services – those services offered online, by phone, post, email, and other means. Information about Church at Home services was collected as part of the annual Statistics for Mission return, which asks churches about a range of aspects of church life. A detailed analysis of these services was published in October 2021 and can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/25151>. In summary:

- The majority of Church of England churches offered Church at Home services.
  - 78% of churches, 80% of parishes, and 91% of benefices offered Church at Home services during the March-July 2020 lockdown.
- Church at Home services were offered in a wide range of ways, including online, via email, post, and telephone.
- The majority of churches continued to offer Church at Home services in October 2020, even though most churches were also open for in-person collective worship.
- Churches with large pre-pandemic congregations were more likely than those with small pre-pandemic congregations to offer Church at Home services. Once church size is accounted for, there was no difference between rural and urban churches in terms of whether or not they offered Church at Home services.
- Church at Home “attendance” figures were collected by many churches, and are a useful way for churches to monitor the reach of their Church at Home services. Because such figures are collected in very different ways in different churches, it is not helpful or meaningful to aggregate them to produce diocesan or national Church at Home “attendance” totals.

As part of the 2020 Statistics for Mission return, churches were also asked about in-person church attendance, and numbers of baptisms, weddings, and funerals. The expectation was that many attendance and participation figures would be considerably lower than in 2019, for entirely understandable reasons; it was decided that it was important to record and recognise those things that churches were able to do in such difficult circumstances. This information will help us to understand the impact of the pandemic on church life, and give context to future figures.

The efforts that churches made to continue to offer worship in various forms, and to continue to serve their congregations and communities throughout the pandemic, have been hugely impressive and hugely appreciated. The scale of the impact of the pandemic on churches needs to be known and understood, but none of the figures in this report should be treated as a criticism of anything that churches have been doing; if anything, quite the opposite: in a year when so much ceased, comfort can be drawn from the fact that churches could still do so much.

## National summary

As expected, many measures of church attendance and participation fell from 2019 to 2020, as shown in Table 1.

Almost all churches offered in-person worship in October 2020; however, unsurprisingly, attendance was lower than in 2019. Adult average weekly attendance, based on attendance in October, fell by 57%; child average weekly attendance fell by 77%.<sup>1</sup> The data suggest that running effective face-to-face children's ministry was particularly difficult during 2020. Fresh expressions of church (fxCs) were also hard-hit: in October 2020, 5% of churches reported some attendance at in-person fxCs, down from 19% of churches in October 2019.

The total Worshipping Community of regular worshippers was down by 7% compared to 2019. Churches were encouraged to include their regular Church at Home worshippers in their Worshipping Community, to avoid excluding those people who were worshipping entirely at Church at Home services, and those who attended a mixture of in-person and Church at Home services. That so many churches offered Church at Home services helps to explain why the fall in Worshipping Community was much smaller than the fall in in-person attendance.

The number of people on church Electoral Rolls was down by 1% compared to 2019<sup>2</sup>.

Advent and Christmas attendance, and numbers of baptisms and marriages were all, unsurprisingly, much lower in 2020 than 2019.

There was a small reduction in the number of funerals taken by churches, but a large shift in the location of funerals; the number of crematorium/cemetery funerals rose by 48% while the number of church funerals fell by 35%.

*Table 1: Change in Church of England attendance and participation, 2019-2020<sup>3</sup>*

	Estimated change, 2019 to 2020
Electoral Roll	-1%
Worshipping Community	-7%
Adult average weekly attendance	-57%
Child average weekly attendance	-77%
Adult average Sunday attendance	-56%
Child average Sunday attendance	-74%
Christmas attendance	-79%
Advent attendance (congregation and community services)	-78%
Advent attendance (civic and school services)	-97%
Baptisms and thanksgivings	-81%
Marriages and services of prayer and dedication	-71%
Funerals total	-4%
Funerals church	-35%
Funerals crematorium/cemetery	+48%

<sup>1</sup> Social distancing recommendations for churches, people choosing to avoid social contact, changes to normal forms of worship, and the provision of Church at Home services will all have contributed to the fall in in-person attendance. The fall was only in part a result of churches not being open for worship in October 2020: 86% reported some in-person attendance in October 2020, compared to 98% in October 2019.

<sup>2</sup> We often see a slight rise in Electoral Roll numbers a non-renewal year, but it is reasonable to assume that the circumstances of 2020 meant that churches were less able than usual to encourage newcomers to join their Electoral Rolls (to which the postponement of some churches' Annual Parochial Church Meetings may have contributed).

<sup>3</sup> Based on returns from 11,159 churches for which data were received in both 2019 and 2020. Worshipping Community figures are based on a smaller subset of 10,495 churches - those reporting a non-zero Worshipping Community in both 2019 and 2020.

## Church-level summary

The impact of the pandemic and associated lockdowns on the distribution of church sizes is shown in Table 2. In 2019, a “middle sized” church had an All Age average weekly attendance of 34 people; in 2020 it had an All Age average weekly attendance of 14 people (none of whom were aged under 16).

Table 2: Church size distribution summary, 2019 and 2020<sup>4</sup>

	5th percentile		25th percentile		median (middle) church		75th percentile		95th percentile		mean (average) church	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
<b>Worshipping Community</b>	9	8	21	18	44	39	94	85	243	235	76	70
<b>All age average weekly attendance</b>	3	0	13	5	34	14	78	32	190	75	58	23
<b>Adult average weekly attendance</b>	3	0	12	5	30	14	67	30	157	68	50	21
<b>Child average weekly attendance</b>	0	0	0	0	3	0	10	2	34	10	8.3	1.9
<b>Christmas attendance</b>	0	0	32	2	82	20	198	41	571	119	159	34
<b>Baptisms and thanksgivings</b>	0	0	1	0	3	0	8	2	24	5	6.2	1.2
<b>Marriages and services of prayer &amp; dedication</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	8	3	2.1	0.6
<b>Funerals in churches, crematoria, &amp; cemeteries</b>	0	0	1	1	4	4	10	10	28	29	8.0	7.7

## Diocesan comparison

Broadly speaking, the effect of the pandemic on reported attendance and participation figures was similar across all dioceses (see Figure 1 and tables in Appendix 1). It is likely that differences are a combination of normal year-on-year variation and geographical differences in the course of the pandemic.

There are several clear exceptions which can with reasonable certainty be ascribed to the pandemic – Sodor & Man, the Diocese in Europe, and the Channel Islands<sup>5</sup>. Differences in the course of the pandemic in these areas compared to mainland UK and travel restrictions are likely to explain the differences between these areas and mainland dioceses.

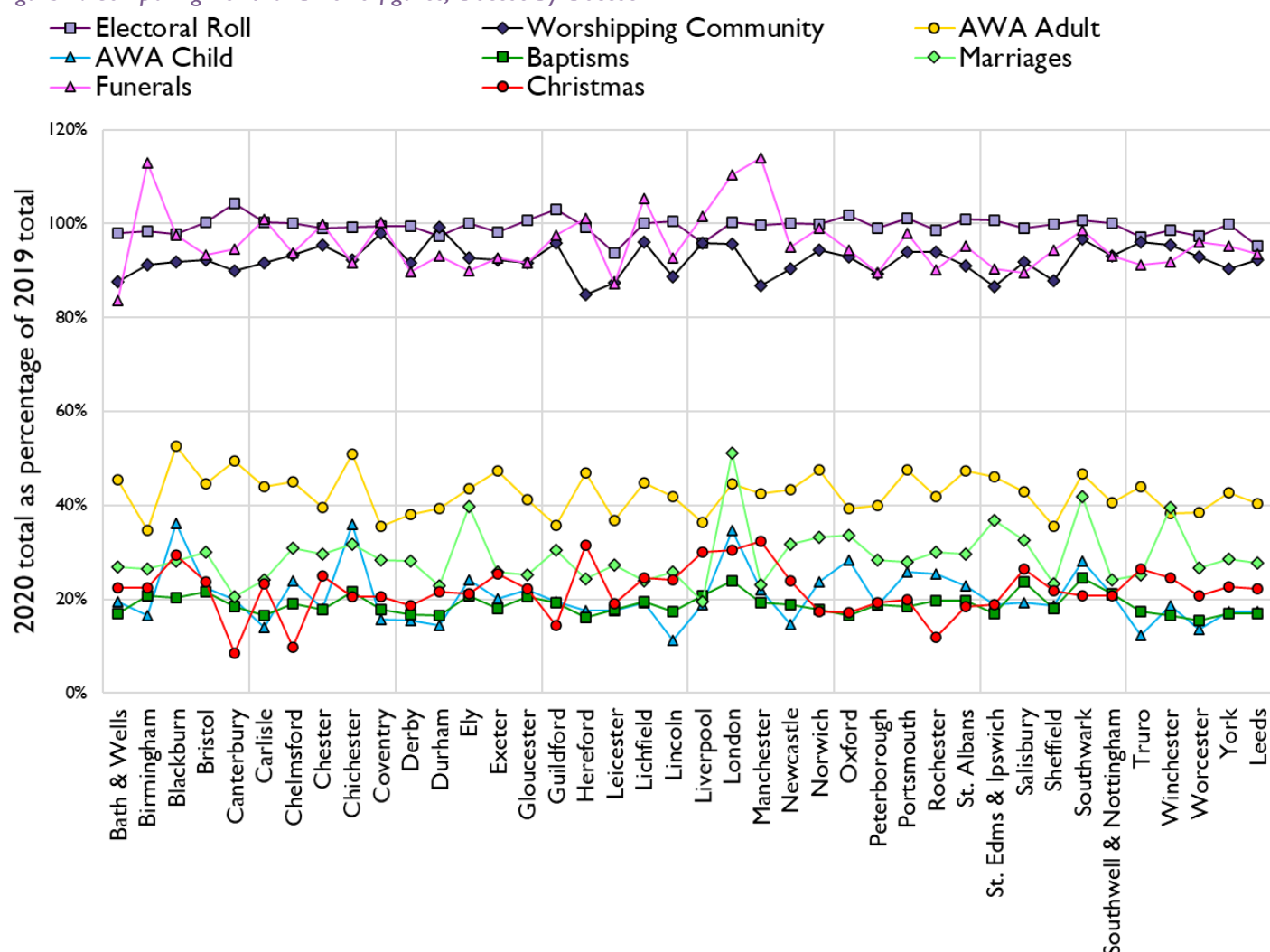
There are a few outliers that appear to illustrate regional differences:

<sup>4</sup> Worshipping Community figures are based on 9,825 churches for which single-church returns with non-zero Worshipping Community were received in 2019 and 2020. All other figures are based on 10,452 churches for which single-church returns were received in 2019 and 2020.

<sup>5</sup> For this analysis I have separated the Channel Islands from any diocese, given the different course of the pandemic in the Channel Islands compared to the mainland.

- The unusually large reductions in Christmas attendance in Canterbury, Chelmsford, Rochester, and Guildford may be related to the regional “tier system” then in place.
- The unusually small reductions in marriages in London and Southwark may be related to fewer people travelling “back home” to marry.

Figure 1: Comparing 2019 and 2020 figures, diocese by diocese<sup>6</sup>



### Impact on churches by size and setting

Broadly speaking, the effect of the pandemic on reported attendance and participation figures was similar across all church size quintiles. There was a slight tendency for the impact on smaller churches to be lower, though this may be a simple case of regression to the mean.

Broadly speaking, the effect of the pandemic on reported attendance and participation figures was similar for rural and for urban churches.

<sup>6</sup> This figure omits the Diocese of Sodor & Man, the Diocese in Europe, and the Channel Islands. “Baptisms” also includes birth or adoption thanksgiving services; “Marriages” also includes services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages; “Funerals” includes funerals at church, in crematoria, and at cemeteries. AWA=Average weekly attendance.

## Appendix I: Diocesan tables

The tables below show diocesan totals for 2019 and 2020, and give the 2020 figure as a percentage of the 2019 figure. Most 2019 figures are taken from Statistics for Mission 2019: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/21969>. The exception is that figures for churches in the Channel Islands, which had previously been reported under the Diocese of Canterbury, have this year been reported separately because of the different impact of the pandemic on the Channel Islands compared with the mainland.

*Table 3: Diocesan summary statistics, 2020*

Ref. no.	Diocese/area	Province	Population	Area (square miles)	Population density (people per square mile)	Number of benefices	Number of parishes	Number of churches	% of churches providing figures in both 2019 and 2020
1	Bath & Wells	C	974,000	1,610	600	180	463	559	69%
2	Birmingham	C	1,592,000	290	5,420	138	150	182	85%
3	Blackburn	Y	1,370,000	930	1,480	173	235	272	53%
5	Bristol	C	1,048,000	470	2,230	104	167	201	79%
6	Canterbury	C	993,000	970	1,020	100	203	316	52%
7	Carlisle	Y	498,000	2,570	190	104	230	326	67%
8	Chelmsford	C	3,268,000	1,530	2,130	310	471	576	75%
9	Chester	Y	1,656,000	1,030	1,600	215	265	342	71%
10	Chichester	C	1,717,000	1,450	1,180	274	352	473	81%
11	Coventry	C	917,000	700	1,320	126	205	241	90%
12	Derby	C	1,073,000	990	1,080	141	254	312	89%
13	Durham	Y	1,502,000	980	1,530	171	208	261	77%
14	Ely	C	770,000	1,530	500	142	303	328	78%
15	Exeter	C	1,208,000	2,570	470	151	485	595	73%
16	Gloucester	C	682,000	1,130	610	91	296	380	79%
17	Guildford	C	1,071,000	530	2,020	142	160	211	72%
18	Hereford	C	335,000	1,650	200	77	339	401	70%
19	Leicester	C	1,073,000	830	1,290	105	245	311	56%
20	Lichfield	C	2,194,000	1,730	1,270	235	422	543	85%
21	Lincoln	C	1,096,000	2,670	410	181	475	622	42%
22	Liverpool	Y	1,628,000	390	4,130	125	170	236	61%
23	London	C	4,421,000	280	16,010	412	402	473	79%
24	Manchester	Y	2,213,000	420	5,330	180	256	318	78%
25	Newcastle	Y	842,000	2,100	400	123	170	236	72%
26	Norwich	C	929,000	1,800	520	158	554	640	51%
27	Oxford	C	2,428,000	2,210	1,100	289	608	810	57%
28	Peterborough	C	941,000	1,140	830	124	348	380	84%
29	Portsmouth	C	794,000	420	1,900	107	134	166	98%
31	Rochester	C	1,380,000	540	2,570	177	213	258	90%
32	St. Albans	C	1,956,000	1,120	1,750	191	335	405	85%
33	St. Edms & Ipswich	C	682,000	1,430	480	112	445	482	75%
34	Salisbury	C	969,000	2,050	470	133	431	565	66%
35	Sheffield	Y	1,314,000	610	2,140	145	172	208	80%
36	Sodor & Man	Y	86,000	220	390	14	15	38	63%
37	Southwark	C	2,902,000	320	9,030	257	294	355	68%
38	Southwell & Nottingham	Y	1,175,000	840	1,390	150	228	296	47%
39	Truro	C	576,000	1,390	420	98	214	301	74%
41	Winchester	C	1,248,000	1,130	1,100	140	252	354	79%
42	Worcester	C	902,000	670	1,350	87	168	274	78%
43	York	Y	1,456,000	2,670	550	232	443	580	69%
46	Leeds	Y	2,779,000	2,630	1,060	270	447	590	86%
44	Europe	C	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	176	76%
	Channel Islands	C	174,000	80	2,290	36	36	43	33%
	<b>Church of England</b>		<b>56,827,000</b>	<b>50,630</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>6,720</b>	<b>12,263</b>	<b>15,636</b>	<b>71%</b>

In a change to previous years, Table 3 includes the chaplaincies of the Diocese in Europe.

The final column shows the percentage of churches on which the comparison between 2019 and 2020 figures was based.

Table 4: Diocesan Electoral Roll and Worshipping Community, 2019 and 2020

Ref. no.	Diocese/area	Province	Electoral Roll			Worshipping Community		
			2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019
1	Bath & Wells	C	25,700	25,200	98%	23,500	20,600	88%
2	Birmingham	C	13,600	13,400	98%	19,900	18,200	91%
3	Blackburn	Y	23,200	22,700	98%	25,800	23,700	92%
5	Bristol	C	12,500	12,500	100%	18,400	17,000	92%
6	Canterbury	C	14,600	15,300	104%	20,100	18,100	90%
7	Carlisle	Y	15,400	15,400	100%	15,000	13,800	92%
8	Chelmsford	C	34,300	34,300	100%	41,400	38,700	93%
9	Chester	Y	31,600	31,200	99%	33,900	32,400	95%
10	Chichester	C	39,100	38,900	99%	46,000	42,400	92%
11	Coventry	C	13,500	13,500	99%	16,900	16,500	98%
12	Derby	C	13,200	13,100	99%	17,400	16,000	92%
13	Durham	Y	15,500	15,000	97%	18,300	18,200	99%
14	Ely	C	16,300	16,300	100%	22,900	21,200	93%
15	Exeter	C	23,200	22,800	98%	24,200	22,300	92%
16	Gloucester	C	17,700	17,800	101%	21,700	19,900	92%
17	Guildford	C	22,400	23,100	103%	30,700	29,400	96%
18	Hereford	C	13,000	12,900	99%	13,400	11,400	85%
19	Leicester	C	13,900	13,100	94%	17,100	15,000	87%
20	Lichfield	C	32,500	32,600	100%	41,300	39,800	96%
21	Lincoln	C	19,000	19,100	101%	20,600	18,300	89%
22	Liverpool	Y	19,900	19,000	96%	24,700	23,600	96%
23	London	C	61,300	61,400	100%	86,700	82,800	96%
24	Manchester	Y	22,200	22,100	100%	27,800	24,100	87%
25	Newcastle	Y	11,800	11,800	100%	13,800	12,500	90%
26	Norwich	C	16,900	16,900	100%	21,200	20,000	94%
27	Oxford	C	44,900	45,700	102%	64,500	59,900	93%
28	Peterborough	C	16,000	15,800	99%	20,300	18,200	89%
29	Portsmouth	C	12,000	12,100	101%	14,400	13,500	94%
31	Rochester	C	22,300	21,900	98%	30,200	28,400	94%
32	St. Albans	C	26,000	26,300	101%	34,800	31,700	91%
33	St. Edms & Ipswich	C	16,800	16,900	101%	20,500	17,700	87%
34	Salisbury	C	29,900	29,600	99%	29,700	27,300	92%
35	Sheffield	Y	13,000	13,000	100%	19,600	17,200	88%
36	Sodor & Man	Y	1,600	1,700	112%	1,700	1,600	94%
37	Southwark	C	37,300	37,600	101%	55,800	53,900	97%
38	Southwell & Nottingham	Y	14,000	14,000	100%	18,700	17,400	93%
39	Truro	C	11,100	10,700	97%	11,500	11,100	96%
41	Winchester	C	23,400	23,100	99%	26,700	25,400	95%
42	Worcester	C	12,000	11,700	97%	12,900	12,000	93%
43	York	Y	24,300	24,200	100%	28,300	25,600	90%
46	Leeds	Y	34,000	32,400	95%	40,300	37,200	92%
44	Europe	C	9,600	9,600	100%	15,500	14,600	94%
	Channel Islands	C	3,300	3,400	102%	4,300	3,800	88%
	<b>Church of England</b>		<b>893,800</b>	<b>888,800</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>1,112,900</b>	<b>1,032,600</b>	<b>93%</b>



Table 5: Diocesan Adult and Child average weekly attendance and average Sunday attendance, 2019 and 2020

Ref. no.	Diocese/area	Province	Adult average weekly attendance			Adult average Sunday attendance			Child average weekly attendance			Child average Sunday attendance		
			2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019
1	Bath & Wells	C	17,600	8,000	45%	15,000	7,200	48%	2,700	500	20%	1,800	400	22%
2	Birmingham	C	13,000	4,500	35%	10,900	3,800	35%	2,000	300	17%	1,700	300	17%
3	Blackburn	Y	17,100	9,000	53%	15,000	7,800	52%	3,400	1,200	36%	2,900	1,000	36%
5	Bristol	C	11,200	5,000	45%	9,700	4,500	47%	2,000	400	22%	1,600	400	24%
6	Canterbury	C	14,700	7,300	49%	11,400	6,000	53%	2,100	400	20%	1,800	400	22%
7	Carlisle	Y	10,200	4,500	44%	8,500	3,900	45%	1,700	200	14%	900	200	17%
8	Chelmsford	C	28,000	12,600	45%	23,800	10,900	46%	5,000	1,200	24%	4,200	1,100	26%
9	Chester	Y	23,200	9,200	40%	19,700	8,100	41%	3,500	600	18%	2,900	600	20%
10	Chichester	C	30,200	15,400	51%	25,400	13,200	52%	3,900	1,400	36%	3,300	1,200	37%
11	Coventry	C	12,000	4,200	35%	9,900	3,700	37%	2,000	300	16%	1,500	300	19%
12	Derby	C	12,200	4,600	38%	10,300	4,300	41%	1,700	300	16%	1,300	200	20%
13	Durham	Y	15,400	6,100	39%	11,200	4,800	42%	1,900	300	14%	1,400	200	16%
14	Ely	C	14,200	6,200	44%	11,600	5,300	46%	2,800	700	24%	1,800	500	30%
15	Exeter	C	19,400	9,200	47%	17,100	8,200	48%	2,100	400	20%	1,600	400	26%
16	Gloucester	C	13,300	5,500	41%	11,100	4,800	43%	1,800	400	22%	1,400	300	24%
17	Guildford	C	18,200	6,500	36%	15,800	5,800	37%	3,700	700	20%	2,800	600	21%
18	Hereford	C	7,900	3,700	47%	6,300	3,200	52%	1,300	200	18%	500	100	20%
19	Leicester	C	10,500	3,900	37%	8,900	3,400	39%	1,400	300	18%	1,100	200	22%
20	Lichfield	C	23,500	10,500	45%	19,500	9,200	47%	3,200	600	19%	2,400	500	21%
21	Lincoln	C	13,200	5,500	42%	10,300	4,500	44%	1,600	200	11%	1,100	100	13%
22	Liverpool	Y	17,600	6,400	36%	14,700	5,400	37%	3,700	700	19%	2,900	600	20%
23	London	C	57,800	25,800	45%	44,600	20,900	47%	10,500	3,700	35%	9,300	3,400	36%
24	Manchester	Y	18,700	7,900	43%	16,600	7,000	42%	5,400	1,200	22%	4,400	1,000	23%
25	Newcastle	Y	10,800	4,700	43%	8,700	3,900	45%	1,400	200	15%	900	100	12%
26	Norwich	C	15,000	7,100	48%	12,300	5,900	48%	1,600	400	24%	1,000	300	29%
27	Oxford	C	37,800	14,800	39%	32,700	13,300	41%	6,100	1,700	28%	5,300	1,600	30%
28	Peterborough	C	12,200	4,900	40%	10,000	4,300	43%	2,000	400	19%	1,600	300	21%
29	Portsmouth	C	9,500	4,500	47%	8,200	4,100	49%	1,200	300	26%	900	300	30%
31	Rochester	C	18,700	7,800	42%	16,100	6,900	43%	3,900	1,000	25%	3,100	800	27%
32	St. Albans	C	24,200	11,500	47%	20,100	9,900	49%	5,000	1,200	23%	3,300	800	25%
33	St. Edms & Ipswich	C	11,500	5,300	46%	9,300	4,600	49%	1,200	200	19%	900	200	23%
34	Salisbury	C	19,200	8,200	43%	16,600	7,300	44%	2,500	500	19%	1,900	400	24%
35	Sheffield	Y	12,900	4,600	35%	10,900	3,900	36%	2,400	400	19%	2,000	400	18%
36	Sodor & Man	Y	1,300	1,200	92%	1,200	1,000	84%	100	100	115%	100	100	122%
37	Southwark	C	30,600	14,300	47%	26,300	12,400	47%	7,600	2,100	28%	6,500	2,000	31%
38	Southwell & Nottingham	Y	11,100	4,500	41%	9,600	3,900	41%	1,700	400	21%	1,400	300	24%
39	Truro	C	8,700	3,800	44%	7,100	3,200	45%	800	100	12%	500	100	17%
41	Winchester	C	19,200	7,300	38%	16,700	6,600	40%	3,000	600	19%	2,300	500	21%
42	Worcester	C	9,700	3,700	39%	8,200	3,300	40%	1,400	200	14%	800	200	21%
43	York	Y	21,100	9,000	43%	16,400	7,300	44%	2,500	400	17%	1,900	400	20%
46	Leeds	Y	29,100	11,700	40%	24,300	10,000	41%	4,500	800	17%	3,700	700	18%
44	Europe	C	9,200	4,200	45%	8,600	3,900	45%	1,100	400	34%	1,100	400	33%
	Channel Islands	C	3,000	2,100	70%	2,400	1,800	75%	600	300	48%	400	300	70%
	<b>Church of England</b>		<b>734,300</b>	<b>315,700</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>613,100</b>	<b>272,300</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>27,800</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>94,000</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>26%</b>

Table 6: Diocesan Christmas and Advent attendance, 2019 and 2020

Ref. no.	Diocese/area	Province	Christmas attendance			Advent attendance - congregation & community			Advent attendance - civic & school		
			2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019
1	Bath & Wells	C	65,000	14,500	22%	71,500	14,700	21%	67,600	1,100	2%
2	Birmingham	C	32,100	7,200	22%	38,400	6,700	18%	54,800	2,800	5%
3	Blackburn	Y	42,300	12,400	29%	46,700	10,700	23%	56,000	3,900	7%
5	Bristol	C	39,000	9,200	24%	49,500	13,600	28%	48,100	1,100	2%
6	Canterbury	C	51,700	4,400	9%	41,900	5,600	13%	64,500	1,400	2%
7	Carlisle	Y	30,100	7,000	23%	33,100	7,800	23%	33,400	400	1%
8	Chelmsford	C	93,200	9,100	10%	92,900	15,400	17%	116,600	2,100	2%
9	Chester	Y	70,100	17,500	25%	80,100	18,300	23%	94,300	2,000	2%
10	Chichester	C	107,500	22,100	21%	107,800	26,600	25%	103,000	3,400	3%
11	Coventry	C	36,300	7,400	21%	43,200	9,200	21%	45,200	2,000	4%
12	Derby	C	37,400	7,000	19%	50,100	8,500	17%	55,800	1,000	2%
13	Durham	Y	34,600	7,400	22%	36,700	5,900	16%	63,800	1,800	3%
14	Ely	C	45,400	9,600	21%	54,700	13,200	24%	60,600	1,900	3%
15	Exeter	C	64,700	16,400	25%	71,900	16,600	23%	67,600	500	1%
16	Gloucester	C	55,100	12,300	22%	52,900	15,800	30%	48,900	3,000	6%
17	Guildford	C	77,300	11,200	14%	69,000	14,800	21%	77,100	800	1%
18	Hereford	C	25,000	7,900	32%	30,400	9,600	32%	26,600	900	4%
19	Leicester	C	37,800	7,200	19%	52,200	9,800	19%	64,400	1,700	3%
20	Lichfield	C	72,000	17,600	24%	78,100	15,600	20%	117,800	2,300	2%
21	Lincoln	C	41,600	10,000	24%	48,400	7,100	15%	54,200	300	1%
22	Liverpool	Y	35,100	10,500	30%	45,700	12,100	27%	44,900	2,100	5%
23	London	C	116,900	35,700	31%	181,600	44,500	25%	174,600	5,600	3%
24	Manchester	Y	34,300	11,100	32%	46,200	10,800	23%	59,700	2,600	4%
25	Newcastle	Y	34,300	8,200	24%	34,300	6,800	20%	48,800	1,400	3%
26	Norwich	C	53,400	9,300	17%	52,500	12,500	24%	52,200	600	1%
27	Oxford	C	147,400	25,300	17%	146,500	31,400	21%	140,900	4,200	3%
28	Peterborough	C	45,700	8,800	19%	49,300	11,200	23%	45,100	7,000	16%
29	Portsmouth	C	35,600	7,100	20%	34,000	7,300	22%	55,100	900	2%
31	Rochester	C	66,000	7,800	12%	76,600	11,000	14%	97,300	3,600	4%
32	St. Albans	C	93,000	17,100	18%	74,000	16,900	23%	118,400	3,500	3%
33	St. Edms & Ipswich	C	44,100	8,400	19%	47,300	12,600	27%	42,000	1,900	5%
34	Salisbury	C	71,300	18,800	26%	72,800	19,100	26%	72,100	2,700	4%
35	Sheffield	Y	31,500	6,900	22%	44,800	8,900	20%	47,100	800	2%
36	Sodor & Man	Y	3,200	3,000	92%	6,000	5,900	99%	5,000	6,700	134%
37	Southwark	C	100,000	20,800	21%	100,900	23,300	23%	123,400	2,000	2%
38	Southwell & Nottingham	Y	34,600	7,200	21%	42,800	8,900	21%	54,100	2,400	4%
39	Truro	C	28,000	7,400	26%	33,600	6,500	19%	28,800	2,200	8%
41	Winchester	C	69,800	17,200	25%	67,300	16,500	24%	71,200	1,100	2%
42	Worcester	C	36,500	7,600	21%	37,400	9,100	24%	53,200	900	2%
43	York	Y	65,700	14,900	23%	69,400	13,800	20%	87,100	1,900	2%
46	Leeds	Y	95,200	21,300	22%	96,100	19,900	21%	124,100	3,400	3%
44	Europe	C	18,700	4,600	24%	32,200	5,300	17%	1,900	400	22%
	Channel Islands	C	8,300	1,900	23%	6,200	2,400	39%	6,000	2,400	41%
	<b>Church of England</b>		<b>2,327,100</b>	<b>496,100</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>2,546,900</b>	<b>562,800</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>2,873,100</b>	<b>93,600</b>	<b>3%</b>

*Table 7: Diocesan baptisms & thanksgivings and marriages & services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages, 2019 and 2020*

Ref. no.	Diocese/area	Province	Baptisms & thanksgivings			Marriages & services of prayer and dedication		
			2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019
1	Bath & Wells	C	1,800	300	17%	870	230	27%
2	Birmingham	C	1,580	330	21%	540	140	26%
3	Blackburn	Y	2,860	580	20%	640	180	28%
5	Bristol	C	1,130	250	22%	410	120	30%
6	Canterbury	C	1,850	340	18%	720	150	21%
7	Carlisle	Y	1,630	270	17%	550	130	24%
8	Chelmsford	C	3,490	670	19%	1,120	340	31%
9	Chester	Y	2,980	530	18%	910	270	30%
10	Chichester	C	2,370	510	22%	1,100	350	32%
11	Coventry	C	1,200	210	18%	540	150	28%
12	Derby	C	1,640	270	17%	650	180	28%
13	Durham	Y	3,730	620	17%	630	140	23%
14	Ely	C	1,280	270	21%	540	210	40%
15	Exeter	C	1,780	320	18%	1,010	260	26%
16	Gloucester	C	1,420	290	20%	840	210	25%
17	Guildford	C	1,790	350	19%	650	200	30%
18	Hereford	C	890	140	16%	510	120	24%
19	Leicester	C	1,250	220	18%	610	170	27%
20	Lichfield	C	4,030	780	19%	1,310	310	24%
21	Lincoln	C	2,520	440	17%	930	240	26%
22	Liverpool	Y	3,100	640	21%	560	110	19%
23	London	C	3,670	880	24%	860	440	51%
24	Manchester	Y	3,640	700	19%	610	140	23%
25	Newcastle	Y	1,740	330	19%	430	140	32%
26	Norwich	C	1,570	280	18%	840	280	33%
27	Oxford	C	3,830	630	16%	1,710	570	34%
28	Peterborough	C	1,320	250	19%	640	180	28%
29	Portsmouth	C	1,090	200	18%	550	150	28%
31	Rochester	C	2,200	430	20%	620	190	30%
32	St. Albans	C	2,460	490	20%	890	260	30%
33	St. Edms & Ipswich	C	990	170	17%	590	220	37%
34	Salisbury	C	1,830	440	24%	910	290	33%
35	Sheffield	Y	2,330	420	18%	580	130	23%
36	Sodor & Man	Y	160	80	52%	70	20	35%
37	Southwark	C	2,950	730	25%	630	260	42%
38	Southwell & Nottingham	Y	1,360	290	21%	640	150	24%
39	Truro	C	1,020	180	17%	630	160	25%
41	Winchester	C	2,180	360	17%	910	360	40%
42	Worcester	C	1,640	250	15%	640	170	27%
43	York	Y	3,270	550	17%	1,150	330	29%
46	Leeds	Y	4,760	810	17%	1,390	380	28%
44	Europe	C	510	170	33%	390	70	17%
	Channel Islands	C	250	90	34%	140	90	60%
<b>Church of England</b>			<b>89,080</b>	<b>17,040</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>31,430</b>	<b>9,230</b>	<b>29%</b>

Table 8: Diocesan funerals, 2019 and 2020

Ref. no.	Diocese/area	Province	Funerals in church			Funerals in crematoria/cemeteries			Funerals (total)		
			2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019
1	Bath & Wells	C	1,910	1,130	59%	1,030	1,350	131%	2,940	2,460	84%
2	Birmingham	C	960	660	69%	1,340	1,910	143%	2,300	2,590	113%
3	Blackburn	Y	1,810	1,330	73%	960	1,390	145%	2,770	2,700	97%
5	Bristol	C	740	470	63%	500	690	137%	1,240	1,160	93%
6	Canterbury	C	990	560	57%	1,000	1,300	131%	1,990	1,880	95%
7	Carlisle	Y	1,420	1,080	76%	640	970	152%	2,060	2,080	101%
8	Chelmsford	C	2,360	1,480	63%	2,110	2,730	130%	4,460	4,180	94%
9	Chester	Y	2,740	1,710	63%	1,360	2,360	174%	4,100	4,090	100%
10	Chichester	C	1,940	1,330	68%	1,470	1,800	122%	3,410	3,120	92%
11	Coventry	C	1,260	830	66%	570	990	173%	1,830	1,830	100%
12	Derby	C	1,860	1,170	63%	670	1,110	166%	2,530	2,270	90%
13	Durham	Y	2,520	1,470	58%	1,220	2,020	166%	3,740	3,490	93%
14	Ely	C	1,380	840	61%	680	1,060	156%	2,060	1,850	90%
15	Exeter	C	2,400	1,550	64%	760	1,400	186%	3,150	2,930	93%
16	Gloucester	C	1,610	990	61%	800	1,200	150%	2,410	2,200	92%
17	Guildford	C	1,100	700	64%	950	1,280	135%	2,050	2,000	97%
18	Hereford	C	1,140	830	72%	450	780	174%	1,590	1,610	101%
19	Leicester	C	1,240	730	59%	540	810	151%	1,780	1,550	87%
20	Lichfield	C	4,020	2,830	70%	2,550	4,130	162%	6,570	6,920	105%
21	Lincoln	C	1,910	1,300	68%	1,240	1,660	134%	3,150	2,920	93%
22	Liverpool	Y	2,600	1,390	53%	1,060	2,390	226%	3,660	3,720	102%
23	London	C	1,380	810	58%	1,180	2,010	171%	2,560	2,830	110%
24	Manchester	Y	1,710	1,080	63%	1,230	2,300	188%	2,940	3,340	114%
25	Newcastle	Y	1,100	650	59%	800	1,160	146%	1,890	1,800	95%
26	Norwich	C	2,000	1,500	75%	1,400	1,840	132%	3,400	3,360	99%
27	Oxford	C	3,040	1,940	64%	1,740	2,520	145%	4,780	4,500	94%
28	Peterborough	C	1,240	770	62%	570	840	147%	1,810	1,620	89%
29	Portsmouth	C	990	620	62%	820	1,160	141%	1,810	1,780	98%
31	Rochester	C	1,220	850	70%	1,550	1,650	107%	2,770	2,500	90%
32	St. Albans	C	2,050	1,240	61%	1,350	2,000	147%	3,400	3,240	95%
33	St. Edms & Ipswich	C	1,520	1,000	66%	740	1,050	142%	2,260	2,040	90%
34	Salisbury	C	1,750	1,240	71%	960	1,190	123%	2,710	2,420	89%
35	Sheffield	Y	1,800	1,170	65%	800	1,260	158%	2,600	2,450	94%
36	Sodor & Man	Y	200	200	101%	110	130	122%	300	330	109%
37	Southwark	C	1,180	770	65%	1,270	1,610	127%	2,440	2,410	99%
38	Southwell & Nottingham	Y	1,660	920	56%	890	1,590	180%	2,550	2,370	93%
39	Truro	C	1,190	800	67%	620	860	139%	1,810	1,640	91%
41	Winchester	C	1,480	940	64%	870	1,220	141%	2,340	2,150	92%
42	Worcester	C	1,350	860	64%	1,090	1,470	135%	2,440	2,340	96%
43	York	Y	2,370	1,700	72%	1,290	1,820	141%	3,670	3,490	95%
46	Leeds	Y	3,390	2,260	67%	1,540	2,390	155%	4,930	4,610	94%
44	Europe	C	200	130	68%	360	290	80%	560	420	75%
	Channel Islands	C	360	180	50%	100	90	96%	460	280	61%
<b>Church of England</b>			<b>71,080</b>	<b>46,040</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>43,120</b>	<b>63,650</b>	<b>148%</b>	<b>114,200</b>	<b>109,670</b>	<b>96%</b>

## Appendix 2: Methodology

Where possible, the 2020 Statistics for Mission data collection and analysis followed similar steps to previous years. However, some changes were necessary because of the changed circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes have been noted below.

Considerable thought was given to all changes; at the time that the survey was designed it was still unclear which church activities would be permitted in the period covered, so a certain amount of educated guesswork was required in designing the questions. This year, even more than ever, we thank everyone who was involved in collecting and reporting these figures for their assistance and understanding.

This report uses data submitted through annual Statistics for Mission returns from churches, and from government statistics. The majority (80%) of the Church of England's almost 16,000 churches submitted data (down from 89% in 2019). The fall in response rate is unsurprising: in light of the pandemic less time was spent encouraging churches to send in their figures. Most returns were on behalf of a single church; a small fraction of returns were joint returns submitted on behalf of several churches. Most returns were submitted through the online parish returns system (<https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>). One diocese used a different electronic system, and some churches completed paper forms.

Unlike in previous years, the figures for 2020 do not include figures from cathedrals, since the cathedrals dataset is still being analysed. A preliminary analysis indicates that the impact of the pandemic on attendance and participation in cathedrals was similar to the impact on other churches, and therefore we would not expect their inclusion to lead to any meaningful change in any of the results.

### The content of Statistics for Mission

The annual Statistics for Mission return measures several different aspects of church life. While no study could cover every facet of the life of the Church of England, Statistics for Mission seeks to provide a broad picture of those key elements that are common to the vast majority of churches. For reference, the 2020 Statistics for Mission form, including all questions and explanatory notes, can be found in Appendix 3.

A large part of Statistics for Mission is related to attendance at worship services. Attendance is measured in several different ways:

- 1) Worshipping Community: those people attending the church regularly, for example at least once a month (or those who would attend if not prevented by illness, infirmity, or temporary absence), including attendance at church services and fresh expressions of Church; in a change from previous years, churches were asked to include in their Worshipping Community people who regularly "attended" their "Church at Home" services – e.g. services that were live streamed, or offered by telephone, or post.
- 2) October count: the number of adults and children attending during each of the first 4 weeks of October 2020, at church services, fresh expressions of Church. Sunday and weekday attendance is asked about, with the instruction that those attending on Sunday and during the week in any given week should only be counted once that week (on Sunday) if possible.
- 3) Number of people attending and number of people receiving communion at Christmas (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).
- 4) The Electoral roll of the church.

Unlike in previous years, churches were not asked to report their Easter attendance and communicants figures (most churches were closed at Easter 2020) or their Usual Sunday attendance (since "Usual Sunday" does not really apply to much of 2020). Similarly, churches were not asked about attendance at services for schools taking place in church in October, since it was thought that the number of such services would be small. Churches were asked whether or not they offered such services in October 2020; fewer than 250 said that they did, which is below a tenth of the number of churches that reported some attendance at services for schools in October 2019.

Churches were asked to report the age distribution of their Worshipping Community and the numbers of adults and children leaving and joining their Worshipping Community.

The October count data are used to calculate average weekly and average Sunday attendance, for adults and children. Average Sunday attendance is defined as the total attendance at church services or fresh expressions of Church on Sundays over the 4 weeks of the October count, divided by 4. Average weekly attendance is defined as the total attendance at church services or

fresh expressions of Church on Sundays or weekdays over the 4 weeks of the October count, divided by 4. Churches are asked to include attendance at baptisms in their October count, since baptisms often take place as part of normal worship services, but not attendance at weddings and funerals.

Statistics for Mission quantifies numbers of baptisms and services of thanksgiving for the gift (birth or adoption) of a child; marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriages; and funeral services conducted on behalf of the church/parish by any minister held in church or at a crematorium or cemetery (excluding committal only and burial of ashes only). Note that funerals conducted by licensed Church of England ministers that are not held on behalf of a church/parish might not be included in the reported figures.

Additionally, Statistics for Mission asks about attendance at special services during Advent and details of fresh expressions of Church.

Unlike in previous years, churches were not asked about members of ministry teams leading assemblies in schools in 2020.

In 2020 a one off question was included asking about the “Church at Home” services that churches may have been offering or referring people to. A full description of this question and the results was published in October 2021 and can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/25151>

## Data accuracy and data checking

Data reported by each church were compared with figures from previous years, and substantial changes were queried with churches and/or dioceses. Predominantly, these checks corrected typographical errors during data entry, although they also highlighted occasions when questions had been misinterpreted. The first stage of checks was automatic, at the point of data entry, for those returns submitted through the online parish returns system. Further checking was carried out by staff in the Research and Statistics unit, with particular scrutiny of figures that had changed significantly from year to year, and of unusually large (or small) values. Useful additional explanation and information was often provided by churches in the comments boxes on the Statistics for Mission return; all comments were read and acted on where appropriate. Where it was necessary to query any of the figures submitted, in the vast majority of cases this was done directly with the person who entered the figures; we thank them for their helpful responses to our queries.

The 2020 dataset was checked using an adapted version of the usual process. In normal times, large increases or large decreases would be queried; given the circumstances, for variables other than Electoral Roll and Worshipping Community it did not seem sensible to query large decreases.

Estimated totals for each variable reported here were calculated by considering, diocese by diocese, those churches that had submitted data in both 2019 and 2020. It was assumed that the trend in these churches was representative of the diocese as a whole. The dataset used for the bulk of this comparative analysis includes data from about 11,200 churches (71% of churches).

Values in the data tables are reported to the nearest 100 or nearest 10, as appropriate. Percentages are reported to the nearest 1% or 0.1%, as appropriate. Totals, percentages, and averages have been calculated before rounding, so row and column totals may not always agree with the sums of the amounts shown.

## Reliability of the figures

The fact that the analysis presented here uses a slightly smaller dataset than those available in recent years does not, in itself, raise concerns about reliability of the figures. It is still a large dataset, including over 70% of the Church of England's churches.

For most variables, there is no reason to suppose that figures have been reported less accurately this year than usual. The exception is Worshipping Community, where churches were endeavouring to include their regular “Church at Home” worshippers. Given the anonymity of many forms of Church at Home this is more challenging than reporting an in-person Worshipping Community, and there is likely to be more guesswork involved. Respondents were doing their best in difficult circumstances.

As far as it is possible to tell this has not resulted in any particularly odd numbers once figures are aggregated to diocesan level, but we ought to treat the Worshipping Community figures with more caution than usual.

## Representativeness of the sample

Of course, it is impossible to tell whether non-responding churches differed from responding churches in terms of the impact of the pandemic. However, on the basis of their 2019 All Age average weekly attendance, the dataset included in the analysis is broadly representative, slightly oversampling large churches. The impact of the pandemic on churches' reported figures is reasonably consistent across church size, so the effect of this oversampling is likely to be small and not worth attempting to adjust for.

## Age groups

Ideally, a single set of age groups would be used throughout the Statistics for Mission return. However, for a variety of reasons, this has not been the case in the past, and the desire to be able to make comparisons with historical data has discouraged further changes.

- October count attendance is divided into adults (aged 16 and over) and children and young people (aged under 16).
- Worshipping Community age groups are 0-10; 11-17; 18-69, and 70+, while leavers and joiners are categorised as adults (aged 18+) and children and young people (aged under 18).
- Baptisms and thanksgivings are categorised as infants (aged <1 year); children aged 1-4 years; children aged 5-10 years; young people aged 11-17, and adults (aged 18+); this is a slight change from the age groups used in previous years, when there was a group for children aged 5-12 and young people/adults aged 13 and over were grouped together.

## Long-term trends

I would normally recommend that users of Statistics for Mission figures consider any year-on-year changes in the context of longer term trends, since some changes can be the result of one-off events or local changes in data quality. However, given the unusual nature of 2020 the figures must be interpreted differently this time: 2020 was exceptional, with huge effects on many aspects of society, including churches. The large changes seen in these figures are entirely understandable, and clearly a consequence of the pandemic, lockdowns, behavioural change (particularly social distancing), and recommendations and guidance for churches about how to offer in-person worship.

## Diocesan boundaries

Diocesan and parish boundaries as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 were used as the basis for the collection of Statistics for Mission data.

Unlike in previous years, figures for the Channel Islands have been presented separately rather than as part of a diocese; this is because the pandemic followed a different course in the Channel Islands from that on the mainland, and therefore we expect to see a different impact on church life.

## Population data

Diocesan population statistics were estimated using data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html>), mapped on to diocesan boundaries. This mapping is an approximation, since the boundaries of regions at which population data are reported do not coincide with diocesan boundaries. The latest available data were used wherever possible; population estimates and numbers of births and deaths are from mid-2020. Data for the Isle of Man have been taken from [http://countrymeters.info/en/Isle\\_of\\_Man](http://countrymeters.info/en/Isle_of_Man); data for the Channel Islands have been taken from [http://countrymeters.info/en/Channel\\_Islands](http://countrymeters.info/en/Channel_Islands) (both relating to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021, and accessed 24th November 2021).

## Further information

Any reader who would like further details regarding the methodology behind this report is encouraged to get in touch: please see the contact details on page 2.



## Appendix 3: 2020 Statistics for Mission form



### Statistics for Mission: January to December 2020

Church name:	Parish name:
Deanery:	Diocese:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many of our church buildings were closed for a large part of 2020. We recognise the huge upheaval that churches have been through, and the amazing creativity and resilience that churches have displayed in continuing to offer worship and pastoral support to their congregations and parishioners during this difficult time.

Where possible we've tried to keep this Statistics for Mission form as close as we can to last year's form. However, we have removed some questions that do not really apply to the situation during 2020, and have included a few new questions about your church's response to the pandemic. We hope that most questions will be simple to answer, but we recognise that other questions might be difficult to answer in your context. We're keen to find out anything you can tell us, and your best approximation is fine if you don't have precise numbers. Please don't worry about anything you don't feel able to answer.

#### Reminder: please complete this form online if possible

<https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>

The online returns system includes existing information about your church. It automatically checks for typographical errors and minor mistakes and gives you the opportunity to revise your figures before final submission. You can see the data for your church over time and download copies for your records.

- ✓ Please complete this form for your **Church**. If there is more than one church in your parish, then please complete and submit a separate form for each church
- ✓ Where activities – e.g. acts of worship in schools or conducting funeral services at crematoria - are shared between several churches then please ensure, where possible, that they are only reported once
- ✓ Questions 1a and 1b about the **Electoral Roll** refer to the **ecclesiastical Electoral Roll**. Question 1a asks about the ecclesiastical Electoral Roll for your **parish**. Question 1b is optional and only applies if you are in a multi-church parish AND keep a separate roll for your church
- ✓ **Fresh expressions of Church** should be included in your numbers, unless they have submitted a separate return. For help in identifying fresh expressions of Church please use the "Choice tree" at the end of this form or visit <https://freshexpressions.org.uk/about/what-is-a-fresh-expression/>
- ✓ Please complete all questions as far as possible, using "0" or "unknown" or "no services" if necessary. Unless otherwise indicated, empty fields will be treated as incomplete and may be queried later as missing data
- ✓ In rare circumstances where a single congregation worships evenly between several churches (i.e. there is no difference in who attends and how often at each church), a single return may be submitted. The churches included in the return should be noted below

A single return is submitted on behalf of (please list all included churches here, with church codes if known\*):

\* N.B. church codes are not needed if you are planning to submit this return online.



**1a. How many people were on the ecclesiastical Electoral Roll for your parish, as would normally be reported at your Annual Parochial Church meeting in 2020?**

✓ Please write "unknown" if the figure is not available

1a. Number on the ecclesiastical Electoral Roll for your PARISH	
-----------------------------------------------------------------	--

If your parish has more than one church **and** keeps a separate roll for your church, please **also** provide the total electoral roll for your church.

✓ Please write "N/A" if this is not applicable to your church

**1b. How many people are on your church Electoral Roll?**

1b. Number on the CHURCH Electoral Roll	
-----------------------------------------	--

The following questions are about **how many people came in person** to a service or act of worship during **Advent** (Advent Sunday until 23<sup>rd</sup> December) and **Christmas** (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).

- ✓ If you did not hold any services or acts of worship at your church (indoors or outdoors) during these periods, please enter "0" in the relevant box
- ✓ Note that at the time of writing, it is unclear whether services such as carol services will be allowed under government guidance.

**2. How many people came in person to special services run by your church during Advent 2020?**

- ✓ Include attendance at special services – e.g. nativities, carol services, carols on the green, crib services - run by your church from Advent Sunday until 23<sup>rd</sup> December

2a. Total number of people attending special services held for the <b>congregation and local community</b>	
2b. Total number of people attending special services held <b>specifically for civic organisations or schools</b>	

**3. How many people came in person to your church at Christmas 2020?**

3a. Number of communicants at service(s) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	
3b. Total number of people attending worship (including communicants) at service(s) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	

The next section is the **OCTOBER COUNT** of the number of people attending your church **in person** for **services and other acts of worship** during the first 4 weeks of October. This includes the number of people attending on Sundays and during the week (Monday-Saturday). We will ask later about people who have engaged in other ways (such as online or through other means such as telephone or posted service sheets).

You are asked to enter a count for each of the first 4 weeks of October 2020. The count is split into Sundays and weekdays; adults and children; and type of service (Church and fresh expressions of Church).

Wherever possible, please **do not count the same person multiple times in the same week** – if someone attends your church more than once during Sunday, please only count them once. If someone attends on a Sunday, please do not include them again in the midweek count for that week.

**Number of services:** The number of services or fresh expressions of Church held on Sundays & weekdays. Enter "0" if there were none.

**Adults:** 16 years old and over. Please include those leading the service(s).

**Children and young people:** Under 16 years old.

**Please INCLUDE:**

- ✓ People attending **in person** at your church – we will ask later about people who have engaged in other ways
- ✓ Clergy and other ministers attending or leading services
- ✓ Adults and children attending Sunday schools or equivalent activities
- ✓ Attendance at baptisms, including any visitors
- ✓ Any **fresh expressions of Church**, unless they have submitted their own return. A fresh expression of Church is a form of church established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet "members" of any church. For help identifying fresh expressions of Church, please use the "Choice tree" at the end of this form or visit <https://freshexpressions.org.uk/about/what-is-a-fresh-expression/>
- ✓ Any other church-based activities in which worship is the primary purpose and predominant feature
- ✓ Attendance at services outside the church, e.g. at home, in care homes, prisons, or hospitals (include as Church or Fresh expression attendance, as appropriate)

**Please DO NOT INCLUDE:**

- ✗ Attendance at weddings or funeral services
- ✗ Activities with only some worship element, such as house groups, parent and toddler groups, youth clubs, Alpha courses, and social events such as harvest supper

**4a. Were there any in person church services or fresh expressions of Church during October 2020?** (If yes, please **DO** include attendance at them in the October count section)

*In person services* ☐ Yes ☐ No

*Fresh expressions of Church* ☐ Yes ☐ No

**4b. Were there any school services in church during October 2020?** (If yes, please **DO NOT** include attendance at them in the October count section)

☐ Yes ☐ No

**4c. How many people attended your church in person during October 2020?**

- ✓ If possible, please count each person only once in any week, even if they attended more than once
- ✓ If there were exceptional circumstances that led to unusual October attendance figures in 2020, other than related to COVID-19 restrictions, let us know in the comment box at the end of this form

4c.1	Number of services	Adult		Children and young people	
		Church	Fresh expressions	Church	Fresh expressions
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b>					
<b>Weekdays 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup></b>					

4c.2	Number of services	Adult		Children and young people	
		Church	Fresh expressions	Church	Fresh expressions
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>					
<b>Weekdays 12<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup></b>					

4c.3	Number of services	Adult		Children and young people	
		Church	Fresh expressions	Church	Fresh expressions
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>					
<b>Weekdays 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup></b>					

4c.4	Number of services	Adult		Children and young people	
		Church	Fresh expressions	Church	Fresh expressions
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>					
<b>Weekdays 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup></b>					

**‘Church at Home’ Services**

Churches have responded in many ways to continue to offer worship and pastoral support through lockdown. For some churches this has included offering some kind of ‘Church at Home’. By this we mean “any and all services offered remotely”, including online services (live streamed or pre-recorded), services by telephone, or services that were emailed or posted. These services may be participated in from home or in some cases from another location such as a hospital or whilst on holiday. For some churches the focus has been pastoral care and practical ministry, with people being referred to ‘Church at Home’ services from elsewhere, such as from other local churches or the cathedral.

**5. What 'Church at Home' services did your church offer or refer people to during lockdown (March 2020 –July 2020) and what has your church offered during October 2020? You may have offered these at church, parish or benefice level or working in other groups of churches.**

Services that your church **offered**: Please tick all that apply

	Offered during lockdown (March-July 2020)	Offered during October 2020
1. Online services, pre-recorded or live streamed, e.g. using Facebook, YouTube, Zoom	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
2. Telephone or dial in services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
3. Services downloadable from a website or emailed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
4. Printed and posted services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
5. Other, please specify <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Services that your church **referred people to**: Please tick all that apply

	Referred people to during lockdown (March-July 2020)	Referred people to during October 2020
6. We referred people to 'Church at Home' services offered by another local church, e.g. in our parish/benefice/deanery	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
7. We referred people to 'Church at Home' services offered by a diocesan, cathedral or national service	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
8. Other, please specify <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

**5a. Please use the comment box below if you would like to share anything, aside from services, you have been offering to your congregation remotely.**

**6. Did your church offer any 'Church at Home' services during October 2020?** (If 'Church at Home' services were offered as a group of churches, for example as a parish, benefice or group, then please agree which church will report the 'Church at Home' to avoid double counting)

☐ Yes ☐ No

**6a. If Yes, in how many weeks during October did your church offer any 'Church at Home' services?**

☐ 4 weeks ☐ 3 weeks ☐ 2 weeks ☐ 1 week

**6b. If Yes, what was the usual number of people participating in your 'Church at Home' services each week that you offered Church at Home in October?** (If you do not have exact figures, please give your best estimate. If possible, please count only people who did not attend church in person as well)

## Worshipping Community

The following questions are about your **"worshipping community"**. Think about your regular worshipping community at the **end of 2020**. For more information about worshipping communities, please refer to <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2017-12/WorshippingCommunity.pdf>

- ✓ Do include anyone who attends your church regularly, for example at least once a month, or would attend if they were not prevented by illness, infirmity or temporary absence
- ✓ **DO include anyone who regularly attends 'Church at Home' services**
- ✓ Do include all congregations in your church, including fresh expressions of Church
- ✗ Do not include visitors, e.g. holidaymakers, baptism parties etc.
- ✗ Do not include people who consider their 'home' church to be another church
- ✗ Do not include people who left the church earlier in the year (they are counted in the next question as 'leavers') and were not part of your worshipping community at the end of 2020
- ✗ Do not include people who have drifted away/stopped engaging with church during the pandemic, even if you think they may return once the pandemic eases

### 7. How many people were in your "worshipping community" at the end of 2020?

- ✓ Please complete all boxes, as far as you can. If there is no-one in a category, please write "0". If the age groups of your worshipping community are unknown, please use your best estimates. If you are unable to estimate people's ages, please enter the total figure only
- ✓ Please include both those people who attend regularly in person and those who regularly engage with your 'Church at Home' services

TOTAL	Children (Age 0-10)	Young people (Age 11-17)	Adults (Age 18-69)	Adults (Age 70+)

### 8. How has your worshipping community changed during 2020?

- ✓ Please enter the number (or your best estimate) of people who have joined your worshipping community. This includes people new to your church (whether in person or through 'Church at Home' services), and people who are now worshipping more frequently
- ✓ Please enter the number (or your best estimate) of people who have left your worshipping community. This includes people who have left your church, people who are now worshipping less often than monthly, and people who have died
- ✓ If there is no-one in a particular category, please write "0"
- ✗ Do not count as joiners or leavers members of your worshipping community who have moved from "Children and young people" to "Adult"

How many adults and children joined or left your worshipping community during 2020?		
	TOTAL joined	TOTAL left
Adults (Age 18+)		
Children and young people		

The next questions are about **fresh expressions of Church**. A fresh expression of Church is a form of Church established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet "members" of any church. Here you are asked to describe aspects of the way the fresh expression of Church is run, rather than providing numbers attending.

- ✓ For help in identifying fresh expressions of Church please use the "Choice tree" at the end of this form or visit <https://freshexpressions.org.uk/about/what-is-a-fresh-expression/>. If you remain unsure about whether an activity or service meets the definition of a fresh expression, please DO include it here
- ✓ If you have more than three fresh expressions of Church, please continue on an additional sheet
- ✓ Do include any fresh expressions of Church running remotely
- ✗ Do not include Alpha courses or outreach activities that do not include worship

#### 9. What regular fresh expressions of Church are supported by your church?

☐ **No fresh expressions of Church** (If your church did NOT support fresh expressions of Church during 2020 please tick here and leave the rest of this page blank)

☐ **Yes, we have Fresh expressions of Church but they are on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic** (If your fresh expressions are on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic please tick here and leave the rest of this page blank)

Name of fresh expression	
Description of activity	
Where is it held? (please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> Church Hall <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please note where): _____
How often?	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please note how often): _____
Age group aimed at. (please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> ALL ages <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> 0-4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11-17 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-39 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-69 <input type="checkbox"/> 70+
Who attends? (please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendees include people who regularly come to other services <input type="checkbox"/> Attendees include people who occasionally come to other services <input type="checkbox"/> Attendees include people who never come to other services

Name of fresh expression	
Description of activity	
Where is it held? (please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> Church Hall <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please note where): _____
How often?	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please note how often): _____
Age group aimed at. (please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> ALL ages <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> 0-4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11-17 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-39 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-69 <input type="checkbox"/> 70+
Who attends? (please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendees include people who regularly come to other services <input type="checkbox"/> Attendees include people who occasionally come to other services <input type="checkbox"/> Attendees include people who never come to other services

Name of fresh expression	
Description of activity	
Where is it held? (please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> Church Hall <input type="checkbox"/> Online <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please note where): _____
How often?	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please note how often): _____
Age group aimed at. (please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> ALL ages <input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> 0-4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 <input type="checkbox"/> 11-17 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-39 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-69 <input type="checkbox"/> 70+
Who attends? (please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Attendees include people who regularly come to other services <input type="checkbox"/> Attendees include people who occasionally come to other services <input type="checkbox"/> Attendees include people who never come to other services

**10. How many baptisms and thanksgivings for the gift of a child, if any, were held in your church during 2020?**

✓ If separate services of thanksgiving and baptism were held for an individual both should be recorded here

	Infants (<1 year)	Children (1-4 years)	Children (5-10 years)	Young people (11-17 years)	Adults (18+)
Number of persons <b>baptised</b>					
Number of persons for whom a birth or adoption <b>thanksgiving</b> service was held					

**11. How many marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage, if any, were held in your church during 2020?**

Number of couples <b>married</b> in your church	
Number of couples for whom a <b>service of prayer and dedication after a civil marriage</b> was held in your church	

**12. How many funeral services were held at or on behalf of your church, if any, during 2020?**

- ✓ Include all funerals that were held at your church
- ✓ Include all funerals conducted by any member of your ministry team (including Readers, stipendiary clergy, self-supporting clergy, and retired clergy) at a crematorium, cemetery, or other non-church location

Number of deceased for whom a <b>funeral service</b> was held at your church	
Number of deceased for whom a full <b>funeral service</b> was conducted by a member of your ministry team <b>at a crematorium, cemetery</b> , or other non-church location, excluding committal only & burial of ashes only	
Number of deceased for whom a committal only or a burial of ashes only was conducted by a member of your ministry team	



We know that the COVID-19 pandemic will have had a huge impact on your church. Is there anything else, though, that might have affected these figures this year (e.g. flood, further local lockdown)?

**Thank you for completing your annual return on behalf of your church.** Your contribution is essential to the on-going care and understanding of our churches and congregations; your diligence, time, and effort are greatly appreciated. Please take a moment to review your answers. Make sure that you have completed every question as far as possible and not left any answers blank (use "0" or "unknown" or "no services" if necessary). Blank answers may be queried with you later.

Please record below the contact details for the person who has completed this form.

**Name:**

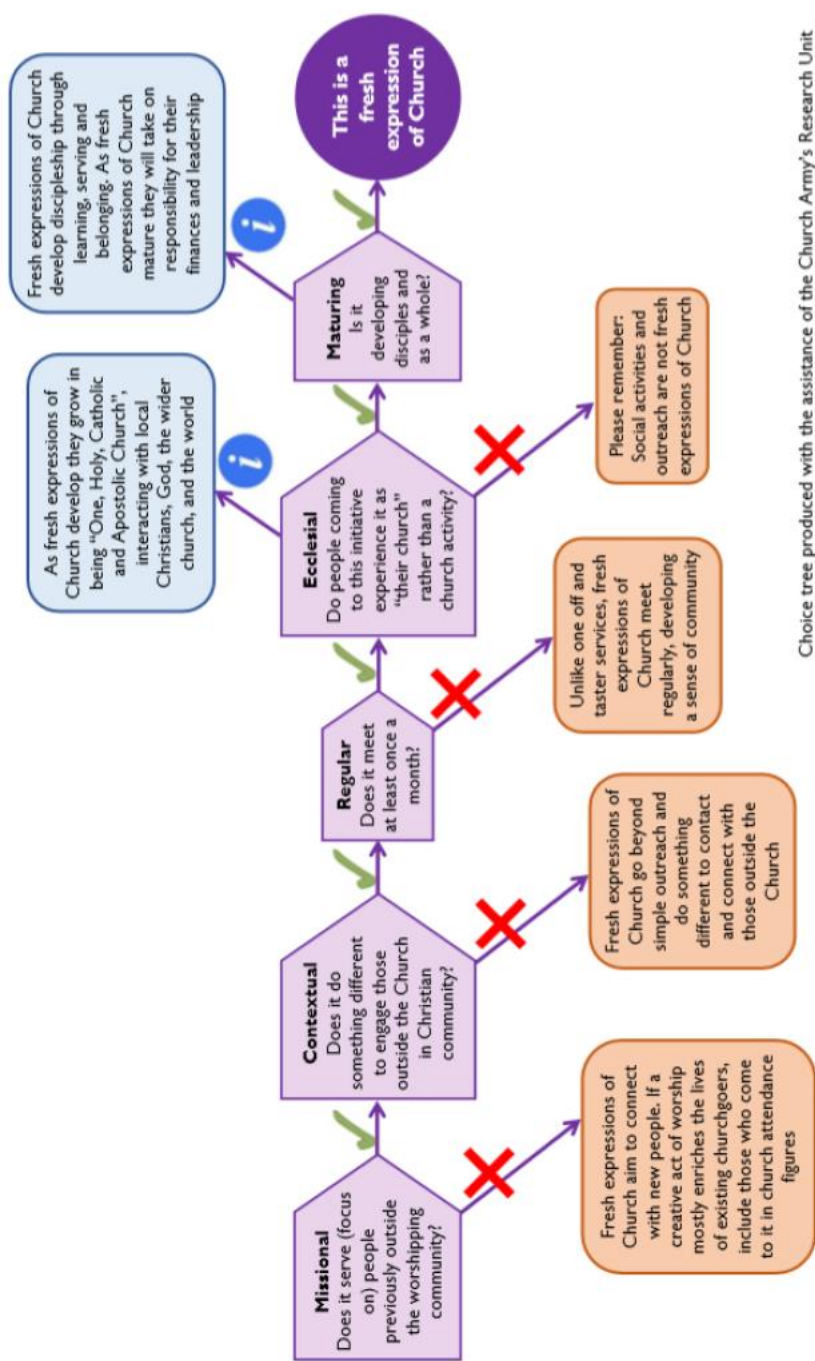
**Position:**

**Email address:**

**Date of completion:**



Identifying fresh expressions of Church: fresh expression choice tree



Choice tree produced with the assistance of the Church Army's Research Unit