

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND CATHEDRALS

### HEADLINE MISSION STATISTICS

2009

*(including Westminster Abbey)*

- ◆ [Attendance levels](#) at regular weekly services in Church of England cathedrals have steadily increased by a total of 28% since the turn of the millennium, which is about 3% each year (similar to last year). At Sunday services alone 15,600 adults and 2,500 children and young people are usually present while over the whole week the figures rise (by 78%) to 26,100 and 6,600 respectively. Westminster Abbey adds, on average, 1,800 people each week to these numbers.
- ◆ [Midweek attendance](#) continues to be very significant. In 2009, for example, it added 81% to Sunday congregations (slightly higher than previous year). Cathedrals are key places of daily Christian worship outside Sundays adding an additional 67% of adult attenders and more than doubling the number of children over the whole week.
- ◆ Approximately 118,500 people attended services in cathedrals on [Christmas Day/Eve 2009](#) while services over the period leading up to Christmas attract attendances of 729,600. These figures appear to be adversely affected by Christmas Eve being on Thursday. Nevertheless, attendance over the Christmas 24 hours has increased by more than a quarter, 26%, since the beginning of the century while attendance over the Easter 24 hours has dropped slightly compared with the previous year, only increasing by 3% to 49,600 since year 2000.
- ◆ Cathedral attendances on these two major Christian festivals average approximately 2,821 and 1,181 respectively for each cathedral and for many cathedrals additional services have been created to respond to the space restrictions that continue to limit attendance levels. Westminster Abbey adds over 4,000 adults, children and young people to Christmas Day/Eve attendance and more than 23,000 over the Advent season. Comparable figures from parish churches are currently being collected and collated.
- ◆ The number of children attending [educational events](#) at cathedrals has increased slightly by 2.2% compared to the previous year. In 2009 the number was 304,650 while a further 11,120 children are being educated at schools associated with cathedrals. Over 2,000 children and adults are also involved week by week in providing cathedral music traditions, a figure that has slightly increased primarily among the boy choristers.

*(continued)*

- ◆ Over the last **eight** years the number of [volunteers](#) involved in the mission and ministry of cathedrals on a regular basis has increased by over 3,260 to 15,000 that is, around 360 volunteers for every cathedral. In contrast, over the last **eight** years, the number of visitors reported has gradually reduced by approximately 1.7 million to 9,667,000, that is, around 41,400 for every cathedral. With the addition of Westminster Abbey and other Royal Peculiars and, given the imprecise nature of visitor counting, our working estimate of the total number of visitors to Cathedrals remains at approximately 12 million.
  
- ◆ Over 3,040 [specially arranged services](#) were conducted by cathedrals in 2009 which attracted almost 1 million people. 1.62 million people attended about 5,450 public/civic events arranged in cathedrals during 2009. Over the last eight years both the numbers of public/civic events and specially arranged services have considerably increased. In particular, both the number of public/civic events and the attendance at these events has more than doubled.
  
- ◆ In 2009 approximately 820 [baptisms](#) (and thanksgivings for the birth of a child), 340 [marriages](#) (and blessings of marriage) and 320 [funerals](#) were conducted by cathedral clergy. Baptisms of young people and adults (over 13 years of age) have increased by 60% since the turn of the millennium and with the number of child baptisms (aged 1 to 12 years) is more than doubled. Overall, these figures reflect a fairly static picture over recent years but in common with the national trend the number of baptisms of older children, young people and adults is growing.

*From the accompanying press release:*

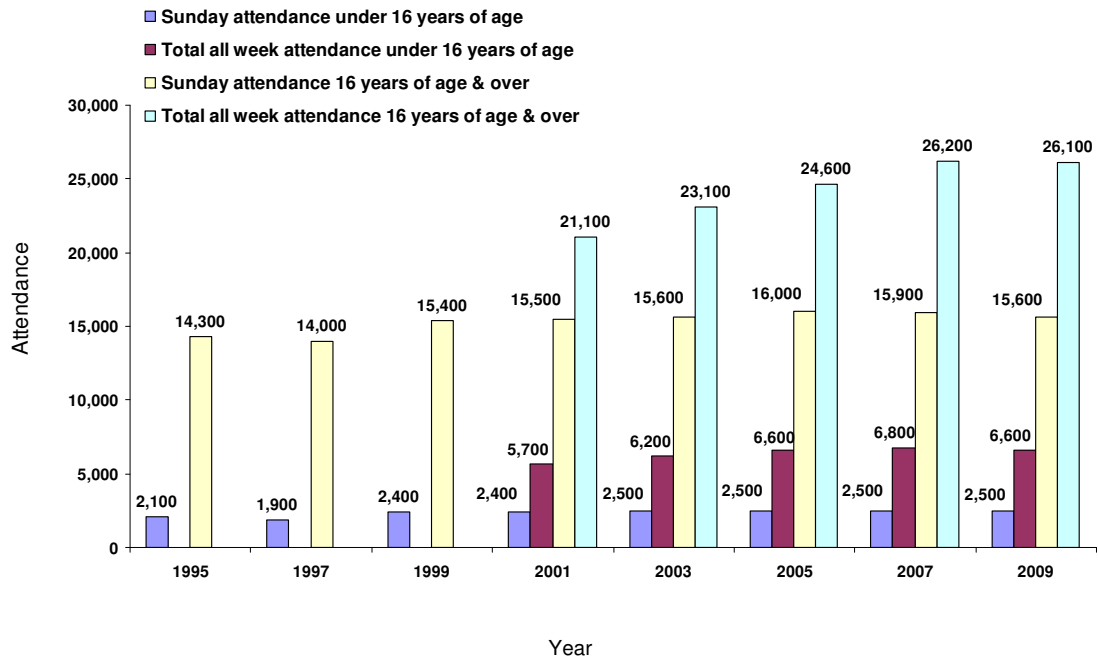
“Cathedrals are spiritual and cultural landmarks that punctuate their local region’s life, and this Easter weekend an average of more than one thousand people will worship at each of them. The number of people reached by specially arranged services, educational visits and community events hosted by cathedrals is growing by the year and we know that, in many cases, these showcases are attracting people into the regular worshipping community.

“We also know that cathedrals offer those seeking time in a sacred space a taster of high quality music and liturgy, with perhaps less of a sense that they will be committed to attending regularly. But many of these people are drawn to getting more involved, as shown by the encouraging rise in the number of baptisms that cathedrals are celebrating.”

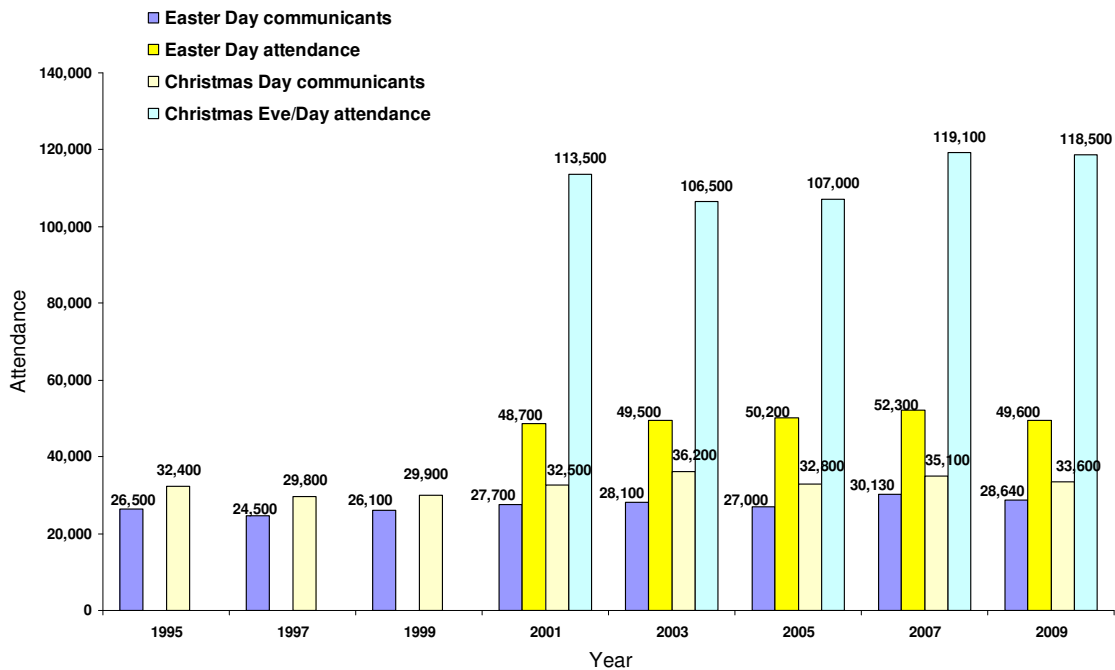
Revd Preb Lynda Barley (Head of Research and Statistics)

***Research and Statistics Department  
Archbishops’ Council, March 2010***

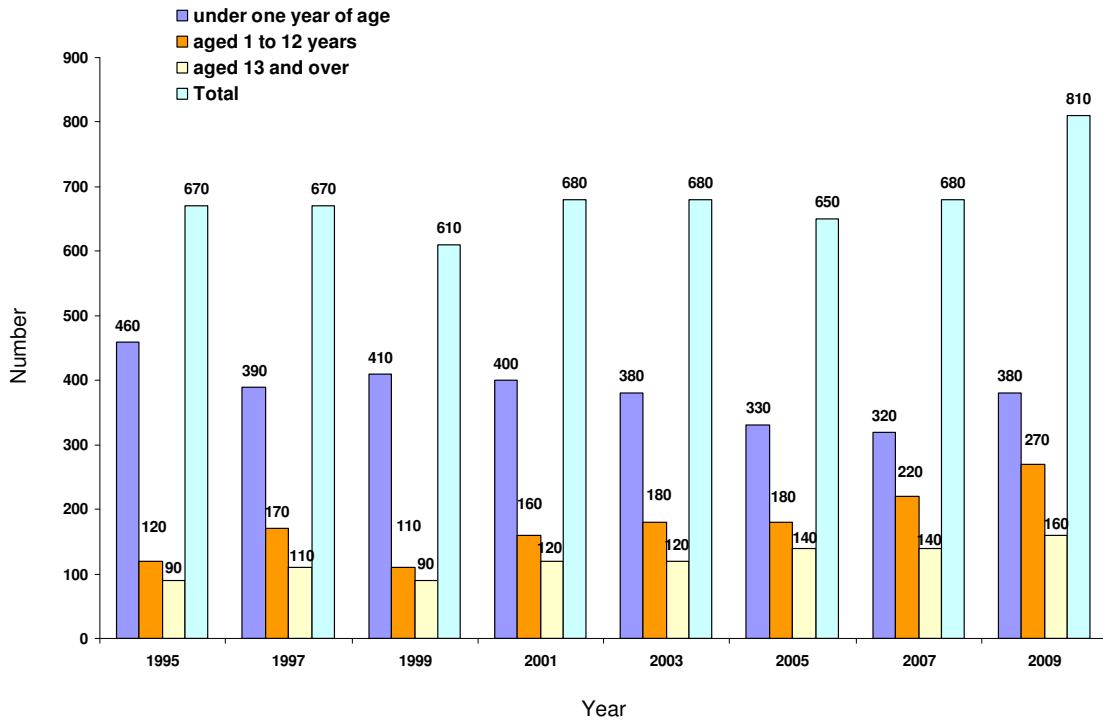
## Church of England Cathedrals (excluding Royal Peculiars) Sunday & total weekly attendance 1995 to 2009



## Church of England Cathedrals (excluding Royal Peculiars) Easter & Christmas 1995 to 2009



## Church of England Cathedrals (excluding Royal Peculiars) Baptisms 1995 to 2009



## Church of England Cathedrals (excluding Royal Peculiars) Educational events & Volunteers 2000 to 2009

