

# Church at Home 2020



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## Summary

This report provides the first analysis of the Church of England's Statistics for Mission dataset from 2020, with a focus on the "Church at Home" services – those services offered online, by phone, post, email, and other means – by churches during 2020.<sup>1</sup>

The analysis in this report is based on responses from over 12,700 Church of England churches (82% of all Church of England churches). As such, this dataset is substantially larger than any other analysed on this topic.

This report describes the range of ways in which Church at Home services were offered; the coverage across churches, parishes, and benefices; the factors linked to the provision of Church at Home services.

## Key points

- 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.

## Terminology

The terminology associated with the topics in this report evolved rapidly during 2020. Different people use different terminology; the terms as used in this report are defined below.

We use the term "Church at Home" (CAH) services to mean "any and all services offered remotely", including online services (live streamed or pre-recorded), services by telephone, and services that were emailed or posted. These services may have been participated in from home or from another location such as a hospital or whilst on holiday. As will be seen below, Church at Home is not equivalent to "digital" or "online" church – digital or online services are only a part of Church at Home services.

We use the term "in-person" services to mean services taking place in what used to be the "usual" way: collective worship, gathered together in the same space as other people. We are aware that some people prefer the terms "in church", "face-to-face", or "on-site" services; however, since these services might not be in a church, since social distancing guidelines in 2020 meant that they generally did not involve any face-

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<sup>1</sup> This report describes the services offered by Church of England churches. Additional Church at Home services were offered, via a variety of means, by others, including cathedrals and the national church; data regarding these services are not included in the analysis presented in this report. Rather, this report focuses on what was offered by "local" churches, though not necessarily to local people.

to-face interactions, and since “on-site” does not contain any suggestion of gathering together, we concluded that our terminology better describes the services reported to us.

We discuss “attendance” at CAH services, though of course this is different from attendance in the normal, pre-pandemic, way of attending church services.

We say that “churches”, “parishes”, or “benefices” offered CAH services. This is just a shorthand to refer to the people – clergy, Churchwardens, Parochial Church Council (PCC) members, paid staff, volunteers, members of congregations and communities - who took on the task of providing new things, in new ways, often at short notice, often learning as they went along.

I would like to take this opportunity to record my admiration for everyone involved, and to salute their hard work and dedication. It would have been fascinating to have asked people early in 2020 whether they thought the Church of England would be able to switch at a moment’s notice to worshipping online and in other innovative ways; my guess is that the Church of England massively exceeded expectations.

## Background

In March 2020, in-person collective worship was suspended for the vast majority of the Church of England’s churches<sup>2</sup>. Many churches rapidly moved to offering services via other means, including online, by phone, and by email. Not every church was able to offer such services itself; there were many reports of groups of churches working together to offer services, and of churches directing their congregations to other local, diocesan, or national services.

The 2020 Statistics for Mission return was adapted to collect information about the Church at Home services offered by churches during the March-July 2020 lockdown<sup>3</sup>, and during October 2020. Further details can be found in the methodology.

## Church at Home

The majority of churches offered some CAH services during the March-July 2020 lockdown and during October 2020 (Figure 1).

78% of churches<sup>4</sup> reported that they offered some CAH services during the March-July lockdown. 69% of churches reported that they offered some CAH services during October 2020.

After aggregating responses to parish and benefice level we see, not surprisingly, that more parishes and even more benefices offered CAH services. 80% of parishes and 91% of benefices offered some form of CAH during the March-July lockdown.

The fraction of churches, parishes, and benefices offering CAH services was lower in October than during the March-July lockdown; this is not surprising, given that congregations were allowed to worship in person in October 2020, and many were indeed doing so (see below).

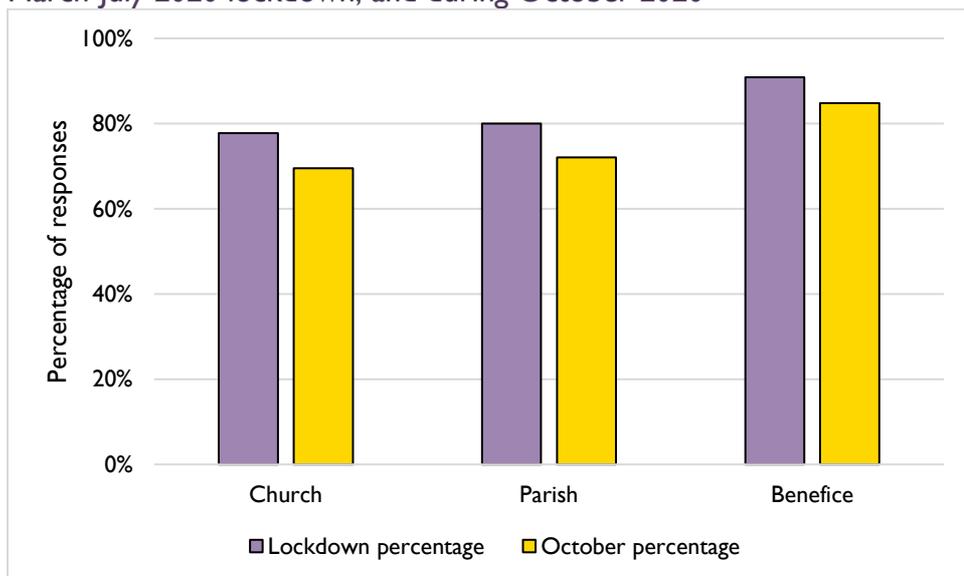
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<sup>2</sup> Almost all Church of England churches are located in mainland England. There are also Church of England churches in Wales, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and in the Diocese in Europe. Timings and details of lockdowns were not the same everywhere, therefore lockdown regulations did not affect all Church of England churches in exactly the same way. This report focuses on the period from March-July 2020, when most areas concerned were in some form of lockdown, and on October 2020, when in-person collective worship was permitted in most areas concerned. No attempt has been made in this report to consider exceptions differently.

<sup>3</sup> For brevity, in some places I will refer to this period as “lockdown”; at the point when the data collection was designed it was the only lockdown, though there have subsequently been further periods when collective worship was suspended.

<sup>4</sup> More precisely, this is 78% of returns received. 95% of returns were submitted on behalf of a single church. I have not attempted to adjust for the fact that some returns are on behalf of several churches.

Figure 1: Percentage of churches, parishes, and benefices that offered Church at Home services during the March-July 2020 lockdown, and during October 2020

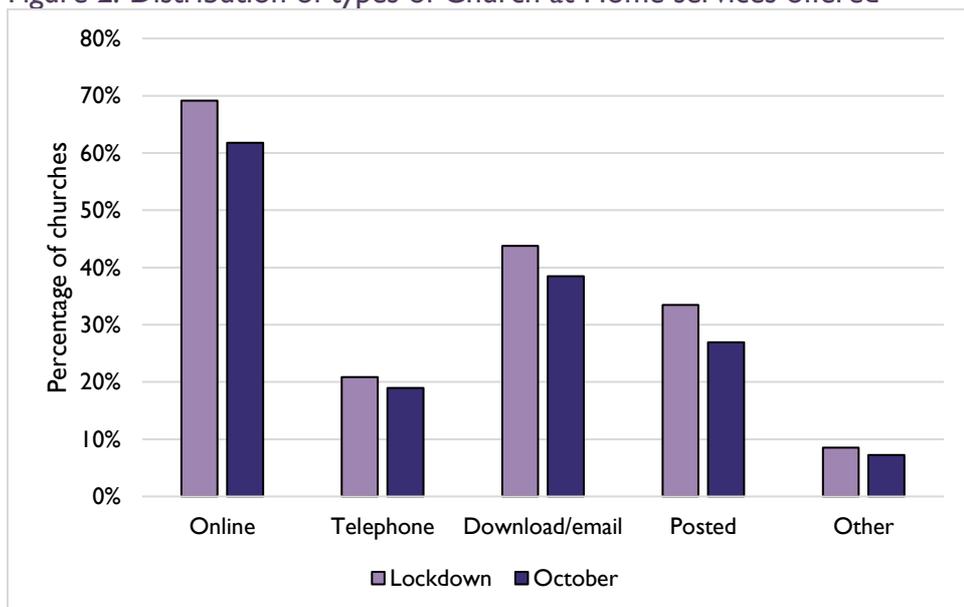


### What was offered?

Online services, live-streamed or pre-recorded, were the main way in which churches offered CAH services. During lockdown, 69% of churches offered online CAH services (live-streamed or pre-recorded); 44% offered services downloadable from a website or emailed; 33% offered printed and posted services; 21% offered telephone or dial-in services. The distribution of CAH services offered in October was similar, with slightly lower numbers in each group (Figure 2).

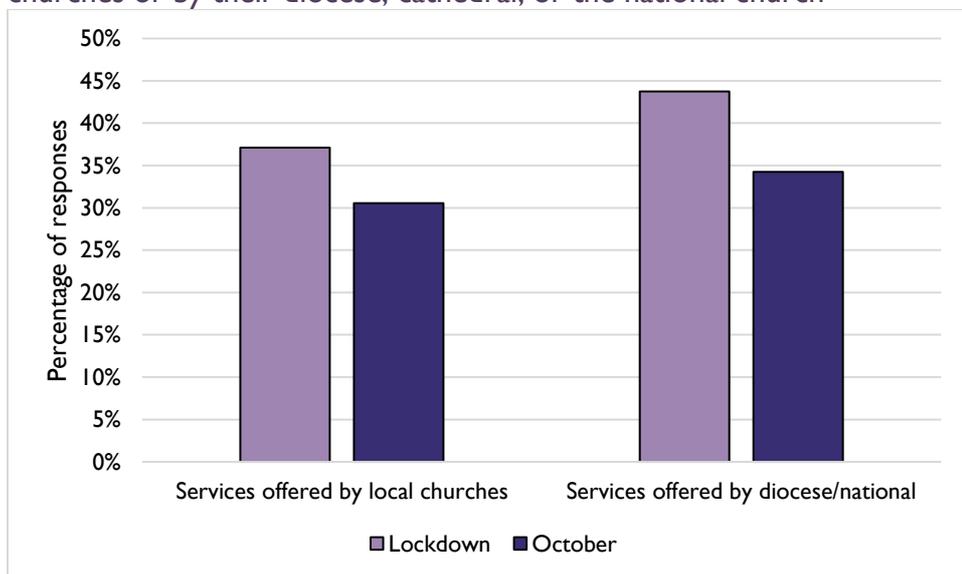
Both in lockdown and October, the great majority – almost 90% - of churches that offered CAH services offered them online. Although online services were the most commonly-offered form of CAH, the majority of churches offered CAH services in more than one form. It is reasonable to assume that churches were aware of the different needs and preferences within their congregations and communities, and were doing their best to meet these various needs.

Figure 2: Distribution of types of Church at Home services offered



Many churches reported that they referred people to services offered by other local churches, by their diocese, or nationally. During lockdown, 37% of churches referred people to CAH services offered by another local church (e.g. in their parish, benefice, or deanery), and 44% of churches referred people to CAH services offered by their diocese, a cathedral, or nationally (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Percentage of churches that referred people to Church at Home services offered by other local churches or by their diocese, cathedral, or the national church



During lockdown, 12% of churches, 10% of parishes, and 5% of benefices reported that they neither provided services themselves nor referred people elsewhere. During October, 20% of churches, 18% of parishes, and 11% of benefices reported that they neither provided CAH services themselves nor referred people elsewhere.

The congregations of the vast majority of Church of England churches, parishes, and benefices were either offered CAH services by their church (or parish, or benefice), or were referred by their church to CAH services offered elsewhere.

Many churches, as we have seen, offered multiple forms of CAH, and many both offered CAH services themselves and referred people to CAH offered elsewhere. This may reflect the desire of churches to provide varied forms of worship; the practical reality that churches were not necessarily able to offer CAH services every week; or that it took churches some time to get their CAH services up and running. It is likely that other local, diocesan, and national services helped churches fill some of the gaps in their own pattern of worship.

By October, 90% of churches that offered CAH services offered them each week. This indicates that CAH services were not an occasional novelty, but were at that time part of the regular pattern of worship offered by churches to their congregations.

## Church at Home and collective worship in church

In October 2020, 83% of churches reported some attendance at in-person services.

Most churches were offering both CAH services and in-person services. In October 2020:

- 61% of churches both offered CAH services and reported attendance at in-person services.
- 22% of churches did not offer CAH services but did report some attendance at in-person services.
- 8% of churches offered CAH services and did not report any attendance at in-person services.

- 9% of churches neither offered CAH services nor reported any attendance at in-person services.

Unsurprisingly, fewer churches offered in-person services in October 2020 than in October 2019. The 83% of churches that reported some attendance at in-person services in October 2020 compares to 96% in October 2019.

The fall was larger for fresh expressions of Church (fxCs) than for “traditional” church services:

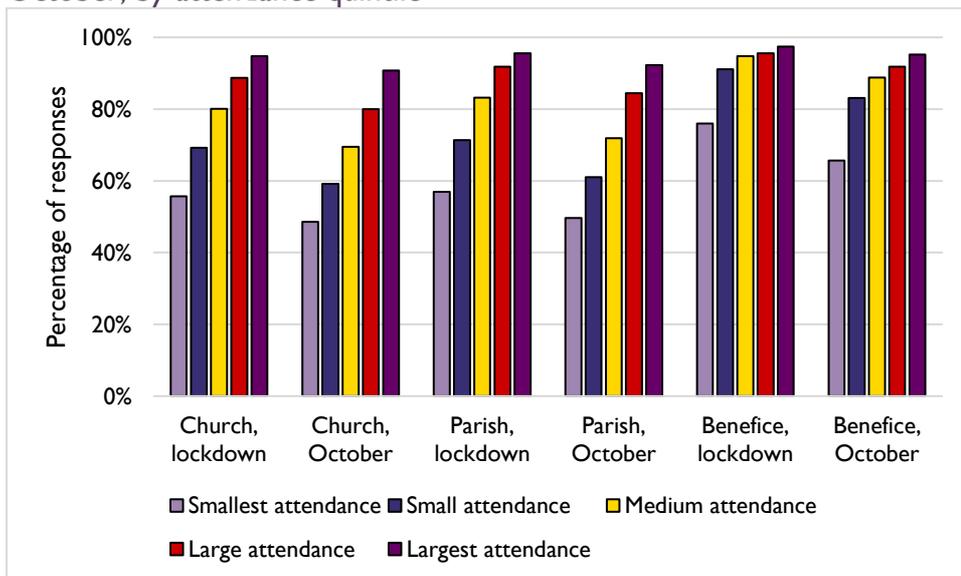
- In October 2020, 83% of churches reported some attendance at in-person “traditional” church services, down from 96% of churches in 2019.
- In October 2020, 5% of churches reported some attendance at in-person fxCs, down from 19% of churches in 2019.

Among reasons that might explain why there was such a large fall in in-person fxCs are: that other forms of worship were prioritised; that fxCs are particularly dependent on volunteers, and therefore harder to organise under social distancing restrictions and while people were shielding; that fxCs involve interactions and forms of worship that were less adaptable to social distancing restrictions.

### Size matters

The larger a church’s pre-pandemic congregation, the more likely the church was to offer CAH services. This effect is seen at church, parish, and benefice level, in lockdown and in October (Figure 4).

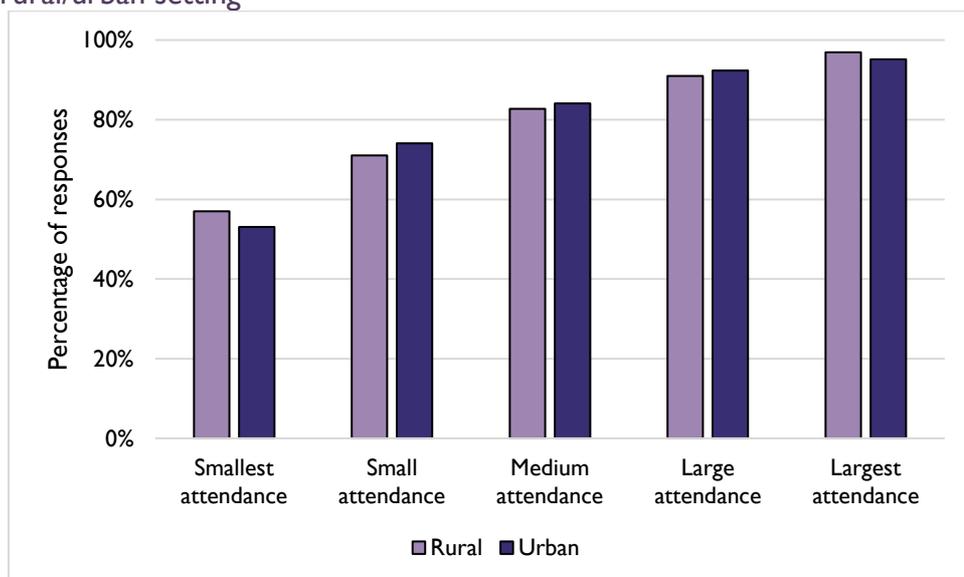
Figure 4: Percentages of churches, parishes, and benefices offering CAH services, during lockdown and October, by attendance quintile



Among the plausible reasons for this are that larger churches are more likely to have access to the skills, funds, and time required to provide CAH services. Furthermore, large churches have more people to whom to offer CAH services, and thus a greater incentive to provide them.

Large churches are not evenly distributed across the country. In particular, larger churches are concentrated in urban areas, with smaller churches concentrated in rural areas. The clear link between church size and the offering of CAH services might lead people to the erroneous conclusion that something about the rural nature of churches makes them less likely to offer CAH services. However, as we can see, and as statistical modelling confirms, once church size is taken into account there is no difference between rural and urban churches and parishes in terms of whether or not they offered CAH services (Figure 5).

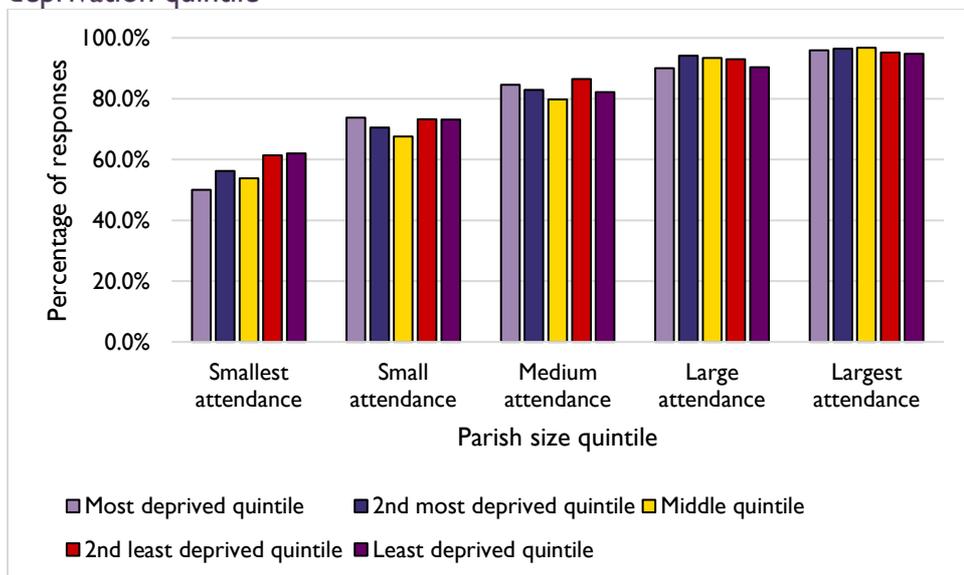
Figure 5: Percentage of parishes offering CAH services during lockdown, by attendance quintile and rural/urban setting<sup>5</sup>



There is a small difference between churches in more deprived parishes and those in less deprived parishes in terms of whether or not they offered CAH services, with churches in less deprived parishes being a little more likely to offer CAH services. However, the effect of deprivation is much smaller than the effect of church size (Figure 6).

Statistical modelling demonstrates that when church size, deprivation, and rural/urban setting are all included, size is by far the most significant factor, with the largest impact on whether or not churches offer CAH services. Deprivation has a smaller effect, with a small trend for churches in more deprived areas to be less likely to have offered CAH services. Rural/urban setting has no effect.

Figure 6: Percentage of parishes that offered CAH services during lockdown, by attendance quintile and deprivation quintile<sup>6</sup>



<sup>5</sup> This figure shows the values for parishes during lockdown; very similar trends are seen when looking at CAH services in October, and when looking at church and benefice values.

<sup>6</sup> This figure shows the values for parishes during lockdown; very similar trends are seen when looking at CAH services in October, and when looking at church values.

The link between church size and the offering of CAH services results in the 78% of churches that offered CAH services during lockdown representing 90% of the Church of England's 2019 average weekly attendance.

At parish level, the 80% of parishes that offered CAH services during lockdown represent 92% of the Church of England's 2019 average weekly attendance.

At benefice level, the 91% of benefices that offered CAH services during lockdown represent 95% of the Church of England's 2019 average weekly attendance.

In summary, churches with bigger congregations were more likely to offer CAH services to their congregations.

## Church at Home attendance figures

Measuring the number of people attending CAH services is hard. The various different forms of CAH provide different challenges for counting attendance, and numbers are often not comparable between one form of CAH and another<sup>7</sup>.

In June 2020 the Research and Statistics team provided advice to churches about how to count CAH attendance<sup>8</sup>. We, like everyone else, were learning as we went along, and this advice was no doubt imperfect. We are currently working with other statisticians within the British and Irish Network of Church Statisticians to update this advice.

The professional opinion of the Research and Statistics team is that aggregating CAH attendance figures to give diocesan or national totals would be both meaningless and misleading, and we advise against it.

Our reasons for making this recommendation include:

- Churches used a wide range of different ways to derive their CAH attendance figures, giving figures that are not comparable.
- Even if considering just online CAH services, counting is not straightforward. Many churches offered live-streamed services that were made available to “watch again” later, so the “live” views may not equal the total views, and the total views may include people who had “attended” more than once.
- Different online platforms offer different metrics that are not easily comparable. The platform may report the number of people (or, in fact, of devices) who downloaded a service, who watched three seconds of a service, or who watched one minute of a service, giving very different numbers<sup>9</sup>. Ideally, we would want to know the number of people who viewed the whole service (or at least the vast majority of it), but this information might not be available.
- It is very hard for churches offering CAH services to know how many people attend per computer/telephone call/posted service – is it a person on their own, or is a whole family attending?
- One of the advantages of CAH is that it is much easier to attend worship at multiple services on the same day than when attendance was in person. Therefore, aggregating online attendance across churches will result in counting some people multiple times.

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<sup>7</sup> As part of the data checking process, I queried instances where the reported CAH attendance was notably higher than pre-pandemic in-person attendance; summary information about the responses received to these queries can be found in the Methodology.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/policy-and-thinking/research-and-statistics/covid19-counting-attendance>

<sup>9</sup> It would obviously be unhelpful and misleading to focus on the number of three second views when more meaningful information is available. For example, if a service on Facebook had 50,000 views of three seconds or longer, of which 3,000 were views of one minute or longer, it would be very strange to report this as an “attendance” of 50,000 people.

- There were cases where several churches in a benefice reported exactly the same number of CAH attenders; on querying these, most were cases of same attendees being recorded on several returns<sup>10</sup>. Given the high levels of collaborative working between churches, such duplication of attendance figures is likely to be common.

The fact that CAH attendance figures mean such different things in different places and therefore cannot be aggregated to give meaningful totals does not mean that the information is useless.

We recommend that churches continue to keep track of their CAH attendance, to allow them to assess changes over time, and to help discern which of their CAH services have the widest reach.

We also recommend that people working to support churches within a diocese, deanery, or other area, make use of the CAH attendance figures to find churches in their area that seem to have particularly wide-reaching CAH services, and from which valuable lessons might be learnt.

We recommend that churches think carefully about which of the available measures of attendance is most appropriate, and to do their best to record CAH attendance consistently; one sensible approach for those offering online services might be to keep a note of live views and views within a week of the original broadcast.

## Collaborative working

It is impossible to say exactly how many instances there were of churches working together – within a parish, across a benefice, or more widely – to offer CAH services. Anecdotally, this was common practice. Such collaborative working seems to me to be extremely practical and to be commended as an example of churches supporting each other in their efforts to offer worship in new ways.

As noted above, as part of the data checking process I queried 90 or so instances where several churches within the same benefice reported the same CAH attendance figure. There are several understandable reasons why the same figure might be reported by two or more churches: coincidence; those reporting dividing the total equally among their churches; or duplication, with people being counted more than once. The latter two reasons both arise from churches working together. Of those queried, about 10% were coincidences, 75% were duplicated figure, 5% were split figures, and 10% received no reply.

Additionally, responses to queries of cases where CAH attendance was significantly larger than pre-pandemic in-person attendance highlighted collaborative working between churches as a common reason for large attendance figures.

At least within these groups, therefore, there was a great deal of collaboration between churches.

## Comparison to other studies

The information in this report is the largest survey of the Church at Home services offered by Church of England churches. As discussed in the methodology, the fact that response rate was not 100% means that it is not guaranteed to be a representative sample, although available indicators suggest that the information is robust. It is worth comparing the results here with other available survey data.

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<sup>10</sup> This is not an error in reporting – it would be unreasonable to expect several churches offering a joint CAH service to be able to assign each viewer to one particular church – simply a challenge in interpretation.

### Church web page review: April-May 2020

In April-May 2020 the Research and Statistics team reviewed the web pages of a stratified random sample of 400 churches for indications that they were offering online CAH services. Of this sample, about a third of web pages mentioned CAH services. This figure is notably lower than the 78% of churches in the Statistics for Mission dataset that were offering CAH services. The difference may be because the webpage review took place early in the first lockdown; because not every church used their web page to advertise their CAH services; or because the review focused on online CAH services rather than covering the full range of CAH services.

### Church web page review, July 2020

In July 2020 the Research and Statistics team repeated the web page review of April-May, with the same sample as before and covering a fuller range of CAH services. At this time, about 60% mentioned CAH services on their web page. This is closer to the 78% that was reported in the Statistics for Mission dataset, and differences may be because not every church used their web page to advertise their CAH services.

### Clergy survey, August 2020

The Research and Statistics team carried out a survey of 356 clergy in August 2020, asking them about the CAH provision that they were offering. 168 clergy responded. 99% of those who replied said that their church was offering CAH services. Assuming that clergy were answering on behalf of their benefice, this is slightly higher than the 91% of benefices offering CAH services in the Statistics for Mission dataset. The difference may be because clergy whose churches were not offering CAH services were less inclined to reply to the survey; or because the survey did not cover parishes in vacancy. That the 99% might well have been an overestimate was noted at the time.

## Conclusion

The research presented in this report demonstrates the high levels of provision of Church at Home services by Church of England churches. This was the case both during the March-July 2020 lockdown and in October 2020, by which time most churches were also offering in-person services. Churches demonstrated great adaptability during this challenging period of time.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank everyone who provided the information presented in this report. Given the challenges of the past year, the high response rate was both surprising and encouraging. It reflects the hard work done in recent years by our diocesan colleagues and the Research and Statistics team to assist churches in their use of information, and to demonstrate the importance of the information provided and the seriousness with which it is taken. Once again, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in providing Church at Home services for their congregations and communities; it really has been an extraordinary effort.

## Methodology

The usual methodology for the annual Statistics for Mission process can be found in the 2019 Statistics for Mission report: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/21969>

In 2020 we made substantial changes to the Statistics for Mission return to collect information about the impact of the pandemic and associated lockdowns on the worshipping life of churches. The 2020 Statistics for Mission form can be found in Appendix 2.

Several questions were removed, including Easter attendance (most churches were closed at Easter 2020) and Usual Sunday attendance (many people would be hard-pressed to describe what a “usual” Sunday

looked like in 2020). Questions about attendance at school services taking place in churches in October were removed, on the assumption that there would be very few of them<sup>11</sup>.

We added questions to ask churches about other forms of worship that they offered in 2020. Thanks to some preliminary work carried out in spring and summer 2020, we were aware of the wide range of services that churches had provided – online, via email, telephone, post, and so forth. We referred to these as “Church at Home” (CAH) services, which seemed to capture the mood and the experience for many people, and is not overly convoluted.

We asked churches to tell us which types of CAH they offered during the March-July 2020 lockdown, and during October 2020. We asked whether churches had referred their congregation to CAH services offered by other local churches, or by their cathedral or the national church.

We asked churches to estimate the usual number of CAH participants in services in October 2020. By this, we meant the equivalent of the size of the congregation – though of course people were not congregating. We could have asked about the number of people “attending”, but since they were not in attendance that did not feel like the right terminology. So we asked about the number of people “participating”. While many of those filling in the forms interpreted this as we had anticipated, some reported very low numbers of “participants” – one or two, for instance – from which it seems that they interpreted it as asking for the number of people appearing on screen in an online service, for instance. On reflection, we used the wrong terminology, or gave insufficiently clear guidance, or both.

### Responses received

As ever, we are extremely grateful to everyone in churches who collated and submitted their figures, and to our diocesan colleagues who assisted in the process.

The analysis in this paper is based on responses received through the online parish returns system, and late returns processed by the Research and Statistics team, by 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Any additional late returns will be processed and included in future analyses.

Over 12,000 Statistics for Mission returns were received. These were predominantly single-church returns but, as usual, some were joint returns on behalf of several churches. In all, the returns received covered over 12,700 churches, or 82% of the Church of England’s churches. Although this is a slightly lower response rate than in recent years (c.f. 89% in 2019), it is an encouragingly high figure considering the other burdens and pressures that churches and dioceses were dealing with, and the gentler-than-usual encouragement to churches to submit their figures. Some dioceses took a particularly light-touch approach to encouraging their churches to submit figures, for understandable reasons, so had markedly lower response rates than usual; despite that, the lowest response rate for any diocese was only just under 50%.

We know of many instances of churches working together to offer CAH services as a group rather than individually. Therefore in this report I have also looked at figures aggregated across each parish and across each benefice. In order that this aggregation be meaningful, particularly when considering the relationship with the size of the pre-pandemic congregation, I have only retained aggregated records where the total number of churches from which data were received in 2020 is equal to the number in the corresponding parish/benefice in Statistics for Mission 2019. Thus the “aggregated” returns are likely to cover the entire parish/benefice. The results shown relate to this subset of the aggregated groups; the results would be very similar if the entire aggregated groups had been retained for analysis.

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<sup>11</sup> This assumption was confirmed: we asked churches whether they had any services for schools in church in October 2020; fewer than 250 said that they did, which is fewer than a tenth of the number of churches that reported some attendance at services for schools in October 2019.

When aggregated to parish level, the returns received cover 10,337 parishes, of which 9,704 are included in the analysis. These 9,704 parishes correspond to 78% of the Church of England’s parishes.

When aggregated to benefice level, 5,689 are included in the analysis. These 5,689 benefices correspond to 83% of the Church of England’s benefices.

### Querying the data

I queried instances where CAH attendance figures were considerably larger than pre-pandemic in-person attendance. The majority of the queries were responded to, offering helpful additional insights. While churches were doing their best to make use of the information to which they had access, it is clear from their responses that very different approaches to counting CAH attendance were taken in different places.

The responses will, in some cases, be the respondents’ “best guesses” about why CAH attendance figures were so much larger than pre-pandemic in-person attendance.

A summary of the responses can be found in Table A1, below.

Table A1: Response to queries about large CAH attendance

143 entries were queried, and 114 responses were received. Some responses contained more than one reason for their CAH attendance figures being considerably larger than their pre-pandemic in-person attendance, and it is not possible to estimate the influence of the various factors.

Nature of response	Number of responses (% of responses)
Reporting error	16 (14%)
Attendance relates to a congregation from a group of churches (e.g. a benefice), reported by one church	30 (26%)
Attendees included those not able to attend in-person services (e.g. because of illness, work, or childcare commitments)	28 (25%)
Attendees included non-local people with connections to the church (e.g. family and friends of the congregation or clergy)	27 (24%)
Attendees included people from churches and denominations whose church was not offering CAH services	18 (16%)
Attendees included former members of the congregation who have moved away	17 (15%)
Attendees included people at additional midweek services (which may have meant the same people were counted multiple times)	17 (15%)
Attendees included people who watched a recording of an online service after the live broadcast	15 (13%)
CAH services gained attention through external promotion (e.g. by particular interest groups, or by the Church of England website)	12 (11%)
Attendees included people who do not usually come to church but who were seeking a sense of community during the pandemic	11 (10%)
Attendees included people who do not usually come to church but who were seeking spirituality during the pandemic	6 (5%)

As expected, there were some reporting errors in the figures. Often, though, large figures were confirmed as being a reasonable representation of the situation, given the information that was available.

Many respondents reported that their CAH attendance figures were based on the metrics provided by the online platforms they used for their CAH services. These metrics, as respondents noted, may count

“views” or “reach” in ways that are not equivalent to attending an in-person service; in particular, they may not distinguish between short-duration views and people who watched the whole service.

Sometimes the increase was because the service was offered across a group of churches (such as a benefice); in some cases it was because CAH attendees included people who could not easily attend that church in person (e.g. because of illness, childcare commitments, or because they did not live nearby).

I queried cases where several churches in a benefice reported exactly the same CAH attendance figure, where that attendance figure was 75 or more. As noted above, the majority of these were instances where the same attendance was duplicated on the returns of several churches.

### Statistical model

There are several factors that one might think are likely to be associated with whether or not a church/parish/benefice offered CAH services. I explored a number of these factors: size – defined as the 2019 All Age Average Weekly attendance (AWA); rural/urban setting; and deprivation.

2019 AWA figures were taken from the final 2019 Statistics for Mission dataset, as published by the Research and Statistics team in October 2020: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/21969>

Parish deprivation figures were taken from the dataset published by the Research and Statistics team in January 2020: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/research-and-statistics/resources-publications-and-data>

I split attendance and deprivation into quintiles and, like rural/urban setting, treated them as categorical variables. This means that I am not assuming that there is a linear, or indeed monotonic, effect of these variables on the outcome. Splitting attendance and deprivation into deciles rather than quintiles made no material difference to the model output.

I included these variables in a multivariate logistic regression model, with the outcome variable being whether the church/parish/benefice offered CAH services.

I explored including the number of churches in the parish/benefice as a variable, but have not included it in the model presented in the main analysis. At parish level the number of churches had a very small effect; at benefice level the effect was larger, but was still considerably smaller than the effect of congregation size. The presence of this effect may be because benefices with more churches are likely to have more people with experience in looking after church buildings, and may therefore be more likely to have the technical skills and time to provide CAH services. This may particularly be the case in multi-parish benefices (which will correlate with multi-church benefices).

Model output is shown in Appendix I.

### Representativeness

Just because the dataset analysed in this report is large, and covers a large majority of the Church of England’s churches, does not mean that it is representative. There is a possibility that churches that were offering CAH services were more (or less) likely to return data than churches that were not offering CAH services. Although this is a possibility, there is no evidence for it: those churches that submitted data were broadly representative of the full set of Church of England churches in terms of size and deprivation. Since Statistics for Mission is an established annual part of the Church of England’s mechanisms to understand what it happening within its churches there is less chance that people chose to take part on the basis of their CAH practice than if it had been a new survey about CAH provision.

Therefore, although I cannot be certain, I am reasonably confident that the sample is representative, and that the conclusions drawn from the data are robust.

## Appendix I: statistical model output

Analysis was performed in R version 4.0.2, using RStudio version 1.1.423.

The multivariate logistic regression model that I have used is a standard statistical approach that quantifies the relationship between the predictor variables (church size, deprivation, rural/urban setting) and the outcome variable (whether or not the church/parish/benefice offered CAH services). In particular, it fits a linear relationship between the predictor variables and the logarithm of the odds of the outcome.

In the model output below, a positive value in the “Estimate” column means that variable is associated with a higher probability of offering CAH services; a negative value in the “Estimate” column means that variable is associated with a lower probability of offering CAH services. “Higher” and “lower” are relative to the baseline, which in these models refers to a church/parish/benefice in the smallest attendance quintile, the least deprived quintile (here, deprivation quintile 1 is the most deprived quintile), and a rural setting.

### Church-level analysis

#### *Model 1: Church at Home services offered in the March-July 2020 lockdown*

```
> summary(model)
```

```
Call:
glm(formula = OfferLockdownAny ~ AWAQuintile + Classification..Urban.or.Rural. +
  DepnQuintile, family = binomial(link = "logit"), data = CAHMerged)
```

```
Deviance Residuals:
    Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
-2.4912  0.3144  0.4909  0.7093  1.1281
```

```
Coefficients:
```

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )
(Intercept)	0.26003	0.06981	3.725	0.000195 ***
AWAQuintilesmall	0.56840	0.06401	8.880	< 2e-16 ***
AWAQuintilemed	1.13472	0.07105	15.971	< 2e-16 ***
AWAQuintilebig	1.78912	0.08829	20.264	< 2e-16 ***
AWAQuintilebiggest	2.60696	0.11396	22.876	< 2e-16 ***
Classification..Urban.or.Rural.Urban	0.07454	0.07289	1.023	0.306486
DepnQuintile4	0.11569	0.07828	1.478	0.139453
DepnQuintile3	-0.14302	0.07685	-1.861	0.062747 .
DepnQuintile2	-0.04931	0.07767	-0.635	0.525483
DepnQuintile1	-0.06822	0.08689	-0.785	0.432409

```
---
Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

```
(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
```

```
Null deviance: 11838 on 11297 degrees of freedom
Residual deviance: 10510 on 11288 degrees of freedom
(16 observations deleted due to missingness)
AIC: 10530
```

```
Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 5
```

```
> anova(model,test="Chisq")
Analysis of Deviance Table
```

```
Model: binomial, link: logit
```

```
Response: OfferLockdownAny
```

```
Terms added sequentially (first to last)
```

	Df	Deviance	Resid. Df	Resid. Dev	Pr(>Chi)
NULL			11297	11838	

```
AWAQuintile      4 1314.79 11293 10524 < 2e-16 ***
Classification..Urban.or.Rural. 1 0.55 11292 10523 0.45750
DepnQuintile     4 13.03 11288 10510 0.01113 *
---
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

## Model 2: Church at Home services offered in October 2020

```
> summary(model)
```

```
Call:
glm(formula = OfferOctAny ~ AWAQuintile + Classification..Urban.or.Rural. +
    DepnQuintile, family = binomial(link = "logit"), data = CAHMerged)
```

```
Deviance Residuals:
    Min     1Q   Median     3Q      Max
-2.2568 -1.1473  0.6020  0.8751  1.3033
```

```
Coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept)    0.06884   0.06550   1.051  0.2933
AWAQuintilesmall  0.41544   0.06175  6.727 1.73e-11 ***
AWAQuintilemed   0.86240   0.06526 13.215 < 2e-16 ***
AWAQuintilebig   1.39419   0.07581 18.392 < 2e-16 ***
AWAQuintilebiggest 2.24299   0.09349 23.992 < 2e-16 ***
Classification..Urban.or.Rural.Urban 0.15326   0.06264  2.447  0.0144 *
DepnQuintile4    -0.06888   0.06982  -0.987  0.3239
DepnQuintile3    -0.14001   0.07045  -1.987  0.0469 *
DepnQuintile2    -0.16892   0.07047  -2.397  0.0165 *
DepnQuintile1    -0.36002   0.07608  -4.732 2.23e-06 ***
---
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

```
(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
```

```
Null deviance: 13775 on 11297 degrees of freedom
Residual deviance: 12488 on 11288 degrees of freedom
(16 observations deleted due to missingness)
AIC: 12508
```

```
Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 4
```

```
> anova(model,test="Chisq")
Analysis of Deviance Table
```

```
Model: binomial, link: logit
```

```
Response: OfferOctAny
```

```
Terms added sequentially (first to last)
```

```
              Df Deviance Resid. Df Resid. Dev Pr(>Chi)
NULL                11297  13775
AWAQuintile         4 1261.81 11293 12513 < 2.2e-16 ***
Classification..Urban.or.Rural. 1 0.39 11292 12513 0.5336
DepnQuintile        4 24.99 11288 12488 5.058e-05 ***
---
Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

## Parish-level analysis

### Model 1: Church at Home services offered in the March-July 2020 lockdown

```
> summary(model)
```

```
Call:
glm(formula = OfferLockdownAny ~ AWAQuintile + Classification..Urban.or.Rural. +
    DepnQuintile, family = binomial(link = "logit"), data = ParishCAHMerged)
```

```
Deviance Residuals:
    Min     1Q   Median     3Q      Max
-2.5717  0.2924  0.4179  0.6472  1.1105
```

Coefficients:

```
Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept)      0.29557  0.07642  3.868 0.00011 ***
AWAQuintilesmall  0.62244  0.06961  8.942 < 2e-16 ***
AWAQuintilemed   1.29734  0.08058 16.100 < 2e-16 ***
AWAQuintilebig   2.08399  0.10530 19.791 < 2e-16 ***
AWAQuintilebiggest 2.73224  0.13460 20.299 < 2e-16 ***
Classification..Urban.or.Rural.Urban 0.10332  0.08679  1.190 0.23389
DepnQuintile4    0.13834  0.08808  1.571 0.11629
DepnQuintile3   -0.13621  0.08524 -1.598 0.11006
DepnQuintile2   -0.01392  0.08740 -0.159 0.87351
DepnQuintile1   -0.08891  0.09900 -0.898 0.36916
```

---  
Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)

Null deviance: 9700.6 on 9689 degrees of freedom  
Residual deviance: 8445.4 on 9680 degrees of freedom  
(14 observations deleted due to missingness)  
AIC: 8465.4

Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 5

```
> anova(model,test="Chisq")
Analysis of Deviance Table
```

Model: binomial, link: logit

Response: OfferLockdownAny

Terms added sequentially (first to last)

```
          Df Deviance Resid. Df Resid. Dev Pr(>Chi)
NULL                9689  9700.6
AWAQuintile         4 1242.39  9685  8458.2 < 2e-16 ***
Classification..Urban.or.Rural 1 0.65  9684  8457.5 0.42005
DepnQuintile        4  12.15  9680  8445.4 0.01625 *
```

---  
Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

## Model 2: Church at Home services offered in October 2020

```
> summary(model)
```

Call:  
glm(formula = OfferOctAny ~ AWAQuintile + Classification..Urban.or.Rural. +  
 DepnQuintile, family = binomial(link = "logit"), data = ParishCAHmerged)

Deviance Residuals:  
Min 1Q Median 3Q Max  
-2.334 -1.159 0.560 0.828 1.290

Coefficients:

```
Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept)      0.10274  0.07090  1.449 0.1473
AWAQuintilesmall  0.45736  0.06646  6.882 5.91e-12 ***
AWAQuintilemed   0.93667  0.07161 13.081 < 2e-16 ***
AWAQuintilebig   1.65415  0.08662 19.096 < 2e-16 ***
AWAQuintilebiggest 2.40922  0.10883 22.138 < 2e-16 ***
Classification..Urban.or.Rural.Urban 0.14448  0.07242  1.995 0.0460 *
DepnQuintile4    -0.06078  0.07750 -0.784 0.4329
DepnQuintile3   -0.12817  0.07733 -1.657 0.0974 .
DepnQuintile2   -0.14506  0.07834 -1.852 0.0641 .
DepnQuintile1   -0.36343  0.08540 -4.256 2.08e-05 ***
```

---  
Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)

Null deviance: 11478 on 9689 degrees of freedom

Residual deviance: 10249 on 9680 degrees of freedom  
(14 observations deleted due to missingness)  
AIC: 10269

Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 5

```
> anova(model, test="Chisq")  
Analysis of Deviance Table
```

Model: binomial, link: logit

Response: OfferOctAny

Terms added sequentially (first to last)

	Df	Deviance	Resid. Df	Resid. Dev	Pr(>Chi)
NULL		9689	11478		
AWAQuintile	4	1208.72	9685	10269	< 2.2e-16 ***
Classification..Urban.or.Rural. 1	0.08	9684	10269	0.7763203	
DepnQuintile	4	20.09	9680	10249	0.0004793 ***

---  
Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

## Benefice-level analysis

### Model 1: Church at Home services offered in the March-July 2020 lockdown

```
> summary(model)
```

Call:  
glm(formula = OfferLockdownAny ~ AWAQuintile + UrbanRural, family = binomial(link = "logit"),  
data = BenCAHmerged)

Deviance Residuals:  
Min 1Q Median 3Q Max  
-2.7604 0.2319 0.3132 0.4124 0.7792

Coefficients:  
Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)  
(Intercept) 1.22084 0.07842 15.568 <2e-16 \*\*\*  
AWAQuintile4 1.20107 0.12556 9.565 <2e-16 \*\*\*  
AWAQuintile3 1.76975 0.15207 11.637 <2e-16 \*\*\*  
AWAQuintile2 1.96127 0.16121 12.166 <2e-16 \*\*\*  
AWAQuintile1 2.56664 0.20641 12.435 <2e-16 \*\*\*  
UrbanRuralUrban -0.18445 0.09883 -1.866 0.062 .  
---  
Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)

Null deviance: 3459.2 on 5680 degrees of freedom  
Residual deviance: 3095.2 on 5675 degrees of freedom  
(8 observations deleted due to missingness)  
AIC: 3107.2

Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 6

```
> anova(model, test="Chisq")  
Analysis of Deviance Table
```

Model: binomial, link: logit

Response: OfferLockdownAny

Terms added sequentially (first to last)

	Df	Deviance	Resid. Df	Resid. Dev	Pr(>Chi)
NULL		5680	3459.2		
AWAQuintile 4	360.45	5676	3098.7	< 2e-16 ***	
UrbanRural 1	3.49	5675	3095.2	0.06179 .	

---  
Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

## Model 2: Church at Home services offered in October 2020

```
> summary(model)
```

Call:

```
glm(formula = OfferOctAny ~ AWAQuintile + UrbanRural, family = binomial(link = "logit"),  
data = BenCAHMerged)
```

Deviance Residuals:

```
Min 1Q Median 3Q Max  
-2.5406 0.3244 0.4339 0.5693 0.9830
```

Coefficients:

```
Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)  
(Intercept) 0.74450 0.06896 10.796 < 2e-16 ***  
AWAQuintile4 0.99317 0.10145 9.790 < 2e-16 ***  
AWAQuintile3 1.47965 0.11502 12.865 < 2e-16 ***  
AWAQuintile2 1.83961 0.12642 14.552 < 2e-16 ***  
AWAQuintile1 2.44237 0.15668 15.588 < 2e-16 ***  
UrbanRuralUrban -0.26837 0.08003 -3.353 0.000798 ***
```

---

Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)

```
Null deviance: 4833.4 on 5680 degrees of freedom  
Residual deviance: 4373.1 on 5675 degrees of freedom  
(8 observations deleted due to missingness)  
AIC: 4385.1
```

Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 5

```
> anova(model, test="Chisq")
```

Analysis of Deviance Table

Model: binomial, link: logit

Response: OfferOctAny

Terms added sequentially (first to last)

```
Df Deviance Resid. Df Resid. Dev Pr(>Chi)  
NULL 5680 4833.4  
AWAQuintile 4 449.02 5676 4384.4 < 2.2e-16 ***  
UrbanRural 1 11.32 5675 4373.1 0.000765 ***
```

---

Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

## Appendix 2: 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 was held at your church</b>	
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.

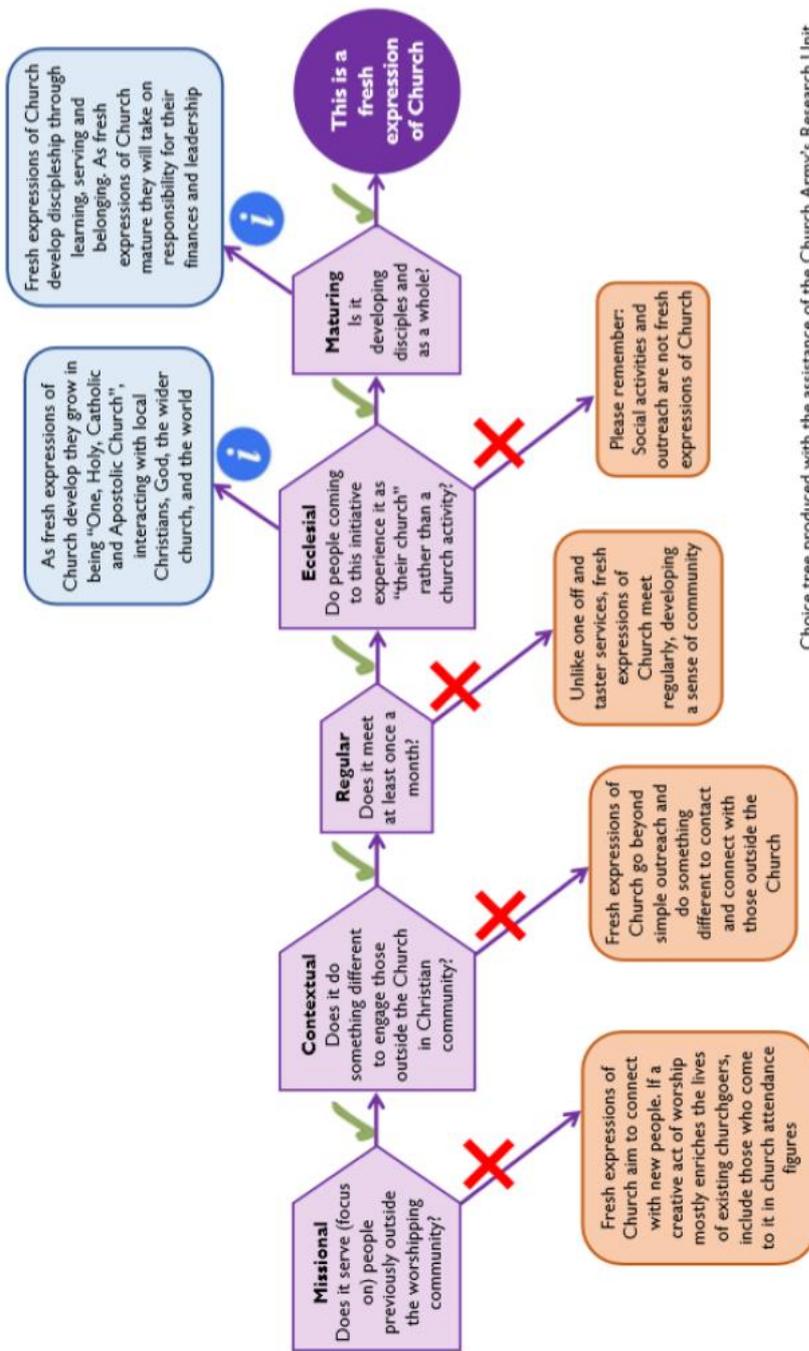
**Name:**

**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