

Statistics for Mission 2022



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Summary

The Church of England continued its post-pandemic bounce-back in 2022. By most measures, levels of attendance and participation in 2022 were higher than in 2021 while remaining lower than in 2019.

The Church of England's Worshipping Community – its number of regular worshippers – was 1,113,000 people in 2019; 1,031,000 people in 2020; 966,000 people in 2021; and 984,000 people in 2022.

The Church of England's all age average weekly attendance, which includes Sunday and midweek attendance, was 854,000 people in 2019; 345,000 people in 2020; 605,000 people in 2021; and 654,000 people in 2022.

As well as offering in-person worship, a large minority of churches continued to offer "Church at Home" services in 2022 – those services offered online, by phone, post, email, and other means. These services provided ways for people who could not attend in person to continue to worship with their church. The proportion of churches offering Church at Home services fell from 51% in October 2021 to 36% in October 2022.

Church of England churches are heavily involved in social action and community outreach. 77% of churches were involved in one or more forms of social action in 2022. Churches reported that they were involved in 31,300 social action projects. Churches ran 14,100 social action projects themselves, with other projects being hosted by churches, carried out in partnership, or supported with volunteers or donations. Churches were particularly involved in running or supporting food banks, hospitality for older people, and parent and toddler groups.

Background

Church activities, as with so many other aspects of life, were hugely impacted in 2020 and 2021 by the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 was still with us in 2022 – indeed, official figures suggest that rates were higher in October 2022 than in 2021¹. So although for many people things were getting back to normal, churches were still experiencing COVID-19-related disruption, including cancellation of services because of illness. It is impossible to quantify precisely the effect of this disruption on Church of England attendance and participation figures.

National summary

As expected, many measures of church attendance and participation increased from 2021 to 2022, whilst remaining below their 2019 levels (Table 1). The increase from 2021 was predicted in the 2021 Statistics for Mission report.

Almost all churches offered in-person worship in October 2022. Adult average weekly attendance in 2022, based on attendance in October, was 23% lower than in 2019, and 7% higher than in 2021; child average weekly attendance in 2022 was 28% lower than in 2019, and 17% higher than in 2021.

The total Worshipping Community of regular worshippers in 2022 was 12% lower than in 2019, and 2% higher than in 2021. As in 2020 and 2021, churches were encouraged to count 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 people who attended a mixture of in-person and Church at Home services.

The number of people on church Electoral rolls in 2022 was 2% lower than in 2019, and 1% lower than in 2021.

Easter, Advent and Christmas attendance, and numbers of baptisms were all, similarly, higher in 2022 than in 2021, whilst remaining below their 2019 levels.

The number of marriages in 2022 was very similar to the number in 2019, and 18% higher than in 2021.

The number of funerals taken by churches in 2022 was 9% lower than in 2019, and 5% lower than in 2021. The shift of funerals back to churches from crematoria/cemeteries continued in 2022.

The number of confirmations in 2022 was 19% lower than in 2019, and 70% higher than in 2021.

¹ 2.02% of the population was estimated to be COVID-19 positive in the week 10th-16th October 2021, compared to 3.21% in the week of 11th-17th October 2022; figures taken from the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infection Survey: England - Office for National Statistics](#).

Table I: Changes in church attendance and participation from 2019 to 2020, from 2019 to 2021, from 2019 to 2022 and from 2021 to 2022

	Estimated change, 2019 to 2020	Estimated change, 2019 to 2021	Estimated change, 2019 to 2022	Estimated change, 2021 to 2022
Worshipping Community	-7%	-13%	-12%	2%
Adult average weekly attendance (October)	-57%	-28%	-23%	7%
Child average weekly attendance (October)	-77%	-38%	-28%	17%
All age average weekly attendance (October)	-60%	-29%	-23%	8%
Adult average Sunday attendance (October)	-55%	-27%	-22%	7%
Child average Sunday attendance (October)	-74%	-34%	-25%	13%
All age average Sunday attendance (October)	-58%	-28%	-23%	7%
School service attendance (October)	Not available	-51%	-10%	85%
Adult Usual Sunday attendance	Not available	Not available	-19%	Not available
Child Usual Sunday attendance	Not available	Not available	-23%	Not available
All age Usual Sunday attendance	Not available	Not available	-19%	Not available
Electoral roll	-1%	-2%	-2%	-1%
Easter attendance	Not available	-56%	-27%	65%
Christmas attendance	-79%	-58%	-30%	67%
Advent attendance (congregation and community services)	-78%	-49%	-26%	44%
Advent attendance (civic and school services)	-97%	-72%	-29%	155%
Baptisms and thanksgivings	-81%	-38%	-8%	48%
Marriages and services of prayer and dedication	-71%	-16%	0%	18%
Funerals in church	-35%	-12%	-7%	6%
Funerals at crematoria/cemeteries	48%	7%	-14%	-19%
Funerals total	-4%	-5%	-9%	-5%
Confirmations	-84%	-52%	-19%	70%

Comparing 2022 figures with the pre-pandemic situation

A great deal has changed over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. This section summarises some of the changes for several key measures of attendance and participation. Wherever possible, comparisons are based on the subset of churches that submitted information in both 2019 and 2022.

Worshipping Community

The Worshipping Community of a church is defined as those people who attend worship regularly, once a month or more (whether in-person or “at home”).

The total Worshipping Community was 1,113,000 people in 2019; 1,031,000 people in 2020; 966,000 people in 2021; and 984,000 people in 2022.

The Church of England’s Worshipping Community in 2022 was 1.7% of the population of England.

The reported age distribution of churches’ Worshipping Communities has changed somewhat since 2019, with a greater proportion aged 70 and over in 2022 than in 2019 (Table 2). It continues to be the case that people aged 70 and over make up a considerably larger proportion of the Church of England’s Worshipping Community than of the population of England.

Table 2: Worshipping Community age distribution, 2019 and 2022²

		Age 0-10	Age 11-17	Age 18-69	Age 70+	Total
2019	Number	154,000	62,000	525,000	371,000	1,113,000
	Percentage	13.9%	5.6%	47.2%	33.4%	100%
2022	Number	125,000	52,000	456,000	350,000	984,000
	Percentage	12.7%	5.3%	46.4%	35.6%	100%
Population of England	Percentage	12.6%	8.2%	65.6%	13.5%	100%

Approximately 6% of the members of churches’ Worshipping Communities in 2022 were people who were entirely or predominantly Church at Home worshippers, compared to approximately 10% in 2021.

Average weekly and average Sunday attendance (October count)

Average weekly and average Sunday attendance figures are based on in-person attendance during October. Figures include attendance at church services and fresh expression of Church. Attendance at services for schools taking place in church is reported separately.

- The total all age average weekly attendance, which includes Sunday and midweek attendance, was 854,000 people in 2019; 345,000 people in 2020; 605,000 people in 2021; and 654,000 people in 2022.
- 14% of the average weekly attendance was children and young people aged under 16 years old in 2019, and 13% in 2022.
- The total all age average Sunday attendance was 707,000 people in 2019; 298,000 people in 2020; 509,000 people in 2021; and 547,000 in 2022.
- 13% of the average Sunday attendance was children and young people aged under 16 years old in both 2019 and 2022.
- The total all age average weekly attendance at services for schools taking place in church was 182,000 people in 2019; 89,000 people in 2021; and 164,000 people in 2022.

² Age distribution is based on 9,996 returns from churches that submitted information in 2019 and 2022 and for which the Worshipping Community age breakdown matched the Worshipping Community total. Population figures are 2021 census data for England, taken from <https://www.ons.gov.uk/filters/71fa48fc-cbdf-44cd-8555-19908cb947e0/dimensions>

- 77% of school service attendance was children and young people aged under 16 years old in 2019, and 78% in 2022.

Fresh expressions of Church

In October 2022, 17% of churches reported some attendance at in-person fresh expressions of Church (fxCs), compared to 21% of churches in October 2019³.

The October attendance figures include attendance at church services and at fxCs. Some people attend both; in such cases, to avoid misleadingly inflating the figures through double-counting, we ask that, if possible, attendees are recorded only once per week. Reported attendance at fxCs should therefore be thought of as “additional” attendance, since it might not include those people who also attended a church service in that week.

In 2019 additional attendance at fxCs was 5.9% of the October average weekly attendance; in 2022 the figure was 5.4%. The change in adult and child attendance at fxCs was similar (Table 3).

Table 3: Attendance at fresh expressions of Church as a percentage of average weekly attendance (AWA), 2019 and 2022

	% of Adult AWA	% of Child AWA	% of total AWA
2019	4.1%	16.9%	5.9%
2022	3.8%	15.6%	5.4%

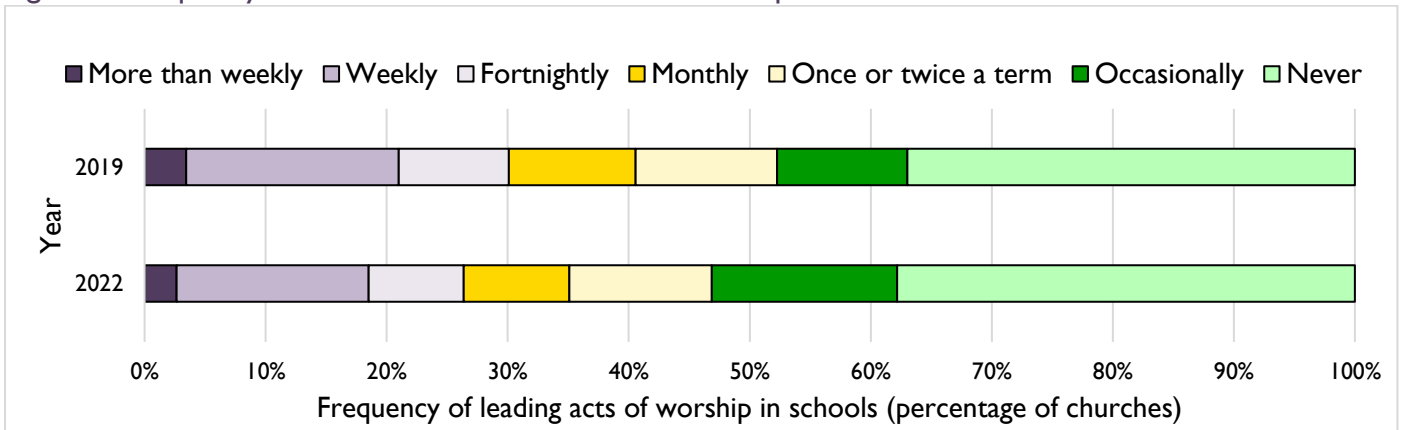
Acts of worship in schools

Churches were less likely to have led acts of worship in schools in 2022 than in 2019. In 2019, 41% of churches led an act of worship in schools once a month or more; the equivalent figure in 2022 was 35%⁴ (Table 4; Figure 1).

Table 4: Frequency with which churches led acts of worship in schools, 2019 and 2022

	More than weekly	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Once or twice a term	Occasionally	Never
2019	3.4%	17.6%	9.1%	10.5%	11.7%	10.8%	37.0%
2022	2.7%	15.8%	7.9%	8.7%	11.7%	15.3%	37.8%

Figure 1: Frequency with which churches led acts of worship in schools, 2019 and 2022



³ Based on 11,572 returns from churches that submitted information in 2019 and 2022.

⁴ Based on 11,572 returns from churches that submitted information in 2019 and 2022.

Baptisms and thanksgivings

The total number of people baptised or for whom a birth or adoption thanksgiving service was held was 89,100 in 2019; 17,100 in 2020; 55,200 in 2021; and 81,800 in 2022.

The fall in baptisms from 2019 to 2022 was accompanied by a change in the age groups of people baptised, with a greater fraction of baptisms in 2022 being of children aged 1-4 than in 2019⁵. This suggests that, as we would expect, some of those people who would have been baptised as babies in 2020 or 2021 were baptised in 2022 as slightly older children (Table 5).

Thanksgivings made up 3.4% of the total in 2019, and 2.7% of the total in 2022.

Despite the substantial bounce-back in baptism numbers in 2022, there are in the region of 70,000 people not yet baptised who would have been baptised had there not been a pandemic.

Table 5: Age groups of people baptised and of people for whom there was a birth or adoption thanksgiving service, 2019 and 2022

		Infants (<1 year)	Children (1-4 years)	Children (5-10 years)	Young people (11-17 years)	Adults (18+)	Total
2019	Baptisms	49,000	22,700	5,200	2,200	7,000	86,000
	Thanksgivings	2,070	810	120	20	40	3,060
	Total	51,000	23,500	5,300	2,200	7,000	89,100
2022	Baptisms	33,800	32,300	5,000	1,800	6,700	79,600
	Thanksgivings	1,100	990	100	10	50	2,250
	Total	34,900	33,300	5,100	1,800	6,800	81,800

Marriages

The total number of marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage was 31,400 in 2019; 9,200 in 2020; 26,500 in 2021; and 31,400 in 2022.

The number of marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage was at a similar levels in 2022 to 2019, and higher than it would have been if pre-pandemic trends had continued. That suggests that some of the weddings that would have taken place during 2020 and 2021 were rearranged for 2022. However, despite that, there are in the region of 10,000-15,000 weddings that did not take place in churches because of the pandemic.

Services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage made up 6.4% of the total in 2019, and 7.5% of the total in 2022⁶.

Funerals

The total number of funerals was 114,200 in 2019; 109,800 in 2020; 108,500 in 2021; and 103,500 in 2022.

In contrast to many other aspects of church life, churches were able to continue to offer funeral ministry during the pandemic. There was a pandemic-associated shift of funerals away from churches and to crematoria/cemeteries in 2020; this shift seems to have been temporary, with the percentage of funerals that took place in church having returned to pre-pandemic levels (62% of funerals were in church in 2019, 42% in 2020, 58% in 2021, and 64% in 2022).

⁵ Based on 11,572 returns from churches that submitted information in 2019 and 2022.

⁶ Based on 11,572 returns from churches that submitted information in 2019 and 2022.

Church-level summary information

The continued impact of the pandemic and associated lockdowns on the distribution of church sizes is shown in Table 6. In 2019, a “middle sized” church had an all age average weekly attendance of 34 people; in 2022 the equivalent figure was 25 people⁷.

Table 6: Church size distribution summary, 2019 and 2022⁸

	5th percentile		25th percentile		median (middle) church		75th percentile		95th percentile		mean (average) church	
	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022	2019	2022
Worshipping Community	9	8	21	19	45	37	95	80	248	220	77	67
All age average weekly attendance	3	2	13	10	34	25	78	58	190	144	58	44
Adult average weekly attendance	3	2	12	9	30	22.5	67	50.5	157	121	50	38
Child average weekly attendance	0	0	0	0	2.5	1.5	10	7	34	25.5	8.3	6.1
Adult Usual Sunday attendance	7	6	14	12	25	22	50	40	120	93	41	33
Child Usual Sunday attendance	0	0	0	0	2	1	6	5	25	20	6.1	4.7
Easter attendance	0	0	25	18	51	38	102	75	250	181	79	58
Christmas attendance	0	0	32	23	80	56	197	133	563	397	157	109
Baptisms and thanksgivings	0	0	1	1	3	3	8	7	23	22	6.2	5.7
Marriages and services of prayer & dedication	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3	8	8	2.1	2.1
Funerals in churches, crematoria, & cemeteries	0	0	1	1	4	4	10	9	28	25	7.9	7.2

Church at Home

Many churches began offering “Church at Home” services – those services offered online, by phone, post, email, and other means – in 2020. As noted previously, the fact that so many churches, in such challenging circumstances, were able to adapt and continue to serve their communities in this way was incredibly impressive. Many churches continued to offer Church at Home services in 2021.

Churches were asked about their Church at Home services again in 2022, with the expectation that fewer Church at Home services would be offered as more people resumed worshipping in church. There are several reasons why

⁷ For full figures from 2020, see Statistics for Mission 2020, <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/26026>; for full figures from 2021, see Statistics for Mission 2021, <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/2021StatisticsForMission.pdf>

⁸ Worshipping Community figures are based on 10,560 churches for which single-church returns with non-zero Worshipping Community were received in 2019 and 2022. All other figures are based on 11,211 churches for which single-church returns were received in 2019 and 2022.

churches might have stopped offering Church at Home services, including lack of demand and lack of resources to offer Church at Home services as well as in-person services.

In 2020, 71% of churches reported offering at least one type of Church at Home service during October. Directly comparable figures are not available for 2022, because of a reduction the number of questions asked of churches; however, a direct comparison can be made between the number of churches reporting offering Church at Home services during October 2022 (36%) and October 2021 (51%)⁹.

Churches that offered Church at Home services generally offered them every week; of churches that offered Church at Home services in October 2020, 90% offered them each week, compared to 84% in October 2021 and 79% in October 2022.

As in 2020 and 2021, churches were asked about the number of people attending their Church at Home services. These numbers are almost impossible to collect consistently, given that it is hard to know how many people are viewing a service on any one device and the fact that many of the headline measures offered by popular online platforms refer to very short-duration views. It is sensible for churches to monitor the reach of their Church at Home services by whatever means they conveniently can. Large reported figures can helpfully highlight those churches whose Church at Home services might be particularly popular. It continues to be the case that aggregating the figures to produce national or diocesan totals would be not be meaningful¹⁰. However, it is likely that tens of thousands of people each week attend Church at Home services, some of whom may also attend services in-person.

Although Church at Home attendance numbers should not be aggregated because of the challenges involved in counting such attendance accurately, the *trends* in reported Church at Home attendance may be informative; based on the subset of churches that reported some Church at Home attendance in both 2021 and 2022, overall Church at Home attendance in 2022 was less than half what it was in 2021.

Churches were also asked to report the number of people in their Worshipping Communities who were entirely or predominantly Church at Home worshippers. Again, this is not always straightforward, particularly given the anonymity of many online platforms. As an indicative aggregate figure, churches reported that approximately 6% of their Worshipping Community at the end of 2022 was people who were entirely or predominantly Church at Home worshippers, compared to approximately 10% in 2021.

Longer-term trends

It is often helpful to consider attendance and participation numbers over a longer time period than just a year or two, particularly given the recent pandemic-related disruption. Figures 2-7 and Tables 7-9 make it clear what an extraordinary impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on church activities in 2020. For most measures, the sharp fall in 2020 was followed by a steep rise in 2021, and a further increase in 2022, entirely as expected.

As previously reported¹¹, most measures of attendance and participation were showing a gradual decline prior to 2020. It is impossible to say what would have happened if there had not been a pandemic, but it is reasonable to assume that the decline would have continued. We would therefore not necessarily expect numbers to return to their 2019 values, even once all pandemic effects are over.

⁹ Based on 11,225 returns from churches that submitted information in 2021 and 2022

¹⁰ Further discussion of this point can be found in Church at Home 2020, <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/25151>

¹¹ Statistics for Mission 2019, <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/21969>

Figure 2: Summary attendance figures, 2009-2022

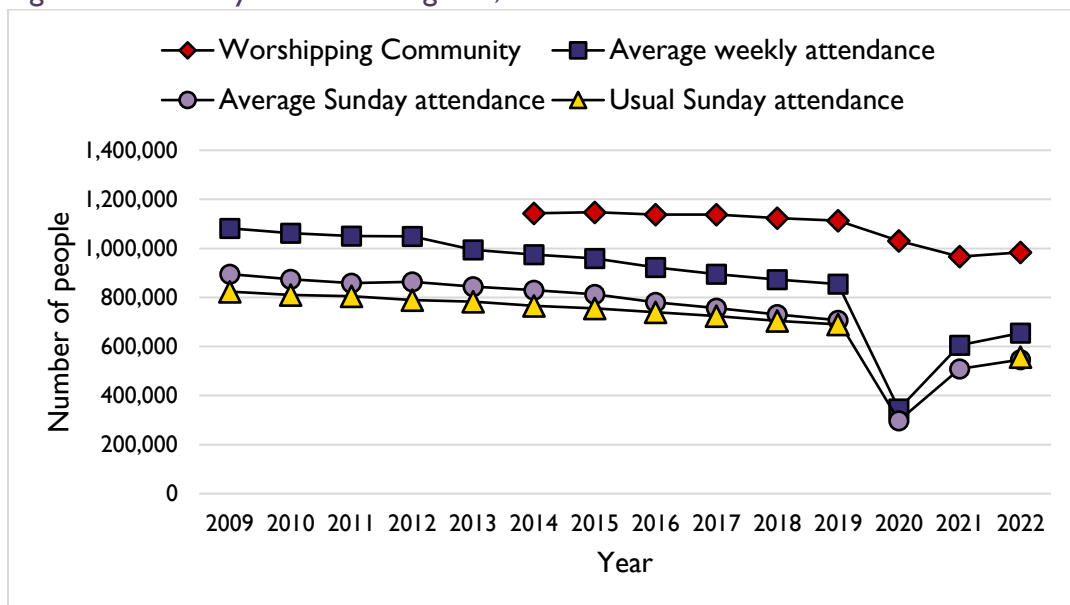
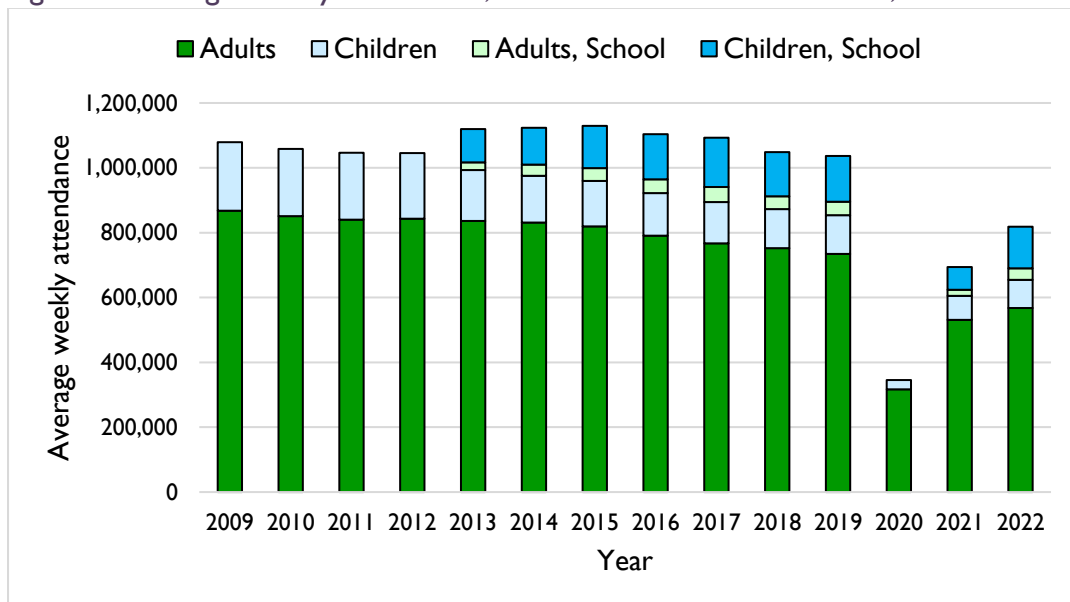


Figure 3: Average weekly attendance, and school service attendance, 2009-2022¹²



¹² Attendance at services for schools taking place in church was first collected separately in 2013 (but not collected in 2020). Prior to that, some churches included attendance at school services in with their “church” attendance figures.

Figure 4: Easter attendance and communicants, 2009-2022¹³

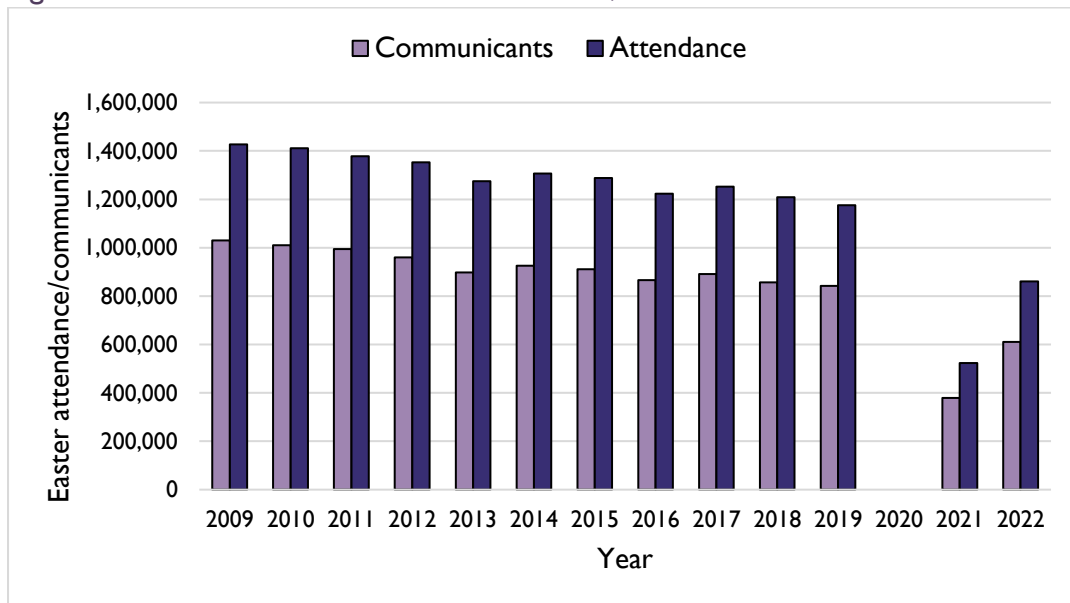
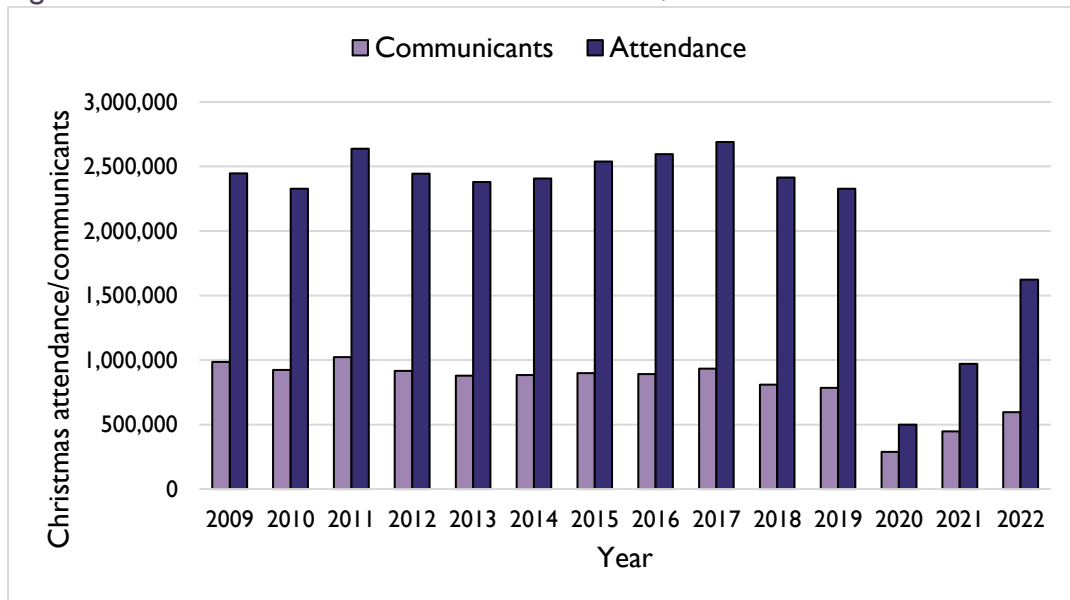


Figure 5: Christmas attendance and communicants, 2009-2022



¹³ Easter communicants and attendance figures were not collected in 2020.

Figure 6: Numbers of baptisms, marriages, and funerals, 2009-2022

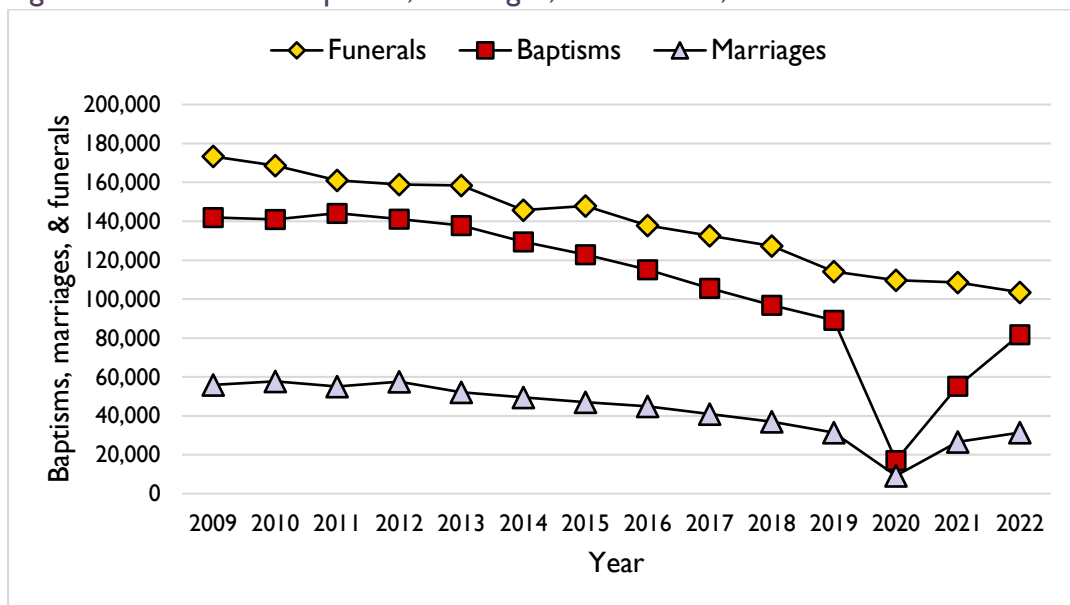
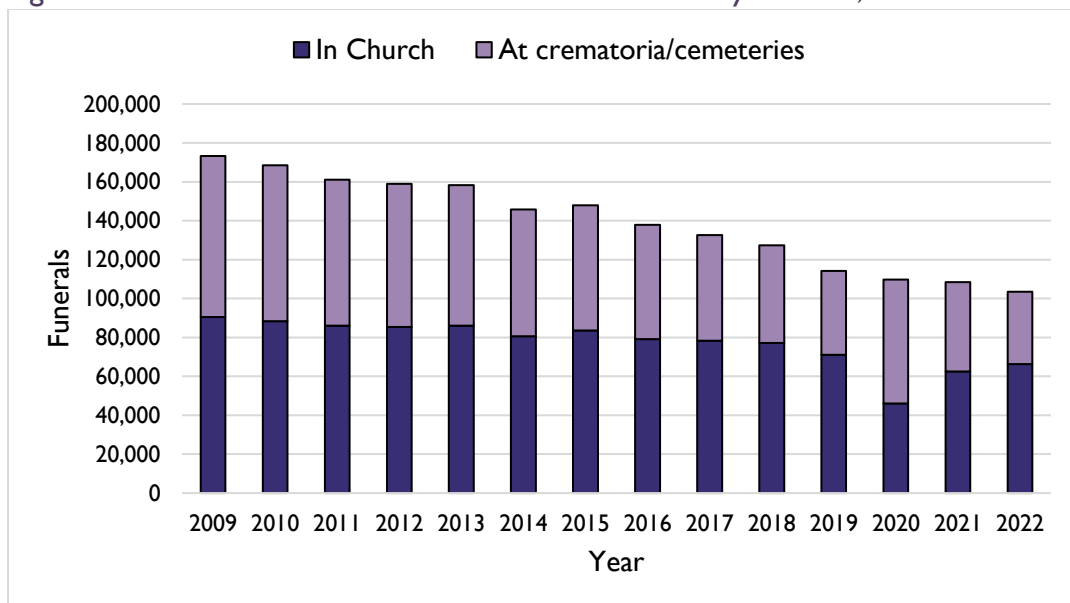


Figure 7: Numbers of church and crematorium/cemetery funerals, 2009-2022

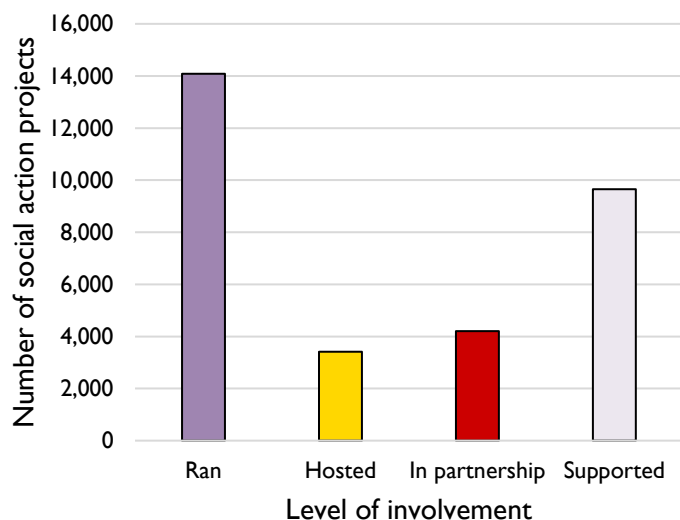


Social action and community outreach activities, 2022

A one-off section in Statistics for Mission 2022 asked about social action and community outreach. Churches were asked about their involvement in a range of different types of social action, including food banks, community cafes and night shelters. Churches were asked whether they ran projects, hosted them, carried them out in partnership with other groups, or supported them in other ways (e.g. with donations or volunteers).

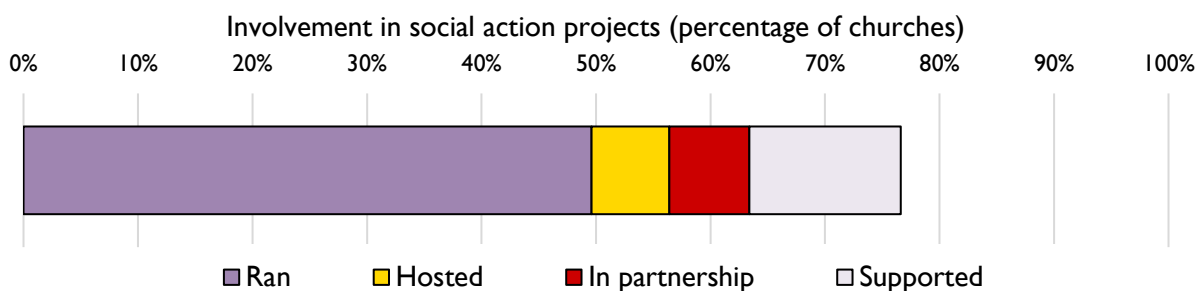
Over 13,000 responses to this question were received. Between them, these churches were involved in 31,300 social action projects. These churches ran 14,100 projects. Over 2,000 of those responding reported that they ran three or more different social action projects. In addition to running projects themselves, churches hosted another 3,400 projects; a further 4,200 projects were carried out in partnership with other organisations; an additional 9,700 projects were supported by churches in other ways (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Number of social action projects in which churches were involved, 2022¹⁴



77% of churches that responded were involved in one or more forms of social action. 50% of churches ran at least one social action project; an additional 7% of churches hosted at least one project; an additional 7% of churches carried out at least one project in partnership with other organisations. An additional 13% of churches supported at least one project in other ways (Figure 9).

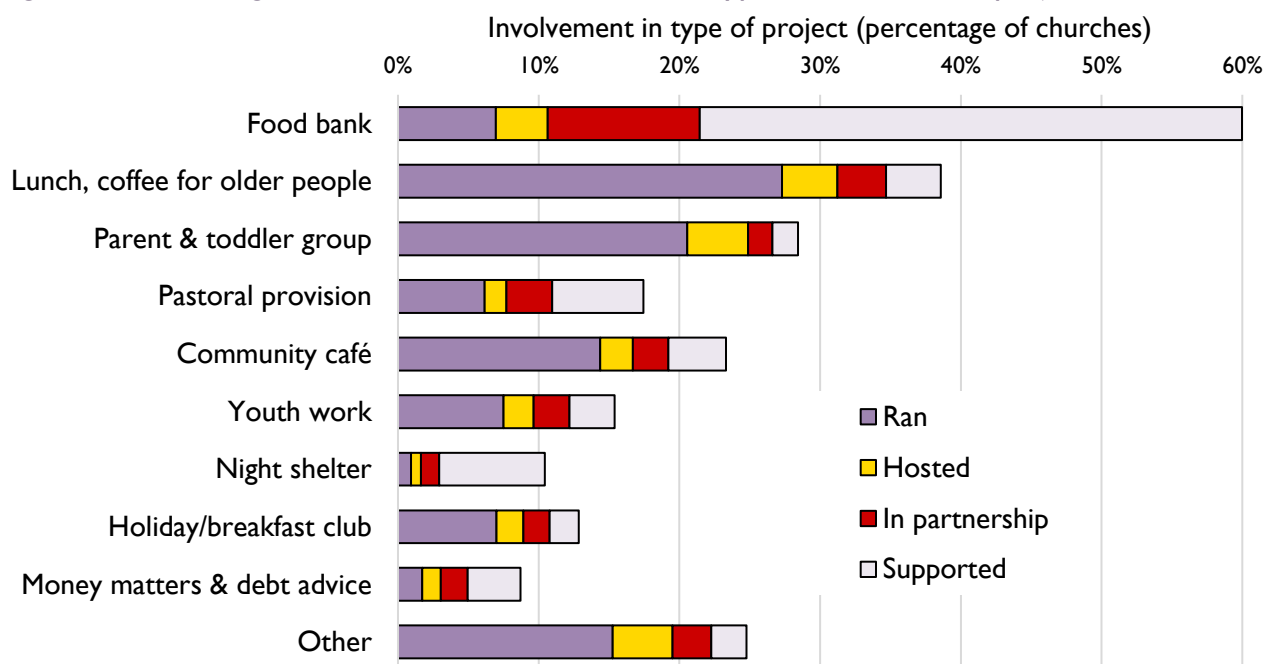
Figure 9: Percentage of churches involved in social action projects, 2022¹⁴



Churches were involved in a wide range of different types of social action project. 27% of churches reported that they ran lunch clubs, coffee mornings, or similar hospitality for older people. 21% of churches reported that they ran parent/carer and toddler groups. When including all forms of involvement, food banks were the most commonly supported type of social action project: almost 60% of churches supported food banks in some way, often with volunteers and/or donations, and often in partnership with other organisations (Figure 10).

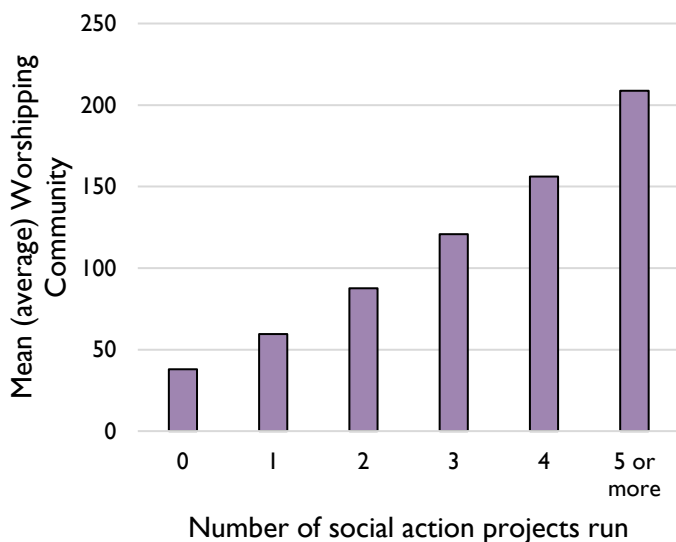
¹⁴ In some cases, churches may have run a project, and hosted it, and offered donations and volunteers. To avoid double-counting of projects, types of involvement are treated hierarchically so that, for example, the yellow bars in Figures 9, 10, 12, and 13 show those churches that did not run a project themselves in 2022, but did host a project.

Figure 10: Percentage of churches involved in different types of social action projects, 2022¹⁴



Unsurprisingly, larger churches are able to lead and support more forms of social action. The average Worshipping Community of those churches that ran one social action project was 60 people, whereas the average Worshipping Community of those churches that ran five or more social actions project was 209 people (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Mean (average) Worshipping Community in churches that ran different numbers of social action projects, 2022



Comparing social action and community outreach activities, 2019 and 2022

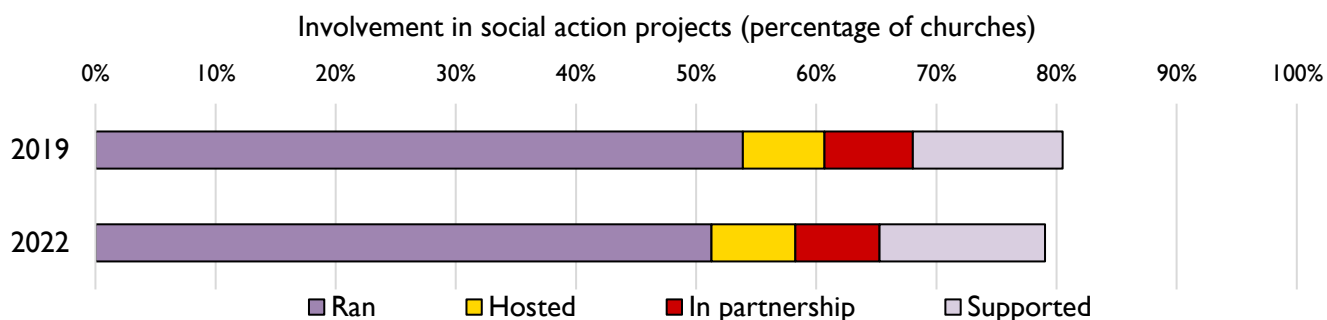
The question about social action and community outreach that churches were asked in 2022 was intentionally identical to the question asked in 2019. Therefore, a direct comparison can be made between the two years¹⁵.

Churches' reported levels of involvement in social action and community outreach in 2022 were lower than those reported in 2019. Overall, the number of social action projects in which churches were involved fell by 10%. This fall is unsurprising, given the pandemic's impact on church attendance and on what activities were possible while social

¹⁵ All figures in this section are based on 11,424 churches that sent in a Statistics for Mission return in both 2019 and 2022.

distancing and shielding were in place. Many activities will have ceased during 2020, and reviving them, whilst re-opening churches and continuing to offer Church at Home services, will have understandably been a challenge. We can see, however, that despite the challenges a large majority of churches continued to support and serve their communities through their involvement in social action and community outreach (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Percentage of churches involved in social action projects, 2019 and 2022¹⁴



We can see some changes in the types of social action in which churches were involved (Figure 13). For example, involvement in food banks and community cafes increased from 2019 to 2022, while involvement in night shelters and holiday/breakfast clubs fell. Changes may reflect changes in local needs; changes in which needs churches are well-placed to meet; and changes in which other agencies (charities, local government, etc.) are active in an area.

Figure 13: Percentage of churches involved in different types of social action projects, 2019 and 2022¹⁴

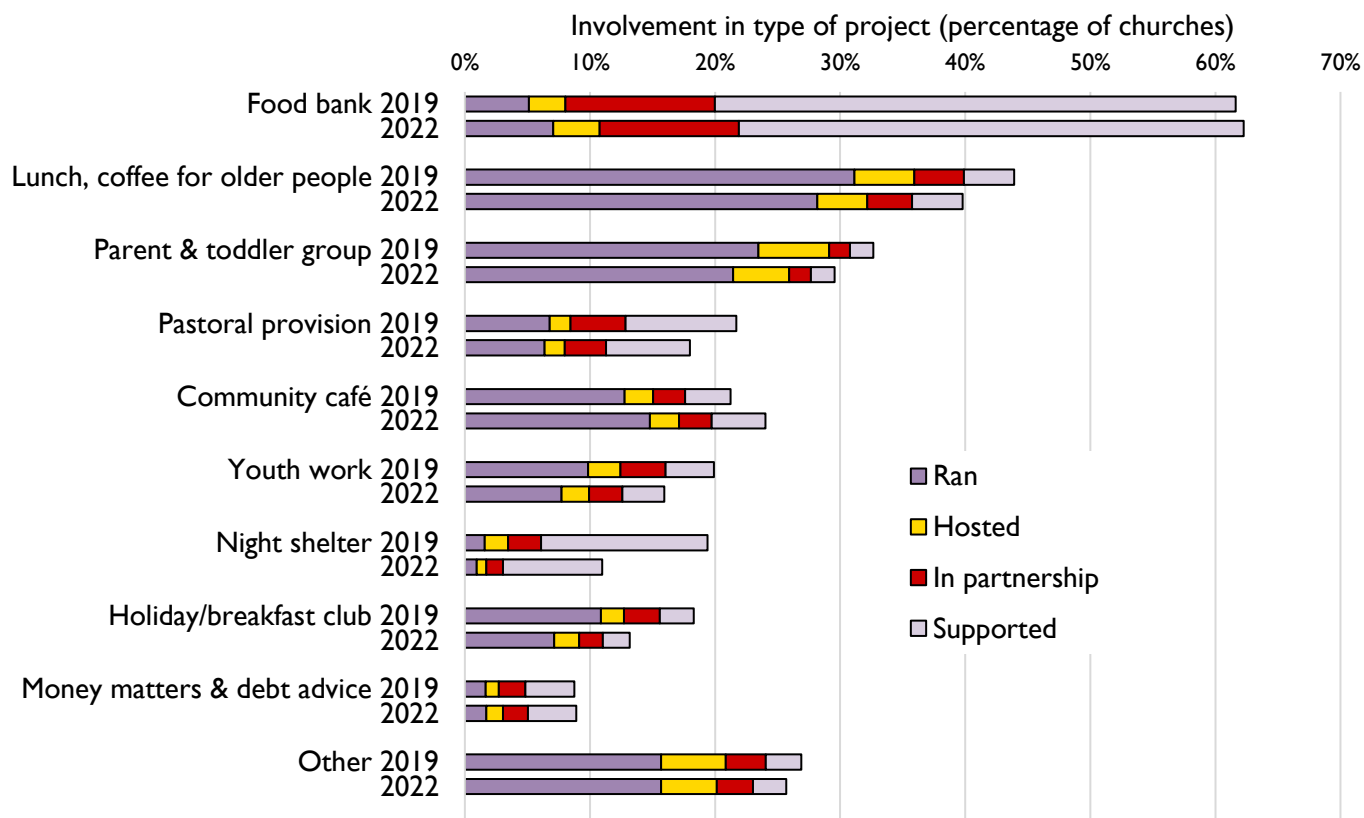


Table 7: Attendance and participation summary, 2009-2022

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Worshipping Community	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,142,000	1,147,000	1,138,000	1,138,000	1,124,000	1,113,000	1,031,000	966,000	984,000
Adult average weekly attendance	867,000	851,000	840,000	843,000	836,000	831,000	819,000	791,000	767,000	752,000	734,000	317,000	531,000	567,000
Child average weekly attendance	211,000	208,000	207,000	202,000	157,000	144,000	140,000	132,000	127,000	120,000	120,000	28,000	75,000	87,000
All age average weekly attendance	1,082,000	1,062,000	1,050,000	1,049,000	994,000	975,000	959,000	922,000	895,000	872,000	854,000	345,000	605,000	654,000
Adult average Sunday attendance	758,000	741,000	728,000	733,000	721,000	711,000	698,000	671,000	653,000	635,000	613,000	273,000	447,000	477,000
Child average Sunday attendance	134,000	130,000	127,000	128,000	124,000	119,000	115,000	108,000	104,000	96,000	94,000	24,000	62,000	70,000
All age average Sunday attendance	895,000	874,000	858,000	864,000	845,000	830,000	813,000	780,000	757,000	730,000	707,000	298,000	509,000	547,000
Adult average school service attendance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23,000	35,000	40,000	42,000	46,000	40,000	41,000	n/a	18,000	36,000
Child average school service attendance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	103,000	113,000	131,000	139,000	152,000	137,000	141,000	n/a	71,000	128,000
All age average school service attendance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	126,000	148,000	171,000	182,000	198,000	177,000	182,000	n/a	89,000	164,000
Adult Usual Sunday attendance	704,000	692,000	689,000	675,000	672,000	659,000	652,000	640,000	628,000	612,000	602,000	n/a	n/a	489,000
Child Usual Sunday attendance	120,000	118,000	116,000	114,000	112,000	108,000	104,000	100,000	96,000	92,000	88,000	n/a	n/a	68,000
All age Usual Sunday attendance	824,000	810,000	805,000	789,000	783,000	766,000	756,000	739,000	724,000	704,000	690,000	n/a	n/a	557,000

Table 8: Easter, Christmas, and Advent attendance summary, 2009-2022

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Easter communicants	1,030,000	1,010,000	994,000	960,000	898,000	925,000	912,000	866,000	891,000	857,000	842,000	n/a	379,000	610,000
Easter attendance	1,427,000	1,411,000	1,378,000	1,354,000	1,275,000	1,307,000	1,288,000	1,223,000	1,253,000	1,209,000	1,176,000	n/a	523,000	861,000
Christmas communicants	985,000	923,000	1,023,000	916,000	879,000	885,000	898,000	890,000	934,000	810,000	784,000	288,000	447,000	595,000
Christmas attendance	2,446,000	2,327,000	2,639,000	2,445,000	2,380,000	2,407,000	2,539,000	2,594,000	2,690,000	2,415,000	2,327,000	499,000	970,000	1,622,000
Advent attendance (congregation & community services)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,229,000	2,377,000	2,481,000	2,334,000	2,551,000	2,547,000	563,000	1,309,000	1,878,000
Advent attendance (civic & school services)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,578,000	2,780,000	2,878,000	2,808,000	3,009,000	2,873,000	95,000	800,000	2,036,000

Table 9: Numbers of baptisms, marriages, funerals, and confirmations, 2009-2022

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Baptisms and thanksgivings	141,900	140,900	144,200	141,100	137,900	129,400	122,800	115,100	105,600	96,800	89,100	17,100	55,200	81,800
Marriages and services of prayer and dedication	56,000	57,700	55,000	57,600	52,100	49,400	47,000	44,900	41,000	37,000	31,400	9,200	26,500	31,400
Funerals in church	90,600	88,400	86,000	85,300	86,000	80,600	83,600	79,200	78,200	77,200	71,100	46,000	62,500	66,200
Funerals at crematoria/cemeteries	82,800	80,200	75,100	73,500	72,300	65,200	64,300	58,800	54,400	50,100	43,100	63,800	46,000	37,300
Funerals, total	173,300	168,600	161,100	158,900	158,400	145,800	147,900	137,900	132,600	127,300	114,200	109,800	108,500	103,500
Confirmations	25,000	22,300	22,200	22,500	19,900	18,000	16,700	15,900	15,300	14,500	13,400	2,200	6,400	10,900

Diocesan statistics

Diocesan summary information is shown in Table 10. Diocesan attendance and participation trends, showing figures from 2009-2022, can be found in an electronic appendix: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/research-and-statistics/key-areas-research#church-attendance-statistics>

Table 10: Diocesan summary statistics, 2022

Ref. no.	Diocese/area	Province	Population (2021 census)	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 2022
1	Bath & Wells	C	980,000	1,610	600	175	460	557	71%
2	Birmingham	C	1,599,000	290	5,420	138	149	180	93%
3	Blackburn	Y	1,384,000	930	1,480	170	230	276	76%
5	Bristol	C	1,065,000	470	2,230	100	167	202	86%
6	Canterbury	C	981,000	970	1,020	99	201	313	74%
7	Carlisle	Y	498,000	2,570	190	104	227	323	65%
8	Chelmsford	C	3,279,000	1,530	2,130	303	469	575	78%
9	Chester	Y	1,677,000	1,030	1,600	214	264	337	78%
10	Chichester	C	1,704,000	1,450	1,180	274	348	474	82%
11	Coventry	C	896,000	700	1,320	125	204	240	89%
12	Derby	C	1,064,000	990	1,080	139	253	312	86%
13	Durham	Y	1,475,000	980	1,530	169	207	258	78%
14	Ely	C	803,000	1,530	500	141	303	327	72%
15	Exeter	C	1,214,000	2,570	470	149	484	594	70%
16	Gloucester	C	690,000	1,130	610	90	296	377	82%
17	Guildford	C	1,077,000	530	2,020	142	160	211	84%
18	Hereford	C	322,000	1,650	200	77	338	399	79%
19	Leicester	C	1,086,000	830	1,290	103	245	311	78%
20	Lichfield	C	2,202,000	1,730	1,270	234	422	542	84%
21	Lincoln	C	1,093,000	2,670	410	180	476	622	60%
22	Liverpool	Y	1,621,000	390	4,130	125	168	233	64%
23	London	C	4,246,000	280	16,010	408	402	471	84%
24	Manchester	Y	2,233,000	420	5,330	175	256	320	73%
25	Newcastle	Y	832,000	2,100	400	123	170	235	67%
26	Norwich	C	928,000	1,800	520	158	554	640	53%
27	Oxford	C	2,511,000	2,210	1,100	285	609	811	77%
28	Peterborough	C	971,000	1,140	830	127	347	379	81%
29	Portsmouth	C	784,000	420	1,900	105	132	165	92%
31	Rochester	C	1,375,000	540	2,570	171	210	258	90%
32	St. Albans	C	1,978,000	1,120	1,750	187	338	403	91%
33	St. Edms & Ipswich	C	684,000	1,430	480	111	444	481	77%
34	Salisbury	C	1,148,000	2,130	539	164	463	609	67%
35	Sheffield	Y	1,278,000	610	2,140	141	169	208	86%
36	Sodor & Man	Y	86,000	220	390	14	15	38	68%
37	Southwark	C	2,880,000	320	9,030	263	295	355	86%
38	Southwell & Nottingham	Y	1,152,000	840	1,390	151	226	296	86%
39	Truro	C	573,000	1,390	420	96	214	298	77%
41	Winchester	C	1,255,000	1,130	1,100	132	240	352	80%
42	Worcester	C	908,000	670	1,350	84	166	273	81%
43	York	Y	1,457,000	2,670	550	231	441	574	81%
44	Europe	C	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	172	78%
46	Leeds	Y	2,777,000	2,630	1,060	264	442	580	86%
	Church of England		56,766,000	50,630	1,120	6,641	12,204	15,581	77%

In a change to previous years, figures for the Channel Islands are reported under Salisbury.

In a change to most previous years, Table 10 includes the chaplaincies of the Diocese in Europe.

The final column shows the percentage of churches on which the comparison between 2019 and 2022 figures was based.

Appendix I: Methodology

Where possible, the 2022 Statistics for Mission data collection and analysis followed similar steps to previous years. Some changes were necessary because of the changed circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. I have noted changes below.

This report uses data submitted through annual Statistics for Mission returns from churches, and from government statistics. The majority (87%) of the Church of England's churches submitted data (down slightly from 89% in 2019). Most returns were on behalf of a single church; 4% 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.

As 2020 and 2021, finalised attendance and participation figures from cathedrals were not ready in time for incorporation in this report; I have used estimated figures for cathedrals instead.

In several places in this report I have shown comparisons between 2019 and 2022 figures. Wherever possible, these have been calculated using data from the subset of churches that submitted information in both 2019 and 2022, in order that the comparison really is "like for like". It does, however, mean that the 2019 information shown in those comparisons differs slightly from any stand-alone figures published for 2019.

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 2022 Statistics for Mission form, including all questions and explanatory notes, can be found in Appendix 2.

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, in 2020, 2021, and 2022 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 in person during each of the first 4 weeks of October, at church services, fresh expressions of Church, and services for school taking place in 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 Easter and Christmas (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).
- 4) The Electoral roll of the church.

Unlike in previous years, churches were not asked to report their Usual Sunday attendance in 2020 or 2021 (since "Usual Sunday" did not really apply to much of 2020 and 2021); this question was reintroduced in 2022. In 2020 churches were not asked to report their Easter attendance and communicants figures (most churches were closed at Easter 2020) or their attendance at services for schools taking place in church in October, but these questions were re-introduced in 2021.

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 asks about the 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; this question was reintroduced in 2021.

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 slightly shorter version of this question was asked in 2021; a further shortened version of this question was asked in 2022.

In 2022 a one-off question was asked about social action and community outreach – this question was also asked in 2019 and 2017.

Information about the number of confirmations taking place in each diocese is provided by diocesan Bishops’ offices. Although the data were collected in 2020 and 2021, a lack of staff resources meant that confirmation figures were not collated and published in those years. These gaps have been filled this year.

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 Data Services team, 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 box on the Statistics for Mission return; as far as resources permitted, 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 we did this directly with the person who entered the figures; we are grateful for their helpful responses to our queries.

We checked the 2020-2022 datasets using adapted versions of our usual process. In normal times, large increases or large decreases would be queried; given the circumstances, for some variables it did not seem sensible to query large decreases.

Where estimation has been required to provide national or diocesan totals, the figures used in this report have been calculated using several different approaches. Figures up to 2019 have been taken from previous publications, and are based on the methodology as described in detail in Statistics for Mission 2019 (<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/21969>). In broad summary, for those churches that did not send in their figures estimates were carried out church-by-church based on data received from those churches in other years.

I calculated estimated figures for 2020-2022 using a different approach, since the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic means that church-level estimates are unlikely to be reliable. I calculated figures for these years by looking at the subset of churches that submitted data in 2019 and the year in question, and used data from these churches to estimate diocesan and national trends, with 2019 as the baseline. In 2022, this subset included 77% of Church of England churches. I used these calculated trends to estimate diocesan totals. I assumed that the trend in these churches was representative of the diocese as a whole.

Unlike for most other variables, until 2019 no estimation of school service attendance or Advent attendance was carried out for those churches that did not submit figures; as a consequence of the change in estimation methodology, estimation for these variables was carried out from 2020 onwards. Changes in school service and Advent attendance over time up until 2019 will therefore, in part, be related to changes in the set of churches from which information was received.

Values in the data tables are reported to the nearest 1000, 100 or 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

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 and the subsequent bounce-back. 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.

I calculated estimated figures for 2022, using the same methodology (i.e. based on the subset of churches from whom data had been received in 2019 and 2022) at several points as data were coming in, as I did in 2021. I found no indication that the early-responding churches were notably different in terms of their attendance and participation trends than the later-responding churches.

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 until 2018, when there was a group for children aged 5-12 and young people/adults aged 13 and over were grouped together.

Diocesan boundaries

Diocesan and parish boundaries as of 1st January 2022 were used as the basis for the collection of Statistics for Mission data.

Unlike in previous years, figures for the Channel Islands have been included with those for the Diocese of Salisbury. However, given that the pandemic followed a different course in the Channel Islands from that on the mainland, estimated totals were calculated separately for the Channel Islands before being added to figures relating to churches on the mainland.

Population data

Diocesan population statistics were estimated using 2021 census 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. Data for the Isle of Man have been taken from http://countrymeters.info/en/Isle_of_Man; data for the Channel Islands have been taken from http://countrymeters.info/en/Channel_Islands (both relating to the 1st of January 2021, and accessed 5th September 2023).

Further information

I would be delighted to talk about the methodology with anyone who would be interested. Any reader who would like further details regarding the methodology behind this report is very welcome to get in touch: please see the contact details on page 2.

Appendix 2: 2022 Statistics for Mission form



Statistics for Mission: January to December 2022

Church name:	Parish name:
Deanery:	Diocese:

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, many activities have returned to "normal", but we know that this is not the case everywhere. We have done our best to adjust this form accordingly, whilst maintaining continuity where appropriate.

We hope that most questions will be simple to answer, but we recognise that others 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.

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 reported at your Annual Parochial Church meeting in 2022?

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

1a. Number on the ecclesiastical Electoral Roll for your PARISH	
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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	
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2. How many people attend your church in person on a usual Sunday, when there is a service?

- ✓ A usual Sunday is one that is not a major festival or contained in a peak holiday period
- ✓ Wherever possible, please do not count the same person multiple times – if someone attends more than once on a usual Sunday, please only count them once
- ✓ Only think about the Sundays when you hold at least one service (ignore the Sundays when you do not hold a service at your church)

2a. Adults (16 years old and over)	
2b. Children and young people (under 16 years old)	

The following questions are about **how many people came in person** to a service or act of worship at **Easter** (Easter Day and vigil services on Easter Eve), **Advent** (Advent Sunday until 23rd December) and **Christmas** (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).

- ✓ If you did not hold any services or acts of worship at your church during these periods, please enter "0" in the relevant box

3. How many people came in person to your church at Easter 2022?

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

4. How many people came in person to special services run by your church during Advent 2022?

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

4a. Total number of people attending special services held for the congregation and local community	
4b. Total number of people attending special services held specifically for civic organisations or schools	

5. How many people came in person to your church at Christmas 2022?

5a. Number of communicants at service(s) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	
5b. 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 2022. The count is split into Sundays and weekdays; adults and children; and type of service (Church, fresh expressions of Church and school services).

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.

School services: These are services held in your church (or church building) that are attended by a school(s). There is a later question about acts of worship held in schools.

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 your church **in person** – 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**:

- ✗ People who did not attend in person
- ✗ 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

6. How many people attended your church in person in October 2022?

- ✓ 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 2022, let us know in the comment box at the end of this form

6a.1	Number of services	Adult			Children and young people		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 2 nd October							
Weekdays 3 rd -8 th							

6a.2	Number of services	Adult			Children and young people		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 9 th October							
Weekdays 10 th -15 th							

6a.3	Number of services	Adult			Children and young people		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 16 th October							
Weekdays 17 th -22 nd							

6a.4	Number of services	Adult			Children and young people		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 23 rd October							
Weekdays 24 th -29 th							

7. How often does your ministry team lead acts of worship in schools?

- ✓ This question refers to acts of worship in school buildings rather than in your church or church building (services held for schools in your church should be included within the October count, Easter, or Christmas figures where appropriate)
- ✓ Include any school-based acts of worship led by a person who holds office or responsibility for ministry (ordained or lay) within your church, whether or not the school is in your parish
- ✓ 'Usually' refers to during term-time or when the school is open, ignoring school holidays
- ✓ Tick one box as the closest estimate

Never	Occasionally/ ad hoc	Usually once or twice a term	Usually once a month	Usually once a fortnight	Usually once a week	Usually more than once a week

If there is no school in your parish, tick here:

'Church at Home' Services

By "Church at Home services" 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 "attended" 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.

8a. Did your church offer any 'Church at Home' services during October 2022? You may have offered these at church, parish or benefice level or as other groups of churches.

Yes No

8b. 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

8c. If Yes, What was the usual number of people "attending" your 'Church at Home' services each week that you offered Church at Home services in October?

- ✓ Please see <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/25032> for some guidance about how to count 'Church at Home' attendance
- ✓ If you do not have exact figures, please give **your best estimate**.
- ✓ 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' attendance to avoid double counting attendance

Worshipping Community

The following questions are about your "**worshipping community**". Think about your regular worshipping community at the **end of 2022**. 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 2022

9. How many people were in your “worshipping community” at the end of 2022?

- ✓ 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 attend your ‘Church at Home’ services

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

10. How has your worshipping community changed during 2022?

- ✓ 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 2022?		
	TOTAL joined	TOTAL left
Adults (Age 18+)		
Children and young people		

11. How many of the people in your worshipping community, as reported in question 9, are entirely or predominantly “Church at Home” worshippers? If you are not sure, please give your best estimate

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 not include Alpha courses or outreach activities that do not include worship

12. 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 2022 please tick here and leave the rest of this section 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

13. How many baptisms and thanksgivings for the gift of a child were held in your church during 2022?

✓ 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 baptised					
Number of persons for whom a birth or adoption thanksgiving service was held					

14. How many marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage were held in your church during 2022?

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

15. How many funeral services were held at or on behalf of your church during 2022?

- ✓ 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 funeral service was held at your church	
Number of deceased for whom a full funeral service was conducted by a member of your ministry team at a crematorium, cemetery, 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	

16. Finally, there is a special focus question about social action. Churches' engagement with their communities and responses to social issues can take many forms. This question asks about your church's involvement in those activities that previous research has suggested are amongst the most widespread.

- ✓ Please only include organised activities that are primarily run for the benefit of the wider community (not primarily for the church congregation)
- ✓ If you are unable to complete this question, please leave it blank

<p><i>Please tick all that apply to your church</i></p> <p><i>Please tick as many columns as apply for each activity</i></p>	<p>Our church is responsible for <u>running</u> this activity</p>	<p>Our church <u>hosts</u> this activity in its own building(s)</p>	<p>Our church does this activity <u>in partnership</u> with others (e.g. a church, charity, community group, faith group)</p>	<p>Our church <u>supports</u> this activity in other ways e.g. volunteers, donations</p>
Community cafe				
Food bank				
Holiday/ Breakfast/ After-school clubs for children				
Lunch club, coffee morning, or similar hospitality for older people				
Money matters & debt advice				
Night shelter or other homelessness provision				
Parent/carer and toddler group or play group				
Pastoral provision for the wider community (e.g. Street Pastors, counselling/support, befriending schemes)				
Youth work (for wider community)				
Other community activity (please specify): _____				

Were there any **exceptional circumstances** (e.g. an interregnum or building works) or **significant changes** that may have led to **unusual** figures in this return?

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

