Statistics for Mission: January to December 2026

Church name:	Parish name:
Deanery:	Diocese:

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/what-is-fx/
- ✓ 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 2026?

- ✓ 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	

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 2026?

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 2026?

- ✓ 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 2026?

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 2026. 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/what-is-fx/
- ✓ Any other of your church's activities whose primary purpose is worship and which include two or more of: prayer, scripture, praise, sacrament, and acts of service, including any **new congregations/new worshipping communities** (include as Church or Fresh expression attendance, as appropriate)
- ✓ 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 whose primary purpose is not worship but which include some worship element, such as house groups, some parent/toddler groups and youth clubs, Alpha courses, and social events such as harvest supper (unless they fall within the "please include" list, above)

6. How many people attended your church in person in October 2026?

- ✓ 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 2026, let us know in the comment box at the end of this form

6a.1	Number of services	Adult attendance at…			Child and young person attendance at…		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 4th October							
Weekdays 5th-10th							

6a.2	Number of services	Adult attendance at…			Child and young person attendance at…		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 11th October							
Weekdays 12th-17th							

6a.3	Number of services	Adult attendance at…			Child and young person attendance at…		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 18th October							
Weekdays 19th-24th							

6a.4	Number of services	Adult attendance at…			Child and young person attendance at…		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 25th October							
Weekdays 26th-31st							

'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.

7a. Did your church offer any 'Church at Home' services during October 2026? You may have offered these at church, parish or benefice level or as other groups of churches.

☐ Yes ☐ No

7b. 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

7c. 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/sites/default/files/2026-11/CountingChurchAtHomeAttendance_Sept2024.pdf 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

8. 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: ☐

Worshipping Community

The following questions are about your **"worshipping community"**. Think about your regular worshipping community at the **end of 2026**. For more information about worshipping communities, please refer to https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2026-11/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 (on any day of the week) any of your activities whose purpose is worship and which include two or more of: prayer, scripture, praise, sacrament, and acts of service. These might include:
  - your services/congregations/worshipping communities
  - your fresh expressions of Church
  - your 'Church at Home' services

- ✗ 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 your 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 2026

9. How many people were in your "worshipping community" at the end of 2026?

- ✓ 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 2026?

- ✓ 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 2026?		
	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 the fresh expression of Church, 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/what-is-fx/ . 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
- ✓ Please ensure that any attendance at your fresh expressions of Church is recorded appropriately in your October count, above
- ✗ 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 2026 please tick here and leave the rest of this section blank)

Name of fresh expression	
Description of activity	
How often?	□ Weekly □ Fortnightly □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Other (please note how often):_____
Age group aimed at? (please tick all that apply)	□ All ages □ Family □ 0-4 □ 5-10 □ 11-17 □ 18-39 □ 40-69 □ 70+
Did this fresh expression start in 2026?	□ Yes □ No

Name of fresh expression	
Description of activity	
How often?	□ Weekly □ Fortnightly □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Other (please note how often):_____
Age group aimed at? (please tick all that apply)	□ All ages □ Family □ 0-4 □ 5-10 □ 11-17 □ 18-39 □ 40-69 □ 70+
Did this fresh expression start in 2026?	□ Yes □ No

Name of fresh expression	
Description of activity	
How often?	□ Weekly □ Fortnightly □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Other (please note how often):_____
Age group aimed at? (please tick all that apply)	□ All ages □ Family □ 0-4 □ 5-10 □ 11-17 □ 18-39 □ 40-69 □ 70+
Did this fresh expression start in 2026?	□ Yes □ No

New congregations/new worshipping communities

A "new congregation" or "new worshipping community":

- Has as its purpose the worship of Jesus Christ and helping people grow in their faith. Its practices will include two or more of: prayer, scripture, praise, sacrament, and acts of service.
- Aims to reach people who would not otherwise attend church regularly and to make new Christian disciples.
- Meets at least once a month on any day of the week, in your church building or elsewhere (such as in a café, in a school, or online). It is connected with the wider Church through the parish church, deanery, or diocese.

If your church started new fresh expressions of Church in 2026, as reported above, they might meet the definition of a new congregation/new worshipping community. If so, please include them in your response to question 13a.

Please ensure that any attendance at your new congregations/new worshipping communities is recorded if appropriate in your October count, and that regular attendees are included if appropriate in your worshipping community.

13a: How many new congregations or new worshipping communities did your church start in 2026?

☐ None ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three or more

Please describe them below:

Name of new congregation/new worshipping community	
Description of activity	
How often?	□ Weekly □ Fortnightly □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Other (please note how often):_____
Age group aimed at? (please tick all that apply)	□ All ages □ Family □ 0-4 □ 5-10 □ 11-17 □ 18-39 □ 40-69 □ 70+

Name of new congregation/new worshipping community	
Description of activity	
How often?	□ Weekly □ Fortnightly □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Other (please note how often):_____
Age group aimed at? (please tick all that apply)	□ All ages □ Family □ 0-4 □ 5-10 □ 11-17 □ 18-39 □ 40-69 □ 70+

Name of new congregation/new worshipping community	
Description of activity	
How often?	□ Weekly □ Fortnightly □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Other (please note how often):_____
Age group aimed at? (please tick all that apply)	□ All ages □ Family □ 0-4 □ 5-10 □ 11-17 □ 18-39 □ 40-69 □ 70+

Name of any additional new congregations/new worshipping communities	

13b: How many of your church's congregations or worshipping communities came to an end in 2026?

☐ None ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three or more

Please list them below:

	Name of congregation/ worshipping community that came to an end in 2026	How long had this congregation/worshipping community been going?
1		□ Less than a year □ 1-5 years □ More than 5 years
2		□ Less than a year □ 1-5 years □ More than 5 years
3		□ Less than a year □ 1-5 years □ More than 5 years
Any additional		

14. How many baptisms and thanksgivings for the gift of a child were held in your church during 2026?

- ✓ 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					

15. How many confirmations were held in the name of your church during 2026?

- ✓ Include all people who were presented for confirmation after preparation by your church, as recorded in your confirmation register, even if the confirmation service took place elsewhere
- ✘ Do not record people who were presented for confirmation by another church, even if they were confirmed during a confirmation service held in your church building

	Aged under 18 years	Adults (18+)
Number of persons **confirmed**		

16. How many marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage were held in your church during 2026?

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	

17. How many funeral services were held at or on behalf of your church during 2026?

- ✓ 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	

Leadership of ministry with children and young people

- By "Leading" we mean people who have a leadership role in running sessions, or significant parts of sessions. We do not mean people whose role is assisting with sessions, preparing resources, hosting/tidying up (vital though such people are in enabling this ministry!).
- By "Ministry" we mean something with significant Christian content, e.g. a children's service; Sunday school; a fresh expression of Church focused on children, such as Messy Church; religious content in a school assembly; Bible study; confirmation classes; a youth group with specific Christian content. We do not mean things with little or no Christian content, such as play groups, some youth groups, or social action projects.
- By "Children and young people" we mean people aged under 18.
- The people leading such ministry would be expected to have been Safely Recruited, including a DBS check, and to have undertaken appropriate Safeguarding training.
- We are interested in finding out about lay people's ministry, including that of licenced lay ministers, hence specifically excluding clergy.

18. As at the end of 2026, how many people – excluding clergy - are involved in leading your church's ministry with children and young people?

For paid and for volunteer/unpaid leaders, please report an exact number if you can. If you are unable to do so, please tick one of the options on the right:

	Exact number (if known)	Range (if exact number unknown)					
		0	1	2-4	5-9	10-19	20 or more
Paid		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteer/unpaid		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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

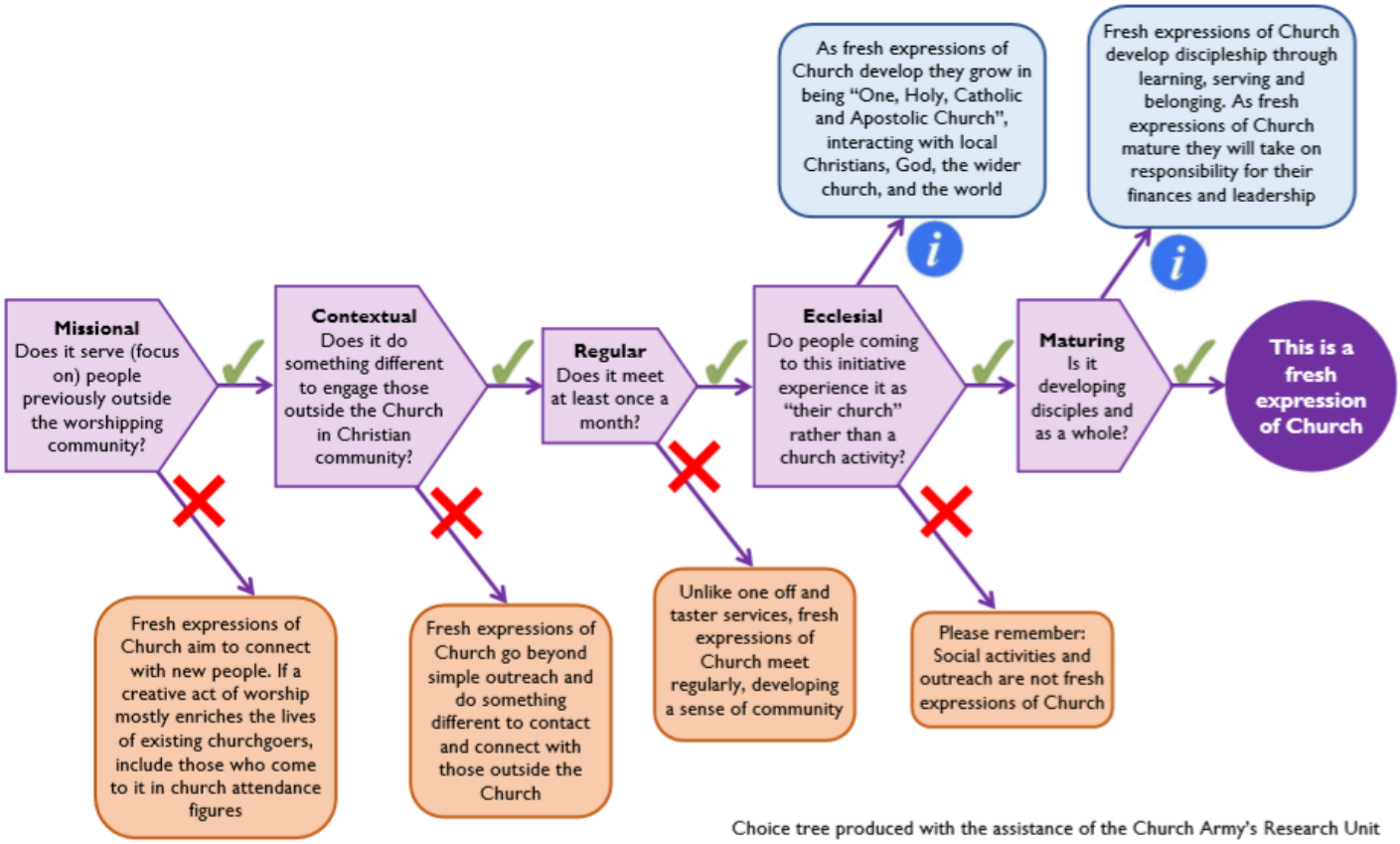
Thank you for completing your annual return on behalf of your church. Your contribution is essential to the on-going care and understanding of our churches and congregations; your diligence, time, and effort are greatly appreciated. Please take a moment to review your answers. Make sure that you have 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



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