

Methodism in Numbers – Statistics at a Glance

The Methodist Church is Britain's fourth largest Christian denomination and part of the worldwide Methodist family of over 60 million committed members and a further 20 million adherents.

There are 188,000 people who have made and sustained a commitment to Christian discipleship within the Methodist Church of Great Britain and are active members of a local Methodist church.

Every week, there are some 202,000 visits to Methodist church services, including 28,000 from children and young people. 84% of visits are on Sunday.

Methodists meet in 4,512 local churches up and down Great Britain. Churches are grouped into 368 Circuits, which are organised into 31 Districts. Churches in the Channel Isles, the Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Malta are also covered by these arrangements.

There is huge variety in Methodist church life. A fifth of Methodists meet in large congregations of over 130 people; a fifth in small congregations of under 30; the rest in different size congregations in between.

Methodists meet in City Centre churches (5% of weekly attendance); Inner City churches (7%); Estate churches (5%); Suburban churches (34%); churches in Small Towns (28%) and Village/Rural churches (21%).

Britain's oldest existing Methodist church is Heptonstall Chapel in Calderdale, built in 1764 by a Methodist society founded in 1742. The youngest is the New Song Network Church in Warrington, formed in 2014 out of a "Fresh Expression" of church that started in a café in 2009.

As well as church services, there are a further 495,000 weekly visits to groups and outreach activities which meet under the auspices of the Methodist Church. These include:

- Over 170,000 visits to activities involving children and young people;
- Over 110,000 visits to or pop-ins, shops or café-type venues;
- Over 75,000 visits to prayer, fellowship, discipleship and study groups;
- Over 50,000 visits to support groups, shelters, food banks and campaigning events ;
- Over 40,000 visits to activities involving sport, music-making or the arts;
- 10,000 visits to heritage and community events.

Around 25,000 pupils are enrolled in 86 Methodist schools across both the maintained and independent sectors.

16,000 older people benefit from accommodation and support provided by Methodist Homes.

Methodist churches have meaningful links with churches from 60 countries abroad, as well as hosting worship and fellowship events held in over 40 languages other than English.

460,000 people (7 out of every 1,000 people in Britain) are visited, welcomed in fellowship, cared for and prayed for on churches' Community Rolls. This includes around 270,000 non-Methodist members.

There are around 1,600 active Methodist ministers, of whom around 180 work in chaplaincy.

British Methodism has long faced numerical and demographic challenge. Membership numbers were over 800,000 in 1906 and over 600,000 in 1980. The majority of current members are retirement age.