

Methodism in Numbers – Statistics at a Glance (2020 edition¹)

The Methodist Church is Britain's fourth largest Christian denomination², and part of the worldwide Methodist family representing over 80 million members and adherents in 138 countries³.

As of 31 October 2019, there were almost **170,000** people who have made and sustained a commitment to Christian discipleship within the Methodist Church of Great Britain as active members of a local Methodist church. While this represents a decrease of about 3,500 since October 2018, the decline has, compared to the previous two years, halved.

In addition to this, Methodists are members of Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) with a total membership of approximately **29,000**.

4,110 churches (also called societies) reported themselves as active as of 31 October 2019. Societies that have become a class of another or have formed a new merged church with one or more other societies are not counted separately. 34 congregations underwent such a change of status during the year.

Churches are grouped into **30 Districts**, which are further organised into circuits. Churches in Shetland, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, the Isles of Scilly, the Isle of Wight as well as Gibraltar and Malta are also covered by these arrangements.

London, Yorkshire West and Northampton reported the highest numbers of Methodist members; and four Districts were able to record an upwards trend. LEP membership was highest in Northampton, the South East and Bristol.

The weekly estimated average attendance across the Connexion at typical worship services came to a total of just over **133,000**. This includes services on any day of the week and does not differentiate between adults or children, or whether attendees are Methodist members or not. Compared to the 2018 figure, this is a decline of about 7,000 attendees per week, but attendance was up in four Districts. Overall, London, Northampton and the South East recorded the highest numbers.

While deaths of members remain the major cause of membership decline, there have also been some encouraging signs of growth, with a handful of Districts reporting increased numbers.

May 2020

¹ Self-reported membership and attendance statistics submitted by local churches between 10/2019 and 02/2020

² <https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/factsheets/christianity-in-britain>

³ <http://worldmethodistcouncil.org/about>