

## Methodism in Numbers – Statistics at a Glance (2019 edition<sup>1</sup>)

The Methodist Church is Britain's fourth largest Christian denomination<sup>2</sup>, and part of the worldwide Methodist family representing over 80 million members and adherents in 138 countries<sup>3</sup>.

As of 31 October 2018, there are just below **173,000** 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. This represents a decline of about 7,000 compared to the previous year.

In addition to this, Methodists are members of Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) with a total membership of approximately **31,000**. In this partnerships, members are counted as "joint" and therefore not included in the overall Methodist membership count.

**4,210 churches** (also called societies) reported themselves as active as of 31 October 2018. 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. While exact numbers are somewhat difficult to determine, the total of known classes and mergers is currently 325; the actual number is likely to be higher.

Churches are grouped into **355 circuits**, which are organised into **30 districts**. 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<sup>4</sup>.

The London District has the highest overall membership with 16,802, the largest church being Walworth Methodist Church, which has over 700 registered members. Northampton and Yorkshire West have the second- and third-largest memberships per District, respectively.

The estimated average attendance at a typical weekly worship service comes to a total of just over **140,000**. 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. It also does not focus on one month only (as previously captured in the traditional "October count"), but aims to give a better impression of average attendance figures throughout the whole year.

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<sup>1</sup> Self-reported membership and attendance statistics submitted by local churches between 10/2018 and 02/2019

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

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

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.methodist.org.uk/webmap>