

Methodism in Numbers – Statistics at a Glance (2021 edition¹)

Background

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.

Churches are grouped into **30 Districts**, which are further organised into circuits covering England, Scotland and Wales and also include Shetland, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, the Isles of Scilly, the Isle of Wight as well as Gibraltar and Malta.

Membership

As of 31 October 2020, there were just over **164,000** people having made and sustained a commitment to Christian discipleship within the Methodist Church of Great Britain as active members of a local Methodist church. This translates into a decline of about 6,000 members since October 2019, and is partly due to a decrease in members of active societies and partly due to the cessation of local congregations.

In addition to this, Methodists also participate in Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) with a total membership of approximately **28,000**.

4,004 churches (also called societies) were recorded as active as of 31 October 2020, compared to 4,110 in 2019. Of these, **98.63%** submitted a statistical return. Societies that became a class of another or formed a new merged church with one or more other societies during the past Connexional year are not counted separately.

London and Yorkshire West reported the highest numbers of Methodist members, while LEP membership was highest in Bristol, Northampton, and the South East.

Attendance

Unfortunately, restrictions on public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic did not allow for the meaningful recording of worship attendance figures during the 2020 data collection period.

For further information, visit www.methodist.org.uk/statistics.

¹ Self-reported membership and attendance statistics submitted by local churches between 10/2020 and 02/2021

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

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