Church Webmap Advanced Version User Guide

Introductory Note

The Advanced Version of the Methodist Webmap shows the extent of districts, circuits and network regions and displays detailed information on churches and church activity relative to the local context.

The webmap links up geographical and postcode data with the results of the annual Statistics for Mission returns round with data held by other organisations (the Office for National Statistics, the Church of England, partner charities). The information is presented in a way which aims to help users understand more about their churches, the people they serve, and the communities in which they are located.

For further help and guidance, please email webmap@methodistchurch.org.uk.
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1 BASIC FUNCTIONS

The following sections show you how to use the basic functions in the webmap. Because of the scope and variety of available data, it can take some time to get used to the way it works and display the information you want to see. It is worth reading this guidance as an introduction, and exploring the map yourself to work out how you best want to use it.

1.1 Format

When you go to the map web page for the first time, you will see a basic map with two parts to it. On the right is the main map image which displays what selections you have made in the map controller on the left hand side.

The map controller contains three tabs – LAYERS, LEGENDS and SEARCH.

1.1.1. Layers

The layers tab appears as a column with text, containing a series of headings, options and boxes. By ticking or unticking the boxes you can call up or remove different types of data (e.g. churches, areas, boundaries) and so control what is displayed on the main map image.

On start-up, the main map image will display a simple map covering most of Britain, marked with Methodist District boundaries. On the left you will see that the site has selected for you the Methodist Boundaries option, and within this the Districts option. No other data layer is shown at this stage.
From here you can use the various functions on the left hand side to explore the map, or zoom and drag the map in the map box itself (see section 1.4 on navigation).

Selecting additional layers, for example Retirement Homes in Methodist Homes (MHA) as shown on the screenshot below, will add the relevant icons to the map as well as the legends tab.

![Map with additional layers](image)

1.1.2 Legends

The graphical representation of any data selected in the layers tab is explained in the legends tab.

![Legend example](image)
1.1.3 Search

You can search the map by Church, Circuit or District. A second, conditional menu will appear depending on the option you have chosen. The functions of each option are explained in more detail in section 3 of this guidance document.

1.2 Using the icons

1.2.1 Functionality of the top panel icons

From left to right:
1. Link to www.methodist.org.uk
2. Print map (see section 4.1)
3. Zoom to full extent (default setting)
4. Select basemap layer
5. Clear search (applicable to selections made within the map only)
6. Find your location (only works when your device is connected to GPS)
7. Session timer (60 minutes before reset)
8. Layer Opacity Slider
9. Map Zoom out
10. Map Zoom in
11. Full Screen mode (opens map in new browser window with default settings)

1.2.2 Hiding the map controller

Clicking on the red circular list icon in the top left corner of the map controller will hide the map controller. Clicking it again will unhide the panel.
1.3 Choosing your map

Selecting a different basemap layer (see section 1.2.1) may help highlighting the information you would like to see. The example below shows a light grey canvas with Learning Network regions (orange boundaries), Maintained Schools (purple icons), Independent Schools (blue icons) and Learning Institutions (green icons).

1.4 Navigation

The main map image can be manipulated in the same way as any common web map, such as Google or Bing. Use the +/- signs on the right-hand margin of the map image to control the zoom level. Alternatively, you can move to your chosen location by clicking your mouse and dragging the map. Double-clicking the mouse over the map will zoom in closer on the point you click. The closer you zoom in, the more information is displayed e.g. Methodist Churches & CI labels will start to appear if that particular data layer has been selected.

2 BROWSING THE MAP BY DATA LAYER TYPE

This option allows you to view different data types on the webmap in any combination which is technically possible. Layer selections made in the map controller will be displayed on the main map image and added to the legends tab.

2.1 Data selection

The data that can be added to the map is categorised into the following:
- Methodist Churches & Circuit Initiatives
- Schools and Learning Institutions
- Methodist Homes (MHA)
- Methodist Fellowship Groups
- Methodist Partner Organisations
- Methodist Boundaries
- Methodist Concentration
- CofE Boundaries
- Administrative Boundaries
- External Reference Data
- UK Census
- Deprivations Indices
- Rural Urban Classification

These data categories can be expanded to show further options by clicking on the small arrow to the left of each category, enabling you to make a more specific choice in terms of information displayed on the map. For a full list of data layers, please see the Appendix.
### 2.2 Data presentation

Data is presented on the map using:

- **Geographical points** (such as the location of churches)
  These are displayed using a number of images or shapes on a particular point in the map.

- **Boundary lines** (such as a district or county boundary)
  These are displayed mainly as lines or dotted lines in different colours.

- **Coloured layers over the area of the map you are viewing**
  Data relating to the population of particular areas is displayed using colour scales; different shades indicate different levels of e.g. deprivation or religious affiliation.

Browsing the data works in a cascade system. Some data types require you to select a general type first and then a specific data set by clicking a second button (e.g. Methodist Boundaries – Stationing Regions).

Some data layers, such as the label options, only appear at specific zoom levels on the map. If something doesn’t appear at first sight, zoom closer in until it does. The legends tab is a good way to check which data layers have been selected and what to look out for.

You cannot display all data types at the same time. Different boundary types can sometimes be displayed simultaneously, as can most map points, but data which requires coloured layers to be added to the map can only be viewed one set at a time. If more than one layer has been selected (e.g. two different ethnicity categories), the data set which was chosen first will appear as the top i.e. visible layer.
2.3 Turning data off

If you want to turn off one type of data, untick the box next to it in the map controller and it will disappear from the map image. If you want to turn off a whole category of data, you can click on the category type heading (e.g. Ethnicity) rather than having to unselect every individual box.

2.4 Exploring data about a particular point-location on the map

If you would like to know more about a particular point-location on the map image, e.g. a church or a school, click on its icon. A call-out box will appear on the right-hand side of the screen, displaying a range of factual and, if available, statistical data about the point-location you have identified.

2.5 Exploring data about a particular church

The information in the Basic Information display is extracted from the property and stationing data held on the Connexional database. In some instances, the words may be cut off due to spatial constraints. The information is however fully visible when hovering over the relevant field.

The Church Name information displays both the name and the primary worship site of the society (see section 3.3.1 for multi-site societies).

Data relating to Methodist societies draws on the information submitted during the annual statistical returns round. Examples of the graphical representations are explained in section 3.4.

Years without valid data will result in irregular and possibly incorrect graphs.

2.5.1 Hiding the information panels

Clicking on the red circular list icon in the top right corner will hide the Basic Information panel. Clicking it again will unhide the panel.

2.5.2 Reporting errors: see section 4.2
3 FINDING DISTRICTS, CIRCUITS AND CHURCHES VIA THE SEARCH FUNCTION

You can search the map by Church, Circuit or District. A second, conditional menu will appear depending on the option you have chosen.

3.1 Districts

A district can be selected by clicking on the dropdown list below “Select District”. Once done, the map will zoom to the chosen district.

In the example below, the East Anglia District boundaries are shown and the Norwich circuit has been highlighted as per the selection in the conditional dropdown menu. You can go back to the Layers tab at any time if you would like to add additional information, such as Methodist Churches.

3.2 Circuits

Circuits can be searched by name/keyword, postcode/town/village or circuit name only.

In the example above, the option “Circuit Name / Keyword” was selected and “Lincoln” was entered into the Search box.
The broader the search term or option, the less precise the result will appear. Here, the map initially displays the area which is most densely populated with data that contain the search term “Lincoln” i.e. the city of Lincoln and geographical points that contain “Lincoln” in their address, however the view changes once one of the search results has been clicked on. In the example above, Grimsby and Cleethorpes was chosen, and the basic circuit information is displayed on the right. If a circuit has a website, a hyperlink will appear as part of the search results.

3.3 Churches and Circuit Initiatives (CIs)

Churches and Circuit Initiatives can be searched by name/keyword, postcode/town/village or church name only.

Postcode searches (e.g. HA1) will return all churches within a five-mile radius of HA1, and they will be highlighted accordingly on the relevant section of the map.

Selecting the option “Church Name Only” and searching for “Oaks” brings up a list of possible results.
Once you have found the church you were looking for, click anywhere within the relevant box – the example selected here is Four Oaks – to bring up detailed information as per the example above.

The right-hand information and analysis Panel will display Church, Circuit and District statistics in a dynamic format, visualising trends, comparing data circuit- and district-wide and also showing gaps for years where numbers are currently missing.

The location of the primary worship site of the selected church is highlighted by the Methodist cross-and-orb (used as icon for Methodist Churches, Circuit Initiatives and LEPs) and circled in blue.

You can also search for churches by selecting Churches & CIs in the map controller and then using the zoom button, before clicking on the relevant icon to bring up the information panel (see section 2.4).

3.4. Data display for Circuit Initiatives

Circuit Initiative locations are denoted by a blue cross-and-orb icon. As Circuit Initiatives do not record membership numbers as churches that are Methodist Societies do, the charts will show a sudden drop in numbers from the point of the formation or recognition of an initiative as such, or contain no information at all (= zero membership).

A note with regards to the status can be seen above the graphical displays:

**N.B. status: This is not (or no longer) a Methodist Society**
3.5 Examples of graphical data representation

Below are some examples of the visual data representations available. Trends are displayed from 2002 onwards, which is the year when electronic data gathering started. The numerical values are displayed when hovering over individual data points.

Comparative membership trends

Baptisms by age group

Local age demographics

Local ethnicity demographics
3.6 Viewing churches in their geographical context

By using the left and right arrows in the top right of the Basic Information display, information appears according to the layers selected in the map controller. If Methodist Churches & CIs, Circuits and Districts have been selected, there will be three different information layers available when clicking on the orb icon:

Layer 1 of 3: Methodist Churches and CIs layer

Layer 2 of 3: Circuits layer
3.7 Site sharing

If two or more Local Churches and Circuit Initiatives share the same primary site (ref. Standing Order 942), the map will show this by displaying a red orb (Local Church) surrounding a blue orb (Circuit Initiative). The full information is available in the right-hand panel and the arrows within the top panel of the Basic Information display can be used to click through all churches and initiatives at one particular site.

In the example below, a search for “Cullercoats Broadway” results in the following layers when clicking onto the orb icon:

Layer 1 of 3: Cullercoats Broadway Methodist Church

Layer 2 of 3: BeachcomberFX Circuit Initiative
Layers | Search
--- | ---

Search Results

Cullercoats Broadway
The Broadway
NE30 3LJ
The Revd David Wynd

District Name | Newcastle upon Tyne District
District Web | Website
District Chair | The Revd Stephen Lindridge
Area Square Miles | 2.290.1
Population | 1.584.710

Searching for “BeachcomberFX” CI brings up the same results, but would list the circuit initiative first.
3.8 Multi-site societies and Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Where a Methodist society or Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) meets in more than one worship site, the map displays all places accommodating public worship used in connection with the Local Church (ref. Standing Order 942).

For statistical purposes, the society will have one “primary” site and one or several “secondary” sites. When one of the secondary sites is selected via the Search function or directly on the map, a note in the right-hand display panel will refer to the primary site for statistical information.

- Primary site note: This is a multi-site society. Statistics below may include former societies from date of transfer.
- Secondary site note: This is a multi-site society; please refer to [...]. Statistics below include former societies from date of transfer.

Hyperlinks to all other connected sites are displayed within the Basic Information panel. When the search results include a multi-site society, the primary site is denoted with a yellow star. On the map, all sites are circled green. The selected site is circled blue.

Hiding the information panels (see section 1.2.2) and zooming out reveals at one glance which sites belong to a particular society or partnership.
4 HOW TO…?

4.1 Download and print maps

Maps can be downloaded and printed via the Print icon in the top panel (see also section 1.2.1). The resulting PDF report will display the current selection at the time. Data sources are acknowledged on page 2. Examples are below.
4.2 Find a church via the Basic Webmap

For finding the location, address, website and contact person for a particular church, the basic webmap (www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/connect/find-a-church-map/) is likely to be most suitable.

4.3 Change data and report errors

Data cannot be changed via the map directly, but errors may be reported to the Web Support Officer via webmap@methodistchurch.org.uk.
5 GENERAL INFORMATION

5.1 Methodist Churches

Local Churches, defined as Methodist Societies, are represented on the webmap by the cross-and-orb symbol. This symbol is also used to denote Circuit Initiatives not constituted as Methodist Societies but under the pastoral oversight of a Methodist circuit.

5.2 Methodist Boundaries

Circuits have been mapped onto locally defined areas of “mission, mutual encouragement and help” by generating notional boundaries in two different ways:
- By plotting geographical middle points between contiguous churches in different circuits and joining the dots. This creates angular-looking, computerised-generated boundaries which are coloured brown on the webmap and marked “Circuits” in the Layers tab;
- Circuits created in the way just described have then been “mapped onto” the statistical geography used by the Office of National Statistics to generate “best fit” circuits made up of discrete “Lower Super Output Areas” (LSOAs). LSOA boundaries look more like geographical boundaries, and indeed some of them do follow natural features like rivers or local administrative boundaries, but their main function is to define communities of residents whose numbers and demographic characteristics can then be ascertained from census data. The new circuit boundaries are coloured blue on the webmap and marked “Circuits (Census Output Areas)” in the Layers tab. They have been used to define the population, demographic and deprivation characteristics reported against circuits in the right hand panel tables and graphs.

District boundaries, coloured green on the webmap, define districts made up of circuits with the brown, angular-looking boundaries, and so will vary slightly from the blue, LSOA-based circuit boundaries.
Regional Boundaries (Learning Networks and Stationing Regions) define regions made up of a number of Methodist districts.

5.2.1 Exceptions

The circuit boundaries of Gibraltar and Malta, part of the South East District, are not defined, and the two circuits cannot be called up when searching by Circuit or District. However, churches can be located when selecting the Church option when using the Search function.

5.3 Property information about church buildings

The data displayed in the Advanced Webmap is updated weekly, so if an error e.g. an incorrect church location has been reported, it will take a maximum of one week for the corrected information to be displayed.

5.4 Statistical information about church societies

Statistical information such as membership and attendance is uploaded in bulk annually and will broadly tally with the figures reported to the Methodist Conference that year. Individual changes, which are reported outside the opening of the Statistics for Mission section within the Methodist Online Suite of Applications, may not be visible immediately. The data on the map may therefore also slightly differ from the annual PDF reports available via www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/statistics-for-mission.
5.4.1 Reporting a change of church status

When a society ceases to meet or becomes a class of another church, two or more societies merge, or an LEP arrangement is terminated, the new circumstances need to be reported via the Church Profile tab in the church’s statistics for mission entry in the Methodist Online Suite (http://online.methodist.org.uk).

Once this has been done, Connexional statistics and property records and consequently the webmap will be updated accordingly, and reflect changes such as a transfer of trusteeship in case of a cessation, a potential new church name in case of a merger, or a site becoming a "secondary" worship site in case of a society becoming a class.

5.5 Technical information

The Advanced Webmap will not function when viewed in browser compatibility mode or using Internet Explorer below IE9.

5.6 Acknowledgements

Information on data sources, privacy and copyright can be found in the bottom left corner of the map controller.
APPENDIX

6.1 Data categories for selection

- Methodist Churches & Circuit Initiatives
  - Methodist Churches & CIs (icons)
  - Methodist Churches & CIs (labels)
  - Churches & CIs by Circuit
  - Churches & CIs by LEP

- Schools and Learning Institutions
  - Maintained Schools
  - Independent Schools
  - Learning Institutions

- Methodist Homes (MHA)
  - Methodist Homes
  - Retirement Homes
  - Live at Home
  - MHA Offices

- Methodist Fellowship Groups
  - Chinese Methodist Churches
  - Chinese Churches & Congregations
  - Fijian Fellowship Groups
  - Ghanaian Fellowship Groups
  - Nigerian Fellowship Groups
  - Zimbabwean Fellowship Groups

- Methodist Partner Organisations
  - Action For Children

- Methodist Boundaries
  - Circuits
  - Circuits (Census Output Area)
  - Circuits (labels)
  - Districts
  - Districts (labels)
  - Learning Network Regions
  - Learning Network Regions (labels)
  - Stationing Regions
  - Stationing Regions (labels)

- Methodist Concentration
  - Methodist Concentration – Methodist members per 1,000 population

- CofE Boundaries
  - CofE Parishes
  - CofE Dioceses

- Administrative Boundaries
  - Wards
  - LA Districts
  - Counties
  - Regions

- External Reference Data
  - Schools
  - CofE Churches
UK Census
  o Population density (persons/hectare)
  o Age groups
    ▪ Age Groups – 65 Years Old and Over (%)
    ▪ Age Groups – 50 to 64 Years Old (%)
    ▪ Age Groups – 35 to 49 Years Old (%)
    ▪ Age Groups – 20 to 34 Years Old (%)
    ▪ Age Groups – 12 to 19 Years Old (%)
    ▪ Age Groups – 5 to 11 Years Old (%)
    ▪ Age Groups – 0 to 4 Years Old (%)
  o Ethnicity
    ▪ Ethnicity – White (%)
    ▪ Ethnicity – Mixed (%)
    ▪ Ethnicity – Asian (%)
    ▪ Ethnicity – Black (%)
    ▪ Ethnicity – Other (%)
  o Religion
    ▪ Religion – Christian (%)
    ▪ Religion – Muslim (%)
    ▪ Religion – Hindu (%)
    ▪ Religion – Jewish (%)
    ▪ Religion – No religion (%)
    ▪ Religion – Others (%)
 ➢ Deprivations Indices
  o IMD Decile (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)
  o Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) Decile
  o Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOP) Decile
 ➢ Rural Urban Classification
  o Urban Rural Classification – England & Wales
  o Urban Rural Classification – Scotland

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