

## 52. Statistics for Mission 2008-10

<b>Title</b>	<b>Statistics for Mission 2008-10</b>
<b>Contact Name and Details</b>	Christopher Stephens, Research Officer <a href="mailto:Stephensc@methodistchurch.org.uk">Stephensc@methodistchurch.org.uk</a> 020 7467 5247
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<b>Resolution/s</b>	The Conference receives the Report

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	<p>The paper aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inform the Conference of developments in the annual Statistics for Mission process and reporting styles since 2008</li> <li>provide information on the full scope of statistical reporting that will be made available on the Methodist website by the time the Conference meets and in the following months</li> <li>set out collection and reporting priorities for the future</li> <li>provide a connexional-level report on membership, attendance and other statistical data gathered during 2008/2010 (but to encourage representatives to use this only as a starting point for exploring the data to be made available online)</li> </ul>
<b>Main Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context</li> <li>Why count?</li> <li>Improving the process</li> <li>Improved reporting</li> <li>The connexional Statistics for Mission analysis report</li> <li>Additional Information: "STATS4MISSION" pilot</li> <li>Additional Information: data analysis and Methodist Schools</li> <li>Appendix 1: 2010 summary data tables</li> <li>Appendix 2: definitions and methodological notes</li> </ul>
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents</b>	<p>SO 358; 644 (8); 054 (12-13)</p> <p>Reporting of 2009 data at <a href="http://www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission">www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission</a> (to which will be added some additional detailed 2010 reporting by the time the Conference meets)</p> <p><i>Statistics for Mission</i> (2008 Conference Report, Agenda 2 pp.578-591)</p>
<b>Consultations</b>	Methodist Council; regular feedback from church members; focused consultation with District Chairs, Superintendent Ministers, District Development Enablers and District Membership Secretaries; Working Party of district representatives.

### Summary of Impact

<b>Impact</b>	The information provided in this report and, in particular, the more detailed reporting available to all members of the Church online should impact on decision making and mission planning throughout the Church.
<b>Risk</b>	Statistics do not provide a complete narrative about the health of the Church. Headline figures must be treated with caution and understood as only limited measures of Church activity. The use of figures in isolation from wider contextual information can lead to unfair or inaccurate assumptions.

## Statistics for Mission 2008-10

Good research helps the Church to understand more of what it is, what it has been and what it can or might become. Only by learning about itself can the Church make informed decisions about how best to focus its resources and energies to serve its God-given mission. This is the principle which underlies the Statistics for Mission process.

### 1. Context

- 1.1 The Methodist Church has a long tradition of intentionally and purposefully counting. Although the data collected and type of reporting has varied, Conference Agendas stretching back to the nineteenth century show a concern for the collection of statistics for the purposes of transparency and accountability and to ensure the better functioning and oversight of the Connexion.
- 1.2 Standing Order 358 requires that the Connexional Team brings a report on the annual membership returns to the Conference every three years. 2011 marks the latest in this series of triennial reports. In turn, the same Standing Orders require Chairs and Superintendents, with support from circuit office holders, to make available to the Team such statistical figures as are necessary for this reporting, as well as other types of data necessary for the business of the Team in providing “a coherent and effective service in behalf of the Conference “ [SO 302(1)] and enabling the Methodist Church “better to fulfil its calling of responding to Go’s love in Christ and working out is discipleship in worship and mission” [SO 303(1)].
- 1.3 The membership returns are therefore just one aspects of a much broader piece of work, now called Statistics for Mission, the results of which are made available on the Methodist Church website [www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission](http://www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission). A large amount of effort has, during the last triennium, been put into expanding both the type of data collected in the regular October returns and also the intended audience of the resulting reports, with the sole purpose of focusing on and releasing the mission potential of this research activity for the whole Methodist Church and, indeed, the whole people of God. The first step in this was to increase the administrative and technical support for the process from October 2009 and to transfer responsibility for managing the work to the Research team within the Projects, Research and Development Cluster of the Connexional Team, for whom it has become a dominating focus. That team made efforts to ensure that everyone in the Church who had been, who is, or could be involved in the Statistics for Mission process on a regular basis was contacted and given the open and continuing invitation to make comments, give feedback and suggestions, and help plan the future direction of this work. That offer remains open.

### 2. Why Count?

- 2.1 The reporting of connexional and local statistical information lets the Church, the Conference, the Connexional Team, district officers, circuit ministers, Methodist members and worshippers, ecumenical and international Partner Churches find out something about what we are, who we are, where we are, how we have changed and are changing and, to a certain extent, what we are doing. The Conference has consistently affirmed the importance of this for a mission-focused Church.
- 2.2 At one level, the Statistics for Mission reporting allows us to know interesting and useful facts about the Church, to provide us with a sense and measure of what is sometimes, probably unhelpfully, called the ‘health’ of the Church. The connexional analysis report in Section 5 below does just this. This year, therefore, the report tells us that in 2010 the Connexion was made up of

5,162 church communities in 467 Circuits; we had a membership of 238,000 people; a wider community roll of up to 587,000 people; and an estimated average weekly attendance at churches of 248,000 people. The analysis report demonstrates how this has changed over the past three years.

- 2.3 On a more practical level, the data captured in the Statistics for Mission process feeds directly into connexional programmes and projects, strategic decisions and policy recommendations. Some recent examples where this has happened include work relating to fresh expressions, the Belonging Together partnership, equalities and diversity, children and youth, carbon reduction initiatives, and the missing generation project. 2009 Statistics for Mission reporting, available online, gathered together a number of comments from Church officers to demonstrate the critical place this data has had in decision making in a number of areas like these.
- 2.4 Most importantly, the data available to every church member via the Methodist website can provide a planning tool for anyone with an active interest in church life and mission work. In 2009/2010, some basic guidance was written and placed alongside the online statistical reporting. This began to demonstrate how local congregations could begin to use the data available to them in raw, summarised and map forms to assist in planning new ventures, boosting local support networks, and setting up new initiatives. As our reporting evolves, so it is the intention of the Research team to focus more and more efforts on supporting local communities to use the information available to them.
- 2.6 As the Research team develops the type of data collected and the way it is reported, a particular concern is to ensure this process really does emphasise the fact it is 'for mission' and that its results are used in that way. We are often easily led into believing the statistics the Church collects represent a picture of decline. However, by looking also at measures of church life other than Sunday attendance and formal membership, the hope of the Research team is to show a more rounded picture of church life, and offer a voice of hope. There is, indeed, a great deal in this year's report about which to be hopeful. In 2010, 133,000 children and young people were involved in Methodist, church-led activities outside of regular worship; 67% of Methodist Circuits reported a regular activity which they considered to be a fresh expression of church; Methodist churches offered worship or fellowship in 41 languages.

### **3. Improving the process**

- 3.1 The major data collection exercise for Statistics for Mission takes place in October of each year, during which every local church is asked to fill out a web-based form with the data required. Data collection happens on a church-by-church basis (a church being defined as a gathered community of worshippers) rather than at the level of worship building or Circuit. This limits the process in some respects, but remains the most efficient level at which to count, given the resources available. To take account of this, forms are now designed to allow some types of data capture which enable the analytical process to extract circuit-level information. The response rate has increased significantly over this triennium and in 2010 reached 96% of churches. This is the result of work on the part of district, circuit and church staff, ministers and volunteers and their efforts are greatly appreciated.
- 3.2 October has been chosen deliberately as part of an ecumenical agreement amongst the major Christian denominations in Britain to count data at the same time. Although there is nothing like a 'typical' month in the life of the Church, October is a safe choice for giving a stable picture of church life, avoiding high festivals and lengthy summer vacations. It also avoids times of major transition in most Methodist Circuits. Counting at the same time allows denominations to make more accurate comparisons and plan together more fruitfully.

- 3.3 Over this triennium, the annual Statistics for Mission cycle has been developed to be as collaborative, responsive and flexible as possible. Additional efforts to do this can mean significant rewards for the Church. By 2011 the Research team has not achieved all that is possible already, and it fully intends to keep working on this. As changes and developments in technological possibilities arise, these, too, will allow Statistics for Mission to adapt to make the process easier and the reporting better. At this time, for example, the Research team is working with a new web development company to produce a more advanced and more user-friendly data entry site. Many of the new features will result from suggestions made by circuit ministers and administrators, who submit the October data.
- 3.4 The most significant change in the last triennium has been the inclusion of 'annual questions' in the 2009 and 2010 forms. These are questions which appear for one or two years to provide specific one-off data sets relating to a particular area of Church life. In 2009 and 2010 these additional questions have provided information on fresh expressions of church, ethnically distinct congregations, diversity in worship language, the roles and numbers of local chaplains, local church links with World Church partners, and a range of data on volunteer and employed children and youth workers across the Connexion. In 2011, annual questions will begin to provide valuable information on age and gender demographics across the Church, on the amount and scope of community outreach work engaged in by Methodist churches in local contexts, and on local carbon reduction activities.
- 3.5 Questions that are added in this way are the result of proposals made by anyone in the Church who wishes to put them forward, with invitations being sent to all District Chairs, District Development Enablers, Training Officers, District Membership Secretaries and Superintendent Ministers on a number of occasions throughout the year. The questions used are chosen on the basis of several factors, including the likely importance of the proposed data for the mission needs of the Church, the ease of collection for local churches, the frequency of the request, and the correlation of the question with other strategic priorities emerging in the Church. Questions are debated, designed and tested to ensure the least possible work is required of local churches to produce the most useful results. The results are then collated and reported by the Research team as simply and usefully as possible and made available on the Methodist website. The Research team is assisted in this work by a partnership agreement with the Church of England Research and Statistics department, who perform important analytical work on our behalf, and by the vital assistance of database, administrative and IT staff in the Connexional Team.
- 3.6 Shortly after the beginning of the connexional year 2010/11, the complete set of 2009/2010 data, analysis and reporting was published on the Methodist website and links to this sent to every District Chair, Superintendent Minister and District Membership Secretary (where these still exist). This was accompanied by the offer of personal time spent with connexional and district staff to assist in the interpretation and use of the data. As new sets of data become available, this offer remains open, as does the invitation to anyone involved in the collection process, or local mission generally, to contact the Research team at Methodist Church House and discuss the emerging numbers, the process, or the questions.

#### **4. Improved reporting**

- 4.1 This year, the Research team has attempted to do more with the triennial reporting than has previously been offered, with a particular focus on providing data and analysis which is accessible, visually appealing and focused particularly at district level. The purpose of this is to assist in key mission planning at that level, as well as providing for local churches and Circuits reports into which their own local contexts fit less anonymously than in a solely connexional-level analysis.

- 4.2 A key message which has been voiced around the Church is that, while detailed numerical charts and spreadsheets should be made available to church members, developing a more approachable style of reporting will allow far more people to engage with the data and, in turn, instigate more fruitful, mission-focused conversations. As such, the 2009 Statistics for Mission reports featured, in addition to the raw data and numerical analysis, both written summaries of district 'headline stories' and also a number of analytical maps. These have been warmly received. The intention of the Research team is therefore to focus increasing efforts on alternative styles of reporting, particularly creative visual methods of representing data, and to produce these throughout this and every year.
- 4.3 In order to accommodate this focus, to build on the extensive reporting offered for the October 2009 data, and to allow for more advanced methods of reporting, particularly maps, the majority of the statistical reporting available to the Church in 2011 is not contained in the main Conference Agenda. The Conference is offered in Section 5 of this Report a connexional-level analysis in the traditional style of past years, with some enhancements. However, this is just one small part of what will be available for Methodist members from July 2011 and throughout this and future connexional years. The Conference will be given a unique demonstration during its Representative Session of what else has been done by that point and is, or will be, available online at [www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission](http://www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission). In addition, district representatives at the Conference will be issued during the Representative Session with separate printed copies of some of the new, additional material relating specifically to their Districts. Work is also underway to produce a popular booklet summarising the triennial findings, for distribution across the Church. Districts will be invited to order copies of this for their synods when they become available in the autumn.

## **5. The Connexional Statistics for Mission Analysis Report**

### **5.1 Foreword from Lynda Barley, Head of the Research and Statistics Department of the Archbishops Council**

Methodist churches are a lively Connexion and the 2010 collection of mission statistics provides a fuller statistical picture than has been previously possible. The positive development of web based data collection has significantly improved the efficiency of this annual exercise and its ability to adapt to changing contexts on the ground.

Children and young people are both the Church of the future and part of the Church today. These mission statistics are evidence that many churches are seeing the rewards of bringing this vibrancy into their church life. In 2010 the participation of children and young people in worship and other activities attached to church life has grown mainly from activities outside Sunday observance. Commitment to the future of church life is demonstrated further by the large number of churches which employ adults to work with children and young people.

Looking further beyond our church walls, 2010 saw significant numbers of fresh expressions of church and of expressions of community chaplaincy reported by churches. Methodist churches are finding a positive response as they rise to the challenge of spreading the good news of the Gospel beyond their doors into the wider community and the next generation. It is a joy that in this report the 2010 statistical collection reveals churches getting into good shape to grasp the Apostle Paul's Olympic spirit of straining towards what lies ahead, pressing towards the heavenly prize to which God has called us.

*The Revd Lynda Barley May 2011*

## 5.2 Summary

**Table 1 Key membership and attendance statistics, 2007 to 2010**

<b>Thousands</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Change 2007 to 2010</b>	<b>Change 2009 to 2010</b>
Membership	263	252	243	238	-10%	-2%
Community Roll	644	601	575	565	-12%	-2%
Baptisms and Thanksgivings	12	11	11	11	-7%	4%
Confirmations	3	3	3	3	0%	15%
Couples Married or Blessed	4	4	4	4	-12%	0%
Funerals	24	24	23	23	-3%	2%
Average Adult Sunday Attendance	194	189	188	181	-7%	-4%
Average Adult Midweek Attendance	22	22	21	20	-11%	-7%
<b>Average Adult Attendance All Week</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Average Under 13 Sunday Attendance	22	22	21	20	-9%	-5%
Average Under 13 Midweek Attendance	14	16	14	17	20%	17%
<b>Average Under 13 Attendance All Week</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Average 13 to 19 Sunday Attendance	7	7	6	6	-6%	0%
Average 13 to 19 Midweek Attendance	4	4	3	5	18%	35%
<b>Average 13 to 19 Attendance All Week</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>10%</b>
Average Sunday Attendance	223	217	215	207	-7%	-4%
Average Midweek Attendance	40	42	39	41	3%	6%
<b>Average Attendance All Week</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>-2%</b>

- In 2010 the Methodist Connexion was made up of 31 Districts, 467 Circuits and 5,162 church communities (defined as a worshipping community with a Church Council). These figures compare to a Connexion in 2008 which contained 5,484 church communities in 546 Circuits, representing a reduction of 322 (6%) and 79 (14%).
- The total number of children and young people reported to attend children and youth groups attached to the 2,067 churches who reported such activities in 2010, was 133,000. This compares to 98,000 children and young people in groups attached to 1,700 churches in 2009, and 108,000 in 1,733 churches in 2008.
- Churches were asked in 2010 how many people are employed (in a paid capacity) in their church specifically to work with children and young people, and with which age ranges they were engaged. In 2010, 646 posts were identified by 495 churches. However, half of those posts were shared, either across Circuits, the District, or with other partners.
- In 2010 there were 1,257 fresh expressions identified, 941 (in 723 churches) of which meet on a regular basis (monthly or more often).
- 1,055 churches reported expressions of community chaplaincy performed by between 1 and 21 people (excluding larger groups of volunteer lay people) in each church. Across the Connexion, this added up to 2,947 people involved in chaplaincy roles (including those volunteer lay people).

- Respondents were asked for the first time in 2010 whether their church has a formal link with an overseas church, 327 of whom reported that they did.
- In 2009 and 2010 125 churches reported that their church runs or hosts Methodist worship or fellowship in a language other than English or Welsh and 165 that their church runs or hosts Methodist worship or fellowship using English or Welsh for ethnically distinct congregations or groups.

### 5.3 Introduction

This report marks the end of the 2008–2010 triennium and explores how, in terms of the statistics our churches collect, the Methodist Church has changed and developed over the past three years. Information in this report focuses on top level figures for the whole Methodist Connexion, including links with overseas congregations, worship in schools and fresh expressions. This triennium, additional local level information and analysis can also be found in district profile reports, which will be made available by the time the Methodist Conference meets via the Methodist website at [www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission](http://www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission). Whilst the majority of analysis explores the last triennium, in some places it is possible to look back further and compare with previous triennia.

### 5.4 Method and response rate

The data used in this report was collected via an online or paper survey form, made available in 2010 to 5162 churches from the start of September, with a closing date in December. The response rates for the three years 2008, 2009 and 2010 are listed in Table 2 below, and include those who gave partial responses. Where appropriate, missing data has been imputed to enable estimated totals to be given for the whole Methodist Connexion.

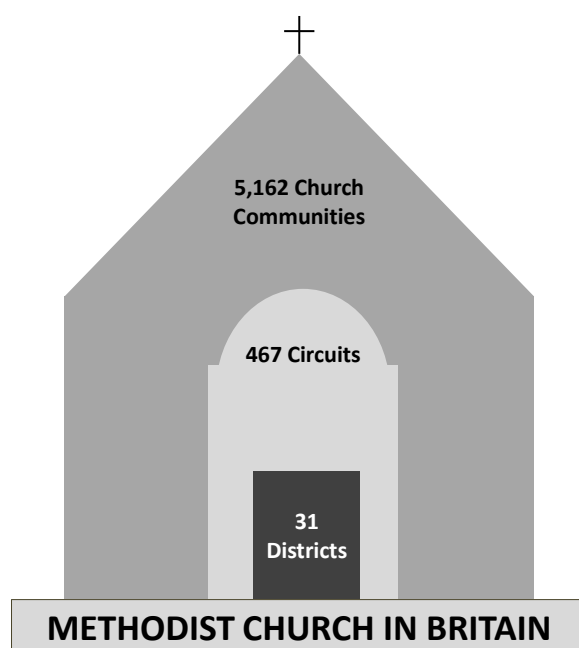
**Table 2 Response rate 2008 to 2010**

2008	85 %
2009	91 %
2010	96 %

### 5.5 The Methodist Connexion

In 2010 the Methodist Connexion was made up of 31 Districts, 467 Circuits and 5,162 church communities (defined as a worshipping community with a Church Council). These figures compare to a Connexion in 2008 which contained 5,484 church communities in 546 Circuits, representing a reduction of 322 (6%) and 79 (14%).

**Figure 1**



Churches are invited to classify themselves in terms of the makeup of their local area ranging from rural village to city centre. Of the 5,162 church communities, nearly a half are considered to be village rural (Table 3). Comparing the number of churches to those in the previous triennium indicates that the geographical spread of churches has remained broadly stable.

**Table 3 Geographical categorisation of churches**

	Count of churches 2010	Per cent	Count of churches 2007	Per cent
Not specified	8	0%	1	0%
City Centre	111	2%	108	2%
Council Estate	270	5%	288	5%
Inner City	299	6%	310	6%
Suburban Neighbourhood	1189	23%	1205	22%
Small Town	1005	19%	1025	19%
Village Rural	2280	44%	2445	45%
<b>Connexion</b>	<b>5162</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5381</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 5.6 Membership

### 5.6.1 Wholly Methodist churches (non-LEP churches)

Membership of the 4,622 wholly Methodist churches in 2010 ranged from under 10 in the smallest churches to 549 in the largest churches. Accounting for missing data, it is estimated that there are 219,000 members in total across the Methodist Connexion in wholly Methodist churches. This has declined through the triennium by 6 per cent from an estimated 234,000



members in 2008.

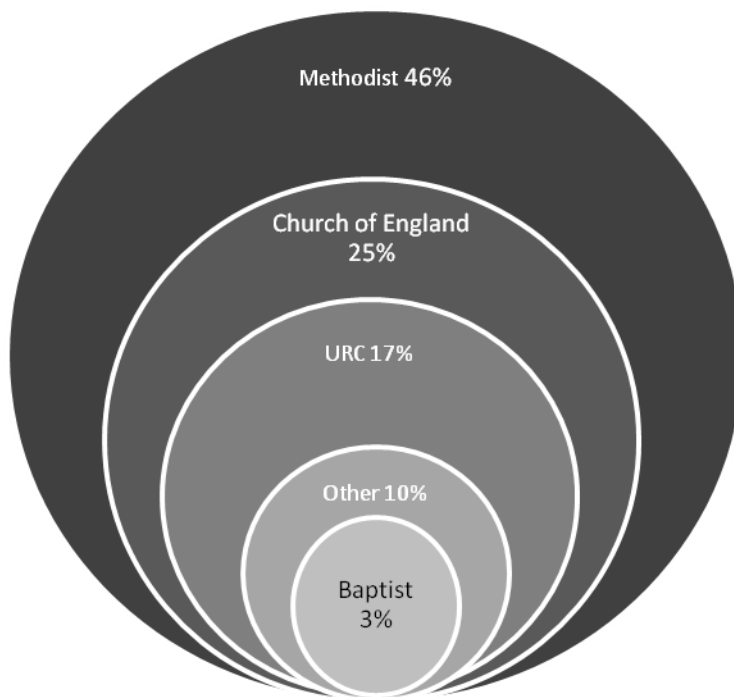
The estimated total number of “Pastoral Others”, that is those linked with local churches but not formally members, across wholly Methodist churches in the Methodist Connexion was 289,000, a drop of around 8 % over the triennium.

### 5.6.2 LEP Membership

Membership of the 540 Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) churches in 2010 ranged from under 10 across all denominations in the partnerships in the smallest churches to 450 in the largest churches. Again, accounting for missing data, an estimated total number of members (Methodist, URC, Baptist, CofE, other denominations and joint members) in LEP churches is 42,000. The estimated total of the Methodist membership (including those joint members apportioned according to local LEP agreements as Methodist) within LEPs, across the Methodist Connexion is 19,000. This has grown through the triennium by 2 per cent from an estimated 18,000 members in 2008, when there were 554 LEPs.

In 2010, LEPs were most frequently partnerships between Methodists and United Reformed Church denominations (Figure 2). Methodist membership within LEPs on average accounted for around 46 % of the total LEP membership.

**Figure 2 LEP denominational membership makeup 2010**



The estimated total number of “Pastoral Others”, that is those linked with local churches but not formally members, across LEP churches in the Methodist Connexion was 38,000 in 2010, compared to 37,000 in 2008.

### 5.6.3 Total Methodist Membership

Combining the estimated total membership of wholly Methodist churches and the Methodist membership of LEPs, the total Methodist membership of the Methodist Connexion in 2010 was 238,000. Adding pastoral others (327,000) gives an estimated total community roll of 565,000

in 2010, compared 601,000 in 2008 (Table 4).

**Table 4 Methodist membership and pastoral others 2007 to 2010**

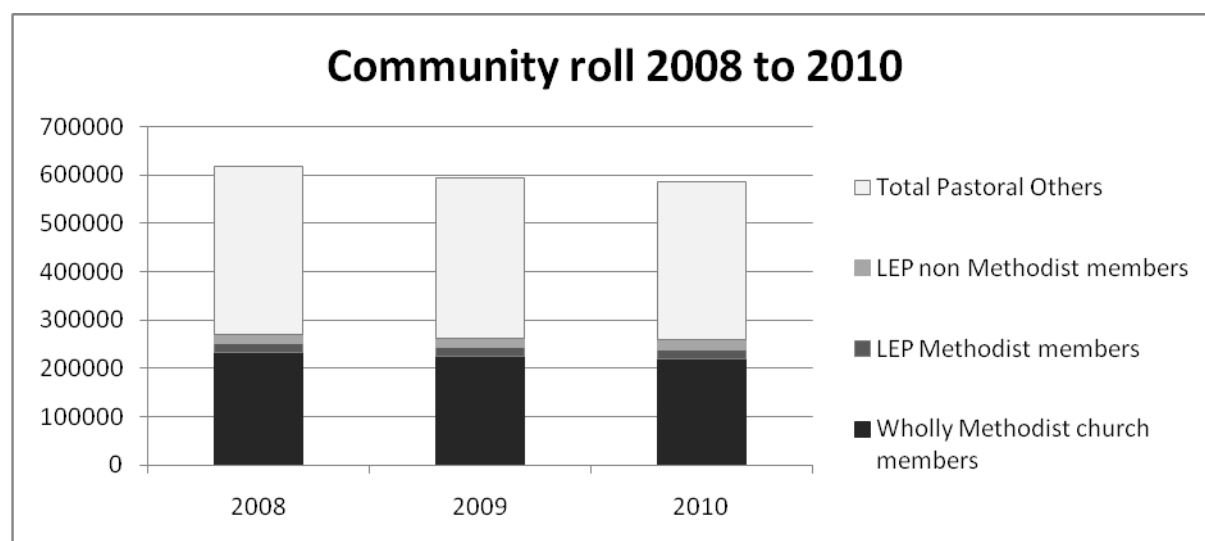
	2007	2008	2009	2010	Change 2007 to 2010	Change 2009 to 2010
Members of wholly Methodist Churches		234,000	224,000	219,000		-2%
LEP Methodist members		18,000	19,000	19,000		0%
<b>Total Methodist members</b>	<b>263,000</b>	<b>252,000</b>	<b>243,000</b>	<b>238,000</b>	-10%	-2%
Pastoral Others	380,000	349,000	332,000	327,000		-2%
<b>Community roll</b>	<b>644,000</b>	<b>601,000</b>	<b>575,000</b>	<b>565,000</b>	-12%	-2%

Half of the Methodist members in the Connexion are found in just over a third (35 %) of the Districts. The District with the largest number of members is London, with 8 % of members. The pattern is echoed with Pastoral Others, again with half of Pastoral Others found in just under a third (32 %) of Districts.

#### 5.6.4 Wider community roll

The Church's community roll can be interpreted and calculated in different ways. If we include not just those counted in table 4, but add together all people linked with Methodist churches across the Connexion (Methodist members, other denominational members of LEP churches and all Pastoral Others associated with Methodist or Methodist LEP churches) there were in 2010 587,000 people in regular contact with Methodist churches across Britain (Figure 3). This represents a 5 per cent drop over the triennium from 2008.

**Figure 3 Community roll 2008 to 2010**



#### 5.7 Confirmations, gains and losses

The trend over the triennium of gains and losses has remained broadly stable with a net loss in 2010 of 5,800 people across wholly Methodist and LEP churches (Figure 4). This compares to a net loss of 5,600 in 2008.

**Figure 4 Total gains and losses across the Methodist Connexion, 2010**

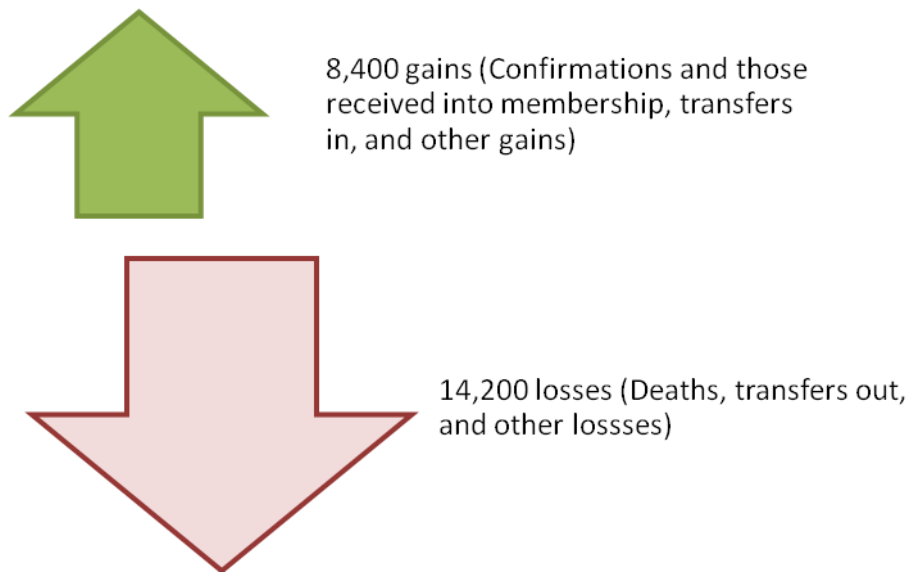


Figure 5 illustrates how the number of confirmations or those received into membership and other gains has remained stable across the triennium, but there appears to be a steady decline in additional members categorised as “transfers in” from other Methodist churches. The losses have again remained broadly stable through the triennium, but with fewer transfers out and deaths reported in 2009 and 2010, compared to those in 2008.

**Figure 5 Gains and losses across the triennium**

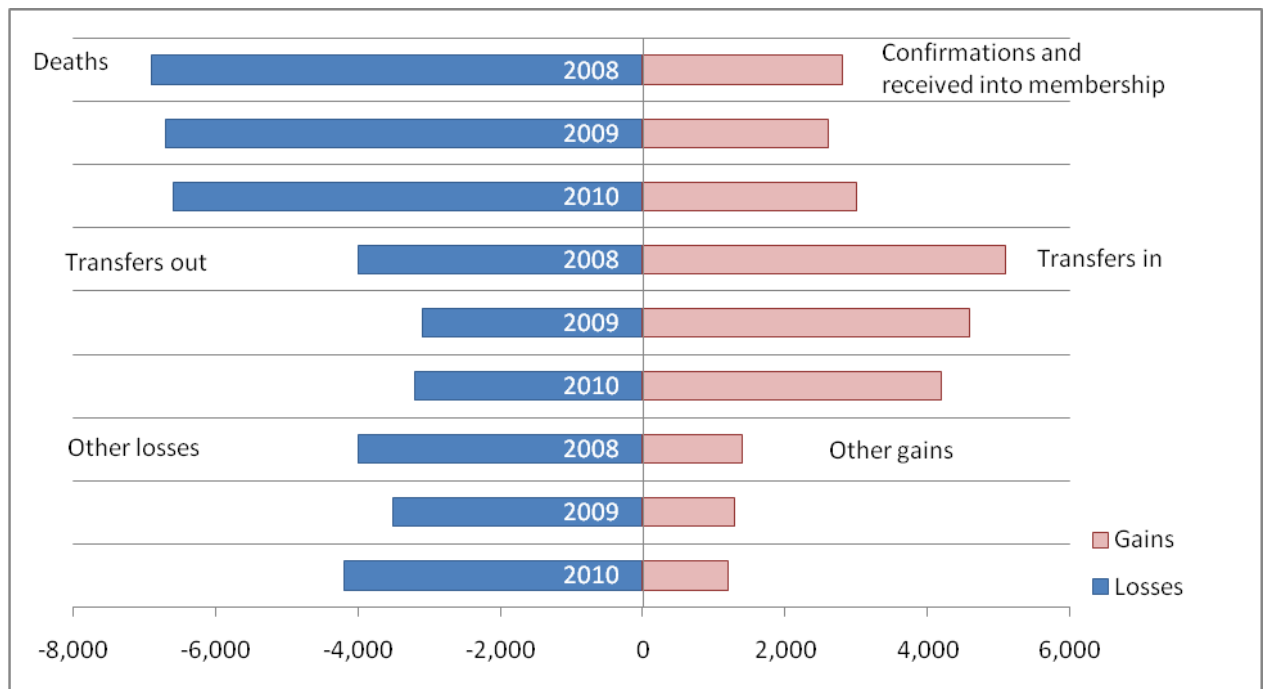


Table 5 shows the break-down of the losses and gains, looking first at wholly Methodist churches, and then LEPs. Gains in LEP churches show a very stable picture, but there appears to have been some increase in losses across the triennium.

**Table 5 Gains and losses across the Methodist Connexion 2008 to 2010**

Wholly Methodist Churches	2008	2009	2010
<b>Gains</b>			
Confirmations and those received into membership	2,400	2,200	2,700
Transfers in	4,600	4,000	3,700
Other Gains	1,200	1,100	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>7,400</b>
<b>Losses</b>			
Deaths	6,300	6,000	6,000
Transfers out	3,700	2,800	2,700
Other losses	3,500	3,100	3,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>12,300</b>
<b>Net loss</b>	<b>-5,300</b>	<b>-4,600</b>	<b>-4,900</b>
LEP Churches	2008	2009	2010
<b>Gains</b>			
Confirmations and those received into membership	300	400	400
Transfers in	400	600	400
Other Gains	200	200	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Losses</b>			
Deaths	600	700	700
Transfers out	300	300	600
Other losses	500	400	600
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,900</b>
<b>Net loss</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-900</b>

The gains and losses reported by churches often do not add up to reflect the total change in membership from 2009 to 2010. This can result from historic errors in the data, from differing response rates in each of the years, or from churches reporting membership without reporting gains and losses. These are problems which cannot be easily remedied. These figures for gains and losses in membership are therefore being considered separately to the net membership figures.

### 5.8 Wider influence of the Church

Churches were asked to report the baptisms, thanksgivings, marriages, blessings and funerals conducted in or in the name of their churches (Table 6).

Baptisms and thanksgivings in the each of the years 2008-2010 were slightly fewer in number than in 2007, but have remained fairly static in recent years. However, there appear to be early indications of changing patterns in the rates of baptisms of infants under 1 and those aged 1-12, possibly indicating parents may be waiting slightly longer to put children forward for baptism. This trend would, however, need to be investigated further and monitored in coming years before firm conclusions can be drawn.

The number of marriages and blessings of couples have remained stable in the years 2008-2010, but again appear to be slightly fewer in number than in 2007.

Funerals in total have fluctuated over the triennium, but have been similar in number to those reported in 2007.

**Table 6 Baptisms, thanksgivings, marriages, blessings and funerals 2007 to 2010**

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Change 2007 to 2010</b>	<b>Change 2009 to 2010</b>
Baptisms aged <1		7,200	6,300	6,600		
Baptisms ages 1 to 12		2,700	3,400	3,300		
Baptisms aged >13		1,100	700	900		
Thanksgivings for births		500	500	500		
<b>Total baptisms and thanksgivings</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>11,200</b>	-6%	3%
Couples married		3,600	3,300	3,300		
Couples blessed		400	400	500		
<b>Total marriages and blessings</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,800</b>	-12%	3%
Funerals in churches		12,100	11,100	11,800		
Funerals elsewhere in the name of the church		12,200	11,800	11,600		
<b>Total funerals</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>22,900</b>	<b>23,400</b>	-3%	2%

## 5.9 October Attendance

The total number of people attending Sunday and midweek services has declined across the triennium in wholly Methodist churches, although there has been some growth in the number of people attending LEP churches. Combining the attendance of Methodists in wholly Methodist churches with all those who attend LEPs that involve a Methodist partnership gives a total weekly average attendance of 248,000 in 2010, compared to 259,000 in 2008. Attendance figures have seen some decline over the triennium, however these statistics also show a shifting pattern with attendance of midweek services remaining more stable over the triennium than Sunday attendance. This is a different trend to the previous triennium (2004 to 2007) which saw decline in both Sunday and midweek attendance. Tables 7 a, b and c provide attendance figures for wholly Methodist churches and LEPs separately.

**Table 7a October attendance, 2008 to 2010**

<b>Wholly Methodist Churches</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Change 2008 to 2010</b>
Average Adult Sunday Attendance	164,100	160,700	155,200	-5%
Average Adult Midweek Attendance	19,700	18,400	16,500	-16%
<b>Average Adult Attendance All Week</b>	<b>183,800</b>	<b>179,200</b>	<b>171,700</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Average Under 13 Sunday Attendance	18,400	17,600	16,700	-9%
Average Under 13 Midweek Attendance	13,700	12,000	14,500	6%
<b>Average Under 13 Attendance All Week</b>	<b>32,100</b>	<b>29,600</b>	<b>31,100</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Average 13 to 19 Sunday Attendance	5,800	5,500	5,600	-3%

Average 13 to 19 Midweek Attendance	3,700	3,000	4,100	11%
<b>Average 13 to 19 Attendance All Week</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>Total Attendance All Week</b>	<b>225,500</b>	<b>217,300</b>	<b>212,300</b>	<b>-6%</b>

**Table 7b October attendance, 2008 to 2010**

<b>Attendance at LEPs (whole congregations)</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Change 2008 to 2010</b>
Average Adult Sunday Attendance	24,500	26,700	25,500	4%
Average Adult Midweek Attendance	2,700	2,700	3,100	15%
<b>Average Adult Attendance All Week</b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>29,500</b>	<b>28,600</b>	<b>5%</b>
Average Under 13 Sunday Attendance	3,300	3,500	3,300	0%
Average Under 13 Midweek Attendance	1,900	2,400	2,300	21%
<b>Average Under 13 Attendance All Week</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>8%</b>
Average 13 to 19 Sunday Attendance	900	900	800	-11%
Average 13 to 19 Midweek Attendance	300	400	500	67%
<b>Average 13 to 19 Attendance All Week</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Total Attendance All Week</b>	<b>33,600</b>	<b>36,700</b>	<b>35,500</b>	<b>6%</b>

To reflect what might be called the ‘Methodist portion’ of attendees at LEPs, the attendance figures can be scaled down appropriately based on the proportion of the LEP membership that is Methodist, as established locally in each church’s LEP agreement. This is, of course, an inexact science since it is not possible to know whether those attending an LEP are Methodist members or from other denominations, but it does give a helpful indication.

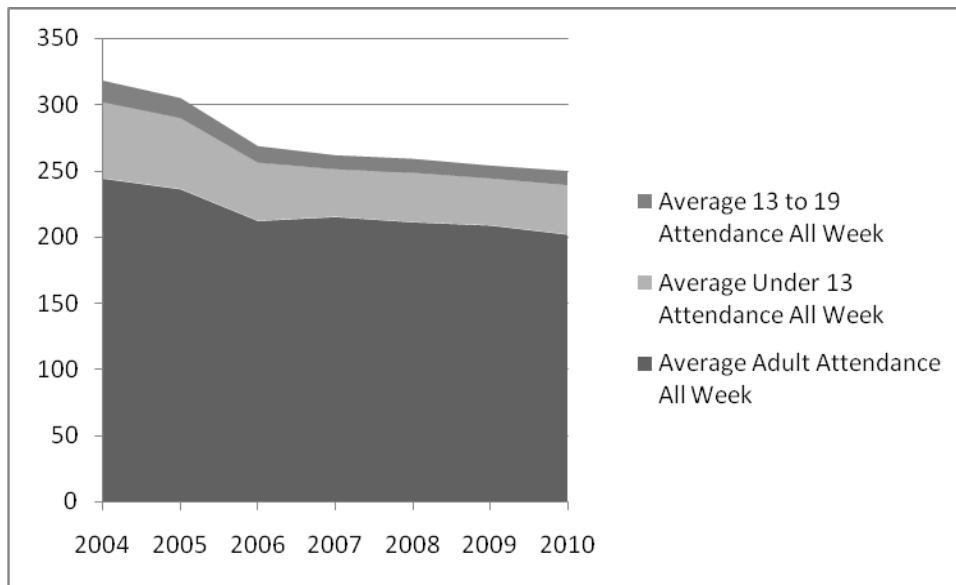
**Table 7c October attendance, 2008 to 2010**

<b>Methodist portion of LEP congregations</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Change 2008 to 2010</b>
Average Adult Sunday Attendance	14,600	15,100	12,300	-16%
Average Adult Midweek Attendance	1,600	1,600	1,600	0%
<b>Average Adult Attendance All Week</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>16,600</b>	<b>13,900</b>	<b>-14%</b>
Average Under 13 Sunday Attendance	1,900	1,900	1,500	-21%
Average Under 13 Midweek Attendance	1,100	1,100	1,100	0%
<b>Average Under 13 Attendance All Week</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>-13%</b>
Average 13 to 19 Sunday Attendance	500	500	400	-20%
Average 13 to 19 Midweek Attendance	200	200	200	0%
<b>Average 13 to 19 Attendance All Week</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>Total Attendance All Week</b>	<b>19,900</b>	<b>20,200</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>-15%</b>

Comparing this to the previous triennium, the trend of decline is broadly stable (Figure 6). The sharper rate of decline between 2004 and 2006 may simply result from differing response rates. The change in

total attendance all week between 2004 and 2010 is a drop of 22 %.

**Figure 6 Average All Week attendance, 2004 to 2010**

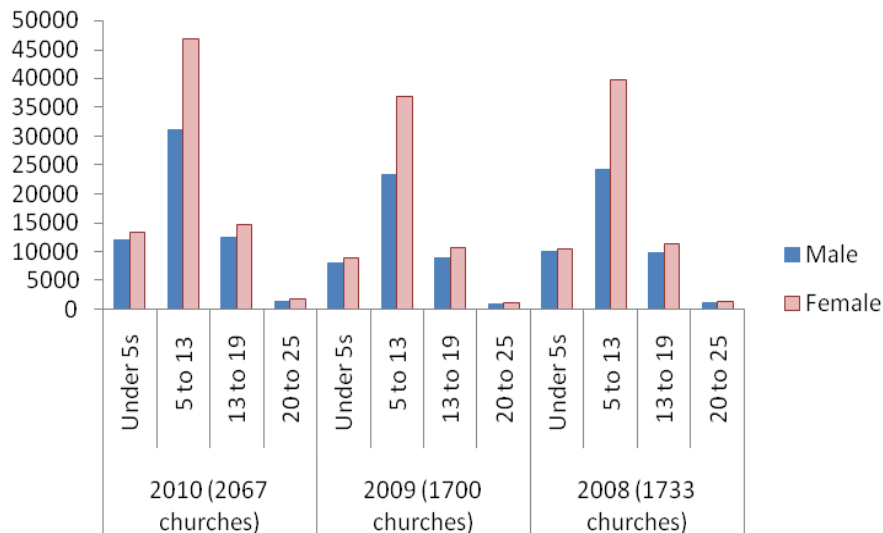


### 5.10 Children, youth and young adult groups

The total number of children and young people reported to attend children and youth groups attached to the 2,067 churches who reported such activities in 2010, was 133,000. This compares to 98,000 children and young people in groups attached to 1,700 churches in 2009, and 108,000 in 1,733 churches in 2008 (Figure 7). In 2010 there was a large increase (20 %) in churches responding to this question compared to 2008 and 2009. This means that, whilst the total number of children reported as attending has increased, the primary reason for this is because the number of groups we know about has increased. That said, this increase is good news, and should not be passed over.

The average number of children and young people attending groups attached to each church which reported these activities has remained stable across the triennium at 60 children or young people per church. The average number of groups per Methodist church across the whole Connexion has also remained stable across the triennium, at around three. The 5 to 13 age group remains the largest in terms of attendance, as does the larger number of females over males, particularly in that age category.

**Figure 7 Attendance at children, youth and young adult groups, 2008 to 2010**



Respondents were asked from a drop down list to indicate the type of group each of these activities represented. The groups most frequently listed were Brownies, children’s midweek groups, other youth groups and Sunday morning groups. This has remained broadly consistent over the triennium (Table 8).

**Table 8 Children and youth group activities, 2008 to 2010**

	2010	2009	2008
Beavers	3%	3%	3%
Boys’ Brigade	5%	6%	
Brownies	10%	10%	10%
Children's Midweek Groups	9%	15%	
Cubs	4%	4%	4%
Girls’ Brigade	4%	4%	4%
Godly Play	<1%		
Guides	7%	7%	7%
JMA	1%	<1%	
Messy Church	1%		
Miscellaneous	7%	7%	
Other Youth Group	10%	11%	8%
Rainbows	6%	6%	5%
Scouts	4%	4%	4%
Sunday Morning Group	13%	14%	1%
Under 5s	8%		
Uniformed Group Miscellaneous	1%	1%	<1%
Venturers	<1%	<1%	
Youth Club	7%	8%	9%
Unknown			45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Churches were asked in 2010 how many people were employed (in a paid capacity) in their church specifically to work with children and young people, and with which age ranges they were



engaged. In 2010, 646 posts were identified by 495 churches. However, half of those posts were shared, either across Circuits, the District, or with other partners. The following breakdown considers all posts as opposed to people (this is both due to methodological difficulties in identifying individuals from the posts, but also because this reflects the local experience of each church).

On average each post was active for 20 hours per week, but this represents reported working hours ranging from 1 hour a week to over 50 hours per week. The age group most frequently worked with was 5 to 13 years olds, where 59 % of posts did some kind of work with this group. 20-25 year olds were least frequently cited as being a target group of the work of these posts (Table 9).

**Table 9 People employed to work with children and young people, 2010**

	Per cent of posts working with each group
Under 5	50%
5-13 years	59%
13-19 years	51%
20-25 years	15%
Families	30%

In 2009, churches were asked simply to identify the number of adults they employed to work with children and young people. In addition, they were asked to provide the number of adults in the church community who volunteered regularly to work with children and young people. 454 churches reported a very notable 19,099 volunteers and 466 paid staff appointed exclusively to single churches and a further 350 posts shared within the Circuit or in other arrangements.

### 5.11 Fresh Expressions

Respondents were asked to identify any fresh expressions attached to their church. A fresh expression is defined formally as “a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church”. Understanding of what fresh expressions could look like is developing across all denominations. As such, the way that this data is collected has changed over the triennium and how we use or rely on the data must be considered with some caution. The Fresh Expressions agency and specialists in the Connexional Team have looked closely at this data in the last two years, and are working with the Research team to identify increasingly better ways to identify new, missional work from which the Church more widely can learn.

In 2010 there were 1,257 fresh expressions identified by Methodist churches and LEs. Although all of these are stored and the data will be used, at the advice of fresh expressions specialists, those which meet on a regular basis (monthly or more often) are included in this more detailed analysis. This leaves a total of 941 (in 723 churches).

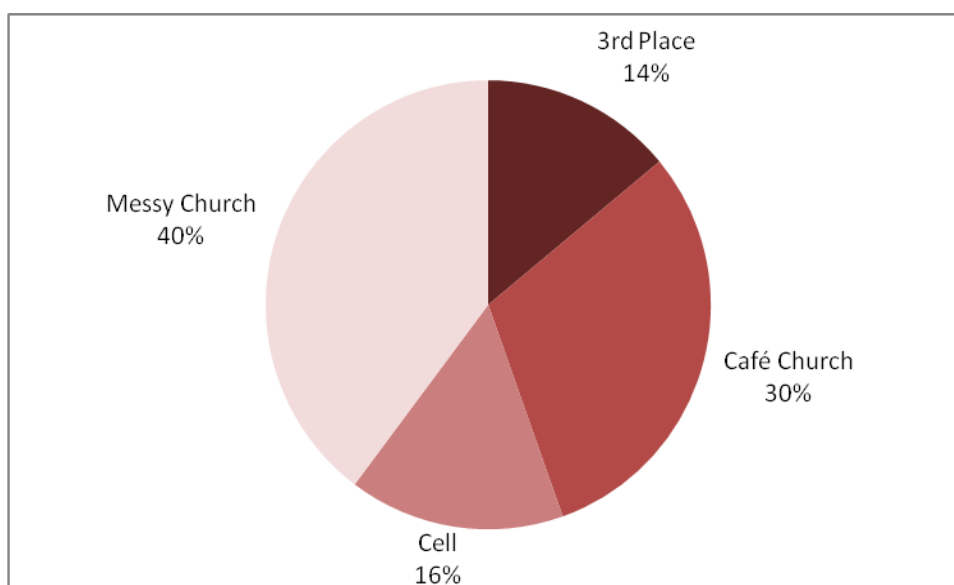
There were between 1 and 13 fresh expressions identified in any one Circuit, with an average of 3 across the 315 circuits which identified a fresh expression. This means that around 67 % of all Methodist Circuits had at least one fresh expression. Half of the fresh expressions identified were found in just under a third (32 %) of Districts. Southampton was the District with the greatest number of fresh expressions, 6 % of all fresh expressions. This compares to 893 fresh expressions identified in 2009 (this was the first year for asking this question). However, it must be noted that these figures are estimates only and it would be premature to read this as an increasing trend. The numbers are likely to change as people gain a better understanding of what

should be recognised as a fresh expression of church and what activities might better be defined as fresh expressions of worship or other types of missional outreach work.

In 2010, four predefined categories were given for respondents to use when describing what type of fresh expression they ran: Messy Church, Café Church, Cell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. There was a spread of fresh expression types, with “Messy Church” being the most frequently cited and attended. Average attendance ranged from 31 people at Messy Church to 13 people at 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place fresh expressions are those where the worshipping community meets away from the church premises, for example in a pub or the gym, and which are types of fresh expression that do not fit one of the other predefined categories.

The pie chart below (Figure 8) illustrates the breakdown of reported Methodist fresh expressions that fit the pre-defined categories of fresh expression available on the October Count form.

**Figure 8 Types of fresh expressions, 2010**



Fresh expressions most often took place in church buildings (62 % of those cited), followed by homes (14 %) and cafes (11 %). Nearly three quarters (73 per cent) met once or twice per month, and just over a quarter (26 %) met weekly or more frequently (Table 10).

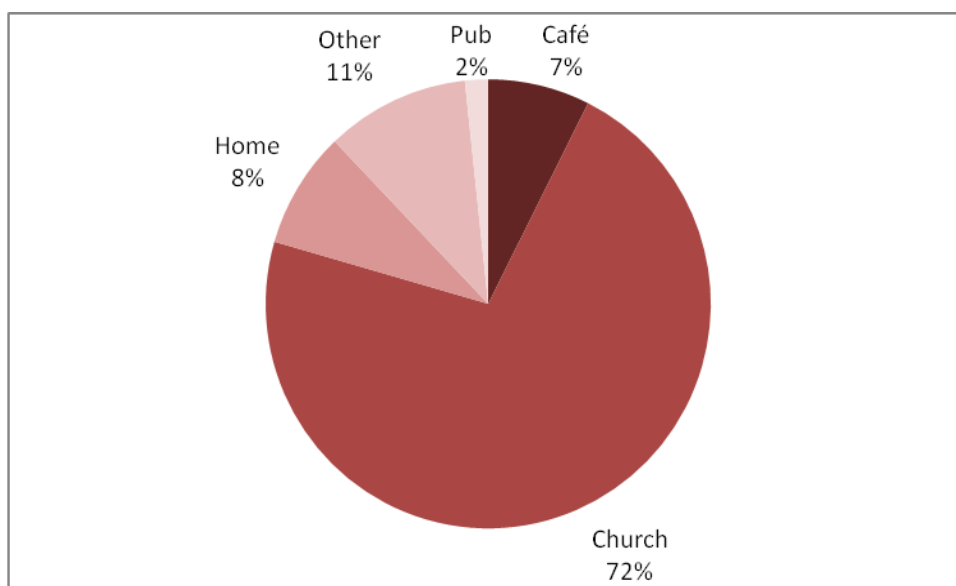
**Table 10 Types and locations of fresh expressions, 2010**

	Café	Church	Home	Library	Other	Pub	Total
3rd Place	37%	9%	13%	0%	28%	13%	100%
Café Church	15%	74%	1%	1%	9%	0%	100%
Cell	0%	16%	79%	0%	2%	3%	100%
Messy Church	3%	89%	0%	0%	8%	0%	100%
Total	11%	62%	14%	0%	10%	2%	100%

Looking at the 297 fresh expressions meeting regularly which did not fit into the standard predefined categories revealed a variety of activities that will need consideration, discussion and engagement to work out which are in fact new and exciting fresh expressions of church, from which the Church more widely can learn and with which it must engage. They are found in the

following locations, covering a wide range of ventures and initiatives (Figure 9):

**Figure 9 Location of "other" fresh expressions, 2010**



### 5.12 Expressions of community chaplaincy

For the first time in 2010, churches were asked to identify all expressions of chaplaincy they perform in their communities. 1,055 churches reported 1,829 expressions of chaplaincy with responses ranging between 1 and 21 expressions in each church. Across the Connexion, this added up to 2,947 people involved in these chaplaincy roles. Chaplaincy here includes the normal accepted ministries together with other forms of community ministry where churches engage with the community outside of their own life (eg Street Pastors, town centre chaplaincy, ministry to care homes for the elderly).

Of these chaplaincy roles, respondents were asked to report how many were performed by presbyters, deacons, paid lay people, or volunteer lay people (Table 11). Volunteer lay people accounted for half of the expressions of chaplaincy reported, followed by presbyters (39%). Deacons and paid lay people accounted for the fewest reported expressions of chaplaincy, at 11% combined.

**Table 11 Expressions of community chaplaincy, 2010**

Volunteer lay people	50%
Presbyters	39%
Paid lay people	8%
Deacons	3%

### 5.13 World Church links, language and ethnicity

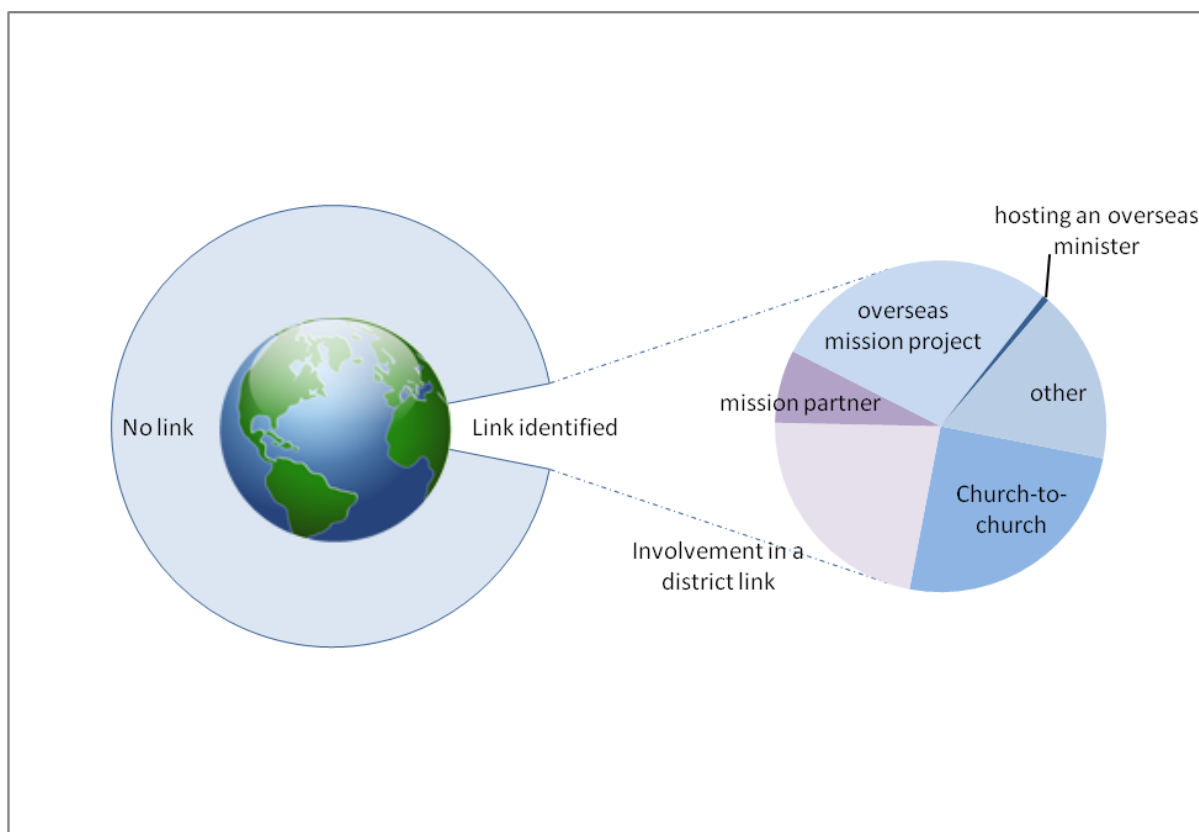
#### 5.13.1 Overseas link

Respondents were asked for the first time in 2010 whether their church has a formal link with an overseas church. It should be noted that these responses represent active engagement at church level with these kinds of activities, and they do not by any means represent a picture of other initiatives at district or connexional level.

327 churches reported that they did have a link, over 10% of which were from the Chester and Stoke on Trent District. Of those overseas links cited, the majority were with Kenya (19%),

followed by Zambia (9 %) and Zimbabwe (7 %). In total, Methodist churches had links with 60 different countries. The nature of those links was fairly evenly spread between overseas mission projects (28 %), church-to-church links (25 %), involvement in a district link (22 %), and other links, including working with children and schools, (17 %) and hosting an overseas minister (1 %) (Figure 10).

**Figure 10 Formal links with an overseas church, 2010**



### 5.13.2 Language

Respondents were asked in 2009 and 2010 whether their church runs or hosts Methodist worship or fellowship in a language other than English or Welsh. 125 churches of the 4,167 to respond indicated that they did, over a quarter of which were in the London District.

The most frequently stated language was Zimbabwean/Shona, followed by French, Korean and Punjabi. One interesting result of this question was to identify six churches across the Connexion with worship or fellowship conducted in British Sign Language. The full list of languages reported were as follows (Figure 11):

**Figure 11 Languages of Methodist worship or fellowship, 2010**



### **5.13.3 Worship or fellowship for ethnically distinct congregations**

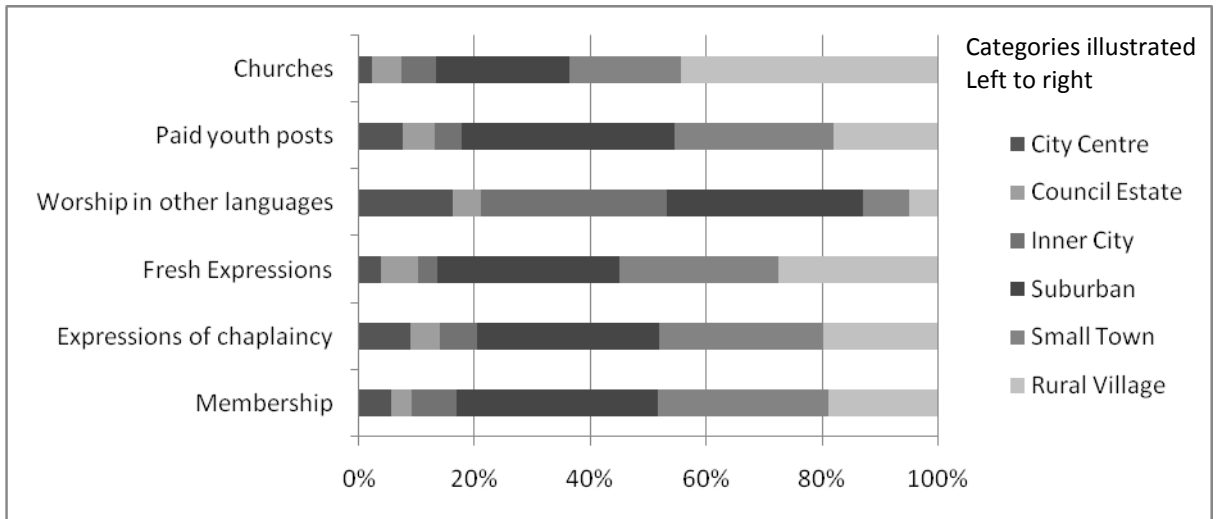
Respondents were also asked whether their church runs or hosts Methodist worship or fellowship using English or Welsh for ethnically distinct congregations or groups.

Over the years for which this question was asked (2009 and 2010) 165 churches indicated that they did, again with the London District reporting the highest number, nearly a third of all reported. Just under a half of those churches to report such worship or fellowship were in only three Districts: London, Birmingham and Manchester and Stockport. Of the three main groups reported by churches, the one reported most frequently was Ghanaian (33 %), followed by Zimbabwean (27 %) and then Nigerian (22 %). Other groups specified included: Caribbean (16 %), Sierra Leonian, Chinese, Congolese and Korean.

### **5.14 Variation across the Connexion**

Each church is classified according to the type of area within which it sits, for example whether it is in a city centre or a rural village. It is interesting to see how statistical patterns vary across the Connexion. Churches running or hosing Methodist worship or fellowship in languages other than English or Welsh are most likely to be found in more urban areas. It is important to compare the spread of activity with the spread of churches across the Connexion. In the graph below, the top bar shows the make-up of the Connexion, which can be compared to the spread of various measures, including membership (Figure 12).

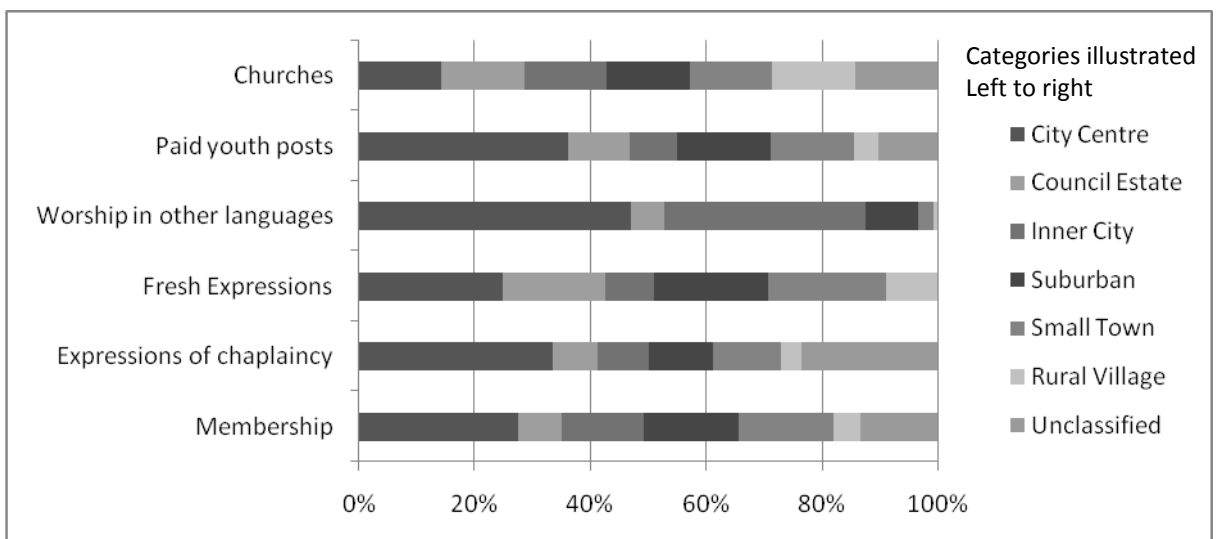
**Figure 12 Urban and rural variation of responses, 2010**



The graph below illustrates this in a different way by comparing the proportion of each category of church to report a number of measures compared to the connexional average, with a longer bar representing above average and a shorter bar representing below average. If churches in all of the rural/urban categories were to have on average the same numbers of members, fresh expressions, paid youth posts, and other measures as those in the other categories, then the bars would be of equal length, like the top bar titled “churches”. Where churches across one category have a higher or lower number of each measure than the connexional average across all categories, the bars are longer or shorter accordingly.

The graph therefore illustrates that city centre churches had on average more paid youth posts, were more likely to host or run Methodist worship in languages other than English or Welsh, more likely to report fresh expressions, more likely to report expressions of chaplaincy, and have on average more members, than rural village churches (Figure 13).

**Figure 13 Response by church category, comparing to the average, 2010**



## 6. Additional Information: “STATS4MISSION” Pilot

6.1 During October 2009, the Manchester and Stockport District designed a new method of data collection for the District’s Statistics for Mission process. The aim was to see whether the process could be developed to create a fuller report about the life of any given church, Circuit or District. In 2010, Manchester and Stockport was joined in this exercise by Bolton & Rochdale, Cornwall,

Sheffield, Cumbria, Bedfordshire, Essex, and Hertfordshire, Liverpool and Lancashire: a total of 1,237 churches in 122 Circuits. This work came to form a pilot exercise to test the viability of collecting data in different ways across the Church, of collecting much larger amounts of specific details relating to church activities during October and throughout the year, and of reporting findings using a more tailored and responsive website.

- 6.2 The two years of this pilot exercise proved a significant learning curve for all concerned. It was a successful enterprise and, although some teething problems occurred, a great deal was gained and many participants found it be a positive step forward:

*“These Statistics show us our mission purpose – they give us the ammunition for change”* (Steve Wild, Chair of the Cornwall District)

*“We can now see our Church Life in 360 degrees – a fuller view of our worship life, the Christian fellowship and our community groups, including WHO we are doing WHAT for and WITH WHOM”* (Helen Boardman, District Development Enabler, Manchester and Stockport District)

Amongst the benefits of the pilot process was an improved ability to identify additional outreach and mission work being done by churches in their community contexts throughout the year, as well as to identify more non-worship events in churches (7,461 groups were identified in the 8 Districts, with the total number of people involved being greater than the whole of the Methodist membership count in 2010). This presents substantial opportunities for mission conversations and developing relationships.

The online portal, ‘A Window for Every Church’, has also been developed to enable each church to see its ‘story within its community’. This places church statistics alongside details of the church’s context (linked to census and neighbourhood reports) and can even provide indications of where funding opportunities are available to churches engaging in particular activities or located in particular contexts.

- 6.3 As a result of this pilot, significant changes to the questions that will be asked and the style of website used for data capture have been made in preparation for October 2011, when the whole Church will once again use one, standard data entry website. We have learned significant lessons from the pilot exercise, which demonstrates the value of connexional and district officers working in partnership to test and challenge one another’s work.
- 6.4 Fuller reports on the pilot exercise and its findings can be accessed via: [www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission](http://www.methodist.org.uk/statisticsformission) and at [www.stats4mission.org.uk](http://www.stats4mission.org.uk). ‘A Window for Every Church’ is provided in partnership with Commitment in Communities ([www.c-i-c.org.uk](http://www.c-i-c.org.uk)).

## 7. Additional Information: Data Analysis and Methodist Schools

- 7.1 In addition to data captured in October, the statistical reporting section of the Methodist website is growing as a space for holding reports on additional types of numerical information collected across the Church. Currently, this includes a summary analysis of the equality and diversity demographics of Methodist Conference delegates in 2010 and opinion surveys performed during Youth Assembly. The intention of the Research team is to develop an archive of interesting and useful data relating to the Methodist Church, available for anyone to use as they wish. All Conference delegates and members of the Church are invited to make use of this and to recommend additional reports that might be included.
- 7.2 A particular concern expressed by the Conference in past years has been to include within

statistical reporting indications of the mission potential represented by Methodist schools across Britain. Information on Methodist Maintained Schools can be obtained from the Education Development and Improvement Officer at Methodist Church House or at [www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/schools](http://www.childrenandyouth.org.uk/schools). Information on Methodist Independent Schools can be obtained by request from the Secretary to the Board of Management for Methodist Independent Schools at Methodist Church House, or at [www.methodisteducation.co.uk](http://www.methodisteducation.co.uk) and in the publication, *A Closer Look at Methodist Schools*. For the purposes of this Statistics for Mission report, it will suffice to summarise the following data:

- 7.3 There are 79 Methodist Schools in Britain, of which 65 are Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled, or Foundation schools in the Maintained sector. The remaining 14 are Methodist independent schools.

In September 2010, this represented a pupil roll of:

• <b>Maintained schools:</b>	<b>4, 197</b>	
• <b>Independent schools:</b>	<b>9,391</b>	
		<b>Total: 13,588</b>

These numbers show that Methodist schools represent a key point of contact for the Church with children and young people, their friends and relatives. The Methodist Church is engaged in education as part of its Christian mission in the world. Recognising this, these figures demonstrate the extent to which Methodist schools embody a context of and opportunity for mission.

### \*\*\* RESOLUTION

**52/1 The Conference receives the report.**



## Appendix 1: 2010 District Summary Data Tables

### Membership 2010

	District name	Methodist membership	Pastoral others	Confirmations	Transfers in	Other gains	Deaths	Transfers out	Other losses
1	Synod Cymru	1,860	430	20	0	20	30	10	70
2	Wales Synod	8,530	11,460	100	130	40	280	90	100
5	Birmingham District	9,890	16,580	150	160	40	280	120	150
6	Bolton and Rochdale District	6,110	10,170	80	70	10	150	80	90
7	Bristol District	9,300	12,540	150	190	40	260	190	120
9	Cumbria District	4,010	4,940	50	60	0	120	70	30
10	Channel Islands District	1,390	1,610	10	20	10	40	10	10
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District	8,870	11,900	70	140	40	230	130	110
12	Cornwall District	6,420	7,800	60	130	10	210	130	100
13	Darlington District	6,840	8,990	110	140	50	200	70	100
14	East Anglia District	7,680	8,210	90	140	20	220	130	120
15	Isle of Man District	1,100	870	20	20	10	40	10	20
16	Leeds District	7,680	11,290	90	90	20	240	100	100
17	Lincoln and Grimsby District	5,840	8,280	50	110	20	190	70	50
18	Liverpool District	6,440	9,600	60	190	110	220	50	190
19	Manchester and Stockport District	9,270	14,070	130	150	30	260	100	250
20	Newcastle upon Tyne District	8,890	13,310	120	130	20	260	80	70
21	Lancashire District	8,310	9,880	140	170	20	230	70	240
22	Nottingham and Derby District	9,670	17,810	100	160	30	270	120	160
23	Northampton District	11,960	14,180	120	190	40	280	110	130
24	Plymouth and Exeter District	8,860	11,240	100	190	20	280	130	180
25	Sheffield District	8,240	18,830	100	140	20	210	120	200
26	Southampton District	10,410	10,760	90	260	20	320	140	150
27	West Yorkshire District	7,360	11,570	40	90	30	260	80	110
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District	9,410	11,680	120	130	30	310	90	110
29	York and Hull District	9,740	11,120	120	170	30	250	120	80
31	Scotland District	2,590	2,930	20	40	10	90	20	50
32	Shetland District	220	300	0	0	0	10	0	0
34	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District	8,950	15,080	120	170	20	230	420	460
35	London District	19,570	21,370	400	350	360	340	240	460
36	South East District	12,370	18,440	200	280	70	340	180	210
	<b>Connexion</b>	<b>238,000</b>	<b>327,000</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>4,200</b>

## Wider influence of the church 2010

	District name	Baptisms and thanksgivings	Marriages and blessings	Funerals
1	Synod Cymru	20	10	50
2	Wales Synod	320	130	1,110
5	Birmingham District	470	170	1,170
6	Bolton and Rochdale District	260	50	430
7	Bristol District	380	160	840
9	Cumbria District	150	50	310
10	Channel Islands District	40	20	90
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District	520	150	1,020
12	Cornwall District	190	100	730
13	Darlington District	600	140	960
14	East Anglia District	360	180	830
15	Isle of Man District	50	20	120
16	Leeds District	300	100	790
17	Lincoln and Grimsby District	240	90	560
18	Liverpool District	260	60	630
19	Manchester and Stockport District	420	130	750
20	Newcastle upon Tyne District	890	210	1,220
21	Lancashire District	270	100	730
22	Nottingham and Derby District	520	130	1,230
23	Northampton District	600	280	1,140
24	Plymouth and Exeter District	270	130	750
25	Sheffield District	680	190	1,130
26	Southampton District	350	130	700
27	West Yorkshire District	280	90	730
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District	570	160	1,130
29	York and Hull District	550	150	950
31	Scotland District	50	20	170
32	Shetland District	10	10	20
34	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District	430	130	1,050
35	London District	680	220	890
36	South East District	500	260	1,170
	<b>Connexion</b>	<b>11,220</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>23,370</b>

## Expressions of Chaplaincy 2010

	District name	Expressions of chaplaincy	Presbyters	Deacons	Paid lay chaplains	Volunteer lay people
1	Synod Cymru	1	1	0	0	0
2	Wales Synod	98	69	6	2	44
5	Birmingham District	44	24	5	12	32
6	Bolton and Rochdale District	29	21	0	15	38
7	Bristol District	126	69	2	21	288
9	Cumbria District	30	23	0	0	8
10	Channel Islands District	9	6	0	1	11
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District	46	26	2	5	65
12	Cornwall District	43	34	2	14	33
13	Darlington District	44	31	3	9	18
14	East Anglia District	141	74	3	3	83
15	Isle of Man District	17	14	0	1	2
16	Leeds District	46	27	4	5	13
17	Lincoln and Grimsby District	50	18	4	1	30
18	Liverpool District	49	32	0	3	22
19	Manchester and Stockport District	49	31	4	4	14
20	Newcastle upon Tyne District	42	26	2	4	39
21	Lancashire District	47	29	1	10	13
22	Nottingham and Derby District	94	47	6	6	68
23	Northampton District	117	61	7	7	99
24	Plymouth and Exeter District	53	33	1	3	69
25	Sheffield District	36	20	2	20	104
26	Southampton District	112	59	7	13	60
27	West Yorkshire District	28	18	4	1	29
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District	79	40	0	11	80
29	York and Hull District	76	55	0	11	16
31	Scotland District	25	34	0	2	4
32	Shetland District	7	4	0	0	5
34	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District	66	35	4	4	37
35	London District	133	76	5	26	99
36	South East District	92	65	2	5	62
	<b>Connexion</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1,485</b>

## October attendance 2010

		Wholly Methodist churches			LEP churches		
		AWA	AWA	AWA	AWA	AWA	AWA
		Adults	Under 13	13-19	Adults	Under 13	13-19
District name							
1	Synod Cymru	860	50	10	130	0	0
2	Wales Synod	5,920	1,230	310	830	280	70
5	Birmingham District	7,120	1,340	490	980	230	40
6	Bolton and Rochdale District	4,020	1,340	330	440	150	10
7	Bristol District	6,090	830	230	3,140	540	100
9	Cumbria District	2,890	420	180	380	40	0
10	Channel Islands District	1,070	280	60	0	0	0
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District	7,100	1,230	340	450	80	10
12	Cornwall District	5,690	870	250	160	20	0
13	Darlington District	5,040	710	160	330	90	10
14	East Anglia District	6,680	750	170	1,220	200	70
15	Isle of Man District	870	160	30	10	0	0
16	Leeds District	5,240	1,060	270	390	40	10
17	Lincoln and Grimsby District	4,780	460	150	350	40	0
18	Liverpool District	4,100	670	220	910	460	80
19	Manchester and Stockport District	6,590	1,120	320	590	100	40
20	Newcastle upon Tyne District	6,750	1,310	400	1,060	180	40
21	Lancashire District	5,530	1,340	480	580	80	20
22	Nottingham and Derby District	7,560	1,310	400	860	140	30
23	Northampton District	8,320	1,530	550	2,680	540	80
24	Plymouth and Exeter District	7,000	1,020	410	1,030	140	20
25	Sheffield District	7,220	1,510	440	940	200	60
26	Southampton District	7,630	1,370	520	1,510	220	60
27	West Yorkshire District	4,790	970	190	990	130	30
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District	7,550	1,470	400	860	170	40
29	York and Hull District	6,940	1,390	370	700	120	40
31	Scotland District	1,570	360	90	240	30	10
32	Shetland District	230	30	10	0	0	0
34	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District	6,170	1,290	370	2,010	510	150
35	London District	12,180	2,260	980	2,100	470	160
36	South East District	8,240	1,430	420	2,710	430	90
<b>Connexion</b>		<b>171,700</b>	<b>31,100</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>28,600</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>1,300</b>

## Children, youth and young adult groups 2010

	District name	Paid Youth posts	Youth groups	Under 5s attendance	5-13s attendance	13-19s attendance	20-25 attendance
1	Synod Cymru						
2	Wales Synod	10	180	1,160	1,700	670	130
5	Birmingham District	30	290	1,280	3,890	1,120	120
6	Bolton and Rochdale District	10	190	500	1,970	770	60
7	Bristol District	40	230	860	2,560	900	150
9	Cumbria District	0	130	320	1,220	790	30
10	Channel Islands District	10	30	210	330	80	0
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District	20	190	990	2,170	740	70
12	Cornwall District	10	130	400	1,130	610	10
13	Darlington District	20	140	560	1,750	530	30
14	East Anglia District	20	140	810	1,130	360	30
15	Isle of Man District	0	30	20	160	40	0
16	Leeds District	10	210	470	3,110	700	40
17	Lincoln and Grimsby District	10	140	300	1,500	500	90
18	Liverpool District	20	210	760	2,550	1,090	70
19	Manchester and Stockport District	30	260	2,110	5,350	2,390	670
20	Newcastle upon Tyne District	20	200	670	2,900	750	180
21	Lancashire District	30	260	840	2,820	1,370	90
22	Nottingham and Derby District	30	250	1,000	3,440	1,340	110
23	Northampton District	30	280	1,520	4,240	1,240	90
24	Plymouth and Exeter District	40	180	960	2,170	780	120
25	Sheffield District	40	300	700	3,560	1,450	80
26	Southampton District	60	280	1,250	3,160	1,290	120
27	West Yorkshire District	20	240	1,160	2,810	860	80
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District	20	250	730	3,290	970	100
29	York and Hull District	30	270	1,020	3,590	900	90
31	Scotland District	10	20	70	340	110	20
32	Shetland District	0	10	50	60	20	10
34	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District	30	400	1,180	5,000	1,610	110
35	London District	50	390	1,780	6,160	1,990	260
36	South East District	30	340	1,660	3,980	1,140	110
	<b>Connexion</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>6,160</b>	<b>25,320</b>	<b>78,040</b>	<b>27,080</b>	<b>3,050</b>

## Regular fresh expressions 2010

	District name	Total FX	Messy church	Cafe church	Cell church	3rd place	Other FX
1	Synod Cymru	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Wales Synod	30	8	5	5	4	8
5	Birmingham District	28	8	3	6	2	9
6	Bolton and Rochdale District	12	5	2	2	0	3
7	Bristol District	40	17	9	2	5	7
9	Cumbria District	11	2	5	0	0	4
10	Channel Islands District	3	2	0	0	1	0
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District	28	8	6	1	1	12
12	Cornwall District	28	8	8	1	0	11
13	Darlington District	39	7	6	9	3	14
14	East Anglia District	47	12	14	3	1	17
15	Isle of Man District	2	0	0	1	1	0
16	Leeds District	21	7	2	1	8	3
17	Lincoln and Grimsby District	27	4	10	2	3	8
18	Liverpool District	26	7	5	0	4	10
19	Manchester and Stockport District	35	6	3	3	2	21
20	Newcastle upon Tyne District	33	8	7	6	5	7
21	Lancashire District	29	4	8	2	3	12
22	Nottingham and Derby District	47	15	8	5	5	14
23	Northampton District	53	19	9	6	4	15
24	Plymouth and Exeter District	51	16	8	7	7	13
25	Sheffield District	37	8	12	2	0	15
26	Southampton District	57	15	10	5	4	23
27	West Yorkshire District	28	6	3	12	1	6
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District	49	12	8	6	9	14
29	York and Hull District	48	11	12	8	2	15
31	Scotland District	5	2	0	0	0	3
32	Shetland District	5	1	1	0	3	0
34	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District	39	14	13	2	2	8
35	London District	37	12	9	1	4	11
36	South East District	46	12	11	3	6	14
	<b>Connexion</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>297</b>

## World church links, language and ethnicity 2010

	District name	Overseas link	Worship in other language	Worship for distinct ethnic groups
1	Synod Cymru	0	0	0
2	Wales Synod	10	4	3
5	Birmingham District	15	6	11
6	Bolton and Rochdale District	13	2	2
7	Bristol District	17	4	4
9	Cumbria District	18	0	0
10	Channel Islands District	2	1	1
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District	14	1	3
12	Cornwall District	8	1	0
13	Darlington District	37	2	3
14	East Anglia District	18	5	2
15	Isle of Man District	0	0	0
16	Leeds District	5	3	0
17	Lincoln and Grimsby District	6	0	0
18	Liverpool District	8	0	1
19	Manchester and Stockport District	4	4	9
20	Newcastle upon Tyne District	8	2	3
21	Lancashire District	9	0	0
22	Nottingham and Derby District	12	4	4
23	Northampton District	9	10	8
24	Plymouth and Exeter District	11	4	0
25	Sheffield District	9	6	5
26	Southampton District	15	4	1
27	West Yorkshire District	9	3	0
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District	12	2	1
29	York and Hull District	10	3	3
31	Scotland District	1	2	3
32	Shetland District	1	0	0
34	Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District	17	10	6
35	London District	16	35	35
36	South East District	12	6	5
	<b>Connexion</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>113</b>

## **Appendix 2: Definitions and methodological notes**

Missing data: where churches have not given data it is necessary to impute figures before calculating connexional totals. This is done by looking at returns for previous years and making adjustments. Where there are no previous returns, figures are imputed based on the geographical context of the church. Varying responses rates will impact on the level of imputation necessary and therefore the accuracy of the data.

Rounding: Annual questions (see below) have not been rounded. In the remaining cases, all figures are rounded appropriately to the question and available data. This will vary from question to question according to the statistical accuracy of the collected data sets (particularly on the amount of data which needs to be imputed across the Church to take account of missing responses) and according to the size of the numbers in a particular question. Because of this, figures may not always sum.

Annual questions: responses for annual questions on fresh expressions, expressions of chaplaincy, children, youth and young adult groups, world church links, language and ethnicity have not been grossed up to account for missing data. It is possible that the responses here indicate only a proportion of those churches where such work is happening and should be considered as indicative only.

Data cleaning: where responses have been incongruous, returns have been edited.

October attendance: attendance figures are collected for 4 weeks in October and an average attendance figure calculated. Where a church does not have a service every week the average attendance figure will be lower than in any one of the reported weeks. This method has been used to give an indication across the Connexion of the number of people attending on any given Sunday, thereby taking into account to some degree any churches that may “share” attendees with rotating services.