

# Church Membership

This year we present our second triennial statistical report and the first such report based on the more detailed schedules. In the light of our experience we are recommending that the detailed schedule be used only every third year and that we revert to a simpler form of return for the intervening years. Nevertheless the experience of the past three years has been valuable. We believe that the local churches have been encouraged to examine their own situation more closely, and it will be all to the good if they continue to do this without the incentive of the detailed schedule.

We emphasise once more the importance of good up to date membership and community roll records, and recommend churches to adopt the card index system devised by the committee.

We draw attention to the fact that the membership loss is balanced by an increase in the Community Roll. We recognise that circuit and district assessments are bound to take membership statistics into account to some extent, but urge that this factor should not make church councils reluctant to add new members to the church roll or over-eager to transfer to the community roll the names of members who appear to be lapsing.

The continuing decline in the number of new members is deeply disturbing. The most disturbing fact that has emerged from our statistical report is that in 1974 73% of our churches made no new members. We recognise that small churches may have a preparation class only once in two or three years. This, we believe, is not the only explanation, and our regulation (S.O. 803) that there should be an annual service of reception into full membership is in danger of becoming a pious hope rather than a standing order. We would like to think that at least once a year each Church Council made a determined effort to win new members.

We are seeking the co-operation of District Chairmen in presenting to at least one circuit in each district a pilot programme of membership training for the current year. In the light of this experience we hope to present a training programme that can be more widely used.

We have continued to provide materials for membership training. Leaflets about church membership are available; a new *Guide to Church Membership*, based on the Membership Ticket, has been prepared to supplement *Joining the Church*; the film strip with commentary, *One Church, One Faith, One Lord*, has been issued during the year with the much appreciated help of the Division of Home Mission and has proved useful in the circuits.

New members are much more likely to be won by personal contact than by impersonal publicity, but we want to provide material to complement the personal approach. We are always glad to hear of successful local ventures and to receive suggestions concerning publicity and training material.

To Move:

**I. Agenda of Church Family Committee, p.444**

Make present 5, 5(a), and add

- (b) What programme of recruitment and training of new members can be instituted in our church in this connexional year?

**II. Agenda of Pastoral Sub-Committee, p.447**

Add 1(b) Are the Membership and Community Roll records adequate and up to date?

Renumber present 1(b) as 1(c).

**III. Standing Order 650 (7) (8) p.299.**

- (7) Insert after 'shall be prepared' — 'every third year.'

After (8) add (9) A simpler form of return shall be made in the intervening years, omitting (iii), (vi) and (vii) in paragraph (7).

**STATISTICAL RETURNS, 1971-74**

Our 8,669 local churches are in touch with 1,429,103 men, women and children on the Community Roll. Of these 557,249 are fully committed members. 94,140 young people of 14 years of age and over meet in Methodist groups and clubs.

On an average Sunday there are 476,236 attendances of adults and 237,989 children attend Sunday School or Family Church.

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**New Information from the New Schedules**

For the first time detailed information about the local churches has been made available. Hitherto only circuit totals were reported. We now have, for instance, a clear picture of just how many churches there are in the various size categories of membership and how successful or otherwise individual churches are in making new members.

The attendance figures are informative and because of the new schedules local churches have been encouraged to make an annual count of attendances — a salutary exercise.

It has been useful to have the detailed figures for three consecutive years, but we conclude that we shall have sufficient information for our purposes if we issue the new schedules only once in three years and revert to something like the old type of schedule for the intervening years. For certain purposes the Division of Education and Youth needs the number of young people associated with our clubs and we shall ask for this number on the simpler schedule.

This report only represents a part of the information gathered. Districts can learn more by analysing their own figures. Other more detailed information is available to the Divisions from the computer sheets.

**General Trends, 1971-74**

**Change of Date for Returns.** 1974 returns must be interpreted in the light of the change of date for the 'count' from December 1st to November 1st. They are virtually figures for eleven months.

**The Community Roll** is now firmly established and its purpose more clearly understood. Over the three year period the number has increased by 46,000, as against the membership decrease of 43,819.

**The Membership** has again declined over the three years by 43,819 as against 50,071 in the previous triennium. The highest percentage decreases were in Scotland, Wales, Manchester, West Yorks, Sheffield, Newcastle, London N.E. and Bolton. The smallest decreases were in the Isle of Man, Channel Islands, Southampton, Wolverhampton and Birmingham. The table on page 29 gives gains and losses as a percentage of the membership for 1974. This is a better basis for comparison than the raw figures.

**New Members.** In the three year period, 30,312 members were received as against 36,290. The total for 1974 was disappointingly low at 8,880, even allowing that it represents only eleven months.

8,669 churches produced 8,880 new members in 1974, but the table on page 32 shows that of the 8,669 churches, 6,292 produced no new members. This is the sort of information that does not emerge when we deal only with circuit totals.



**Baptisms.** The number of baptisms has declined during the three year period as has the national birth rate.

**Deaths.** The high death rates are in the rural districts which suggests a more elderly membership.

**Lapsed Members.** During the three years 31,305 ceased to be members as against 40,555 in the years 1969-71. In 1974 there were fewer members 'ceased' than for many years, but this may be due to the fact that the revision of the roll has usually taken place in December.

**Attendances.** The tables on pages 34-35 show the average attendances for the month of October in 1972 and 1974. Figures were collected for November, 1973 and these showed a slight swing to morning attendance probably due to the darker evenings. Attendances have declined in general but evening services more than morning. In 1972 the total attendances represented 87.8% of the membership and in 1974 85.9%. There has been a further swing to morning attendance more pronounced in the north than the south but the swing had taken place in the southern districts earlier. The 'principal' service indicated in the tables is the best attended service of the day, so that this indicates the minimum number of worshippers. The 'total' will include some who have attended more than once. In only two districts, Cornwall and East Anglia, did the total attendances surpass the membership in 1974, though in 1972 this also applied to Plymouth and Exeter and Southampton.

**Churches.** There are now 493 fewer churches than there were three years ago, the total now being 8,669. The table on page 37 shows that of these 66% were in the under sixty category. In some districts the proportion is much higher, e.g. East Anglia where 86% of the churches are in that category. The average membership of a local church is 64 against 66 in 1971.

**Sunday Schools.** In the light of future membership it is disturbing that 22% of our churches report no Sunday School. There has been a decline in Sunday School attendance over the period.

**Young People 14+.** Here too there has been a decline but there are still over 94,000 young people in our clubs and societies apart from uniformed organisations.

**Regional Variations in Methodism.** With a schedule from each local church we are now able to locate our churches in the standard regions and the table on page 40 shows the strength of Methodism in the various regions. The 1972 figures were taken as a basis of comparison with the 1971 census figures.

**METHODIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, 1974  
SUMMARY AND COMPARISON**

	1971	1972	1973	1974	3-year Increase
<b>COMMUNITY ROLL</b>	1,382,610	1,407,610	1,434,407	1,429,103	46,493
<b>MEMBERSHIP ROLL</b>	601,068	585,123	570,331	557,249	3-year loss 43,819
New members ... ..	11,635 (1.9%)	11,367 (1.9%)	10,065 (1.7%)	8,880 (1.6%)	3-year total 30,312
Balance of transfers —					
other denominations ...	181	194	153	343	690
Balance of transfers —					
within same circuit			9	5	14
Garrisons ... ..	—	—	—	4	4
<b>Losses</b>					
Deaths ... ..	12,562 (2.0%)	13,518 (2.3%)	13,385 (2.3%)	12,051 (2.1%)	38,954
Ceased ... ..	13,663 (2.2%)	11,741 (2.0%)	10,617 (1.8%)	8,947 (1.6%)	31,305
Balance of transfers —					
circuits ... ..	1,070	927	602	853	2,382
other countries ... ..	404	311	212	291	813
Ministers, students ...	67	10	46	34	90
Garrisons ... ..	—	21	—	—	21
<b>NET LOSS</b> ... ..	15,950	14,855	14,635	13,082	43,819
<b>BAPTISMS</b> ... ..	38,985	37,680	34,356	30,647	102,683
<b>CHURCHES</b> ... ..	9,162	8,937	8,789	8,669	493
<b>MINISTERS &amp; STUDENTS</b>	3,955	3,945	3,899	3,865	90

\* The figures for transfers represent the net loss or gain on transfers 'in' and transfers 'out'.

Note: In 1974 the date for the return was changed from December 1st to November 1st, so that in effect the 1974 figures represent 11 months.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE DISTRICTS, 1971-74

	1971	1972	1973	1974	3 Year Loss
<b>Southern Districts</b>					
1 London N.E. ...	21,876	21,277	20,150	20,008	1,868
2 London N.W. ...	23,330	22,729	22,150	21,606	1,724
3 London S.W. ...	25,668	24,959	24,431	23,849	1,819
4 London S.E. ...	19,898	19,425	18,896	18,339	1,559
5 Birmingham ...	22,248	21,761	21,583	21,129	1,119
7 Bristol ...	21,867	21,157	20,807	20,427	1,440
8 Cardiff/Swansea ...	15,706	15,416	14,943	14,492	1,214
12 Cornwall ...	18,333	17,779	17,414	16,992	1,341
14 East Anglia ...	15,641	15,382	15,066	14,761	880
23 Oxford/Leicester ...	20,998	20,475	20,029	19,537	1,461
24 Plymouth/Exeter ...	22,606	21,932	21,477	21,108	1,498
26 Southampton ...	22,957	22,667	22,172	21,939	1,018
28 Wolverhampton ...	23,396	23,116	22,753	22,288	1,108
<b>Southern Total ...</b>	<b>274,524</b>	<b>268,075</b>	<b>262,231</b>	<b>256,475</b>	<b>18,049</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>					
6 Bolton/Rochdale ...	14,841	14,339	13,946	13,574	1,267
9 Carlisle ...	10,426	10,194	9,955	9,825	601
11 Chester/Stoke ...	26,082	25,327	24,825	24,401	1,681
13 Darlington ...	20,055	19,587	18,985	18,561	1,494
16 Leeds ...	20,437	19,900	19,531	19,122	1,315
17 Lincoln ...	16,673	16,222	15,726	15,287	1,386
18 Liverpool ...	20,704	20,044	19,550	19,412	1,292
19 Manchester ...	26,445	25,509	24,677	23,859	2,586
20 Newcastle ...	28,158	27,019	26,346	25,681	2,477
21 North Lancashire ...	19,495	19,029	18,580	18,023	1,472
22 Nottingham ...	23,632	22,809	22,271	21,729	1,903
25 Sheffield ...	23,320	22,499	21,807	21,212	2,108
27 West Yorkshire ...	21,111	20,510	19,831	19,198	1,913
29 York/Hull ...	21,625	21,229	20,544	20,189	1,436
<b>Northern Total ...</b>	<b>293,004</b>	<b>284,217</b>	<b>276,574</b>	<b>270,073</b>	<b>22,931</b>
30 Wales (Welsh) ...	11,952	11,491	11,120	10,774	1,178
<b>Scotland</b>					
31 Scotland ...	10,506	10,214	9,543	9,224	1,282
32 Shetland ...	713	692	682	660	53
<b>Island Districts</b>					
10 Channel Islands ...	3,601	3,564	3,544	3,451	150
15 Isle of Man ...	2,485	2,461	2,431	2,416	69
<b>Garrisons</b>					
Ministers ...	328	307	307	311	17
... ..	3,955	3,945	3,899	3,865	90
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>601,068</b>	<b>584,966</b>	<b>570,331</b>	<b>557,249</b>	<b>43,819</b>

LOSSES AND GAINS IN MEMBERSHIP IN 1974 BY DISTRICTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

	LOSSES			GAINS		NET LOSS or GAIN
	Trans- ferred to other Circuits	Died	Lapsed	Trans- ferred for other Circuits	New Members	
<b>Southern Districts</b>						
1 London N.E. ...	2.6	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.8	-2.4
2 London N.W. ...	2.7	1.8	1.5	2.0	1.5	-2.3
3 London S.W. ...	2.7	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.9	-2.3
4 London S.E. ...	2.5	2.0	2.2	2.0	1.8	-3.0
5 Birmingham ...	1.6	1.5	2.1	1.6	1.7	-1.9
7 Bristol ...	1.7	2.1	1.5	1.9	1.6	-1.7
8 Cardiff/Swansea ...	1.2	2.0	1.3	0.9	1.0	-2.6
12 Cornwall ...	1.2	2.3	1.1	0.9	1.2	-2.4
14 East Anglia ...	3.0	2.4	1.3	3.4	1.3	-2.0
23 Oxford/Leicester ...	1.9	2.2	1.6	2.0	1.3	-2.5
24 Plymouth/Exeter ...	1.5	2.2	1.1	1.7	1.4	-1.7
26 Southampton ...	1.8	2.1	1.5	2.1	1.8	-1.2
28 Wolverhampton ...	1.4	2.0	1.3	1.0	1.5	-2.1
<b>Southern Total ...</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>			<b>1.6</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>						
6 Bolton/Rochdale ...	0.9	2.0	2.1	0.9	1.4	-2.7
9 Carlisle ...	1.4	1.9	0.5	1.2	1.4	-1.3
11 Chester/Stoke-on-Trent ...	1.0	2.2	1.5	1.2	1.7	-1.6
13 Darlington ...	1.2	2.3	1.3	1.0	1.4	-2.1
16 Leeds ...	1.7	2.0	1.4	1.5	1.6	-2.0
17 Lincoln ...	1.3	2.3	1.9	1.3	1.4	-2.7
18 Liverpool ...	1.2	1.7	1.1	1.1	2.1	-0.6
19 Manchester ...	1.5	2.1	2.3	1.0	1.6	-3.3
20 Newcastle ...	1.2	2.4	1.7	1.0	1.7	-2.4
21 North Lancashire ...	1.6	2.7	1.6	1.3	1.5	-3.0
22 Nottingham ...	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.8	-2.4
25 Sheffield ...	1.3	2.1	1.7	1.1	1.6	-2.7
27 West Yorkshire ...	1.3	2.3	1.6	1.1	1.2	-3.1
29 York/Hull ...	1.6	2.1	1.0	1.8	1.3	-1.6
<b>Northern Total ...</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>			<b>1.6</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
30 Wales (Welsh) ...	0.5	2.7	0.9	0.4	1.1	-3.2
<b>Scotland</b>						
31 Scotland ...	0.9	2.0	2.0	0.9	1.0	-3.3
32 Shetland ...	0	3.7	0.9	0.6	0.9	-3.2
<b>Island Districts</b>						
10 Channel Islands ...	0.5	1.9	2.5	0.4	2.3	-2.6
15 Isle of Man ...	0.7	2.0	0.6	1.7	1.0	-0.7
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-2.3</b>

## BAPTISMS AND NEW MEMBERS 1972-74

	Baptisms		New members			
	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974
<b>Southern Districts</b>						
1 London N.E.	1,508	1,430	1,233	478	374	379
2 London N.W.	1,553	1,367	1,229	496	512	335
3 London S.W.	1,450	1,501	1,299	526	509	466
4 London S.E.	1,151	1,066	913	391	348	348
5 Birmingham	1,903	1,917	1,745	480	479	384
7 Bristol	1,249	1,166	1,033	409	375	341
8 Cardiff/Stoke	755	655	618	326	267	161
12 Cornwall	971	857	793	235	264	221
14 East Anglia	759	641	644	326	173	200
23 Oxford/Leicester	1,156	1,118	915	319	362	266
24 Plymouth/Exeter	825	739	718	363	338	300
26 Southampton	1,166	1,027	939	471	412	393
28 Wolverhampton	2,028	1,927	1,694	434	447	334
<b>Southern Total</b>	<b>16,474</b>	<b>15,411</b>	<b>13,773</b>	<b>5,254</b>	<b>4,860</b>	<b>4,128</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>						
6 Bolton/Rochdale	784	746	676	317	227	204
9 Carlisle	486	397	431	146	152	141
11 Chester/Stoke	1,861	1,687	1,445	521	471	431
13 Darlington	1,889	1,590	1,532	329	261	280
16 Leeds	1,566	1,367	1,274	440	360	306
17 Lincoln	912	764	717	279	269	221
18 Liverpool	1,450	1,111	976	542	452	426
19 Manchester	1,583	1,574	1,435	699	515	401
20 Newcastle	2,938	2,711	2,260	600	494	469
21 North Lancashire	856	785	698	411	385	282
22 Nottingham	1,553	1,454	1,266	361	350	406
25 Sheffield	2,028	1,816	1,506	424	354	339
27 West Yorkshire	1,117	956	818	333	282	245
29 York/Hull	1,408	1,224	1,135	329	298	275
<b>Northern Total</b>	<b>20,431</b>	<b>18,182</b>	<b>16,169</b>	<b>5,731</b>	<b>4,870</b>	<b>4,426</b>
30 Wales (Welsh)	232	194	176	106	93	119
<b>Scotland</b>						
31 Scotland	316	316	303	166	110	93
32 Shetland	29	32	14	4	5	6
<b>Island Districts</b>						
10 Channel Islands	110	125	131	68	80	82
15 Isle of Man	88	96	81	38	47	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,680</b>	<b>34,356</b>	<b>30,647</b>	<b>11,367</b>	<b>10,065</b>	<b>8,880</b>

## DEATHS AND LAPSED MEMBERS IN DISTRICTS, 1972-74

	Deaths			Lapsed Members		
	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974
<b>Southern Districts</b>						
1 London N.E. ...	424	467	399	385	507	379
2 London N.W. ...	434	450	402	561	457	339
3 London S.W. ...	485	526	441	506	458	390
4 London S.E. ...	437	443	383	271	318	418
5 Birmingham ...	390	400	338	459	319	467
7 Bristol ...	482	502	441	491	366	315
8 Cardiff/Swansea	363	395	298	278	274	207
12 Cornwall ...	480	431	409	225	174	199
14 East Anglia ...	371	391	376	239	169	200
23 Oxford/Leicester	407	438	444	437	357	328
24 Plymouth/Exeter	522	563	478	337	286	245
26 Southampton	556	546	464	395	446	323
28 Wolverhampton	487	504	444	353	356	294
<b>Southern Total</b>	<b>5,840</b>	<b>6,056</b>	<b>5,317</b>	<b>4,937</b>	<b>4,487</b>	<b>4,104</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>						
6 Bolton/Rochdale	364	325	287	443	293	302
9 Carlisle ...	245	285	199	142	130	56
11 Chester/Stoke	646	577	546	555	428	374
13 Darlington ...	521	489	450	294	352	249
16 Leeds ...	488	452	407	384	318	282
17 Lincoln ...	465	425	367	243	288	307
18 Liverpool ...	482	396	349	626	469	225
19 Manchester ...	588	526	523	852	612	581
20 Newcastle ...	680	674	651	801	575	457
21 North Lancashire	481	470	493	463	396	296
22 Nottingham	532	532	453	514	364	411
25 Sheffield ...	496	576	468	513	383	381
27 West Yorkshire	458	446	463	324	392	322
29 York/Hull ...	546	505	441	345	435	202
<b>Northern Total</b> ...	<b>6,992</b>	<b>6,678</b>	<b>6,097</b>	<b>6,499</b>	<b>5,435</b>	<b>4,445</b>
30 Wales (Welsh)	315	288	301	72	127	96
<b>Scotland</b>						
31 Scotland ...	215	219	190	173	525	191
32 Shetland ...	26	12	25	4	3	6
<b>Island Districts</b>						
10 Channel Islands	65	74	70	33	20	90
15 Isle of Man ...	65	58	51	23	20	15
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>13,518</b>	<b>13,385</b>	<b>12,051</b>	<b>11,741</b>	<b>10,617</b>	<b>8,947</b>



**NUMBER OF CHURCHES, CHURCHES MAKING NO NEW MEMBERS DURING 1974 AND OTHER CHURCHES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE START OF THE YEAR**

	Number of Churches	No New Members	Less than 1%	1.1% to 2.0%	2.1% to 3%	3.1% to 4.0%	4.1% to 5.0%	5.1% to 10%	Over 10%
<b>Southern Districts</b>									
1 London N.E.	246	152	7	14	19	13	9	22	8
2 London NW	279	193	11	23	12	8	6	18	7
3 London SW	213	117	5	28	19	6	18	17	3
4 London S.E.	237	156	5	15	14	9	8	21	9
5 Birmingham	276	191	9	10	19	13	10	18	5
7 Bristol	374	268	6	14	21	17	6	25	17
8 Cardiff/S	271	227	3	4	6	8	3	11	9
12 Cornwall	444	356	6	11	13	12	10	23	12
14 E. Anglia	464	382	4	15	13	12	6	16	15
23 Oxford/Leicester	360	280	7	15	15	7	8	18	9
24 Plymouth/Exeter	428	337	4	15	16	12	7	22	14
26 Southampton	384	271	9	23	18	11	10	27	15
28 Wolverhampton	364	272	11	20	8	12	13	22	6
<b>Southern Total</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>3,302</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>									
6 Bolton/R	141	88	6	9	10	8	7	11	2
9 Carlisle	220	166	5	3	9	6	2	14	15
11 Chester/S	395	290	5	15	19	13	10	28	15
13 Darlington	319	241	11	11	15	10	5	16	10
16 Leeds	217	145	12	17	8	7	7	16	5
17 Lincoln	356	283	3	12	14	11	5	10	17
18 Liverpool	159	85	8	12	12	8	7	20	7
19 Manchester	235	157	16	10	13	10	4	20	5
20 Newcastle	294	194	15	20	22	10	9	21	3
21 N. Lancs.	173	97	7	26	9	10	8	12	4
22 Nottingham	387	287	5	13	15	16	8	28	15
25 Sheffield	341	245	3	19	21	16	9	19	9
27 W. Yorks	253	171	9	18	15	9	7	19	5
29 York/Hull	406	317	9	18	7	12	7	22	13
<b>Northern Total</b>	<b>3,896</b>	<b>2,766</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>125</b>
30 Wales (Welsh)	253	200	2	10	8	7	6	13	7
<b>Scotland</b>									
31 Scotland	59	31	10	7	5	3	0	3	0
32 Shetland	22	20	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Island Districts</b>									
10 Channel I.	41	23	2	1	5	2	2	6	0
15 Isle of Man	58	50	0	1	0	1	0	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,669</b>	<b>6,292</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>265</b>

**THE COMMUNITY ROLL, 1971-1974**

	1971	1972	1973	1974	Three-year Gain/Loss
<b>Southern Districts</b>					
1 London N.E.	63,902	59,319	59,728	61,758	-2,144
2 London N.W.	61,593	61,433	62,995	60,168	+132
3 London S.W.	74,947	76,811	74,673	75,079	+1,417
4 London S.E.	52,558	53,287	55,337	53,957	+2,443
5 Birmingham	57,269	58,123	60,447	59,712	+2,331
7 Bristol	54,597	56,654	57,648	56,928	+1,834
8 Cardiff/Swansea	30,641	33,577	33,828	32,475	-423
12 Cornwall	37,547	36,984	37,568	37,124	+506
14 East Anglia	33,238	34,431	34,075	33,744	+384
23 Oxford/Leicester	50,216	51,821	52,290	50,600	-1,223
24 Plymouth/Exeter	47,990	43,266	46,805	46,767	+2,489
26 Southampton	48,664	48,881	50,280	51,153	+7,052
28 Wolverhampton	47,010	52,650	53,522	54,062	+13,373
<b>Southern Total</b>	<b>660,172</b>	<b>667,237</b>	<b>679,196</b>	<b>673,545</b>	<b>+13,373</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>					
6 Bolton/Rochdale	32,628	33,856	33,883	34,379	+1,751
9 Carlisle	21,615	23,187	22,485	22,627	+1,012
11 Chester/Stoke	55,828	57,501	59,496	58,229	+2,401
13 Darlington	46,152	50,002	52,139	50,921	+4,769
16 Leeds	51,136	50,839	50,368	50,030	-1,106
17 Lincoln	39,489	40,202	40,120	39,630	+141
18 Liverpool	49,321	55,777	55,142	58,926	+9,605
19 Manchester	65,429	66,445	66,216	64,176	-1,253
20 Newcastle	70,223	62,834	64,394	64,462	-5,761
21 North Lancashire	41,415	42,016	44,608	46,475	+5,060
22 Nottingham	52,316	54,975	58,798	57,924	+5,608
25 Sheffield	53,447	57,178	58,945	59,479	+6,032
27 West Yorks	46,609	47,885	50,177	49,938	+3,329
29 York/Hull	46,345	47,501	48,844	48,920	+2,575
<b>Northern Total</b>	<b>671,953</b>	<b>690,198</b>	<b>705,615</b>	<b>706,116</b>	<b>+34,163</b>
30 Wales (Welsh)	14,954	14,267	14,131	13,740	-1,214
<b>Scotland</b>					
31 Scotland	19,317	18,920	18,824	18,014	-1,303
32 Shetland	1,522	1,437	1,584	1,604	+82
<b>Island Districts</b>					
10 Channel Islands	8,125	8,652	8,536	8,929	+804
15 Isle of Man	6,567	6,500	6,521	7,155	+588
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,382,610</b>	<b>1,407,211</b>	<b>1,434,407</b>	<b>1,429,103</b>	<b>+46,493</b>

NOTE: In the first years in which the Community Roll numbers were reported there was some uncertainty as to the categories to be included. The more recent figures are more reliable. The three-year gain/loss should be seen in the light of this fact.

## ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP, OCTOBER 1972

	Total					
	Morning	After-noon	Evening	Principal Service	Attendance	Member-ship
<b>Southern Districts</b>						
1 London N.E. ...	10,880	263	7,898	12,289	19,141	21,328
2 London N.W. ...	10,921	866	8,129	12,922	19,916	22,726
3 London S.W. ...	13,464	115	9,537	15,555	23,116	24,955
4 London S.E. ...	9,525	479	5,918	10,724	15,922	19,435
5 Birmingham ...	9,695	429	8,760	12,788	18,884	21,789
7 Bristol ...	9,964	518	10,094	13,670	20,576	21,126
8 Cardiff/Swansea	4,971	306	6,629	7,953	11,906	15,408
12 Cornwall ...	8,773	667	8,800	12,016	18,240	17,803
14 East Anglia ...	8,239	2,211	5,762	11,255	16,212	15,389
23 Oxford/Leicester	8,525	758	8,463	11,535	17,746	20,479
24 Plymouth/Exeter	12,176	1,494	8,758	15,322	22,428	21,842
26 Southampton	14,059	901	8,831	15,984	23,791	22,673
28 Wolverhampton	8,467	750	11,154	13,771	20,371	23,120
<b>Southern Total ...</b>	<b>129,659</b>	<b>9,757</b>	<b>107,105</b>	<b>165,784</b>	<b>248,249</b>	<b>268,173</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>						
6 Bolton/Rochdale	6,207	953	4,907	7,736	12,067	14,339
9 Carlisle ...	3,442	941	4,036	5,859	8,419	10,193
11 Chester/Stoke	9,220	867	11,488	14,673	21,575	25,303
13 Darlington ...	6,262	756	8,248	10,204	15,266	19,604
16 Leeds ...	9,362	819	6,966	11,315	17,147	19,913
17 Lincoln ...	6,525	1,082	7,540	9,982	15,147	16,230
18 Liverpool ...	8,832	384	6,631	10,179	15,847	20,042
19 Manchester ...	11,058	859	9,483	13,729	21,400	25,506
20 Newcastle ...	7,932	411	12,603	14,095	20,946	27,084
21 North Lancs. ...	9,539	717	5,937	10,635	16,193	19,111
22 Nottingham ...	7,862	978	11,686	13,867	20,526	22,807
25 Sheffield ...	8,376	641	10,990	13,226	20,007	22,518
27 West Yorks. ...	9,664	1,589	6,617	11,797	17,870	20,507
29 York/Hull ...	9,223	1,477	9,229	13,585	19,929	21,209
<b>Northern Total ...</b>	<b>113,504</b>	<b>12,474</b>	<b>116,361</b>	<b>160,882</b>	<b>242,339</b>	<b>284,366</b>
30 Wales (Welsh)	2,791	1,206	3,881	4,848	7,878	11,447
<b>Scotland</b>						
33 Scotland ...	4,311	108	1,263	4,373	5,682	10,177
34 Shetland ...	273	221	457	621	951	692
<b>Islands Districts</b>						
10 Channel Islands	1,484	34	1,286	1,756	2,804	3,564
15 Isle of Man ...	938	180	1,277	1,668	2,395	2,452
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>252,960</b>	<b>23,980</b>	<b>233,258</b>	<b>339,932</b>	<b>510,198</b>	<b>580,871</b>

Garrisons and Ministers not included in total in column 6.

## ATTENDANCE AT WORSHIP, OCTOBER 1974

	Morning	After-noon	Evening	Principal Service	Total Attendances	Member-ship
<b>Southern Districts</b>						
1 London N.E. ...	10,930	203	7,052	12,002	18,185	20,008
2 London N.W. ...	10,692	760	6,927	12,260	18,379	21,606
3 London S.W. ...	13,069	202	7,970	14,801	21,241	23,849
4 London S.E. ...	8,960	396	5,268	10,029	14,624	18,339
5 Birmingham ...	10,543	469	7,956	13,136	18,968	21,129
7 Bristol ...	10,322	575	8,946	13,284	19,843	20,427
8 Cardiff/Stoke	4,817	317	5,860	7,221	10,994	14,492
12 Cornwall ...	8,651	846	7,761	11,478	17,258	16,992
14 East Anglia ...	8,078	1,970	4,739	10,510	14,787	14,761
23 Oxford/Leics.	8,771	1,089	7,386	11,490	17,246	19,537
24 Plymouth/Exeter	11,690	1,364	7,455	14,331	20,509	21,108
26 Southampton ...	12,973	655	7,268	14,504	20,896	21,939
28 Wolverhampton	8,727	951	9,806	12,765	19,484	22,288
<b>Southern Total ...</b>	<b>128,223</b>	<b>9,797</b>	<b>94,394</b>	<b>157,811</b>	<b>232,414</b>	<b>256,475</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>						
6 Bolton/Rochdale	6,434	805	4,079	7,571	11,318	13,574
9 Carlisle ...	3,402	944	3,625	5,634	7,971	9,825
11 Chester/Stoke	9,554	921	10,004	13,909	20,479	24,401
13 Darlington ...	6,230	693	7,314	9,769	14,237	18,561
16 Leeds ...	9,898	888	6,830	11,738	17,616	19,122
17 Lincoln ...	6,360	962	6,480	9,208	13,802	15,287
18 Liverpool ...	8,683	303	5,991	9,851	14,977	19,412
19 Manchester ...	10,793	740	7,540	12,592	19,073	23,859
20 Newcastle ...	8,035	306	11,178	13,172	19,519	25,681
21 North Lancs.	9,365	603	4,839	10,076	14,807	18,023
22 Nottingham ...	7,902	991	10,117	12,699	19,010	21,729
25 Sheffield ...	8,285	548	9,553	12,121	18,386	21,212
27 West Yorks. ...	9,421	1,366	5,751	11,245	16,538	19,198
29 York/Hull ...	9,120	1,285	7,913	12,607	18,318	20,189
<b>Northern Total ...</b>	<b>113,482</b>	<b>11,355</b>	<b>101,214</b>	<b>152,192</b>	<b>226,051</b>	<b>270,073</b>
30 Wales (Welsh)	2,638	1,085	3,499	4,473	7,222	10,774
<b>Scotland</b>						
33 Scotland ...	4,001	77	1,199	4,093	5,277	9,224
34 Shetland ...	203	82	228	319	513	660
<b>Island Districts</b>						
10 Channel Islands	1,600	60	1,175	1,877	2,835	3,451
15 Isle of Man ...	880	153	891	1,353	1,924	2,416
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>251,027</b>	<b>22,609</b>	<b>202,600</b>	<b>322,118</b>	<b>476,236</b>	<b>553,073</b>

Garrisons and Ministers not included in total in column 6.

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR OCTOBER, 1974, AS A PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERSHIP**

(See page 11 for actual numbers attending various services)

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Principal Service	Total Attendances
<b>Southern Districts</b>					
1 London N.E. ...	54.6	1.0	35.2	59.9	90.8
2 London N.W. ...	49.4	3.5	32.0	56.7	84.9
3 London S.W. ...	54.7	1.0	33.4	62.0	89.1
4 London S.E. ...	48.8	2.1	28.7	54.6	79.6
5 Birmingham ...	49.8	2.2	37.6	62.1	89.6
7 Bristol ...	50.5	2.8	43.7	65.0	97.0
8 Cardiff/Stoke ...	33.2	2.1	40.4	49.8	75.7
12 Cornwall ...	50.9	4.9	45.6	67.5	101.4
14 East Anglia ...	54.7	13.3	32.1	71.2	100.1
23 Oxford/Leicester ...	44.8	5.5	37.8	58.8	88.1
24 Plymouth/Exeter ...	55.3	6.4	35.3	67.8	97.0
26 Southampton ...	59.1	2.9	33.1	66.1	95.1
28 Wolverhampton ...	39.1	4.2	43.9	57.2	87.2
<b>Southern Total ...</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>90.6</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>					
6 Bolton/Rochdale ...	47.3	5.9	30.0	55.7	83.2
9 Carlisle ...	34.6	9.6	36.8	57.3	81.0
11 Chester/Stoke ...	39.1	3.7	40.9	57.0	83.7
13 Darlington ...	33.5	3.7	39.4	52.6	76.6
16 Leeds ...	51.7	4.6	35.7	61.3	92.1
17 Lincoln ...	41.6	6.2	42.3	60.2	90.1
18 Liverpool ...	44.7	1.5	30.8	50.7	77.2
19 Manchester ...	45.2	3.1	31.6	52.7	79.9
20 Newcastle ...	31.2	1.1	43.5	51.2	75.8
21 North Lancs. ...	51.9	3.3	26.8	55.9	82.0
22 Nottingham ...	36.3	4.5	46.5	58.4	87.3
25 Sheffield ...	39.0	2.5	45.0	57.1	86.5
27 West Yorks. ...	49.0	7.1	29.9	58.5	86.0
29 York/Hull ...	45.1	6.3	39.1	62.4	89.5
<b>Northern Total ...</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>83.7</b>
30 Wales (Welsh) ...	24.4	10.0	32.4	41.5	66.8
<b>Scotland</b>					
31 Scotland ...	43.3	1.0	12.9	44.3	56.2
32 Shetland ...	30.7	12.4	34.5	48.3	77.6
<b>Island Districts</b>					
10 Channel Islands ...	46.3	1.7	34.0	54.3	82.0
15 Isle of Man ...	36.4	6.3	36.8	56.0	79.2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>85.5</b>

**METHODIST CHURCHES IN CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP**

	0	1-59	60-159	160 & over	Total (1974)	Total (1971)
<b>Southern Districts</b>						
1 London N.E. ...	2	133	79	32	246	255
2 London N.W. ...	1	167	72	39	279	291
3 London S.W. ...	0	85	74	54	213	221
4 London S.E. ...	0	138	63	36	237	246
5 Birmingham ...	1	167	69	39	276	290
7 Bristol ...	0	262	83	29	374	391
8 Cardiff/Swansea ...	0	192	59	20	271	288
12 Cornwall ...	1	372	56	15	444	455
14 East Anglia ...	1	401	47	15	464	493
23 Oxford/Leicester ...	1	260	69	30	360	373
24 Plymouth/Exeter ...	1	335	63	29	428	445
26 Southampton ...	0	270	71	43	384	405
28 Wolverhampton ...	0	232	102	30	364	384
<b>Southern Total ...</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3,014</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>4,537</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>						
6 Bolton/Rochdale ...	0	52	68	21	141	148
9 Carlisle ...	0	179	28	13	220	230
11 Chester/Stoke ...	0	272	96	27	395	413
13 Darlington ...	0	227	56	36	319	341
16 Leeds ...	0	109	66	42	217	233
17 Lincoln ...	1	285	48	22	356	403
18 Liverpool ...	0	57	55	47	159	162
19 Manchester ...	0	99	92	44	235	253
20 Newcastle ...	0	150	100	44	294	324
21 North Lancashire ...	0	77	60	36	173	179
22 Nottingham ...	0	264	95	28	387	413
25 Sheffield ...	0	219	99	23	341	361
27 West Yorkshire ...	0	138	90	25	253	269
29 York/Hull ...	1	313	54	38	406	441
<b>Northern Total ...</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,441</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>3,896</b>	<b>4,170</b>
30 Wales (Welsh) ...	0	195	56	2	253	268
<b>Scotland</b>						
31 Scotland ...	0	7	23	29	59	62
32 Shetland ...	0	20	2	0	22	23
<b>Island Districts</b>						
10 Channel Islands ...	0	18	17	6	41	42
15 Isle of Man ...	0	48	7	3	58	60
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5,743</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>8,669</b>	<b>9,162</b>

NOTE: Although over 60% of our churches are in the 1-59 category, over 70% of members belong to churches of 60 or more members.



**SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS**

Southern Districts		Sunday Schools	Youth Groups	S.S. Attendance		Young People	
No. of Churches	1972			1974	1972	1974	
1 London N.E.	246	220	146	10,774	9,480	7,313	4,739
2 London N.W.	279	247	127	12,167	10,594	5,571	3,924
3 London S.W.	213	196	140	10,440	9,435	7,708	5,438
4 London S.E.	237	189	127	8,121	7,217	5,372	4,802
5 Birmingham	276	218	133	10,916	9,648	3,886	3,927
7 Bristol	374	271	126	11,186	10,213	4,909	3,973
8 Cardiff/S	271	215	87	7,686	6,811	2,168	2,275
12 Cornwall	444	327	150	7,863	7,635	2,135	2,226
14 East Anglia	464	313	90	7,973	7,107	2,024	1,459
23 Oxford/Leics.	360	248	125	10,268	9,391	4,250	3,989
24 Plymouth/Exeter	428	309	131	7,886	7,604	3,484	2,657
26 Southampton	384	258	146	9,618	8,537	3,169	3,185
28 Wolverhampton	364	263	115	12,453	11,046	3,654	3,153
<b>Southern Total</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>3,274</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>127,351</b>	<b>114,718</b>	<b>55,643</b>	<b>45,747</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>							
6 Bolton/R	141	137	64	5,751	5,442	1,923	2,164
9 Carlisle	220	136	56	3,791	3,360	1,119	941
11 Chester/S	395	319	106	11,517	10,392	3,234	2,780
13 Darlington	319	246	106	8,854	8,062	4,152	3,604
16 Leeds	217	186	107	8,543	8,042	3,817	3,607
17 Lincoln	356	241	82	8,338	7,379	2,944	2,406
18 Liverpool	159	150	104	9,365	8,238	4,938	4,291
19 Manchester	235	200	120	11,924	10,175	4,543	5,194
20 Newcastle	294	244	130	12,149	11,028	4,289	4,068
21 N. Lincs.	173	160	86	6,961	6,188	2,746	3,262
22 Nottingham	387	302	157	12,770	11,523	4,243	3,757
25 Sheffield	341	290	120	12,481	10,457	3,412	3,311
27 W. Yorks	253	216	111	8,962	8,374	3,653	3,789
29 York/Hull	406	267	122	8,976	8,545	2,763	2,526
<b>Northern Total</b>	<b>3,896</b>	<b>3,094</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>130,382</b>	<b>117,205</b>	<b>47,776</b>	<b>45,700</b>
30 Wales (Welsh)	253	112	51	2,056	1,523	539	418
<b>Scotland</b>							
31 Scotland	59	52	35	2,217	1,953	1,147	1,002
32 Shetland	22	6	3	135	74	45	15
<b>Island Districts</b>							
10 Channel Is.	41	37	23	1,409	1,364	917	1,001
Isle of Man	58	41	7	1,134	1,152	359	257
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,669</b>	<b>6,616</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>264,684</b>	<b>237,989</b>	<b>106,426</b>	<b>94,140</b>

**MEMBERSHIP MINISTERS AND LOCAL PREACHERS**

Southern Districts	Circuit Ministers & Probs.	Members per Minister	Churches per Minister	Members per Church	Local Preachers	LPs on Trial
1 London N.E.	107	187	2.3	81	618	68
2 London N.W.	92	235	3.0	77	650	80
3 London S.W.	104	229	2.0	112	608	53
4 London S.E.	85	216	4.8	77	549	55
5 Birmingham	87	243	3.2	77	610	47
7 Bristol	90	227	4.2	55	774	50
8 Cardiff/Stoke	63	230	4.3	53	363	56
12 Cornwall	61	279	7.3	38	685	55
14 East Anglia	65	227	7.1	32	832	65
23 Oxford/Leicester	81	241	4.4	54	704	80
24 Plymouth/Exeter	77	274	5.6	49	821	82
26 Southampton	85	258	4.5	57	853	61
28 Wolverhampton	83	269	4.4	61	659	61
<b>Southern Total</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>8,726</b>	<b>813</b>
<b>Northern Districts</b>						
6 Bolton/Rochdale	51	266	2.8	96	282	26
9 Carlisle	36	273	6.1	45	398	45
11 Chester/Stoke	87	280	4.5	62	696	65
13 Darlington	72	258	4.4	58	645	36
16 Leeds	71	269	3.1	88	507	39
17 Lincoln	59	259	6.0	43	662	44
18 Liverpool	73	266	2.2	122	366	25
19 Manchester	88	271	2.7	102	525	50
20 Newcastle	87	295	3.4	87	668	56
21 North Lancashire	69	261	2.5	104	427	34
22 Nottingham	86	253	4.5	56	690	89
25 Sheffield	83	256	4.1	62	662	54
27 West Yorkshire	74	259	3.4	76	534	31
29 York/Hull	79	256	5.1	50	748	62
<b>Northern Total</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>7,810</b>	<b>656</b>
30 Wales (Welsh)	47	229	5.4	43	149	10
<b>Scotland</b>						
33 Scotland	40	231	1.5	156	116	32
34 Shetland	4	165	5.5	30	20	1
<b>Island Districts</b>						
10 Channel Islands	14	247	2.9	84	82	9
15 Isle of Man	10	242	5.8	42	59	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>16,962</b>	<b>1,527</b>

**MINISTERS WESLEY DEACONESSES**

Ministers and Probationers ...	2,604	In home appointments—Circuits	106
Supernumeraries ...	1,109	Sector	38
Ministers in Training ...	152	In Ireland ...	2
Total ...	3,865	In overseas appointments ...	11
Included in the above total are:—		Without appointment (marriage)	33
Ministers and Probationers		Ordained at Convocation ...	1
in Circuit Appointments ...	2,210	Probationers ...	8
Sector Ministers ...	160	Students in Training ...	9
Sector Ministers Overseas ...	7	Retired ...	131
		Total ...	339

**MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY ROLL AS % OF POPULATION AT 1971 CENSUS. POPULATION TO EACH METHODIST CHURCH IN STANDARD REGIONS.**

**NEW MEMBERS AS % OF MEMBERSHIP; NEW MEMBERS PER 100,000 POPULATION.**

(1972 Membership figures taken as being nearest to Census date.)

	Members as % of Popul'n.	Community Roll as % of Popul'n.	Popul'n. to one Meth. Ch.	New Members as % of Membership	New Members per 100,000 Popul'n.
North ...	1.9	4.4	3,213	1.9	35
Yorks. and Humbers.	1.8	4.3	3,913	1.8	32
North West ...	1.3	3.2	7,416	2.5	33
East Midlands	1.4	3.4	3,905	1.5	21
West Midlands ...	1.1	2.7	6,113	2.0	23
East Anglia ...	1.1	2.5	3,040	1.9	21
South East ...	0.6	1.7	13,089	2.2	14
South West ...	1.8	3.9	2,680	1.6	29
Wales ...	1.2	2.2	4,344	1.7	20
Isle of Man ...	4.9	13.1	858	1.5	76
Channel Islands	2.8	6.9	3,055	1.9	54
Scotland ...	0.2	0.4	63,753	1.6	3
Total ...	1.1	2.6	6,042	2.0	21

Thanks are expressed to circuit ministers who have completed schedules with the minimum of complaints and at times with cheerfulness, to District Secretaries who have patiently followed up late schedules, and above all to Malcolm and Elizabeth Ross, who have supervised the whole operation and without whose expertise it would have been impossible.

B.E.J.