

2. Counting for a Purpose

Commenting on changes in the life of the Church is common-place, as the result of our personal experience. So you will have said, or heard said:

- *There is a shortage of young families in our church these days*
- *We used to have a Sunday School*
- *People are not as committed as they used to be*
- *We are finding it difficult to pay our way*
- *Our circuit is having to lose a minister because of the fall in membership*
- *We have recently set up a mid-week shoppers' service*
- *There seems to be a lot of building work in Methodism*
- *Our circuit has to go without a new minister this year because of a national shortage*
- *We need to change the ways we do things because people have changed in the way they think about religion*

How do we know whether these opinions are limited to a locality or are typical of Methodism as a whole or indeed common in many denominations? How far do they reflect the reality? The answer lies, in part, in that activity which often has such a bad press – statistics. However, facts and figures alone do not give the answer. It requires experience and an understanding of the Church to interpret the figures and identify their implications. When that point is reached, it is then possible to recognise how far your personal observations are typical or not and maybe to appreciate some of the reasons for the changes you observe. Secondly, a greater insight into the changes and developments that are taking place is a tool to use in planning and strategy and therefore contributes to more effective mission and evangelism.

In the spring of 2001, Churches Information for Mission (an inter-denominational agency) ran the **Church Life Profile** – the largest ever opinion survey undertaken in Britain – in churches across the country. Almost two thousand churches took part, from a wide range of traditions. There were more than 100,000 adult participants (aged fifteen and over), each of whom completed a survey exploring their experiences, views and attitudes in connection with the life of their local church. More than six hundred of the participating churches were Methodist, as were almost 30,000 of the adult respondents. Most of the churches (more than 500 Methodist churches) were selected as a random sample, to give a good view of church life across the country. However, others (including about 170 Methodist churches) chose to take part – opting into the project for the benefits they could see.

So what are these benefits? Each local church that took part receives the *Connections for Life* pack: a Church Life Guide and a report analysing the responses, under four headings:

- **Who are we?** This topic describes the people who responded, by age, gender, household type and similar categories; it also covers the responses about the vision of the church and the readiness to try new things.
- **Our Spirituality** This area is concerned with worship experiences, feelings about preaching and growth in faith.

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- **Our Life Together** In this section we focus on the church as a group of people in relation to one another, so it deals with the sense of belonging, involvement in small group activities, pastoral care and nurture, such as youth programmes.
- **Our Life in the Community** Finally, we consider the ways in which the church and the wider community interact, with particular focus on outreach, both as community service (of various kinds) and as evangelism.

The focus throughout is to provide information that will help local churches in their mission planning (without in any sense attempting to prescribe what their mission should be). A 'Companion' is also offered – not a consultant, but a friend, who can help churches think about their results and their implications.

However, because of the size and nature of the sample, Churches Information for Mission is also able to provide a similar analysis at connexional level. Initial results were published in November 2001, as *Faith in Life*. A report on Methodist results was given to the Methodist Council in February 2002, and this report is now presented to Conference, under the same topic headings as the local reports.

The results show that Methodists are, broadly speaking, a friendly, socially aware and pastorally sensitive people. There are also some areas of concern, such as the extent of vision for the future, programmes for young people and evangelistic outreach. Details of these and other topics will be given to the Conference.

In a sense, we might say that each person who took part gave their subjective views. However, when these responses are taken together they provide a valuable and unique source of qualitative information about the state of the Church. The presentation to the Conference lifts the curtain on the views of Methodists about the life of their local churches, and gives a new and different perspective on the figures that appear in the triennial data collection.

The annual October Count aims to collect objective information. The 2001 figures completed the latest triennial data collection for 1999 – 2001 and the raw information is presented at the end of this report. However, simply to note yet another fall in membership is to ignore some significant outcomes which provide some clues about change, opportunities and good practice as well as numerical decline.

Summary Headlines From The Triennial Returns

- ◆ **Community Roll and membership** numbers continue to fall at similar rates, approximately 2.5% per year. A church of size 50 in 1998 will therefore on average be of size 46 in 2001.
- ◆ Churches are continuing to attract new and restored members, switchers from other denominations and people from overseas. Since 1998 **21,034 people have been added to membership, a 6.0% increase.**
- ◆ The number of deaths is slowly decreasing but over the three-year period this figure is almost twice the number of new members. The number of lapsed members is increasing and since 1998 accounts for approximately 4.5 times the number of re-instated members.

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- ◆ In summary, the net loss of 7.3% of members from 1999 to 2001 is due to **losses of 13.2% and gains of 6.0%**. Over the period 1999 to 2001, a typical congregation of 50 has lost three members, gained three members but in addition three or perhaps four members have died.

Further Points of Interest

- ◆ Although **Community Roll numbers** have dropped in every District, they have increased in Southampton and North Wales. Cymru and Liverpool have seen the largest drops while Sheffield, London North-West, London South-West, Nottingham and Derby and Bolton and Rochdale have seen only small decreases.
- ◆ **Membership** figures have decreased in every District, but the London, Southampton and Bristol Districts have done best. Liverpool, West Yorkshire and Scotland numbers have dropped significantly.
- ◆ **Total attendance** figures have decreased in every District, but York and Hull and Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury are doing best here. Cymru remains low but Bristol, Scotland and Liverpool are displaying different patterns.
- ◆ The decreases in total attendance are due primarily to losses at the Principal Service and the AM/PM services. The **midweek services**, however, display growth across the Connexion of 24.4%, with only nine Districts showing a decrease. Perhaps the working population, the elderly and the young find attending worship in the week more convenient than in the past.
- ◆ The numbers of **baptisms** have decreased, mostly among children, but less so among teenagers and adults. Thirteen districts reveal a growth in baptisms of those over thirteen years of age.
- ◆ Although the numbers of **new and re-instated members** have decreased across the Connexion, the picture is not uniform. About half the Districts have seen increases in the number of new members while over a third have seen increases in the number of re-instated members. New members account for approximately 4.0% of membership while re-instated members account for about 1.1% of membership.
- ◆ Birmingham and Chester and Stoke-on-Trent, for example, have seen increases in teenage/adult **baptisms and new/re-instated members** but for most Districts the picture is mixed.
- ◆ In the majority of Districts the number of deaths is decreasing although the number of lapsed members is increasing. Approximately 7.9% of membership is lost through **deaths** and 5.2% through **lapsed membership**.
- ◆ The decrease in **children and young people** attending worship (18.4%) is over twice the decrease in total adult attendance at worship (8.1%). This picture is fairly uniform across the country and is mirrored by only slightly smaller decreases in the numbers attending church-sponsored groups. Interestingly, the decrease in children's and young people's attendance at worship is almost the same as the decrease in baptisms.

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***RESOLUTIONS

- 2/1. The Conference receives the Report.
- 2/2. The Conference receives the Triennial Membership Returns reported on pages 15 to 25 of the Agenda.

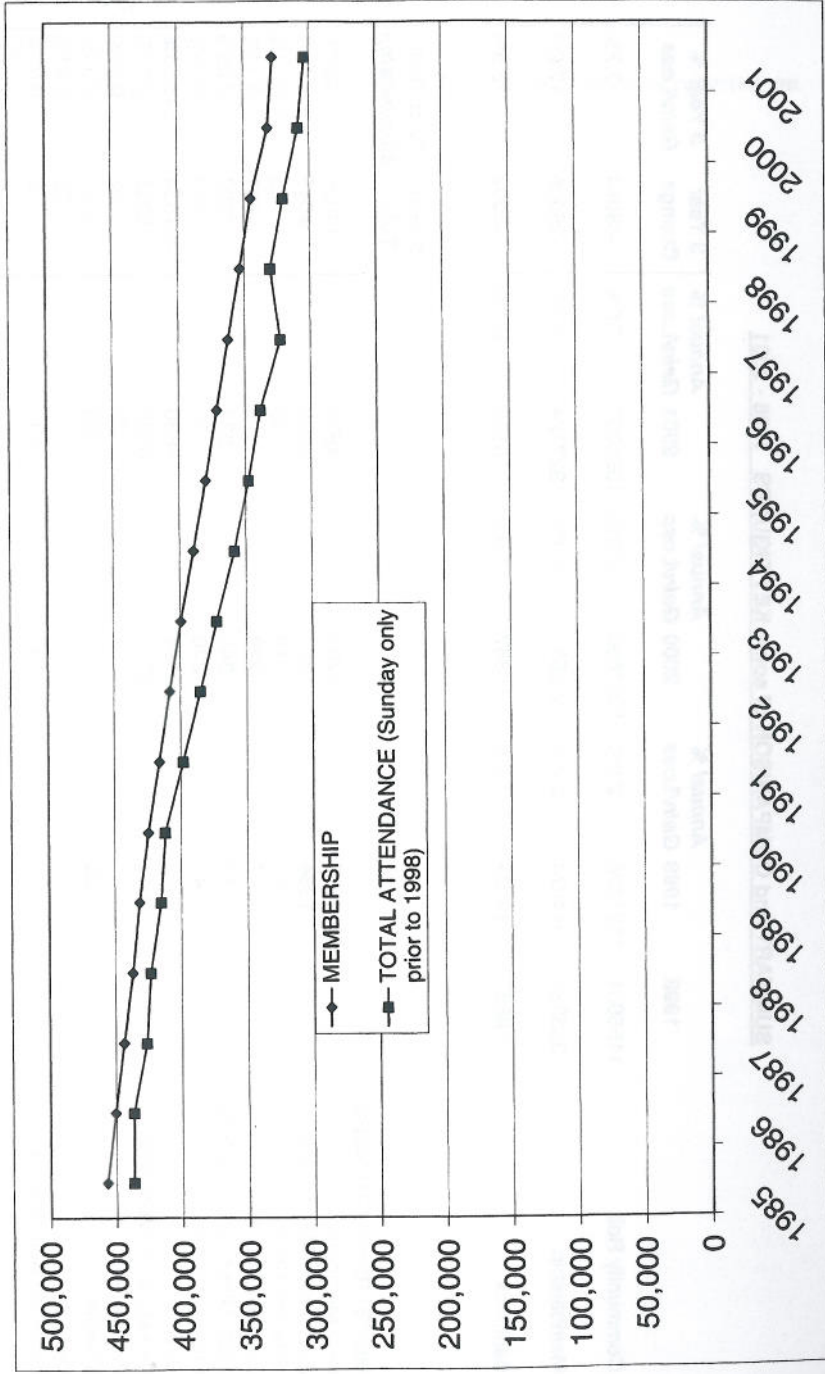
SUMMARY and COMPARISON of some KEY FIGURES 1998 - 2001

	1998	1999	Annual % Gain/Loss	2000	Annual % Gain/Loss	2001	Annual % Gain/Loss	3 Year Change	3 Year % Gain/Loss
Community Roll	1155001	1121226	-2.9%	1087690	-3.0%	1066007	-2.0%	-88994	-7.7%
Membership	353330	344874	-2.4%	335567	-2.7%	327724	-2.3%	-25606	-7.2%
Baptisms	18887	19139	1.3%	16867	-11.9%	15385	-8.8%	-3502	-18.5%

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New Members	4685	4767	4573	3.97%
Restored to Membership	1384	1363	1298	1.14%
Between Churches	-27	19	33	0.01%
Between Circuits	-167	-228	-6	-0.11%
From Other Denominations	1117	346	934	0.68%
From Overseas	49	220	273	0.15%
Deaths	-9610	-9344	-8880	-7.88%
Ceased to be Members	-5843	-6313	-6099	-5.17%
Forces Roll			-22	-0.01%
Ministers	-36		-65	-0.03%
Deacons	-8		-17	-0.01%
Schedule Adjustments		-137	135	0.00%
Net Loss	-8456	-9170	-7843	-7.25%
3 Year Total	14025	4045	25	3.97%
% of 1998 Membership	4045	25	-401	1.14%
	2397	542	-27834	0.01%
	-18255	-22	-101	-0.11%
	-25	-2	-25	0.68%
	-2	-25606	-2	0.15%
				-7.88%
				-5.17%
				-0.01%
				-0.03%
				-0.01%
				0.00%

MEMBERSHIP and ATTENDANCE 1985 - 2001



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CONNEXIONAL TOTALS -2001

Dist No of Chs LEP	No Memb of 2000	New Memb to 2000	Restid to Memsp Circ	GAINS + Chch In	Oth Den sea	LOSSES - Chch In	Oth Den sea	Ceased to Meet	Memb Gain/Loss	Net Gain/Loss	LEP Joint for	Memb for roll	Comm roll	Bapt	Young People							
1	217	26	13833	279	60	44	128	80	69	48	127	82	26	283	285	13662	-171	708	13293	49336	657	13695
2	231	31	14604	200	48	48	276	201	88	48	163	56	27	283	226	14662	58	894	14049	48228	900	12610
3	195	31	16332	410	65	54	128	132	71	51	191	126	34	352	314	16124	-208	1230	15505	57081	672	16348
4	191	32	12423	218	32	19	106	130	103	18	126	59	24	300	288	12213	-210	1984	11190	38872	550	11038
5	220	25	13553	166	51	38	170	97	42	38	136	55	24	297	240	13284	-269	975	12958	48257	847	12742
6	112	7	8164	101	27	19	39	27	0	26	68	24	0	174	176	7909	-255	123	7908	23839	198	5981
7	281	64	14046	139	60	41	92	105	12	51	109	48	10	346	225	13717	-329	2366	12440	54626	521	13141
8	189	19	9093	136	28	57	53	58	16	66	43	40	2	311	182	8773	-320	1051	8354	23511	459	6282
9	153	2	1955	28	34	30	60	74	1	30	65	30	1	161	127	5141	-186	19	5140	14899	185	2749
10	32	1	1955	28	14	14	1	1	0	14	6	3	48	43	1891	-64	14	1883	5872	57	1464	
11	243	12	12286	191	59	73	74	58	2	71	81	52	2	357	177	11982	-283	452	11717	38893	769	7490
12	279	5	9198	62	42	81	65	56	1	78	79	26	6	280	144	8902	-296	35	8899	24525	324	4269
13	225	5	10046	95	45	118	82	41	2	118	59	35	5	255	203	9754	-292	261	9683	32215	724	7475
14	280	24	9177	105	38	48	124	67	9	48	70	59	1	279	147	8964	-213	679	8611	29061	365	5109
15	38	0	1470	15	0	7	3	4	0	7	9	0	2	45	20	1416	-54	0	1416	3476	55	564
16	156	8	10597	155	43	40	66	44	8	39	103	33	1	292	157	10328	-269	121	10254	37878	516	8268
17	251	19	8010	90	27	53	79	34	5	46	72	24	4	236	145	7775	-239	69	7771	25573	253	4230
18	138	15	11113	186	35	52	55	68	11	53	94	40	5	295	270	10763	-350	873	10563	41946	440	9218
19	186	10	13158	234	137	34	71	70	17	32	120	70	15	383	276	12825	-333	533	12711	42673	511	10753
20	210	18	12426	146	37	60	98	101	8	59	94	38	6	386	196	10297	-329	322	11918	46950	1068	10541
21	145	10	10547	132	55	129	73	67	4	84	54	41	2	321	280	10225	-322	26	10211	29716	363	6369
22	265	21	13562	150	39	74	98	142	11	73	80	56	8	352	191	11957	-302	367	11811	38665	611	10534
23	265	20	12259	192	38	63	95	82	8	69	154	57	1	358	230	12010	-363	887	12770	43563	555	11486
24	286	19	12373	130	45	73	146	115	1	78	157	107	19	467	314	15700	-401	1725	14830	54113	460	10786
25	270	27	11535	214	38	88	95	82	8	79	86	54	3	328	224	11281	-254	301	11209	40436	969	10642
26	274	30	16101	251	56	73	181	162	9	69	67	21	7	296	160	9923	-262	199	9848	32327	375	7819
27	181	18	10185	132	33	32	59	74	0	39	65	43	5	358	235	13276	-354	623	12936	43240	828	9301
28	265	26	13630	149	45	41	43	114	5	56	125	44	7	317	181	11914	-271	162	11806	40519	622	9348
29	292	16	12185	157	31	59	126	77	9	56	3	37	0	126	75	2398	-90	0	2989	4571	47	519
30	148	13	3069	16	4	23	8	13	0	23	16	29	2	115	70	5322	-154	771	4608	10237	82	1802
31	54	7	5476	19	24	21	18	11	6	21	5	3	0	9	2	335	2	0	335	500	11	167
32	20	0	333	12	0	0	1	1	6	0	39	18	1	108	39	3489	-74	21	3489	9189	87	1305
33	65	4	3563	34	8	22	41	43	1	18	2760	1475	258	8880	6098	323821	-7811	18122	314736	1066007	15385	249696

THE COMMUNITY ROLL 1998 - 2001

No.	District Name	1998	1999	2000	2001	3 Year Change	% Change	*
1	London North East	53378	53018	49018	49336	-4042	-7.6%	(14)
2	London North West	50454	49374	48247	48228	-2226	-4.4%	(8)
3	London South West	58890	59048	55993	57081	-1809	-3.1%	(7)
4	London South East	42811	41376	40623	38872	-3939	-9.2%	(20)
5	Birmingham	51985	48985	47996	48257	-3728	-7.2%	(13)
6	Bolton and Rochdale	24579	24463	24395	23639	-740	-3.0%	(6)
7	Bristol	59784	57798	53037	54626	-5158	-8.6%	(18)
8	South Wales	25564	24067	24334	23511	-2053	-8.0%	(16)
9	Cumbria	15930	15929	15626	14899	-1031	-6.5%	(10)
10	Channel Islands	6190	6145	5834	5872	-318	-5.1%	(9)
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent	44238	39770	39170	38893	-5345	-12.1%	(27)
12	Cornwall	28325	27515	26628	24525	-3800	-13.4%	(30)
13	Darlington	36692	34084	33785	32215	-4477	-12.2%	(28)
14	East Anglia	31267	31555	28810	29061	-2206	-7.1%	(12)
15	Isle of Man	3502	3553	3379	3476	-26	-0.7%	(3)
16	Leeds	41162	40272	41007	37878	-3284	-8.0%	(15)
17	Lincoln and Grimsby	29217	27463	25459	25573	-3644	-12.5%	(29)
18	Liverpool	54114	53516	50420	41946	-12168	-22.5%	(32)
19	Manchester and Stockport	47160	45099	44865	42673	-4487	-9.5%	(21)
20	Newcastle upon Tyne	52291	49863	49027	46950	-5341	-10.2%	(24)
21	North Lancashire	33069	31946	30591	29716	-3353	-10.1%	(23)
22	Nottingham and Derby	39588	38772	38205	38665	-923	-2.3%	(5)
23	Oxford and Leicester	46646	47656	44831	43563	-3083	-6.6%	(11)
24	Plymouth and Exeter	33951	34417	32411	31220	-2731	-8.0%	(17)
25	Sheffield	41158	40725	41554	40436	-722	-1.8%	(4)
26	Southampton	47569	47057	47068	54113	6544	13.8%	(1)
27	West Yorkshire	35756	34941	34617	32327	-3429	-9.6%	(22)
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	48546	44398	44303	43240	-5306	-10.9%	(26)
29	York and Hull	44349	43295	41695	40519	-3830	-8.6%	(19)
30	Cymru	5712	4916	4609	4571	-1141	-20.0%	(31)
31	Scotland	11466	10756	10489	10237	-1229	-10.7%	(25)
32	Shetland	713	552	542	500	-213	-29.9%	(33)
33	North Wales	8945	8902	9122	9189	244	2.7%	(2)
TOTAL		1155001	1121226	1087690	1066007	-88994	-7.7%	

NOTES:

* The right hand set of figures in brackets gives the magnitude, in descending order, of the % change figures. Thus Southampton district has the largest increase, Bristol the 18th.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE DISTRICTS 1998 - 2001

No.	District Name	1998	1999	2000	2001	3 Year Change	% Change	*
1	London North East	14077	13964	13833	13662	-415	-2.9%	(2)
2	London North West	15114	14884	14604	14662	-452	-3.0%	(3)
3	London South West	17136	16806	16332	16124	-1012	-5.9%	(5)
4	London South East	12547	12508	12423	12213	-334	-2.7%	(1)
5	Birmingham	14607	14252	13553	13284	-1323	-9.1%	(27)
6	Bolton and Rochdale	8508	8289	8164	7909	-599	-7.0%	(13)
7	Bristol	14622	14301	14046	13717	-905	-6.2%	(7)
8	South Wales	9379	9155	9025	8773	-606	-6.5%	(8)
9	Cumbria	5627	5507	5327	5141	-486	-8.6%	(25)
10	Channel Islands	2026	2028	1955	1891	-135	-6.7%	(10)
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent	13029	12664	12265	11982	-1047	-8.0%	(19)
12	Cornwall	9605	9387	9198	8902	-703	-7.3%	(15)
13	Darlington	10635	10392	10046	9754	-881	-8.3%	(23)
14	East Anglia	9771	9437	9177	8964	-807	-8.3%	(22)
15	Isle of Man	1514	1499	1470	1416	-98	-6.5%	(9)
16	Leeds	11277	10967	10597	10328	-949	-8.4%	(24)
17	Lincoln and Grimsby	8584	8237	8010	7775	-809	-9.4%	(28)
18	Liverpool	11897	11491	11113	10763	-1134	-9.5%	(30)
19	Manchester and Stockport	13935	13528	13158	12825	-1110	-8.0%	(18)
20	Newcastle upon Tyne	13364	12839	12426	12097	-1267	-9.5%	(29)
21	North Lancashire	11211	10930	10547	10225	-986	-8.8%	(26)
22	Nottingham and Derby	12821	12563	12259	11957	-864	-6.7%	(11)
23	Oxford and Leicester	14184	13865	13562	13208	-976	-6.9%	(12)
24	Plymouth and Exeter	13078	12718	12373	12010	-1068	-8.2%	(21)
25	Sheffield	12173	11878	11535	11281	-892	-7.3%	(16)
26	Southampton	16733	16487	16101	15700	-1033	-6.2%	(6)
27	West Yorkshire	11023	10666	10185	9923	-1100	-10.0%	(31)
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	14453	14133	13630	13276	-1177	-8.1%	(20)
29	York and Hull	12833	12474	12185	11914	-919	-7.2%	(14)
30	Cymru	3457	3285	3089	2999	-458	-13.2%	(33)
31	Scotland	5936	5737	5476	5322	-614	-10.3%	(32)
32	Shetland	356	349	333	335	-21	-5.9%	(4)
33	North Wales	3767	3647	3563	3489	-278	-7.4%	(17)
Forces Roll		69	69	69	47	-22	-31.9%	
Ministers		3727	3691	3691	3626	-101	-2.7%	
Deacons		255	247	247	230	-25	-9.8%	
TOTAL		353330	344874	335567	327724	-25606	-7.2%	

NOTES:

* The right hand set of figures in brackets gives the magnitude, in descending order, of the % change figures. Thus London South East has the lowest decrease, Birmingham is the 27th.

No.	District Name	Baptisms under 13 yrs of age			Baptisms over 13 yrs of age			New Members			Re-Instated Members		
		1999	2000	2001	% Change	1999	2000	2001	% Change	1999	2000	2001	% Change
1	London North East	820	721	639	-22.1%	40	44	18	-55.0%	235	245	279	18.7%
2	London North West	943	796	850	-9.9%	41	33	50	22.0%	206	277	200	-2.9%
3	London South West	800	715	632	-21.0%	28	39	40	42.9%	281	288	410	45.9%
4	London South East	610	489	519	-14.9%	24	26	31	29.2%	267	310	218	-18.4%
5	Birmingham	1089	835	805	-26.1%	24	20	42	75.0%	153	183	166	8.5%
6	Bolton and Rochdale	313	323	193	-38.9%	8	8	5	-37.5%	151	154	101	-33.1%
7	Bolton and Rochdale	686	668	507	-38.4%	52	21	14	-73.1%	272	259	139	-48.9%
8	South Wales	486	469	423	-13.0%	45	48	36	-20.0%	142	126	136	-4.2%
9	Cumbria	209	245	183	-12.4%	4	2	2	-50.0%	22	22	44	31.6%
10	Channel Islands	69	50	55	-20.9%	2	2	2	0.0%	58	16	28	-51.7%
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent	953	822	744	-27.9%	12	12	25	108.3%	163	129	191	17.2%
12	Cornwall	437	377	318	-27.2%	12	19	6	-50.0%	107	124	62	-42.1%
13	Darlington	816	759	709	-13.1%	13	15	15	15.4%	148	73	95	-35.8%
14	East Anglia	376	325	351	-6.6%	21	35	14	-33.3%	151	102	105	-30.5%
15	Isle of Man	54	56	55	1.9%	2	1	1	-100.0%	35	16	15	-57.1%
16	Leeds	604	565	500	-17.2%	10	16	16	60.0%	145	125	165	6.9%
17	Lincoln and Grimsby	302	243	241	-20.2%	11	6	12	-40.0%	80	84	90	12.5%
18	Liverpool	554	574	433	-21.6%	20	15	7	-36.4%	167	192	186	11.4%
19	Manchester and Stockport	607	510	489	-19.4%	25	33	22	-12.0%	169	234	234	36.5%
20	Newcastle upon Tyne	1128	1071	1050	-6.9%	16	27	18	12.5%	112	146	33	30.4%
21	North Lancashire	392	341	351	-10.5%	11	9	12	9.1%	185	129	132	-28.6%
22	Nottingham and Derby	678	636	566	-13.6%	40	46	25	-37.5%	205	180	192	-6.3%
23	Oxford and Leicester	607	603	528	-13.0%	39	45	22	-30.8%	150	161	150	0.0%
24	Plymouth and Exeter	386	276	282	-28.8%	17	15	22	29.4%	183	163	130	-32.6%
25	Sheffield	1170	1032	943	-19.4%	26	23	26	0.0%	180	189	214	12.6%
26	Southampton	591	435	434	-26.6%	20	22	26	30.0%	170	274	251	47.6%
27	West Yorkshire	382	392	361	-25.1%	14	7	14	0.0%	112	104	132	17.9%
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	1141	852	818	-28.3%	18	52	10	-44.4%	143	178	149	4.2%
29	York and Hull	778	671	609	-21.7%	12	13	13	8.3%	153	119	157	2.6%
30	Cymru	53	45	47	-11.3%	6	10	2	-66.7%	21	16	16	-23.8%
31	Scotland	91	87	80	-12.1%	1	1	3	200.0%	4	4	12	200.0%
32	Shetland	3	3	8	166.7%	1	1	3	200.0%	4	4	4	0.0%
33	North Wales	129	113	85	-34.1%	8	4	2	-75.0%	34	65	34	0.0%
TOTAL		18517	16199	14828	-19.9%	622	668	557	-10.5%	4685	4767	4573	-2.4%
										1384	1363	1298	-6.2%

DEATHS and LAPSED MEMBERS 1999 - 2001

No.	District Name	Deaths				Lapsed Members			
		1999	2000	2001	% Change	1999	2000	2001	% Change
1	London North East	316	294	283	-10.4%	259	346	265	2.3%
2	London North West	335	308	283	-15.5%	312	228	226	-27.6%
3	London South West	402	431	352	-12.4%	328	440	314	-4.3%
4	London South East	326	296	300	-8.0%	232	202	288	24.1%
5	Birmingham	322	348	297	-7.8%	175	343	240	37.1%
6	Bolton and Rochdale	213	206	174	-18.3%	188	146	176	-6.4%
7	Bristol	363	369	346	-4.7%	253	247	225	-11.1%
8	South Wales	284	232	311	9.5%	135	135	182	34.8%
9	Cumbria	160	153	161	0.6%	76	123	127	67.1%
10	Channel Islands	49	45	48	-2.0%	33	43	43	30.3%
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent	369	349	357	-3.3%	231	233	177	-23.4%
12	Cornwall	265	301	280	5.7%	104	91	144	38.5%
13	Darlington	307	273	255	-16.9%	123	184	203	65.0%
14	East Anglia	314	301	279	-11.1%	235	167	147	-37.4%
15	Isle of Man	38	48	45	18.4%	8	16	20	150.0%
16	Leeds	316	311	292	-7.6%	157	172	157	0.0%
17	Lincoln and Grimsby	297	264	236	-20.5%	167	141	145	-13.2%
18	Liverpool	379	299	295	-22.2%	215	173	270	25.6%
19	Manchester and Stockport	391	378	383	-2.0%	25	231	276	1004.0%
20	Newcastle upon Tyne	443	357	386	-12.9%	255	295	196	-23.1%
21	North Lancashire	361	330	321	-11.1%	129	219	280	117.1%
22	Nottingham and Derby	374	339	352	-5.9%	149	185	191	28.2%
23	Oxford and Leicester	368	340	362	-1.6%	214	222	269	25.7%
24	Plymouth and Exeter	364	394	358	-1.6%	258	215	230	-10.9%
25	Sheffield	355	342	328	-7.6%	231	234	224	-3.0%
26	Southampton	438	510	467	6.6%	243	323	314	29.2%
27	West Yorkshire	280	308	296	5.7%	210	244	160	-23.8%
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	375	418	358	-4.5%	221	316	235	6.3%
29	York and Hull	397	367	317	-20.2%	192	146	181	-5.7%
30	Cymru	140	123	126	-10.0%	90	75	75	-16.7%
31	Scotland	142	160	115	-19.0%	123	119	70	-43.1%
32	Shetland	10	10	9	-10.0%	10	10	10	0.0%
33	North Wales	117	140	108	-7.7%	72	59	39	-45.8%
TOTAL		9610	9344	8880	-7.6%	5643	6313	6099	8.1%

ATTENDANCE (Adult and Child) AT WORSHIP OCTOBER 1998 - 2001

No.	District Name	A.M. P.M. Mid Wk Service	Principal Total Attd	1998 Total Attd	Total Attd Change	% Change	2001 Members	2001 Total Attd/Mem
1	London North East	9254 2106	1461	12821	13636	-815	13662	93.8%
2	London North West	10386 2068	997	13451	14158	-707	14662	91.7%
3	London South West	11035 2403	1008	14446	15192	-746	16124	89.6%
4	London South East	8053 1635	416	10104	10720	-616	12213	82.7%
5	Birmingham	8339 2419	1042	11800	13067	-1267	13284	88.8%
6	Bolton and Rochdale	4897 1188	266	6351	7079	-728	7909	80.3%
7	Bristol	9746 3141	768	13655	15411	-1756	13717	99.5%
8	South Wales	5048 2316	1028	8392	9276	-884	8773	95.7%
9	Cumbria	3102 1512	173	4787	5433	-646	5141	93.1%
10	Chanel Islands	1395 620	72	2087	2260	-173	1891	110.4%
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent	7441 3476	1019	11936	12891	-955	11982	99.6%
12	Cornwall	6674 2361	670	9705	10989	-1284	8902	108.0%
13	Darlington	5340 2415	883	6172	6638	-466	9754	88.6%
14	East Anglia	6977 2009	565	7620	10933	-1382	8964	106.5%
15	Isle of Man	825 312	71	1017	1329	-121	1416	85.3%
16	Leeds	6577 1936	530	6063	9917	-874	10328	87.6%
17	Lincoln and Grimsby	5107 2399	899	6052	8976	-571	7775	108.1%
18	Liverpool	6581 1810	560	6665	9894	-843	10763	83.2%
19	Manchester and Stockport	8145 1964	642	8515	11921	-1170	12825	91.6%
20	Newcastle upon Tyne	6717 1528	620	6781	11084	-1267	12087	86.7%
21	North Lancashire	8002 3669	1217	9323	12888	-673	11957	107.8%
22	Nottingham and Derby	8863 2506	1123	9435	12492	-737	13208	94.6%
23	Oxford and Leicester	8722 3137	726	9338	12570	-1107	12010	104.7%
24	Plymouth and Exeter	8188 3005	1171	8973	13677	-461	11281	109.6%
25	Sheffield	10988 2742	1133	11305	14863	-1047	15700	94.7%
26	Southampton	6720 1733	527	6602	8980	-1250	9923	90.5%
27	West Yorkshire	8168 3612	1743	8309	13676	-353	13276	101.9%
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	8338 2880	867	9433	12085	-123	11914	101.4%
29	York and Hull	1171 623	88	1171	1882	-519	2999	62.8%
30	Cymru	2147 243	101	2491	2783	-292	5322	46.8%
31	Scotland	212 172	11	1630	449	-54	335	117.9%
32	Shetland	1952 655	268	2111	2875	-394	3489	82.4%
33	North Wales							
	TOTAL	212296 67767	23376	303439	330157	-26718	323821	93.7%

2. Counting for a Purpose

CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE (Under 18 years) 1998 - 2001

No.	District Name	Children/ Young People at Worship		under 13 years		13 to 26 years		TOTAL	
		1998	2001 % Change	1998	2001 % Change	1998	2001 % Change	1998	2001 % Change
1	London North East	2925	2449	10989	2563	2726	15634	13665	-12.4%
2	London North West	3338	2866	9927	2867	2698	14422	12625	-12.5%
3	London South West	3128	2447	12659	2995	2689	17076	15348	-10.1%
4	London South East	2353	1923	10388	8429	2736	13124	11038	-15.9%
5	Birmingham	2272	1854	13626	9981	2901	16527	12709	-23.1%
6	Bolton and Rochdale	1595	1347	4924	1206	1170	6390	6094	-4.6%
7	Bristol	2538	2047	10539	2690	2602	14171	13141	-7.3%
8	South Wales	2152	1679	5040	874	1242	6874	6282	-8.6%
9	Cumbria	820 677	17.4%	2578	2173	576	3311	2749	-17.0%
10	Chanel Islands	513 471	-8.2%	1264	1201	263	1561	1464	-6.2%
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent	2455 2256	-8.1%	5930	5930	1560	9699	7490	-22.8%
12	Cornwall	2053 1581	-23.0%	4260	3504	1118	799	4303	-20.0%
13	Darlington	1693 1385	-18.2%	7873	6304	1983	5378	4303	-20.0%
14	East Anglia	1545 1032	-33.2%	4929	4246	1171	985	7475	-24.2%
15	Isle of Man	359 354	-1.4%	495	494	869	5947	5115	-14.0%
16	Leeds	1787 1341	-25.0%	8282	6675	50	580	544	-6.2%
17	Lincoln and Grimsby	1396 961	-31.2%	4295	3548	874	10252	8268	-19.4%
18	Liverpool	2077 1653	-20.4%	8891	7223	1889	5169	4232	-18.1%
19	Manchester and Stockport	2439 1738	-28.7%	10193	8938	2189	1080	9218	-16.8%
20	Newcastle upon Tyne	2214 1886	-14.8%	9591	8809	1806	12356	10744	-13.0%
21	North Lancashire	1877 1663	-11.4%	5792	5119	1565	11414	10543	-7.6%
22	Nottingham and Derby	2708 2396	-11.5%	9478	8392	2253	7357	6369	-13.4%
23	Oxford and Leicester	2380 2295	-4.0%	10413	9277	2142	11731	10534	-10.2%
24	Plymouth and Exeter	2230 1705	-23.5%	5936	5721	2249	13195	11526	-12.6%
25	Sheffield	2602 2294	-11.8%	9214	8937	1965	7514	6851	-8.8%
26	Southampton	2764 2201	-20.4%	9526	8506	1665	11179	10642	-4.8%
27	West Yorkshire	1941 1485	-23.5%	7204	6316	1481	11831	10837	-8.4%
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	2678 2188	-18.3%	8605	7685	1616	8686	7825	-9.9%
29	York and Hull	2215 1724	-22.2%	8314	7766	1782	10747	9301	-13.5%
30	Cymru	266 249	-6.4%	335	321	198	10096	9348	-7.4%
31	Scotland	449 384	-14.5%	1136	1342	470	545	519	-4.8%
32	Shetland	110 41	-62.7%	119	146	21	1533	1812	18.2%
33	North Wales	598 384	-35.8%	1377	1039	266	1711	1305	-23.7%
	TOTAL	62470 50956	-18.4%	232354	202080	54764	287118	250113	-12.9%

UTILISATION OF PRESBYTERS and DEACONS

	PRESBYTERS	DEACONS
Separated Chairs of District	29	
Circuit Superintendents	602	
Other Circuit Presbyters (Pastoral Charge)	1032	
Other Circuit Presbyters (Chaplaincies, Colleges etc)	53	
Other Circuit Appointments		103
In Local Appointment	123	
In Connexional Team	14	3
Sector and Other Appointments	134	6
Forces Chaplains	22	
Appointed to Serve Abroad	16	
Permitted to Serve Abroad	17	
Permitted to Serve Another Church	1	
Allowed to be Without Appointment	43	2
Permitted to Study	4	
Sub Total	2090	114
Supernumeraries and Retired Deacons	1536	116
TOTAL	3626	230
Students	115	2
GRAND TOTAL	3741	232

LAY WORKERS, LOCAL PREACHERS, R & R and AUTHORISED MINISTERS

No.	District Name	LAY WORKERS	LOCAL PREACHERS ACTIVE	ON TRIAL	REGARDED MINISTERS	AUTHORISED MINISTERS
1	London North East	22	303	41	5	12
2	London North West	19	290	50	15	14
3	London South West	23	320	55	15	5
4	London South East	17	307	48	13	4
5	Birmingham	21	351	31	11	3
6	Bolton and Rochdale	7	152	31	0	6
7	Bristol	28	290	58	11	4
8	South Wales	9	216	34	16	6
9	Cumbria	7	211	14	1	0
10	Channel Islands	4	36	5	0	0
11	Chester and Stoke-on-Trent	33	364	34	0	1
12	Cornwall	32	322	38	5	2
13	Darlington	18	314	33	2	2
14	East Anglia	21	376	31	8	3
15	Isle of Man	2	32	8	5	7
16	Leeds	7	237	34	1	0
17	Lincoln and Grimsby	15	306	29	2	1
18	Liverpool	24	224	21	2	5
19	Manchester and Stockport	26	283	57	11	2
20	Newcastle upon Tyne	7	317	32	8	5
21	North Lancashire	15	268	34	9	2
22	Nottingham and Derby	26	418	51	6	0
23	Oxford and Leicester	26	390	42	9	3
24	Plymouth and Exeter	24	405	45	13	4
25	Sheffield	22	385	44	10	1
26	Southampton	26	424	42	8	4
27	West Yorkshire	11	289	27	11	9
28	Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury	17	408	34	14	0
29	York and Hull	12	395	34	16	10
30	Cymru	2	43	2	5	1
31	Scotland	5	105	15	7	0
32	Shetland	1	17	0	2	7
33	North Wales	1	87	12	0	0
	TOTAL	530	8885	1066	244	118

As many Lay Workers and R & R or Authorised Ministers have a part time involvement in circuit work, we have made no attempt to calculate the average figures quoted in previous reports. (Eg. Members per Pastoral Charge)