

# Statistics for Mission collation for 2025

## Frequently Asked Questions

### When will the online form be available?

The form is available now on the portal here: <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>

### What should we include in “Church at Home” Services?

The Church at Home question is focussed on worship services offered remotely, therefore online house groups, youth clubs, Alpha courses, and social events etc should not be included here (see form either as a fresh expression of the church (question 12) or new congregations/new worshipping communities (question 13)).

### How do I count Church at Home attendance?

You may be using a number of different ways to engage with people at home, for example YouTube or Facebook. Both platforms offer some viewing numbers and these will give you some indication as to how large your audience is. We’ve not asked for viewing figures directly as these figures are very variable dependent on how the platform is used and for how long and will require some adjustment. For more information on interpreting viewing figures please see recent guidance from the National Church here:

[https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/countingchurchathomeattendance\\_sept2024.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/countingchurchathomeattendance_sept2024.pdf)

### How do I report numbers of people participating in a service live streamed from church in October?

A service live streamed from church in October will be recorded on the form in two places. Those attending in the church building will be counted in the “in person” October count section. Those watching from home via the live stream will be recorded in the “Church at Home” section.

### Key notes about the Statistics for Mission online form

You can now access the online system so that you can start to record attendance at your church for the year 2025 from October 2025. Other data from the form relates to the whole of 2025, so you will need to wait until the end of the year to complete these questions.

- **Layout:**

The online form has 10 sections:

- Electoral Roll
- Easter/Christmas
- October Count
- Acts of worship in schools
- Church at Home
- Worshipping Community
- Fresh Expressions

- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals
  - One off Question
  - Comments
- **The Electoral Roll** is the Ecclesiastical Electoral Roll figure and not the civil parish. Question 1b is optional and only applies if you are in a multi-church parish AND keep a separate roll for your church

## Online Completion

We are asking that all parishes complete this form online where possible. This is a straightforward process and saves on time and postage costs. The online system is now ready for data entry. The interactive website is available at <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>

If you have previously registered to use the online portal, please log in using the same details as before. If you haven't yet used the system or you can't recall your log in details, please contact Church House either by email [info@trurodiocese.org.uk](mailto:info@trurodiocese.org.uk) or call 01872 274351 to set up a new account or reset your password.

## Manual Completion of Form

If you cannot use the online system and there is no one locally who can help you with this, please complete the form manually send it either by email to [info@trurodiocese.org.uk](mailto:info@trurodiocese.org.uk) or by post to Church House by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026. **Please keep a copy for your records.**

## Why are you asked to complete the form?

The Statistics for Mission form is requested annually by the Research and Statistics department of the Archbishop's Council. The information gathered is used both nationally and locally; the information when collected over a period of years, can give a useful insight into the continuing life of a parish. The data from this form and the separate Finance Returns are used to inform decision making at Deanery and Diocesan level; helping to assess emerging mission opportunities and we therefore ask that a form is completed for every church to ensure that accurate data is received and used.

The Research and Statistics Department are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that the tools we are provided with to record attendance and further information is easy and straightforward to use. The Portal is easy to use and allows parishes to produce summary information which will help you assess the local situation.

If no data is received, estimates will be made based on previous years and this could provide an inaccurate picture of what is happening in your parish. Therefore your assistance in completing and returning the form is, as always, very much appreciated.