

Changing Church Data Report

A note on quartiles: throughout this report one way we analyse what different churches are experiencing is to group them by size. When we talk about quartiles, this means four groups of churches ranging from the quarter of churches which are smallest, to the quarter which are largest. The size of the churches in these quartiles are in these ranges:

Quartile 1 = 0-46 adults and children

Quartile 2 = 47-90 adults and children

Quartile 3 = 90-165 adults and children

Quartile 4 = 165-1642 adults and children

Church attendance

Church leaders were asked the following questions:

On a typical Sunday in the past 3 months, please estimate how many adults attended your church service.

On a typical Sunday in January 2020 (before the Covid-19 pandemic), please estimate how many adults attended your church service.

On a typical Sunday in the past 3 months, please estimate how many children and young people (under 18s) were at your church.

On a typical Sunday in January 2020 (before the Covid-19 pandemic), please estimate how many children and young people (under 18s) were at your church.

303 responses from leaders.

	Adults 2020	Children 2020	Total 2020	Adults 2025	Children 2025	Total 2025	Range of quartile	Mean church attendance change
Quartile 1	28	5	33	24	4	28	0-46	-15%
Quartile 2	57	12	69	57	13	70	47-90	1%
Quartile 3	91	23	114	98	28	126	90-165	10%
Quartile 4	271	71	342	318	87	405	165-1642	18%

In January 2020 (before the Covid-19 pandemic), how frequently did you attend in person church services? Asked to individuals – 967 responses.

Over the last month, how frequently have you attended in person services with your church? Asked to individuals – 971 responses.

	2020	2025
Weekly	90.5%	78.1%
Three times a month	4%	11.4%
Fortnightly	0.8%	3.9%
Once a month	0.6%	2%
Less than once a month	0.8%	0.7%
Not at all	2.8%	3.6%

In a typical week in the past 3 months, please estimate how many individuals attended or viewed your church service online. Asked to leaders - 260 responses.

	Mean	Median
Overall	108	25
Quartile 1	5	5
Quartile 2	16	15
Quartile 3	44	40
Quartile 4	371	200

Engagement with mid-week groups

In a typical week in the past 3 months, please estimate what percentage of your Sunday attendees were involved in a midweek meeting, small group, Bible study or other discipleship group. Asked to leaders – 300 responses.

Mean	43
Median	40
Mode	50

In January 2020 (before the Covid-19 pandemic), how frequently did you attend small group meetings with your church? Asked to individuals – 961 responses.

Over the last month, how frequently have you attended small group meetings with your church? Asked to individuals – 966 responses.

	2020	2025
Weekly	49.3%	42.4%
Three times a month	4.6%	6.7%
Fortnightly	16.5%	20.5%
Once a month	8.2%	7.1%
Less than once a month	5.9%	3.8%
Not at all	13.6%	17.7%

Children and youth

How often is your church offering in person children's ministry? Asked to leaders – 300 responses.

How often is your church offering in person youth ministry? Asked to leaders – 299 responses.

	Children's ministry	Youth ministry
Weekly	85%	63.5%
Fortnightly	3.3%	8%
Monthly	2%	4.3%
Less than monthly	1.8%	2%
Not at all	8%	22.1%

Times at church and changing church

How long have you been at your current church? Asked to individuals – 960 responses.

Over 10 years	54.3%
5-10 years	15.4%
3-5 years	10.7%
1-3 years	14.1%
6-12 months	1.9%
Less than 6 months	3.6%

Why did you change church? – Asked only to individuals who have been attending their current church for less than five years. 281 responses.

Changed church as I moved to a different area	41.3%
Changed church due to disagreement with beliefs or teaching at previous church	8.5%
Changed church due to disagreement with church leadership at previous church	7.8%
Changed church to one that was closer to home	6.8%
Changed church as I was seeking a different denomination or tradition	5.0%
Changed church to one that was better suited to my family needs	4.3%
Changed church as I was seeking one with greater community involvement	3.6%
Changed church following a change in personal circumstances e.g. getting married	3.6%

Changed church to one that family or friends already attend	2.8%
I was new to the Christian faith and the activity of attending church	2.8%
Changed church as I desired an alternative worship style	1.8%
Other	11.7%

Volunteering

How has volunteering changed since 2020?

In comparison to January 2020, have you seen an increase or decrease in the number of people volunteering to serve at your church? Asked to leaders – 302 responses.

In comparison to January 2020, how often are you volunteering at your church? Asked to individuals – 962 responses.

	Leaders	Individuals
Significantly more (25% more)	18.9%	14.2%
More often	20.9%	18.5%
About the same	30.1%	42%
Less often	21.2%	14.4%
Significantly less often (25% less)	8.9%	10.8%

How does church size affect volunteering? Using above data obtained from leaders. 302 responses.

	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4
Significant decrease	7.8%	11.8%	9.3%	6.7%
Slight decrease	20.8%	22.4%	24.0%	17.3%
About the same	41.6%	25.0%	25.3%	28.0%
Slight increase	16.9%	19.7%	21.3%	25.3%
Significant increase	11.7%	21.1%	20.0%	22.7%

In what areas is your church experiencing a shortage of volunteers? Asked to leaders – 288 responses.

Children's ministry	66.7%
Youth Ministry	52.4%
Tech / AV team	44.4%
Small group leaders	42.7%
Outreach	36.8%
Worship team	35.4%
Facilities / maintenance	33%
Administration	30.6%

Hospitality	28.8%
Social action ministries	25.7%
Ushers / greeters	16%
Other	4.2%

Which of the following statements best describes the volunteering situation in your church?

Asked to leaders - 303 responses.

We are able to run all the ministries we desire and have enough volunteers for each	8.6%
We are able to run all the ministries we desire, but could do with the help of some additional volunteers	42.2%
We are able to run most ministries, but some require more volunteers than we currently have	29.4%
We are struggling to run all the ministries we desire due to a shortage of volunteers	12.5%
We have a limited number of ministries running due to a severe shortage of volunteers	6.9%
Don't know	0.3%

Thinking about the volunteering levels in your church or with church run activities, what are the major barriers which stop your church members from volunteering more often? Asked to leaders – 288 responses.

Thinking about your own volunteering at church or with other church run activities, what are the major barriers which might prevent you from volunteering more often? Please choose a maximum of 3. Asked to individuals – 624 responses.

	Leaders	Individuals
Lack of time due to family commitments	72.2%	29.6%
Lack of time due to work commitments	63.2%	24.2%
Health issues	42%	23.6%
Lack of confidence or social anxiety	36.1%	5.6%
Distance from church activities	17.7%	10.3%
Not received a personal invitation to volunteer	17.4%	7.7%
Lack of experience	10.8%	2.2%
Previous negative experiences	7.3%	7.7%
Lack of information	3.5%	3.2%
Lack of opportunities	2.1%	13.1%
Other	14.2%	16.5%
I consider that I volunteer enough		28%

Giving

Please indicate to what extent your financial donations to church have changed between January 2020 and currently. Asked to individuals – 971 responses.

Decreased significantly (at least 25% less)	7.8%
Decreased slightly	6.4%
Stayed about the same	31.7%
Increased slightly	35.5%
Increased significantly (at least 25% more)	18.5%

Please indicate why your giving has increased. Asked to individuals that reported an increase in giving – 497 responses.

I wanted to help the internal needs of my church	43.1%
I have more disposable income	42.9%
I wanted to help the needs of my local community through my church	26.2%
I wanted to respond to a specific project or programme run by my church	21.9%
Other	14.7%

Please indicate why your giving has decreased. Asked to individuals that reported a decrease in giving – 127 responses.

I have less disposable income	55.1%
I am giving more to other non-church organisations	22.8%
I am less confident in how the church would use the money	18.9%
It's less convenient	2.4%
Other	17.3%

Compared to January 2020, how has your church's giving income changed? Asked to leaders – 302 responses.

Decreased by more than 50%	1%
Decreased by about 50%	1.3%
Decreased by about 25%	8.3%
Decreased by about 10%	9.6%
Stayed roughly the same	21.9%
Increased by about 10%	24.5%

Increased by about 25%	18.5%
Increased by about 50%	4.3%
Increased by more than 50%	8.3%
Don't know	2.3%

How does church size affect church giving income? Using above data obtained from leaders – 302 responses.

	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4
Significant decrease	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Slight decrease	27.3%	19.7%	14.5%	9.2%
Stayed roughly the same	27.3%	23.7%	13.2%	22.4%
Slight increase	22.1%	43.4%	55.3%	50.0%
Significant increase	11.7%	9.2%	13.2%	15.8%

Prayer and Bible habits

How often do you read the Bible? Asked to individuals – 972 responses.

How often do you participate in an act of prayer, either personal or as part of an act of worship? Asked to individuals – 960 responses.

	Read the bible	Personal prayer
Daily	63.8%	76.1%
Several times a week	23.9%	16.7%
Weekly	8.3%	5.5%
Monthly	1.7%	0.6%
Less than once a month	1.0%	0.4%
Never	0.4%	0.1%

Wellbeing

How would you describe your personal current emotional wellbeing? Asked to leaders – 301 responses. Autumn 2020 and Autumn 2021 figures taken from previous Changing Church surveys.

Emotional wellbeing	Autumn 2020	Autumn 2021	January/February 2025
Very good	16%	22%	26%
Good	46%	46%	49%
Average	31%	24%	18%
Poor	7%	8%	7%
Very poor	0%	1%	0%

With regards to functioning as a church, what are your most pressing current needs? Asked to leaders – 282 responses.

Volunteers	36.20%
Leadership	20.90%
Finances	18.10%
Premises	17.40%
Evangelism	12.10%
Discipleship	9.60%
Commitment	9.20%
Staff	7.80%
Administration	6.70%
New people	6.70%
Younger Christians	5.70%
Community engagement	4.30%
More families	3.50%
Other	8.20%

Community involvement

Please indicate which of the following community engagement activities your church was doing over the past 3 months. Asked to individuals – 289 responses. Before Covid-19 and 2021 figures taken from previous Changing Church surveys.

	Before Covid-19	Autumn 2021	January 2025
Foodbank and nutrition	64.6%	69.4%	67.1%
Befriending the elderly and isolated	56.9%	56.6%	59.2%
School support	48.2%	42.9%	40.1%
Debt counselling and support	28.1%	28.3%	29.8%

Mental health	26.2%	36.8%	32.5%
Homelessness	22.5%	16.8%	24.2%
Delivery of food or medicine	14.5%	31.1%	11.4%
Asylum seekers	12.8%	16.0%	23.2%
Addiction recovery groups	11.4%	10.5%	15.9%
Disability	7.0%	6.0%	5.9%
Unemployment	5.6%	6.5%	9.7%
Affordable housing	2.4%	2.8%	4.8%
Job creation enterprises	2.4%	3.3%	4.2%

How would you describe the approach to compassion ministries and faith sharing in your church? Select the statement which best reflects your church. Asked to leaders – 297 responses.

There is a clear, cohesive strategy that integrates both compassion ministries and faith sharing	25.6%
There is some coordination between compassion ministries and faith sharing, but it could be improved	49.5%
Compassion ministries and faith sharing are largely separate and not well integrated	15.5%
There is little to no connection between compassion ministries and faith sharing	9.4%

Resourcing

To what extent would you find training and resourcing in the following areas helpful as a leader?
Asked to leaders.

Church governance – 301 responses.

Increasing generosity in your church – 297 responses.

Evangelism – 301 responses.

Discipleship – 300 responses.

	Church governance	Increasing generosity in your church	Evangelism	Discipleship
Very helpful	6.6%	11.4%	18.3%	22.3%
Helpful	18.3%	26.6%	41.5%	43.3%
Moderately helpful	26.6%	22.6%	21.9%	16.3%
Slightly helpful	34.2%	27.3%	14.3%	15.7%
Not at all helpful	14.3%	12.1%	4%	2.3%

Please choose the top 5 resources / activities which you usually find the most helpful in growing your congregation's relationship with Jesus? Asked to leaders – 304 responses.

Please choose the top 5 resources / activities which you currently find the most helpful in growing your relationship with Jesus. Asked to individuals – 968 responses.

	Leaders	Individuals
Church services	90.8%	84.6%
Small groups	93.1%	71.5%
Bible reading notes / app	73%	68.4%
Books and articles	31.6%	59.7%
Christian music / radio	24%	38.7%
Prayer guides / apps	39.1%	29.5%

Podcasts	15.8%	27.4%
Mentor / spiritual director	37.5%	15.1%
Webinars	3.9%	6.2%
Other	11.2%	12.6%

Sharing faith

Over the past 3 months, please estimate the number of non-Christians you have spoken to about your Christian faith. Asked to individuals – 917 responses.

	Mean	Median
Bottom quartile	1	1
Second quartile	2	2
Third quartile	5	5
Fourth quartile	32	12
Top decile	64	25
Top percentile	330	100
Overall	10	3

Over the past 3 months, please estimate the number of non-Christians you have spoken to about your Christian faith. Asked to individuals – 917 responses.

Number of non-Christians spoken to	Frequency
0	103
1	97
2	146
3	133
4	62
5	96
6	43
7	7
8	16
9	3
10	81
12	21
14	1
15	19

19	1
20	36
25	7
28	1
30	12
35	2
40	7
45	2
50	5
60	1
75	1
90	2
100	8
200	1
500	1
1000	2

Over the past 3 months please estimate the number of people approaching your church asking questions about the Christian faith. Asked to leaders – 301 responses.

Over the past 3 months please estimate the number of people attending a church course exploring Christianity (such as Alpha or Christianity Explored). Asked to leaders – 305 responses.

Over the past 3 months please estimate the number of people making first time commitments to follow Jesus. Asked to leaders – 305 responses.

Before Covid, Autumn 2020 and Autumn 2021 figures were taken from previous Changing Church surveys.

	Before Covid	Autumn 2020	Autumn 2021	January 2025
People approaching church to explore faith	6.1	6.8	6.7	12.1
People attending a church course exploring faith	7.5	6.3	6.3	7.5
People making first time commitments	1.9	1.8	1.8	3.5

How does church size affect missional engagement? Using data obtained from leaders above. Measured as a percentage of congregation size.

	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4
People approaching church to explore faith (301 responses)	12%	9%	9%	7%
People attending a church course exploring faith (305 responses)	5%	4%	7%	4%
People making first time commitments (305 responses)	2%	2%	3%	2%

Over the past 3 months, please indicate if you have invited a non-Christian to any of the following activities? Asked to individuals – 945 responses.

2021 figures taken from Autumn 2021 Changing Church survey. 1337 responses from individuals.

	2021	2025
Christmas event or carol service		42.1%
General church services	19%	23.5%
Specific church service designed for visitors	8.9%	19.8
Social event (i.e. quiz night)	12	18.7%
Courses (i.e. Alpha or Christianity Explored)	8.3%	14.3%
Toddler groups	6.4%	6.7%
To read the Bible together	4.2%	4.2%
Prayer event	1.4%	2.6%
Other	0.4%	5%
None of the above	62.5%	37%

Barriers to sharing faith

How well-equipped do you feel when it comes to sharing your faith with non-Christians? Asked to individuals – 891 responses.

	No conversations	Some conversations	Whole sample
Very well equipped	9%	20.2%	18.9%
Somewhat well equipped	44%	56.2%	54.4%
Neutral / unsure	21%	14.5%	15.4%
Not very equipped	16%	8.8%	10%
Not equipped at all	10%	0.3%	1.3%

What are your current main barriers to you sharing your faith with other people? Asked to individuals – 870 responses.

2021 figures taken from Autumn 2021 Changing Church survey. 1120 responses from individuals.

	2021	2025
Not enough significant relationships with people who are not Christians	55%	47.1%
Fear of rejection or appearing different	32.9%	29.3%
Unsure how to answer difficult questions (i.e. about Covid-19, suffering, sexuality, evolution, hell, etc)	28%	21.1%
I never see any opportunities for talking about the Christian faith in conversations	21.6%	19.1%
I don't feel equipped to share my faith with people who are not Christians	15%	9.7%
Other	2.5%	13.9%
None	0.5%	7.5%

In the past year has your church been involved in any training around evangelism and sharing faith? Asked to leaders – 295 responses.

Yes, internally within the church	40.7%
Yes, with an external organisation or speaker	14.2%
Yes, in partnership with other churches	12.5%
No, but we have been involved in training in the past 3 years	24.4%
No	24.4%

Talking about current public issues

In the past three months have you had a conversation with a non-Christian relating to any of the following issues? Asked to individuals – 589 responses.

Abortion	21.6%
Assisted dying	59.1%
Environment and climate change	46.5%
Immigration	43.6%
Race and racism	32.3%
Sexuality	42.1%

Relating to the below social and cultural issues, how well equipped do you feel talking about these issues with non-Christian friends or family? Asked to individuals – 954 responses.

	Very well equipped	Somewhat equipped	Unsure	Not very equipped	Not equipped at all
Abortion	25.5%	56.2%	11.3%	5.7%	1.4%
Assisted dying	28.2%	54.5%	9.6%	5.9%	1.8%
Environment and climate change	25.6%	49%	17.7%	6.1%	1.7%
Immigration	22%	50.9%	19.3%	5.9%	1.9%
Race and racism	29%	48.2%	17.2%	4.4%	1.2%
Sexuality	24.5%	52.1%	14%	7.2%	2.2%