

Parish Support

Statistics for Mission 2020

Assistant Diocesan Secretary Miriam Longfoot writes to parish contacts:

Dear Colleagues

Very many thanks to all of you who worked so hard to return the 2019 Mission Statistics for your churches. The system is now open to enable inputters of Mission Statistics to start entering 2020 Statistics for Mission data, [here](#).

The National Research and Statistics Unit does recognise that 2020 has been a very difficult year, so you will find that the form has been shortened quite a bit and some of the remaining questions have been adjusted. They really want to understand and celebrate what churches have been doing this year, whilst accepting that you will not necessarily be able to answer all the questions and that some of your responses will be your best guess.

In case it helps, I've attached some Questions & Answers provided by Research & Statistics to help you with this year's return. *[see below]*

NB – the system will allow you to save data and to return at a later date to enter additional data and/ or complete your return.

I also attach a copy of the Mission Form for those who may struggle with an on-line return or for those who find it helpful to assemble the data on paper before entering it online. *[download [here](#)]*

Any paper returns should be sent c/o Parish Support, Diocesan Office, Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, SP1 2QB **during January 2020**. Please aim to have your online Statistics for Mission information submitted by **31 January 2020** if at all possible.

If you need to be reminded of your login or to have your password re-set, or if you need setting up as an inputter for the first time, or for any other assistance, the Parish Support team are available to help you.

Please contact parishsupport@salisbury.anglican.org and a member of the team will respond to your email. You can also phone 01722 411922 to speak to a team member or to leave a message, and someone will return your call.

Questions & Answers provided by Research & Statistics

What should we include in “Church at Home”?

As with the previous October Count, the Church at Home question is focussed on worship services, therefore online house groups, youth clubs, Alpha courses, and social events etc should not be included there. There is a comment box should you wish to share with us anything else, aside from services, you have been offering remotely to your congregation.

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 view figures please see “Everybody Welcome Online” (in particular pages 9 and 10) by Ven Bob Jackson and Revd George Fisher for some helpful advice

https://cofecarlisle.contentfiles.net/media/documents/document/2020/04/Everybody_Welcome_Online_PDF.pdf

We can't fit as many people as usual into our church building so our October Count figures will be lower than usual.

Attendance 'in person' during 2020 will be impacted by a variety of complex factors, and therefore will be reported and used carefully and sensitively. It is very helpful to know how many of our national worshipping community are currently attending church buildings in person so that dioceses and the NCIs can best know how to support churches and the CofE worshipping community. The 2020 figures will not be used as part of any measure of growth or decline of local churches.

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.

What if church buildings are closed over Advent and Christmas?

The guidance around church building use is changing constantly, but currently we believe church buildings will be open during Advent and Christmas. The question on the form is based on the 2019 question so captures “in person” attendance (indoors or outdoors). We will not ask for additional data on those joining in online or through other “Church at Home” means.