

Appendix 1

Statistics for Mission - FAQ's

When will the online form be available?

We've taken a little longer than usual to finalise the Statistics for Mission form this year. The form will be available for data completion from 1st December. Thank you for your patience.

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.