

THE BLUE COUNT SHEET 2018

A guide for Church Wardens and Clergy

Who to Count in Church on Sundays in readiness for the 'Average Sunday Attendance' calculation on the Statistics for Mission returns at the end of the year

Count

The number of adults attending services in church on Sunday, 16 years of age and over

The number of children attending services in church on Sunday, under 16 years of age

Only count as **one** attendance those who attend more than one service on a Sunday

When there is a baptism, only count 2 Adults for each Baptism party,
whether this is part of a normal Sunday service or not

Funeral Parties are not counted

The Officiating Minister and Assistant Clergy are not counted.

Please however note that we will require the FULL attendance for services in October.

*On the following occasions use an average figure of comparable nearby Sundays:
(e.g. if Remembrance Sunday brings a larger attendance than usual,
we recommend you give the average of the 2nd Sunday attendances
for September, October, and December)*

Remembrance Service

Carol Service

Civic Sunday Service

Christingle Service*

Memorial Services

Confirmation Services

** Please do keep a note of the actual Christingle attendance,
as the SfM forms now include a specific question on attendances during Advent.*

Thank you so much for all you do to get these figures to us, as they are of great importance. Whilst they are no longer used to calculate Parish Share, many clergy and leadership teams find that, collected over a number of years, they offer a useful insight into the continuing life of the parish. For the Diocese, they are invaluable, helping us to detect what is happening and to spot problem areas such as vacancies as well as areas for rejoicing like Messy Church. Nationally, they provide essential data concerning the shape and numerical health of the church. Lichfield Diocese has one of the highest return rates in the country and we're counting on your continuing cooperation to keep this up.

Please try to be as accurate as possible, and if you cannot be there on a Sunday – appoint someone who will be there.

George A Fisher. Director of Mission.
Archdeacons Matthew, Paul, Simon and Sue.