

About the Survey

The National Churches Trust is conducting this important survey to help policymakers, the media and the wider public better understand the challenges churches face. Your response will provide essential evidence to build a clearer picture - to tell a stronger, more informed story about your church and others like it.

Please encourage others in your network to take part too. The more churches that take part, the more impactful it will be.

The survey is intentionally comprehensive and so it may be useful to have your church's financial details to hand.

You may exit this survey but if you do, it is important to resume it from the same device and you should then be taken to the next page after the one from which you left.

The survey is being conducted according to the Code of Conduct of the Market Research Society and your participation will be strictly anonymous.

Please answer as fully as you can. All responses will be treated in strict confidence and your answers will be anonymised and aggregated so that no individual church is identifiable.

The survey is being conducted by Whitestone Insight, a professional research provider and member of the British Polling Council.

The survey will be open until 30 June. If you have any queries about completing the survey, please email hello@whitestoneinsight.com or policy@nationalchurchestrust.org. You can also read our guidance here, including information about what is helpful to have to hand and FAQs.

On behalf of National Churches Trust, thank you for taking part. Your response will provide essential evidence so that together we can address some of the biggest challenges facing churches, like yours, and help ensure their future.

Church name Church Address Address 2 City/Town County Postcode Your email address Phone Number * 2. Which of the following best describes your church building? Mostly Medieval or earlier (even if restored) Mostly 17th to 18th century Mostly 19th century Mostly 20th century Mostly 21st century Other (please specify) 3. Is your church building listed? By this we mean designated as holding national interest and heritage value: in England by DCMS; in Wales-Cymru by Cadw; in Northern Ireland by NIEA; and in Scotland by Historic Scotland. Please answer with respect to your main building. Yes - Grade II (England & Wales) / A (Scotland) / B + (Northern Ireland) Yes - Grade II (England & Wales) / C (Scotland) / B (Northern Ireland) No Not sure / other (please specify)	-	the following details about you and the address of the church building to lates. This is in case of any follow-up required and to send you a copy of
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4. Is your church building classed as a cathedral? Yes No	heritage value: in and in Scotland b Yes - Grade I (E) Yes - Grade II* Yes - Grade II (I) No Not sure / other 4. Is your church Yes	England by DCMS; in Wales-Cymru by Cadw; in Northern Ireland by NIEA; y Historic Scotland. Please answer with respect to your main building. England & Wales) / A (Scotland and Northern Ireland) (England & Wales) / B (Scotland) / B+ (Northern Ireland) England & Wales) / C (Scotland) / B (Northern Ireland) T (please specify)

5. Which best describes the location of your church building? Please tick the one which best applies.
Urban (over 10,000 residents)
Small town/Suburb
Rural
6. Was your church building purpose-built as a place of worship?
○ Yes
○ No
On't know
Other (please specify)
7. In which part of the UK is your church building located?
○ Scotland
○ Wales-Cymru
Northern Ireland
○ England
8. If in Wales-Cymru, do you consider your church to be bilingual, both English and Welsh/Cymraeg
Bilingual
Welsh only
English only
Oon't know
Other (please specify)
* 9. To which denomination or network does your congregation belong? Please select the option that best applies.
Assemblies of God
Baptist
Bethel Community Church
Celestial Church of Christ
Church in Wales
Church of England
Church of Ireland
Church of Scotland

Congregational Church
Coptic Orthodox Church
Elim Pentecostal Church
Free Church of England
Free Church of Scotland
O Independent
Local Ecumenical Partnership
Methodist Church
Moravian Church
New Frontiers
New Testament Church of God
Non-Denominational Christian
Orthodox Church
O Pentecostal
O Pioneer Network
O Presbyterian
Presbyterian Church of Wales
Presbyterian Non-Subscribing
Quaker (Religious Society of Friends)
Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG)
O Royal Peculiar
Roman Catholic
Salvation Army
Scottish Episcopal Church
Union of Welsh Independents
Unitarian Church
United Reformed Church
Wesleyan Holiness Church
Other (please specify)

10. Which statement most accurately describes your congregation's relationship to your church building?
We own/are responsible for a church building and are the only congregation
We own/are responsible for a church building and allow other congregations to use it
We use a primarily secular building/room (e.g. a school)
We are currently caring for a church which is listed as closed for worship
We use a church building that belongs to another congregation* (please indicate below)
* Which other congregation(s) use your church building?
11. If you meet in a secular building, what do you think are the barriers to your congregation taking on a traditional church building? Please tick all that apply
Difficulty in finding a suitable traditional church building
The cost of taking on a traditional church building
We would not have the expertise to navigate the process
We would not want to move from where we are
We would like to move but not to a traditional church building
Traditional church buildings tend to be too inflexible for our purposes
We would be put off by having to negotiate with denominations in order to acquire a traditional church building
Other (please specify)
12. On average, how frequently are regular services held? Please count each individual service but do not include weddings, funerals, or baptisms. Services are any occasion of public worship, including those which may involve only a small number of people. Please count each service individually including if two are held on the same day (e.g. on Sundays).
Four or more services per week
Two or three services per week
One service per week
Two to three times per month
One service per month
Less than one service per month
○ No services held
Other (please specify)

13. Outside of services, other church activities and community activities, how often is your church building usually open to the public? Please tick the option which best applies.
Not open other than for services and/or community activities
Open only on request
Open only at regular specified times; at least once a month
Open only at regular specified times; at least once a week
Open daily - daylight hours only
Open daily - more than daylight hours
Other (please specify)
14. How many adults aged 16+ and children / young people under 16 would you estimate typically attend your church in person at your regular Sunday (or Saturday) services? Please enter only numbers and if necessary write in an average for a typical service. Skip this question if you do not hold regular weekend services. Typical number of adults aged 16+ Typical number of children aged under 16
15. Approximately how many people can be accommodated in your main church building at any one time?



Section Two - About Your Church Building

Please answer as fully as you are able.

If you have a church hall or other facility that is not part of your main church site, please include that in your answers to the questions below.

16. Over the past five years, has the condition of your main church building:	
Improved	
Stayed the same	
Worsened	
Oon't know / not applicable	

17. What is the current condition of the following parts of your church and its surrounding areas?

	Good: No expected need of repair for at least the next 5 years	Potentially at risk: Needs repair within 1-5 years	Urgent: Needs repair within 12 months	Does not apply/we do not have this	Don't know
Graveyards					
Pathways and hard standings	\bigcirc			\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Building foundations					
Rainwater goods (e.g. guttering and drains)	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
External walls					
Windows (inc. stained glass)	\bigcirc				
Roof					
Spire/ Bell Tower					
Internal flooring					
Internal walls					
Wall paintings					
Plumbing					
Heating					
Electrics					
Areas containing asbestos					
Monuments					
Organ					
Bells					

18. In which year was your last Regular Building Inspection, e.g. a Quinquennial?
(A Quinquennial inspection is a five-yearly inspection of the church building,
carried out by a qualified Church Architect or Surveyor)
<u>2025</u>
O 2024
O 2023
O 2022
O 2021
O 2020
O 2019
Before 2019
○ Never
On't know / not applicable
19. How frequently would you say that normal maintenance (ie not major works) has been carried out on your church buildings over the past 10 years?
○ No maintenance carried out
Maintenance carried out infrequently
Maintenance generally carried out annually with more frequent work done as and when needed
Maintenance carried out at regular intervals as applicable to each task (e.g. monthly lighting checks and annual servicing of the boiler)
Maintenance carried out at regular intervals as applicable to each task, to a formal maintenance schedule as agreed with a qualified professional
as agreed with a qualified professional
as agreed with a qualified professional Too difficult to say / don't know
as agreed with a qualified professional Too difficult to say / don't know

20. Which of these clergy and/or staff)	Please indicate all that apply:	
Mains electricity		
Mains water		
Wifi		
Contactless donat	tions	
A fully accessible	entrance (e.g. with a ramp or lift) or no ste	eps
Hearing loop/audi	io loop	
Signage for those	with a visual impairment	
Servery/a kitchen	with food making/storage facilities	
Tea/coffee making	g facilities	
Baby changing fac	cilities	
Non-accessible to	pilet/s	
Accessible toilet/s	S	
Heritage informat	tion	
A shop/souvenirs	for sale	
None of the above	е	
_	have any objects or artifacts which al historical significance ? Please in	
=	al historical significance ? Please in	
=		dicate all that apply Objects of national / local historical
nd/or national or loca	al historical significance ? Please in	dicate all that apply Objects of national / local historical
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nd/or national or local Statues Carvings Stained glass Paintings	al historical significance ? Please in	dicate all that apply Objects of national / local historical
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ond/or national or local Statues Carvings Stained glass Paintings Wall paintings / nurals Memorials Fonts Social heritage	al historical significance ? Please in	dicate all that apply Objects of national / local historical
Statues Carvings Stained glass Paintings Wall paintings / nurals Memorials Fonts Social heritage stories Other (please write in the comment box	al historical significance ? Please in	dicate all that apply Objects of national / local historical
Statues Carvings Stained glass Paintings Wall paintings / murals Memorials Fonts Social heritage stories Other (please write in the comment box below)	al historical significance ? Please in	dicate all that apply Objects of national / local historical

22. Does your church (excluding the main church hall and ancillary accommodation) have a flexible open space to accommodate more than 50 people for meetings and/or community uses?
Yes and we use it
Yes and we don't use it
No we don't have one
23. Many churches are limited in the activities they can provide. Which of the following may pose limitations to holding more community activities <u>in your church building and/or church hall</u> , if you have one? Please indicate all that apply.
Our church building is reserved solely as a place of worship
Lack of suitable space available for community activities
Unsuitable access
Lack of toilets
Lack of accessible toilets
Lack of heating suitable for community activities
Lack of parking
Lack of disabled parking
Lack of facilities to make refreshments
Financial limitations
Lack of volunteer skills or knowledge
Lack of available volunteer time
Lack of interest from other organisations to take part in or run activities
Lack of interest in community to take part in activities
There are other facilities nearby which are more suitable for community activities
Other (please specify)



Section Three - Supporting Your Local Community

Churches contribute in many ways to their local communities, as a place of worship, reflection and social support. This section will look at the community activities that take place in your church building, so we can better understand how churches contribute in this way.

Your responses will be anonymised and used to help calculate the total contribution of all churches across the country. You will be able to see how your own community activity translates into economic contribution by visiting National Churches Trust House of Good-Local platform.

24. How many days per week is the building, including if applicable the church hall, used by other organisations, groups or individuals - for example conferences, exhibitions, birthday parties, nurseries etc?
\bigcirc 1
\bigcirc 2
\bigcirc 4
<u> </u>
\bigcirc 6
○ 7
None / not applicable
Occasionally / varies too much to say

25. Please indicate how often your church either hosts each of these activities or where members of your congregation give support to external events held in your church building and/or church hall.

If none of these apply please go to question 30, where you will be able to record any community activities that are not included in the list below.

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Less often than monthly	No such activity hosted
Food collection/distribution activities including food banks, food collection, providing food to people in need, soup kitchens etc.		0			0
Youth groups (e.g. Scouts/ Cubs/ Beavers/ Guides/ Brownies/ Girls or Boys Brigade) or activities for young people (e.g. sports/holiday schemes/ after school clubs)					
Support for people struggling with anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, loneliness/isolation and other mental health issues, including counselling services		0			
Support for people with drug or alcohol addiction	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\circ
Cultural or educational purposes, including language or other teaching etc	\bigcirc	0	\bigcirc		\bigcirc
Music groups/choirs (eg bell ringing, organ playing)	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Community groups, e.g. coffee mornings, warm spaces, mum/toddlers, over- 60s, lunch clubs	0	0	\circ	\bigcirc	0
Debt relief and help with financial insecurity	\bigcirc	0	\circ	\bigcirc	\circ

	e the average number of hours in a typical <u>week</u> that the church building, able the church hall, is used for each activity:
Food collection/distribution activities including food banks, food collection, providing food to people in need, soup kitchens etc.	
Youth groups (e.g. Scouts/ Cubs/ Beavers/ Guides/ Brownies/ Girls or Boys Brigade) or activities for young people (e.g. sports/holiday schemes/ after school clubs)	
Support for people struggling with anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, loneliness/isolation and other mental health issues, including counselling services	
Support for people with drug or alcohol addiction	
Cultural or educational purposes, including language or other teaching etc	
Music groups/choirs (eg bell ringing, organ playing)	
Community groups, e.g. coffee mornings, warm spaces, mum/toddlers, over- 60s, lunch clubs	
Debt relief and help with financial insecurity	

congregation or exteach of these activity activity, write in '6' Food collection/distribution activities including food banks, food collection, providing	ternal volunteers operat	umber of hours <u>per week</u> that members of your ing inside your church typically spend to help run o volunteers spend three hours a week on an
food to people in need, soup kitchens etc.		
Youth groups (e.g. Scouts/ Cubs/ Beavers/ Guides/ Brownies/ Girls or Boys Brigade) or activities for young people (e.g. sports/holiday schemes/ after school clubs)		
Support for people struggling with anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, loneliness/isolation and other mental health issues, including counselling services		
Support for people with drug or alcohol addiction		
Cultural or educational purposes, including language or other teaching etc		
Music groups/choirs (eg bell ringing, organ playing)		
Community groups, e.g. coffee mornings, warm spaces, mum/toddlers, over- 60s, lunch clubs		
Debt relief and help with financial insecurity		

28. How many peop of these activities?	ple typically volunteer re	regularly (at least once a month) to hel	p run each
Food collection/distribution activities including food banks, food collection, providing food to people in need, soup kitchens etc.			
Youth groups (e.g. Scouts/ Cubs/ Beavers/ Guides/ Brownies/ Girls or Boys Brigade) or activities for young people (e.g. sports/holiday schemes/ after school clubs)			
Support for people struggling with anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, loneliness/isolation and other mental health issues, including counselling services			
Support for people with drug or alcohol addiction			
Cultural or educational purposes, including language or other teaching etc			
Music groups/choirs (eg bell ringing, organ playing)			
Community groups, e.g. coffee mornings, warm spaces, mum/toddlers, over- 60s, lunch clubs			
Debt relief and help with financial insecurity			

29. Please give your best estimate of the number of people who attend, participate in or
benefit from each activity regularly (at least once a month). Do not include volunteers who
are helping out.
Food collection/distribution activities including food banks, food collection, providing food to people in need, soup kitchens etc.
Youth groups (e.g. Scouts/ Cubs/ Beavers/ Guides/ Brownies/ Girls or Boys Brigade) or activities for young people (e.g. sports/holiday schemes/ after school clubs)
Support for people struggling with anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, loneliness/isolation and other mental health issues, including counselling services
Support for people with drug or alcohol addiction
Cultural or educational purposes, including language or other teaching etc
Music groups/choirs (eg bell ringing, organ playing)
Community groups, e.g. coffee mornings, warm spaces, mum/toddlers, over- 60s, lunch clubs
Debt relief and help with financial insecurity
30. Are there any other community activities which do not fit into the above categories that you would like to mention? In listing these out please specify, if you can, their frequency, how many people attend, how many volunteers are involved and how much time you estimate is spent on the activities.

31. Given all of the above social care activities, other similar things your church does and volunteers who help at a church service - can you give a total number of regular volunteers (those who volunteer at least once a month)?
Please estimate the total number of regular volunteers
Please estimate what percentage are part of your congregation
32. Is your church regularly used as a base by other charitable or community groups (eg St Vincent de Paul Society) who also run activities elsewhere?
Yes
○ No
O Not sure
O Not applicable
33. Do you feel your church would wish to do more to support people in your local community if the resources were available to facilitate this? — Yes definitely
Yes probably
O Probably not
Oefinitely not
O Not sure
34. If you feel there is an opportunity to do more, what practical assistance would be of particular help? Please indicate all that apply:
Financial support
Information and advice
Better facilities
More volunteers
Other (please specify)

35. Assuming a "visitor" is someone who doesn't regularly attend worship or any of the other regular activities that take place in your church or church hall, do you have any of the following to help estimate how many visitors you get? Please indicate all that apply
Manual count at events and services
Digital visitor counter
Visitor book
Tap to pay/donate point
Infopoint or other digital visitor information
We don't count the number of visitors
The church is not open for visitors
Other (please specify)
36. Please give your best estimate for the number of visitors who visited your church in 2024
The church is not open for visitors
We do not count the number of visitors / it's impossible to estimate
1 to 1,000
5,000 to 10,000
10,000 to 25,000
25,000 to 50,000
50,000 to 100,000
100,000 to 250,000
More than 250,000
Other (please specify)



Section Four - Managing and Resourcing your Church

If any financial information for your church is only kept centrally or regionally, rather that at local level, please indicate this at the end of the survey and supply an email address for the person holding that information.

email address for the person holding that information.
37. How many regular paid staff, excluding clergy, do you have? Please answer using Full Time Equivalent (FTE). For example, if you have 1 person who works full time, someone who works two and a half days, and someone who works one day the FTE would be 1, 0.5 and 0.2 giving a total of 1.7 FTE.
38. Please estimate the total number of hours spent per month by each of the following: Paid clergy (including house-for-duty priests) at your church on all church related activities. If you are between clergy at present, please estimate the number of hours they would usually do
Paid staff other than clergy at your church on all church related activities Non-stipendiary clergy at your church on all church related activities
Volunteers at your church on all church related activities

	This currently contributes to our church's success	Do not currently have this but feel it could be helpful	Do not currently have this and feel it is not required
Active body of volunteers	\bigcirc	\circ	
Active Friends' Group	\bigcirc	\circ	\bigcirc
Active management seam	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Effective leader	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
Paid employees (especially for administrative tasks)	\circ	0	\bigcirc
Adequate training and information (e.g. maintenance, project management, claiming Gift Aid)			
A focus on prevention of repairs including a regular maintenance schedule		\circ	
Good internal capabilities in financial management and planning	\circ	\circ	
nildings:	er factors you feel are or could		

40. Please indicate which sources of non-routine funding have helped you care for your building and keep it open over the last 5 years:
Government (Including Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme)
National Lottery Heritage Fund
National Churches Trust
Ecclesiastical charities
Enterprise based income e.g. cafe, shop, 'champing'
Major donations from congregants (over £5000)
Gifts left in Wills
Grants from your denomination e.g. Church of England Conservation Grants
Local fundraising e.g. jumble sales, concerts events
Local historic churches trusts
National Foundations
Friends Group
Local giving e.g. general donations from congregants, and donations from visitors via a donations box or contactless machine.
Overseas donations
Donations from businesses
Sale of assets
Use of reserves
Other (please specify)
None of the above
41. Does your church have a Friends Group or equivalent?
No and we have no plans to set one up (skip to next page)
No, we had such a group in the past but have no plans to set up a new one (skip to next page)
No, we don't have such a group but are thinking of setting one up (skip to next page)
We have a Friends Group or equivalent and it is part of the church management structure
We have a Friends Group or equivalent and it is a separate entity/charity
On't know
If you have a Friends Group or equivalent, can you tell us about the difference that they make

£0-£999		
£1,000-£4,999		
£5,000-£14,999		
£15,000-£24,999		
£25,000-£49,999		
£50,000 or more		
Other (please spe	ecify)	
If you have a Frie porters would you	nds Group or equivalent, approximately how many members of say it has?	or regula



Section Five - Your Church's Finances

Besides the wider individual and community benefits brought about by religious attendance and community services held at your church, economic value is also generated by employing paid staff and procuring goods and services.

The aim of this section is to estimate the scale of this economic activity and to do so we need to know about your churches finances.

If you do not know the answers, or your church has accounts which are aggregated with those of other churches, please skip to the end of the survey.
44. What was the total income of your church in the most recent financial year? Please include money coming in from all sources and give your best possible estimate if unsure. Please enter a whole number with no signs or symbols e.g. 1350, not £1,350
45. What was the total expenditure of your church in the most recent financial year? This includes everything including bills, paying staff, carrying out repairs and maintenance etc. Please give your best estimate if unsure, entering a whole number with no signs or symbols e.g. 1350, not £1,350.
46. What was the approximate expenditure of your church specifically on maintenance and repair for the most recent financial year, giving your best estimate if unsure? We are aware that major repairs are less regular. If the last year was not typical in terms of planned repairs please estimate expenditure for a typical year. Please enter a whole number with no signs or symbols e.g. 1350, not £1,350
47. In the past three years, please estimate what approximate percentage of your church budget has been spent on repairing and maintaining the church building. If you don't know the answer please leave this question blank.
0 50 100

eximately what percentage of your church's income would you estimate use and hire of the building e.g. hire for care groups, clubs and activities are and hire of the building e.g. hire for care groups, clubs and activities are also as a club and activities are detailed as a club are detailed as a	
nance to be reclaimed. Have your church buildings benefited from this er details can be found at www.lpwscheme.org.uk) So - We were not aware of the scheme O - We have not had any works that would qualify for the scheme O - The form was too complicated on't know ther (please specify) er the last three years, on average, what percentage of the annual total you estimate has been met by your church's own funds? The person recounts should be able to calculate this figure. Please include in this figure but not any external grants.	
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	sponsible f
- 50%	
- 75%	
- 100%	
on't know	

52. What actions and its buildings	-	-		onmental su	stainability of	your church
Conducted a	survey such as a	an energy audit				
Switched to a	green energy t	ariff				
Improved the thermostats e	-	e heating syster	n and controls (e	e.g. new boiler	,	
Switched to lo	ow energy light	ing				
	nergy saving wo		such as installir	ng		
Installed ener	rgy generating t	echnology e.g. s	solar heating par	nels, wind turk	oine, ground sour	ce heat pump
Took action to	support biodiv	ersity in or arou	ınd your church	building(s)		
Took action to	reduce energy	consumption				
Other (please	specify)					
None of the a	bove					
greater environme			Not particularly	Not at all	D 41	Does not
Financial support	Very useful	Fairly useful	useful	useful	Don't know	apply
Information and						
advice		\bigcirc	\bigcirc			
Professional expertise	\bigcirc	\bigcirc				
More volunteer support			\bigcirc			
54. Finally, do yo time? Yes definitely Yes probably Probably not	ou expect yo	ur church wi	ll still be opei	n as a place	of worship in	five years'
Oefinitely not						
On't know						
Other (please	specify)					

56. Are you happy to be contacted by email in case any followrite in your preferred email address for any queries. No Yes (please write in your preferred email address if different from 0 from 1 f	ow-up is required? If so please
No Yes (please write in your preferred email address if different from 0 57. Please tick if you would you like to receive a copy of: The full report when published	
Yes (please write in your preferred email address if different from 0 57. Please tick if you would you like to receive a copy of: The full report when published	
57. Please tick if you would you like to receive a copy of: The full report when published	01)
The full report when published	Q1)
The full report when published	
The full report when published	
Your own results in an excel or csv file, for future reference	