

Savanta:

National Churches Trust – Public Omnibus Research

Headline Findings - May, 2020

Methodology: Savanta ComRes surveyed 2,085 UK adults online between 22nd and 25th May 2020. Data were weighted to be representative of all UK adults by key demographic characteristics including age, gender, region and social grade. Savanta ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

Religion

Q1. To which of the following religious groups do you consider yourself to be a member of?	% of UK adults
None	35%
Net: Religious	63%
Net: Other religious, non-Christian	11%
Christian	52%
Muslim	4%
Hindu	2%
Jew	1%
Sikh	1%
Buddhist	1%
Other	2%
Prefer not to say	2%

Base: All respondents (n=2,085)

Net: Religious includes respondents who say they are a member of Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jew, Sikh, Buddhist or other religious groups

Net: Other religious, non-Christian includes respondents who say they are a member of Muslim, Hindu, Jew, Sikh, Buddhist or other religious groups

Church attendance

Q2a. Before lockdown due to COVID-19, apart from occasions like weddings or funerals, roughly how often, if at all, did you do go to church?	% of UK adults
Never	50%
Net: Ever attend church	44%
Net: Attend regularly	25%
Net: Attend irregularly	19%
Every day	5%
Three or four times a week	3%
Once a week	10%
Every fortnight	4%
Every month	4%
Every two or three months	3%
Once or twice a year	16%

Prefer not to say	2%
Don't know	4%

Base: All respondents (n=2,085)

Net: Attend regularly includes respondents who say that before lockdown due to COVID-19 they went to church at least once a month or more often

Net: Attend irregularly includes respondents who say that before lockdown due to COVID-19 they went to church every two to three months or once or twice a year

Headline findings

Q3. Current plans are for churches and chapels to re-open to the public as part of the third phase of coronavirus restrictions being eased in July.

To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Churches and chapels should be allowed to re-open sooner than July as long as they can maintain social distancing?

Churches and chapels should be allowed to re-open sooner than July as long as they can maintain social distancing	% of UK adults
Net: Agree	49%
Net: Disagree	32%
Strongly agree	16%
Somewhat agree	33%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	16%
Don't know	19%

Base: All respondents (n=2,085)

Half (49%) of UK adults agree that churches and chapels should be allowed to re-open sooner than July as long as they can maintain social distancing, while just a third (32%) disagree.

- Approaching three in five (56%) religious adults agree that churches and chapels should be allowed to re-open sooner than July as long as they can maintain social distancing, while over almost two in five (36%) non-religious adults say the same.
- Two thirds (66%) of UK adults who attend church regularly say that churches and chapels should be allowed to re-open sooner than July as long as they can maintain social distancing. In comparison, over half (55%) of those who attend church irregularly and two in five (41%) of those who never attend church say the same.
- Adults in the West Midlands are significantly more likely than most other UK regions and nations to agree that churches and chapels should be allowed to re-open sooner than July as long as they can maintain social distancing (61%).

Q4. When churches and chapels re-open after the coronavirus lockdown, which of the following, if any, do you think will be the most important?

% of UK adults who say each	Most important	2nd most important	3rd Most important	Net: Top 3	Not selected in top 3
Providing a place where those who died as a result of the coronavirus can be remembered	14%	17%	15%	46%	54%

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Providing a place for quiet reflection or private prayer	16%	15%	13%	44%	56%
Holding occasions (e.g. weddings, funerals, baptisms)	17%	12%	13%	42%	58%
Providing community support services (e.g. food banks, youth clubs, help and activities for vulnerable people)	15%	12%	12%	39%	61%
Holding religious services and worship	13%	11%	9%	33%	67%
Providing a place where people can come together and rebuild local communities	7%	10%	11%	29%	71%
Being open for tourists and visitors to discover history and heritage	5%	3%	5%	13%	87%

Base: All respondents (n=2,085)

UK adults are most likely to say that providing a place where those who died as a result of the coronavirus can be remembered (46%) will be among the top three most important functions for churches and chapels when they re-open after the coronavirus lockdown. This is closely followed by providing a place for quiet reflection or private prayer (44%) and holding occasions such as weddings, funerals and baptisms (42%).

Being open for tourists and visitors to discover history and heritage is the least likely to be rated within the top three most important functions of churches and chapels when they re-open after the coronavirus lockdown (13%).

- **Women** are significantly more likely than men to rate each of the following within their top three:
 - Providing a place where those who died as a result of the coronavirus can be remembered (49% vs. 43% respectively);
 - Providing a place for quiet reflection or private prayer (46% vs. 41% respectively);
 - Providing community support services (41% vs. 37% respectively).
- **Adults aged 55+** are significantly more likely than those aged 18-34 and 34-44 to rate each of the following within their top three:
 - Providing a place where those who died as a result of the coronavirus can be remembered (51% vs. 44%, 42% respectively);
 - Providing a place for quiet reflection or private prayer (51% vs. 35%, 42% respectively);
 - Holding occasions such as weddings, funerals and baptisms (51% vs. 36%, 37% respectively);
 - Holding religious services and worship (40% vs. 25%, 32% respectively).
- In turn, **adults aged 18-34** are significantly more likely than those aged 55+ to rate each of the following within their top three:
 - Providing community support services (42% vs. 36% respectively);
 - Being open for tourists and visitors to discover history and heritage (20% vs. 6% respectively).
- Two in five **non-religious UK adults** say that providing a place where those who died as a result of the coronavirus can be remembered (41%) or providing community support services (41%) will be among the top three most important functions for churches and chapels when they re-open after the coronavirus lockdown.
- Approaching half (46%) of **those who never attend church** say that providing a place where those who died as a result of the coronavirus can be remembered will be among the top three most important functions for churches and chapels when they re-open after the coronavirus lockdown.

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Regular church-goers are most likely to say that providing a place for quiet reflection or private prayer will be among the top three most important functions for churches and chapels when they re-open after the coronavirus lockdown within their top three (44%), while those who **attend church on an irregular basis** are most likely to select providing a place where those who died as a result of the coronavirus can be remembered (60%).