STATISTICS FOR MISSION: JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2026

Church name:	Church Num.:
Deanery:	Diocese: **Liverpool**

We hope that most questions will be simple to answer, but we recognise that others might be difficult to answer in your context. We're keen to find out anything you can tell us, and your best approximation is fine if you don't have precise numbers.

- ✓ **Please complete this form online if possible** at https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org. For login details contact either Gordon Fath or Central Services at St James' House. The online returns system includes existing information about your church. It automatically checks for typographical errors and minor mistakes and gives you the opportunity to revise your figures before final submission. You can see the data for your church over time and download copies for your records.
- ✓ Please complete this form for your CHURCH before the end of **January 2027**. If you are submitting a paper or email return, please send them to the **Central Services Team** at **St James' House** (centralservices@liverpool.anglican.org). If there is more than one church in your parish, please complete a separate form for each church.
- ✓ Where activities – e.g. acts of worship in schools or conducting funeral services at crematoria - are shared between several churches then please ensure, where possible, that they are only reported once (against just one of the churches).
- ✓ Questions 1a & 1b about the **Electoral Roll** refer to the **ecclesiastical Electoral Roll**. Question 1a asks for the ecclesiastical Electoral Roll for your **parish**. Question 1b is optional and only applies if you are in a multi-church parish AND keep a separate list for each church.
- ✓ **Fresh expressions of Church** should be included in your numbers, unless they have submitted a separate return. For help in identifying fresh expressions of Church please visit https://freshexpressions.org.uk/what-is-fx/, or see the choice tree at the end of this form.
- ✓ Please complete all questions as far as possible, using "0", "unknown", or "no services" if necessary. Unless otherwise indicated, empty fields will be treated as incomplete and may be queried later as missing data.
- ✓ **Church school populations** should **not** be included within question 9 'Worshipping Community' estimates if their attendance at public worship is as a school group or school led activity. School population attendance at worship is reported within questions 4b & 6.
- ✓ In rare circumstances where a single congregation worships evenly between several churches (i.e. there is no difference in who attends and how often at each church), a single return may be submitted. The churches included in the return should be noted below.

A single return is submitted on behalf of (please list all included churches here, with church codes if known):

1a. How many people were on the ecclesiastical Electoral Roll for your parish, as reported at your Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in 2026?

- ✓ Please write "unknown" if the figure is not available.

1a. Number on the **ecclesiastical** Electoral Roll for your PARISH	

If your parish has more than one church **and** keeps a separate sub-list for this church, please **also** provide the total ecclesiastical electoral roll for this church.

- ✓ Please write "N/A" if this is not applicable to your church.

1b. How many people are on your church Electoral Roll?

1b. Number on the CHURCH Electoral Roll	

---

2. How many people attend your church in person on a usual Sunday, when there is a service?

- ✓ A usual Sunday is one that is not a major festival or contained in a peak holiday period.
- ✓ Wherever possible, please do not count the same person multiple times – if someone attends more than once on a usual Sunday, please only count them once.
- ✓ Only think about the Sundays when you hold at least one service (ignore the Sundays when you do not hold a service at your church).

2a. Adults (16 years old and over)	
2b. Children and young people (under 16 years)	

The following questions are about **how many people came in person** to a service or act of worship at **Easter** (Easter Day and vigil services on Easter Eve), **Advent** (Advent Sunday until 23rd December) and **Christmas** (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).

- ✓ If you did not hold any services or acts of worship at your church during these periods, please enter "0" in the relevant box.

3. How many people came to your church at Easter 2026?

3a: Total number of people (adults and children) **receiving communion** at any service(s) on Easter Day and vigil service(s) on Easter Eve	
3b. Total number of people (adults and children) attending worship (including communicants) at any service(s) on Easter Day and vigil service(s) on Easter Eve	

4. How many people came in person to special services run by your church during Advent 2026?

- ✓ Include attendance at special services – e.g. nativities, carol services, carols on the green, crib services, etc. run by your church from Advent Sunday until 23rd December.

4a. Total number of people attending special services held for the **congregation and local community**	
4b. Total number of people attending special services held **specifically for civic organisations or schools**	

5. How many people came in person to your church at Christmas 2026?

5a. Total number of communicants (adults and children) at any service(s) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	
5b. Total number of adults and children attending worship (including communicants) at any service(s) on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day	

The next section is the **OCTOBER COUNT** of the number of people attending your church **in person** for **services and other acts of worship** during the first 4 full weeks of October. This includes the number of people attending on Sundays and during the week (Monday to Saturday). We will ask later about people who have engaged in other ways (such as online or through other means such as telephone or posted service sheets).

You are asked to enter a count for each of the first four weeks of October 2026. The count is split into Sunday and weekdays; adults and children; and type of service (Church, fresh expressions of Church and school services).

Wherever possible, **please do not count the same person multiple times in the same week** – if someone attends your church more than once during Sunday, please only count them once. If someone attends on a Sunday, please do not include them again in the midweek count for that week.

Number of services: the number of church services, including fresh expressions of Church, held on Sundays and weekdays. Enter "0" if there were none.

School services: These are services, held in your church building, that are attended by a school(s). There is a later question about acts of worship held in school buildings.

Adults: 16 years old and over. Please do include those leading the service(s).

Children and young people: Under 16 years old.

Weekdays: People who attended ONLY during the week and NOT on Sunday, i.e. if they have already attended a Sunday service, please try not to count them again if they attend another service or activity during the week.

Please INCLUDE (in person attendance):

- ✓ People attending your church **in person** – we will ask later about people who have engaged in other ways.
- ✓ Adults and children attending services and Sunday schools or equivalent activities.
- ✓ Clergy and other ministers attending or leading services.
- ✓ All visitors at services, including for example those attending baptisms.
- ✓ Attendances at all services of worship outside of the church building, for example home communions, prison or hospital services.
- ✓ Any **fresh expressions of Church**, unless they have submitted their own return. A fresh expression of Church is a form of church established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet "members" of any church.
- ✓ Any other of your church's activities whose primary purpose is worship and which include two or more of: prayer, scripture, praise, sacrament, and acts of service, including any **new congregations/new worshipping communities** (include as Church or fresh expression attendance, as appropriate)

Please DO NOT include:

- ✗ Activities with only some worship element, such as house groups, parent and toddler groups, youth clubs, Alpha courses, social events such as harvest suppers and some prayer groups.
- ✗ Attendance at weddings, funerals or burial services.
- ✗ People who did **not** attend in person.

6. How many people attended your church in person in October 2026?

- ✓ Please complete a count for each of the following four weeks.
- ✓ If possible, please count each person only once in any week, even if they attended more than once.
- ✓ If there were exceptional circumstances that led to unusual October attendance figures in 2026, let us know in the comment box at the end of this form.

6a.1	Number of services	Adult attendance at …			Children and young people attendance at …		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 4th October							
Weekdays 5th – 10th							

6a.2	Number of services	Adult attendance at …			Children and young people attendance at …		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 11th October							
Weekdays 12th – 17th							

6a.3	Number of services	Adult attendance at …			Children and young people attendance at …		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 18th October							
Weekdays 19th – 24th							

6a.4	Number of services	Adult attendance at …			Children and young people attendance at …		
		Church	Fresh expressions	School service	Church	Fresh expressions	School service
Sunday 25th October							
Weekdays 26th – 31st							

‘Church at Home’ Services

By “Church at Home services” we mean “any and all services offered remotely”, including online services (live streamed or pre-recorded), services by telephone, or services that were emailed or posted. These services may be “attended” from home or in some cases from another location such as a hospital or whilst on holiday.

7a. Did your church offer any ‘Church at Home’ services during October 2026?
You may have offered these at church, parish or benefice level or as other groups of churches.

☐ Yes ☐ No

7b. If Yes, in how many weeks during October did your church offer any ‘Church at Home’ services?

☐ 4 weeks ☐ 3 weeks ☐ 2 weeks ☐ 1 week

7c. If Yes, what was the usual number of people 'attending' your 'Church at Home' services each week that you offered Church at Home in October?

- ✓ Please see https://www.churchofengland.org/media/25032 for some guidance about how to count 'Church at Home' attendance
- ✓ If you do not have exact figures, please give **your best estimate**.
- ✓ If 'Church at Home' services were offered as a group of churches, for example as a parish, benefice or group, then please agree which church will report the 'Church at Home' attendance to avoid double counting attendance

---

8. How often does your ministry team lead acts of worship in schools?

- ✓ This question refers acts of worship that are held in school buildings rather than your church building (services held for schools in your church should be included within the October count, Easter or Christmas figures where appropriate).
- ✓ Include any school-based acts of worship led by a person who holds an office or responsibility for ministry (ordained or lay) within your church, whether or not the school is in your parish.
- ✓ 'Usually' refers to during term-time or when the school is open, ignoring school holidays.
- ✓ Please tick one box as the closest estimate.

Never	Occasionally / ad hoc	Usually once or twice a term	Usually once a month	Usually once a fortnight	Usually once a week	Usually more than once a week

If there is no school in your parish, please tick here: ☐

Worshipping Community

The following questions are about your "**worshipping community**". Think about your regular worshipping community at the **end of 2026**. For more information, please refer to https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/worshippingcommunity.pdf

- ✓ Include anyone who attends your church regularly, for example at least once a month, or would attend if they were not prevented by illness, infirmity or temporary absence.
- ✓ Include anyone who regularly attends (on any day of the week):
  - any of your services/congregations/worshipping communities whose purpose is worship and which include two or more of: prayer, scripture, praise, sacrament, and acts of service
  - your fresh expressions of Church
  - your 'Church at Home' services

- ✘ Do not include visitors, e.g. holidaymakers, baptism parties etc.
- ✘ Do not include people who consider their 'home' church to be another church
- ✘ Do not include people who left the church earlier in the year (they are counted in the next question as 'leavers') and were not part of your worshipping community at the end of 2026
- ✘ Do not include church school populations when their attendance at worship was as a school group or school led activity

9a. How many people were in your "worshipping community" at the end of 2026?

- ✓ Please complete all boxes, as far as you can (remember, these are **estimates**). If there is no-one in a category, please write "0". If the age groups of the worshipping community are unknown, please enter your **best estimate**.
- ✓ Please include both those people who attend regularly in person and those who regularly attend your 'Church at Home' services

TOTAL	Children (Age 0-10)	Young people (Age 11-17)	Adults (Age 18-29)	Adults (Age 30-49)	Adults (Age 50-69)	Adults (Age 70+)

9b. How many Worshipping Communities are represented within the numbers of people declared in Q9a?

- ✓ Each church congregation should be counted as one worshipping community
- ✓ All home communions, however many houses are visited or when they are visited, would be counted as one worshipping community
- ✓ Each residential home would be one worshipping community
- ✓ Each separate fresh expression of Church would be one worshipping community

---

10. How has your worshipping community changed during 2026?

- ✓ Please enter the number (your best **estimate** please) of people who have joined your worshipping community. This includes people new to your church (whether in person or through 'Church at Home' services) and people who are now worshipping more frequently.
- ✓ Please enter the number (your best **estimate** please) of people who have left your worshipping community. This includes people who have left your church, people who are now worshipping less often than monthly, and people who have died.
- ✓ If there is no-one in a particular category, please write "0".
- ✗ Do not count as joiners or leavers members of your worshipping community who move from "Children and young people" to "Adult"

How many adults, young people and children joined or left your worshipping community during 2026?		
	TOTAL Joined	TOTAL Left
Adults (Age 18+)		
Children and young people		

11. How many of the people in your Worshipping Community, as reported in Q9a, are entirely or predominantly "Church at Home" worshippers?
(Please give your best estimate)

The next questions are about **fresh expressions of Church** and **missional activities**.

Missional activities (MA) can be many and varied. If you are unsure about whether to include a missional activity please DO include the activity.

Separate or independent charities (e.g. Mothers' Union, Scouts, Girl Guides, etc.) should **not** be included within this section.

A **fresh expression of Church (FE)** is a form of church established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet 'members' of any church. Here you are asked to describe the fresh expression of Church, rather than providing numbers attending (Question 6 collects the attendance numbers for the fresh expressions of Church that met in October).

- ✓ For help in identifying fresh expressions of Church please use the 'Choice Tree' that can be found at the end of this form or visit the web page https://freshexpressions.org.uk/what-is-fx/.
- ✓ Fresh expressions of Church can be quite varied. If you remain unsure about whether an activity or service meets the definition of a fresh expression, please DO include it here.
- ✓ We have included space for three fresh expressions of Church or missional activities on this return. If you have more, please duplicate page 8 and use as continuation sheets.

- ✗ Do not include as *fresh expressions of Church* Alpha courses or outreach activities that do not include worship; please record these as *missional activities*.

12. What regular fresh expressions or missional activities are supported by your church?

☐ **Please tick here if you have no fresh expressions of Church, nor any missional activities**
(If your church did NOT hold any fresh expressions of Church during 2026, nor any missional activities, then please leave the following page blank.)

Fresh expressions of Church and Missional Activities that are not 'regular' church services

Type of Activity? (please tick) Fresh Expression (FE) / Missional Activity (MA)	☐ FE ☐ MA
Name of fresh expression or Missional Activity	
Brief description of activity.	
Roughly, how often? (please tick)	☐ Weekly ☐ Fortnightly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Other
Age group aimed at? (tick all that apply)	☐ All ages ☐ Family ☐ 0-4yrs ☐ 5-10yrs ☐ 11-17yrs ☐ 18-39yrs ☐ 40-69yrs ☐ 70+yrs
Did this fresh express or Missional Activity start in 2026?	☐ Yes ☐ No

Fresh Expressions of Church and Missional Activities that are not 'regular' church services

Type of Activity? (please tick) Fresh Expression (FE) / Missional Activity (MA)	☐ FE ☐ MA
Name of Fresh Expression or Missional Activity	
Brief description of activity.	
Roughly, how often? (please tick)	□ Weekly □ Fortnightly □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Other _____
Age group aimed at? (tick all that apply)	□ All ages □ Family □ 0-4yrs □ 5-10yrs □ 11-17yrs □ 18-39yrs □ 40-69yrs □ 70+yrs
Did this fresh express or Missional Activity start in 2026?	□ Yes □ No

Type of Activity? (please tick) Fresh Expression (FE) / Missional Activity (MA)	☐ FE ☐ MA
Name of Fresh Expression or Missional Activity	
Brief description of activity.	
Roughly, how often? (please tick)	□ Weekly □ Fortnightly □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Other _____
Age group aimed at? (tick all that apply)	□ All ages □ Family □ 0-4yrs □ 5-10yrs □ 11-17yrs □ 18-39yrs □ 40-69yrs □ 70+yrs
Did this fresh express or Missional Activity start in 2026?	□ Yes □ No

Please copy this page to report any additional fresh expressions of Church, or missional activities.

New congregations/new worshipping communities

A “new congregation” or “new worshipping community”:

- ✓ Has as its purpose the worship of Jesus Christ and helping people grow in their faith. Its practices will include two or more of: prayer, scripture, praise, sacrament, and acts of service.
- ✓ Aims to reach people who would not otherwise attend church regularly and to make new Christian disciples.
- ✓ Meets at least once a month on any day of the week, in your church building or elsewhere (such as in a café, in a school, or online). It is connected with the wider Church through the parish church, deanery, or diocese.

If your church started new fresh expressions of Church in 2026, as reported above, they might meet the definition of a new congregation/new worshipping community. If so, please include them in your response to question 13a.

Please ensure that any attendance at your new congregations/new worshipping communities is recorded appropriately in your October count (Q6), above and that regular attendees are included if appropriate in your worshipping community (Q9a).

13a. How many new congregations or new worshipping communities did your church start in 2026?

☐ None ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three or more

Please describe them below:

Name of new congregation/new worshipping community			
Brief description of activity.			
Roughly, how often? (please tick)	□ Weekly □ Monthly □ Other _____		□ Fortnightly □ Quarterly
Age group aimed at? (tick all that apply)	□ All ages □ 0-4yrs □ 18-39yrs	□ Family □ 5-10yrs □ 40-69yrs	□ 11-17yrs □ 70+yrs

Name of new congregation/new worshipping community			
Brief description of activity.			
Roughly, how often? (please tick)	□ Weekly □ Monthly □ Other _____		□ Fortnightly □ Quarterly
Age group aimed at? (tick all that apply)	□ All ages □ 0-4yrs □ 18-39yrs	□ Family □ 5-10yrs □ 40-69yrs	□ 11-17yrs □ 70+yrs

Please copy this page to report any additional new congregations/new communities.

13b. How many of your church's congregations or worshipping communities came to an end in 2026?

☐ None ☐ One ☐ Two ☐ Three or more

Please describe them below:

	Name of congregation or worshipping community that came to an end in 2026	How long had this congregation/worshipping community been going?
1		□ Less than a year □ 1-5 years □ More than 5 years
2		□ Less than a year □ 1-5 years □ More than 5 years
3		□ Less than a year □ 1-5 years □ More than 5 years

Please copy the above table to report any additional congregations that came to an end during the year.

---

14. How many baptisms and thanksgiving for the gift of a child were held in your church during 2026?

✓ If separate services of thanksgiving and baptism were held for the same individual both should be recorded here

	Infants (<1 year)	Children (1-4 years)	Children (5-10 years)	Youth (11-17 yrs)	Adults (18+ yrs)
Number of persons **baptised**					
Number of persons for whom a birth or adoption **thanksgiving** service was held					

---

15. How many confirmations were held in the name of your church during 2026?

✓ Include all people who were presented for confirmation after preparation by your church, as recorded in your confirmation register, even if the confirmation service took place elsewhere

✘ Do not record people who were presented for confirmation by another church, even if they were confirmed during a confirmation service held in your church building

	Aged under 18 years	Adults (18+ yrs)
Number of persons **confirmed**		

16. How many marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage were held in your church during 2026?

Number of couples **married** in your church	
Number of couples for whom **a service of prayer and dedication after a civil marriage** was held in your church	

---

17. How many funeral services were held at or on behalf of your church during 2026?

- ✓ Include all funeral services that were held in your church building.
- ✓ Include all funeral services conducted on behalf of your church by any Anglican minister (including Readers, stipendiary clergy, self supporting clergy and retired clergy) at a crematorium, cemetery, or other non-church building location.

Number of **funeral services held in your church building(s)**	
Number of full **funeral services** conducted by a member of your ministry team at a **crematorium, cemetery, or other non-church location**, excluding committal only and burial of ashes only	
Number of deceased for whom a committal only or a burial of ashes only was conducted by a member of your ministry team (no preceding funeral service was undertaken by a member of your ministry team)	

Leadership of ministry with children and young people.

- By “Leading” we mean people who have a leadership role in running sessions, or significant parts of sessions. We do not mean people whose role is assisting with sessions, preparing resources, hosting/tidying up (vital though such people are in enabling this ministry!).
- By “Ministry” we mean something with significant Christian content, e.g.
  a children’s service;
  Sunday school/Junior Church;
  a fresh expression of Church focused on children, such as Messy Church, or Bubble Church;
  religious content in a school assembly;
  Bible study;
  confirmation classes;
  a youth group with specific Christian content.
  We do not mean things with little or no Christian content, such as play groups, some youth groups, or social action projects.
- By “Children and young people” we mean people aged under 18.
- The people leading such ministry would be expected to have been Safely Recruited, including a DBS check, and to have undertaken appropriate Safeguarding training.
- We are interested in finding out about lay people’s ministry, including that of licenced lay ministers, hence specifically excluding clergy.

18. As at the end of 2026, how many people – excluding clergy - are involved in leading your church’s ministry with children and young people?

For paid and for volunteer/unpaid leaders, please report an exact number if you can. If you are unable to do so, please tick one of the options on the right:

	Exact number (if known)	Range (if exact number is unknown)					
		0	1	2-4	5-9	10-19	20 or more
Paid		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Volunteer/unpaid		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Thank you for completing this annual return on behalf of your church.

Please take a moment to review your answers and make sure that you have completed every question as far as possible and not left any questions blank (use “0” or “unknown” or “no services” where necessary), as blank answers may be queried with you later.

Were there any **exceptional circumstances** (e.g. an interregnum/vacancy or building works) or **significant changes** that may have led to **unusual** figures in this return?

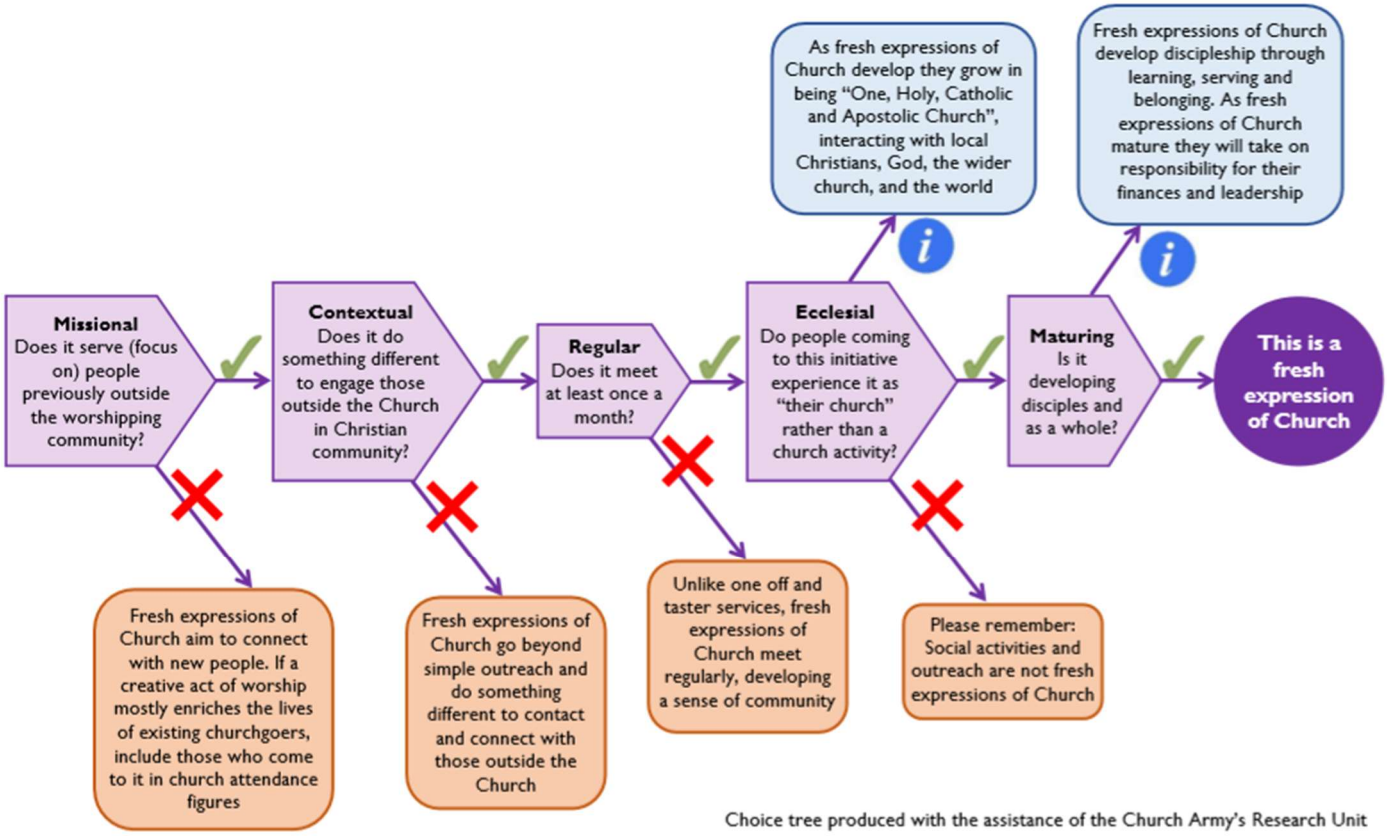
Thank you, again, for completing this annual return on behalf of your church. Your contribution is essential to the on-going care and understanding of our churches and congregations; your diligence, time, and effort are greatly appreciated.

Please record below the contact details for the person who has completed this form
(or the lead person if more than one individual has helped with the return).

Name: **Position:**

Email: **Date of completion:**

Identifying fresh expressions of Church: fresh expression choice tree



Choice tree produced with the assistance of the Church Army's Research Unit