

How Individual Churches can use the Census results

These results can be used to help an individual congregation, by answering the following questions, and then answering a few further questions deriving from those answers. If you kept a copy of your completed Census form then please get it to help you, but if not you can download a blank one (press here) or send us email or letter. If necessary you can always repeat the key questions needed here by using the “Slip” given at (A) at the end of this questionnaire.

Total number of attenders. Count how many people, adults and children, come to your services on a typical or average Sunday, and write the number in the box.

Age of attenders. Question 9 asked for the age breakdown of your congregation. Write these as percentages in the grid below in Line 1.

Line No	Source	<5 %	5-11 %	12-15 %	16-24 %	25-34 %	35-44 %	45-54 %	55-64 %	65-74 %	75-84 %	>84 %	Total %
1	Your church												100
2	National percentages	4	8	3	4	6	8	10	14	22	16	5	100
3	Denominational percentages												100

Line 2 gives the overall percentages for all Scottish churchgoers in 2016. Write in the numbers in Line 3 for your denomination from the relevant column in Table as (B) at the end of this questionnaire. Now compare either Line 2 or Line 3 with Line 1, and circle the percentage in Line 1 which is most different. If it is lower it indicates where your church is weak in comparison with others, if higher where you are stronger. How do you remedy that weakness or exploit that strength? Write that idea down:

Frequency of attendance. One question on the Census looked at how often people come to church (Question 10a). Express the numbers on the form from your church as a percentage of the total and put those percentages in Line 1 in the next Table. Line 2 gives the national figures. Then put in your denominational figures from Table (C) below.

Line No	Source	Twice weekly %	Weekly %	Fortnightly %	Monthly %	Less often %	Total %	Visitors %
1	Your church						100	
2	National percentages	14	66	9	7	4	100	4
3	Denominational percentages						100	

How does your church compare? What do the differences or similarities suggest to you? Would you like to see different percentages in any box for your church? What kinds of action are appropriate to bring that change about? Write below two actions to take in the next 3 months to start that change process.

Action 1: _____

Action 2: _____

Size of average Sunday congregation. The next Table shows the proportions of church congregations of different sizes shown by the 2016 Census. Put a tick in the box which reflects your size in Line 1. What difference do you think size of church makes to your situation? We would all like to be larger! But is that likely in your situation? If so, write why you hope your church will grow in the next few years and what is being done to encourage that growth. If you have a copy of your original form you may find that the answer to Question 6e is also relevant. Table D at the end gives the numbers in each group by denomination. You may wish to take the relevant numbers and put them in Line 3.

Line No	Source	Under 10 %	10 to 25 %	26 to 50 %	51 to 100 %	101 to 150 %	151 to 200 % [^]	201 to 500 %	Over 500 %	Total %
1	Your church (✓)									
2	National percentages	5	19	25	21	10	5	11	4	100
3	Denominational percentages									100

Why grow? _____

How grow? _____

Churchmanship. Each church has its own ethos. The next Table shows the percentage of churchgoers in each of the groups used in this Census report. Again tick the box which would correspond to your congregation. Have you seen a change over the last few years? If so, why is that, do you think? Is your church special in this regard in any way? If appropriate, write down why your church may be different from that shown for your denomination in Table E.

Line No	Source	Evan Reformed %	Evan Main-stream %	Evan Charismatic %	Evangelical TOTAL %	Reformed %	Low Church %	Liberal %	Broad %	Catholic %	Total %
1	Your church (✓)										
2	National percentages	9	19	7	35	13	4	7	9	32	100
3	Denominational percentages										100

Why different, if at all? _____

Ethnic background. Question 11 on the Census form asked the breakdown of attendance by ethnic group. Express the numbers on your form as a percentage of the total and put these percentages in Line 1 in the next Table. Line 2 again gives the national figures. Look up Table F and write the percentages relevant to your denomination in Line 3. Some of these percentages are small, so you may need to go to one decimal place for greater accuracy.

Line No	Source	White %	Black %	Mixed %	I/P/B %	C/K/J %	Other Asian %	Other N-W %	Total %
1	Your church								100
2	National percentages	93.8	2.6	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.6	0.2	100
3	Denominational percentages								100

I/P/B = Indian/Pakistani/Bangladeshi C/K/J = Chinese/Korean/Japanese N-W = Non-White

How does your church compare? Circle the box in Line 1 where your church varies most from the national or denominational average. What do these differences imply? Would you like to see different percentages in any box for your church? What action is needed to make that change happen? Write down one action to take in the next 3 months for this purpose.

Action on ethnicity _____

<p>Mid-week worship service. Does your church have one? If so, put in the box the average attendance, and take the denominational attendance from Table G.</p>	Your church	National average	Denominational average
		34	

<p>Mid-week youth activity. Does your church have one? If so, put in the box the average attendance, and take the denominational attendance from Table G.</p>	Your church	National average	Denominational average
		41	

Are your figures from the above two boxes more than a third different from the national or denominational figures? If so, why do you think this is? Write down your answer:

Why different? _____

Summary. Of the statements you have written or boxes circled, which do you think is the most significant and why? Indicate your reason:

The most important item above for us is _____

because _____

Of the various actions you have indicated as worth doing in the next few months, which two have top priority? Write these down and note in your diary NOW when you will take the actions!

Priority 1 _____ To be completed by _____

Priority 2 _____ To be completed by _____

Footnote: Answering these questions and taking action on the results is more likely to be effective if done in collaboration with a colleague! This helps with objectivity and is likely to result in procrastination!

A) "Slip" for obtaining further information from churchgoers, as used in the Census.

1) Age and gender	4 & under	5-11	12-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85 or over	
Male												
Female												
2) Frequency of attendance	Twice weekly		Weekly		Fortnightly		Monthly		Less often		Visitor	First attendance
3) Your ethnic group	White		Mixed	Black Caribbean/ African/Other		Chinese/Korean/ Japanese		Indian/Pakistani/ Bangladeshi		Other Asian	Other non white	
4) How long have you been attending this church?				Under 3 years		3 to 5 years		6 to 10 years		11 to 20 years		More than 20 years
5) How far from the church do you live?				Under ½ mile		½ mile to 3 miles		More than 3 miles		<i>Please tick one box in answer to each question. Thanks!</i>		

B) Age of Scottish Churchgoers by denomination, 2016

Denomination	4 and under		12 to 15 %	16 to 24 %	25 to 34 %	35 to 44 %	45 to 54 %	55 to 64 %	65 to 74 %	75 to 84 %	85 & over %	Base (=100%)	
	%	%											
Church of Scotland	3	6	2	2	3	5	8	15	27	22	7	136,910	
All Other Presbyterians	4	8	4	5	6	8	11	14	20	16	4	17,900	
Scottish Episcopal Ch	3	5	2	4	6	8	9	16	2	5	17	5	13,380
Baptist Churches	5	9	4	7	7	10	15	15	16	10	2	17,810	
Independent Churches	4	9	6	8	10	10	12	13	15	10	3	30,740	
Pentecostal Churches	7	10	5	9	13	13	17	13	8	4	1	18,860	
Roman Catholic Churches	4	8	4	6	10	13	12	14	17	9	3	135,600	
All Other Denominations	7	13	4	9	10	11	11	10	13	9	3	18,310	
All Scottish churchgoers	4	8	3	4	6	8	10	14	22	16	5	389,510	

(C) Frequency of Attendance

Denomination	Twice weekly %	Fort- Weekly %	Fort- nightly %	Mont h-ly %	Less often %	Base (=100%)	Visitors %
Church of Scotland	6	72	11	6	5	136,910	5
All Other Presbyterians	31	48	15	4	2	17,900	3
Scottish Episcopal Church	18	57	11	9	5	13,380	6
Baptist Churches	23	63	8	4	2	17,810	4
Independent Churches	33	50	10	5	2	30,740	4
Pentecostal Churches	35	35	16	9	5	18,860	5
Roman Catholic Churches	16	72	4	4	4	135,600	3
All Other Denominations	18	56	8	13	5	18,310	5
All Scottish churchgoers	14	66	9	7	4	389,510	4

(D) Congregational size by denomination, 2016

Denomination	Under 10 %	10-25 people %	26-50 people %	51 to 100 %	101 to 150 %	151 to 200 %	201 to 500 %	Over 500 %	Base (=100%)
Church of Scotland	2	12	27	27	13	8	11	0	1,502
All Other Presbyterians	5	28	30	20	4	5	6	1	297
Scottish Episcopal Church	15	41	28	11	1	1	2	1	303
Baptist Churches	5	14	26	26	13	2	12	2	185
Independent Churches	8	32	22	18	9	1	9	1	453
Pentecostal Churches	3	15	28	24	10	8	3	9	172
Roman Catholic Churches	0	3	13	13	13	4	31	23	476
All Other Denominations	16	33	29	15	4	1	0	2	301
All Scottish churches	5	19	25	21	10	5	11	4	3,689

(E) Churchmanship of Scottish churches, 2016

Denomination	Evan Ref'd %	Evan Main %	Evan Charis %	Evan Total %	Ref-ormed %	Low Chu'h %	Lib-eral %	Broad %	Cath-olic %	Base (= 100%)
Church of Scotland	11	7	2	20	34	9	16	20	1	1,502
All Other Presbyterians	59	18	0	77	2	0	1	1	0	297
Scottish Episcopal Church	1	8	6	15	5	10	15	33	22	303
Baptist Churches	13	77	8	98	0	0	2	0	0	185
Independent Churches	8	58	24	90	3	1	4	2	0	453
Pentecostal Churches	8	42	44	94	0	0	3	3	0	172
Roman Catholic Churches	0	1	0	1	0	0	10	3	86	476
All Other Denominations	12	29	12	53	5	11	16	11	4	301
All Scottish churches	12	20	8	40	17	6	11	13	13	3,689

Evan = Evangelical Ref'd = Reformed Main = Mainstream Charis = Charismatic Chu'h = Church

(F) Ethnicity of Scottish churchgoers, 2016

Denomination	White %	Black %	Mixed %	I/P/B %	Other Asian %	C/K/J %	Other non-W %	Base (=100%)
Church of Scotland	98.1	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	136,910
All Other Presbyterians	98.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.2	17,900
Scottish Episcopal Church	96.2	1.8	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.0	13,380
Baptist Churches	92.7	3.3	0.8	0.6	1.1	1.1	0.4	17,810
Independent Churches	95.0	2.7	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.2	30,740
Pentecostal Churches	68.1	20.9	3.8	4.0	1.0	1.3	0.9	18,860
Roman Catholic Churches	88.4	2.8	2.5	3.4	2.0	0.6	0.3	135,600
All Other Denominations	87.5	8.4	2.1	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.0	18,310
All Scottish churches	93.8	2.6	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.2	389,510

Black = Black Caribbean/African/Other I/P/B = Indian/Pakistani/Bangladeshi C/K/J = Chinese/Korean/Japanese

(G) Other factors by denomination, 2016

Denomination	Average midweek service attendance	Average youth activity attendance
Church of Scotland	24	55
All Other Presbyterians	24	16
Scottish Episcopal Church	16	9
Baptist Churches	36	30
Independent Churches	31	28
Pentecostal Churches	48	24
Roman Catholic Churches	55	27
All Other Denominations	34	22
All Scottish churches	34	41