



*Photo courtesy Pixabay*

## **Have you sent in your Mission Statistics?**

The Statistics for Mission return is due!

The deadline for submissions is 15 March and so far only 45% of our churches have returned their statistics to the National Church Team.

Dr Bev Botting, Head of Research and Statistics commented:

"This is a drop compared to last year when at this date you had received returns from 367 churches compared with only 259 currently.

"We know that sometimes dioceses have a number of different priorities and cannot prioritise sending reminders for Statistics for Mission returns.

"Accurate information about levels of Church of England attendance and participation is vital. Success can only be assessed, lessons learned, and good practice shared, by using high-quality data.

"The annual collection of Statistics for Mission seeks information from each of the almost 16,000 Church of England churches. The collection of this information involves 1000s of incumbents and volunteers, as well as the hard work of staff in 42 different dioceses. The fact that the dataset is more complete and available sooner than at any time in recent years is testament to their efforts and commitment.

"Even the most dedicated of church-goers could only ever attend a small fraction of the Church of England's churches; Statistics for Mission is a regular reminder to me that not every church resembles my church, and the information provided is essential to avoid decisions being made on the basis of anecdote or limited local knowledge.

"Statistics for Mission measures attendance in several different ways, each of which is a useful proxy for "the size" of a church. All of these measures are helpful in some settings and unhelpful in others. There is no single perfect measure – churches are too complex and diverse for that – so a wise user of these statistics would avoid fixating on one measure to the exclusion of all others."

If parishes need any help with lost logins, questions about the form or anything else, please contact Lucy Norbury via [lucy.norbury@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:lucy.norbury@salisbury.anglican.org) or 01722 411922 and she will be delighted to help you.

The link for online submissions is [here](#), but Lucy will happily post or email you a copy of the form if that helps you to complete it as soon as possible.