

Falling Church Attendance: Has Anything Gone Wrong?

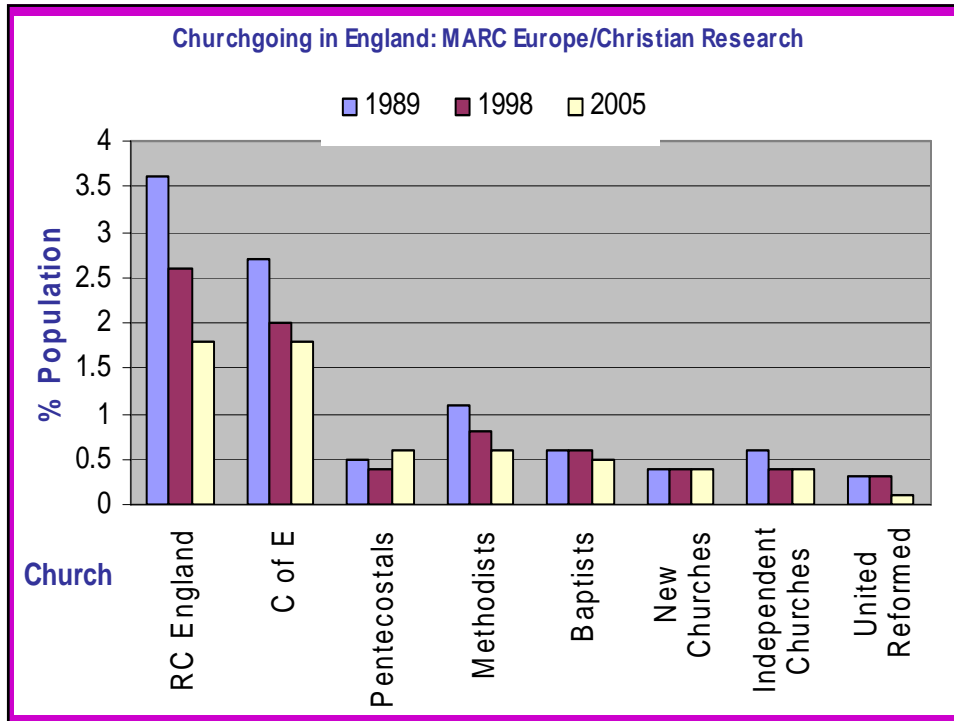
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DISCERN
Benjamin Tonna Lecture
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Churchgoing

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TRENDS IN BRITISH CHURCHGOING

*Age Profile of Churchgoers
MARC Europe/Christian Research*

<i>Age group</i>	<i>1979</i>	<i>1989</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>2005</i>
<15	26	25	19	19
15-19	9	7	6	5
20-29	11	10	9	7
30-44	16	17	17	16
45-64	20	22	24	24
65+	18	19	25	29
Average age	37	38	43	45
<i>Overall % of adult pop in church</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>

TRENDS IN BRITISH CHURCHGOING

'No Religion' Compared

<i>Age Group (as % pop)</i>	<i>Gorer 1950 n=4983</i>	<i>BSA 1983-4 n=3280</i>	<i>BSA 1994 n=3315</i>
<i>18-24</i>	22	61	66
<i>25-34</i>	22	44	54
<i>35-44</i>	24	35	49
<i>45-54</i>	22*	25	31
<i>55-64</i>	22*	22	26
<i>65+</i>	24	15	21
<i>All</i>	23	33	39

Churchgoing in 20th Century England

By 1900

- Urban adult Anglican and Free Church churchgoing declining
- Still pockets of suburban and rural resilience
- Sunday schools still very strong
- Rural churches facing radical problems of overbuilding & depopulation

By 1919

- Most soldiers in the First World War
 - Had been to Sunday school as a child
 - Had residual Christian beliefs
 - Had not been regular churchgoers at home
- Chapels, mission hall and synagogues in urban areas closing

By 1950

- Catholics had become a major force among churchgoers
- Sunday school attendances and confirmations still relatively high albeit declining
- Pockets of resilient churchgoing in some deeply rural areas
- Slight rise in churchgoing in middle-class suburban areas
- Generalised Christian belief still relatively strong
- Otherwise decline continued

By 1970

- Catholic decline had started
- Sunday school attendances and confirmations declining fast
- Christian belief started to decline
- Minority religious beliefs persisted
- Independent Free Churches and Mosques growing in urban areas
- Older Free Churches were declining fast in rural and urban areas

By 2002

- Independent churches no longer all growing
- Persistence in Pentecostal Churches and Muslim Mosques, albeit with a tendency to be fissiparous.

BRITISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES

CHURCHGOING RATES FOR VOLUNTARY WORK (Member of community or voluntary group 1994)

	Once a week	Once a month	Less often	Never	No Religion
<i>All members</i>	15	17	9	4	3
<i>aged 35-39</i>	20	19	12	7	3

MALTA CENSUS 2005

Comparison of % Catholic Mass Attendances

Year	Malta Pop. 168,721	Gozo Pop. 22,497	Gibraltar Pop. 21,470	English Catholics
1967	81.9			40.0
1982	72.7	97	(est) 33.4	34.4
1995	61.7	83.5		24.6
2005	50.7	81.3	16.7	17.7

GIBRALTAR CENSUS 2005

Churchgoing in Gibraltar

Gibraltar Denominations	Number Churchgoers	% Churchgoers	% Affiliations
Catholic	3,595	91.7	16.7%
Anglican	90	2.3	2.3
Pentecostal	150	3.8	
Methodist	60	1.5	
Presbyterian	28	0.7	
All Free Church			27.0

MALTA CENSUS 2005

Churchgoing in Malta

Malta/Gozo Denominations	Number Churchgoers	% Churchgoers	% Affiliations
Catholic	191,218	99.8	53.1
Anglican	200	0.1	6.7
Methodist/Presby	100	0.5	
Pentecostal	100	0.5	
All Free Church			11.3

MALTA CENSUS 2005

Rate of Churchgoing Decline

	Malta		England	
Year	Change	Catholic change per year	Overall change per year	Catholic change per year
1967 – 1982	-9.2%	-0.61	-1.3	-1.4
1982 – 1995	-11%	-0.85	-2.4	-3.1
1995 – 2005	-11%	-1.1	-2.1	-4.0

MALTA CENSUS 2005

Change in Mobility of Attendance

Malta	
Census Year	% of residents attending Mass in other parishes
1967	14.2
1995	27.5
2005	35.0

MALTA CENSUS 2005

Gender of Churchgoers

	% Male	% Female
Malta	45.4	54.6
Gozo	46.8	53.2
England <small>MARC Europe 2005</small>	43	57

MALTA CENSUS 2005

Age Last Birthday of Churchgoers as % of Total Population

Years	0-14	15-24	25-49	50-64	65-79	80+
Malta	37.1	35.0	39.1	53.6	60.1	45.6
Gozo	50.2	69.6	74.1	79.2	79.4	48.9
England <small>MARC Europe 2005</small>	13	6	16	24	17	10

MALTA CENSUS 2005

% Attended Mass Last Sunday

	Yes	No
Malta	90.4	9.6
Gozo	93.3	6.7



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