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Latest: Church of England Attendance Grows Fifth Year in a Row as Adult Baptisms Rise

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"I have never been so excited in my 30 years of ministry by the growing number of baptisms and confirmations. God is at work in our Diocese in an incredibly powerful way."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

The Church of England grew again in 2025 - for the fifth year in a row. Statistics for Mission 2025, published on 13 November 2026, show the worshipping community rose 1.5% To 1.03 Million people, average Sunday attendance reached 590,000, and adult baptisms climbed to 9,900, a figure the report says is quite possibly higher than they have ever been.

Picture a parish church on a cold Sunday morning in January. Five years ago the pews were thin, the heating was off, and the vicar wondered if the congregation would ever come back. Now the same church is turning people away at Easter, the font is busy again, and the adults lining up for baptism are not the usual suspects. That is the story these numbers are telling.

Church Of England Attendance 2025: Five Years Of Growth In A Row

The headline figures are modest in size but remarkable in their consistency. All-age average weekly attendance reached 707,000 in 2025, up 0.8%, Or about 6,000 more people each week. Average Sunday attendance rose 1.6% To 590,000, around 9,000 more people in the pews on a typical Sunday.

What makes this run historic is not the size of any single year's rise. It is the fact that attendance on Sundays and across the week have both risen five years running - the first time that has happened since current records began. After decades of decline, five straight years in the same direction is not a blip. It is a pattern.

The growth is showing up in the places that measure the health of a parish best. The worshipping community - the people who attend regularly, not just at Christmas - passed a million for the first time in the current series, reaching 1.03 Million. That is a number the Church of England has not been able to report in years.

Adult Baptisms Rise To 9,900 In The Church Of England

The most striking figure in the whole report is the one about adults choosing baptism. Adult baptisms reached 9,900 in 2025, up by more than 1,000 for the second year running and up by a third on the year before. The report's own wording is careful but electric: adult baptisms are quite possibly higher than they have ever been.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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