

Phase 1: Findings

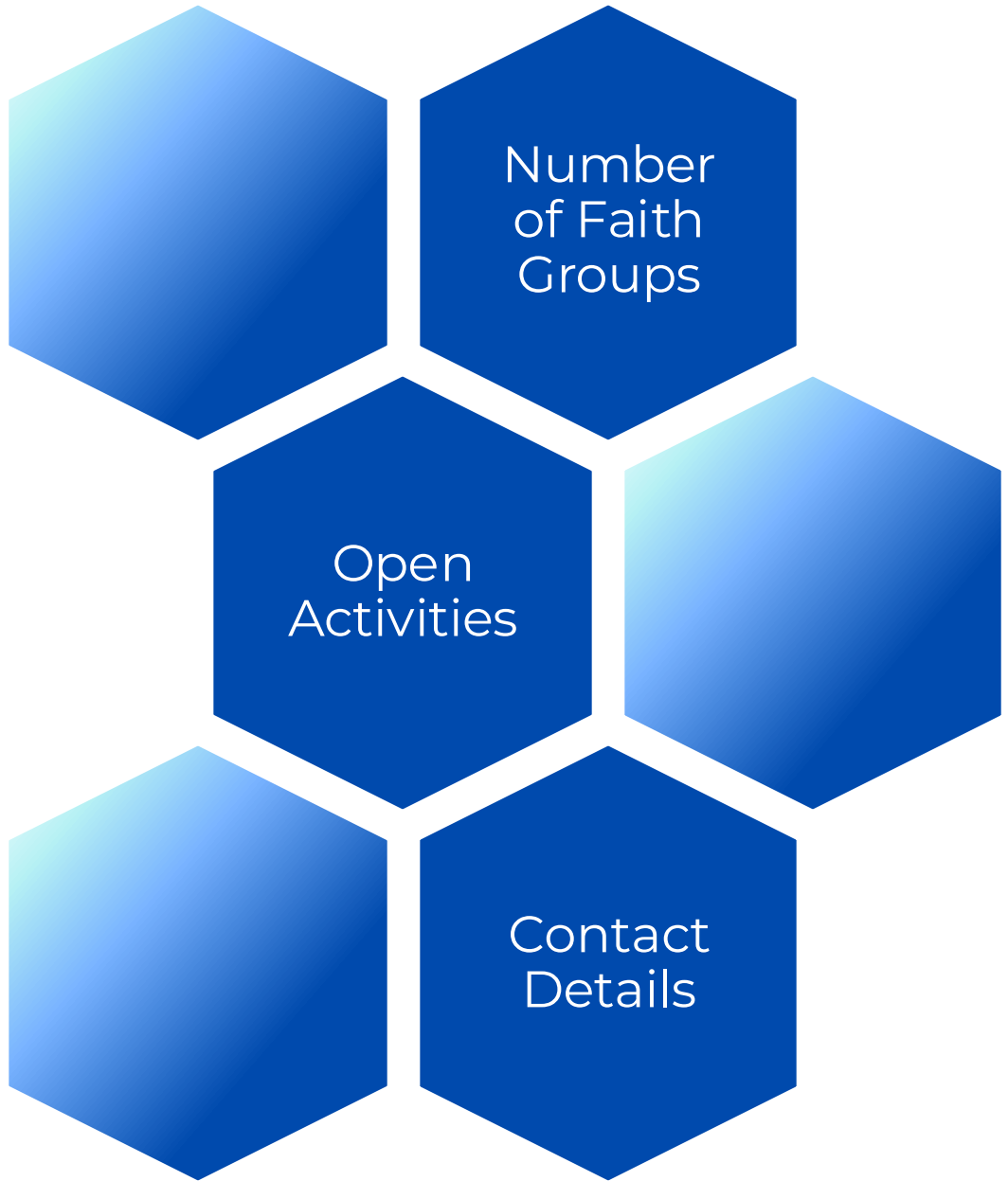
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<https://expertevaluation.org/>



Contents



How many faith groups
are there across
Cambridgeshire and
Peterborough?



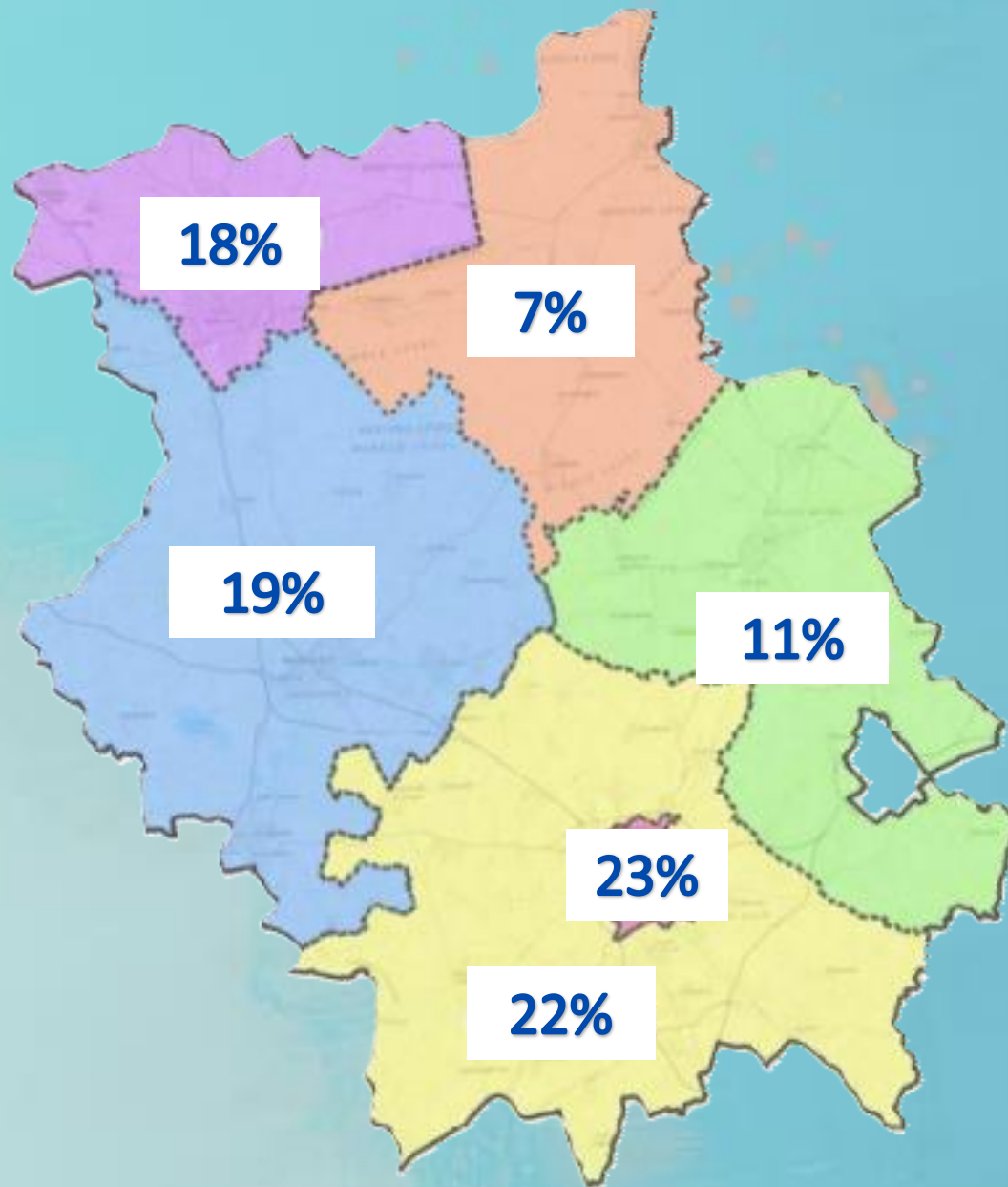
Source: Mott MacDonald 2019

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Projection: predict a further 10% exist in the area but do not have an online presence. True figure would be around 700

*Identified

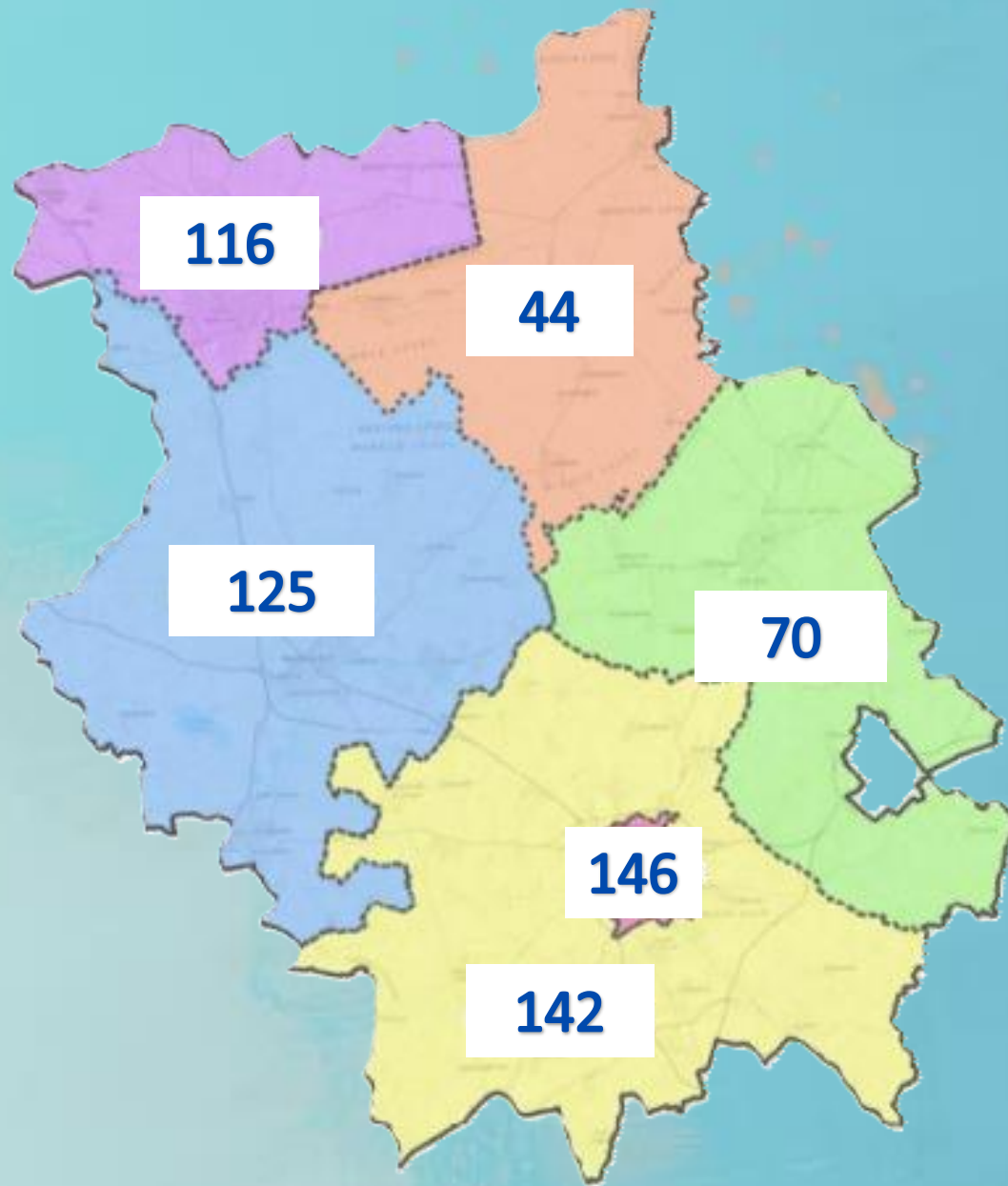
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0.16%

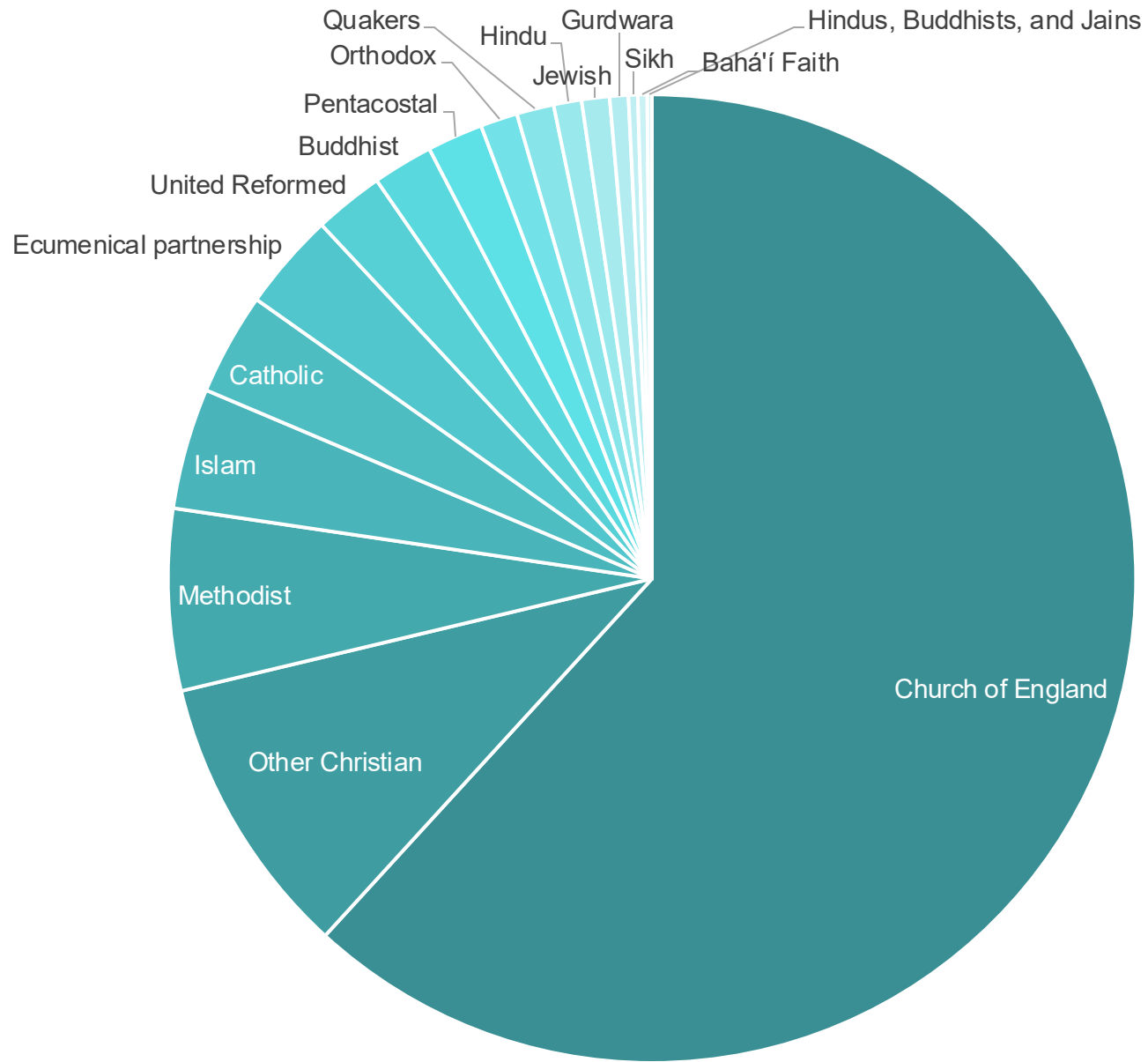
location in Peterborough and another in Cambridge, but they function as one group

644



1

location in Peterborough and another in Cambridge, but they function as one Christian group



Other Christian

Non-denominational Christian church

Lutheran

Diaspora eg French Evangelical and “Christian from Charlotte, North Carolina, USA”

Plumbline (represents a standard by which the faithful need to live, and a measure from which divine judgment is gauged)

Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

Total by faith [17]

FAITH	%	Count
Church of England	62%	398
Other Christian	9%	61
Methodist	6%	39
Islam	4%	26
Catholic	3%	22
Ecumenical partnership of Methodist with the United Reformed Church, or Methodist with Anglicans, or Christian with Jews	3%	21
United Reformed	2%	15
Buddhist	2%	13
American Protestant and Pentacostal	2%	12
Orthodox	1%	8
Quakers	1%	8
Hindu	1%	6
Jewish	1%	6
Gurdwara (Sikh, Hindu, Punjabi) and Hindi with Malayalam	0.62%	4
Sikh	0.31%	2
Bahá'í Faith	0.31%	2
Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains	0.16%	1

Top 5 faiths comparison

Peterborough

	%	Count
CofE	47%	55
Other Christian	13%	15
Methodist	9%	11
Islam	7%	8
American Protestant and Pentecostal	5%	6
Total	82%	95

Huntingdonshire

	%	Count
CofE	70%	87
Other Christian	10%	12
Methodist	7%	9
Islam	4%	5
Catholic	4%	5
Total	94%	118

South Cambridgeshire

	%	Count
CofE	83%	118
Other Christian	5%	7
United Reformed	4%	6
Ecumenical partnership	3%	4
Methodist	3%	4
Total	98%	139

Cambridge

	%	Count
CofE	42%	62
Other Christian	12%	18
Islam	8%	11
Buddhist	7%	10
Ecumenical partnership	4%	6
Total	73%	107

East Cambridgeshire

	%	Count
CofE	63%	44
Methodist	10%	7
Other Christian	9%	6
Ecumenical partnership	4%	3
Catholic	3%	2
Total	89%	62

Fenland

	%	Count
CofE	73%	32
Methodist	9%	4
Catholic	7%	3
Other Christian	5%	2
Ecumenical partnership	5%	2
Total	98%	43

Peterborough



	%	Count
CofE	47%	55
Catholic	4%	5
Methodist	9%	11
United Reformed	2%	2
Ecumenical partnership	3%	3
Orthodox	3%	4
American Protestant and Pentecostal	5%	6
Quakers	1%	1
Other Christian	13%	15
Hindu	1%	1
Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains	0%	0
Gurdwara (Sikh, Hindu, Punjabi) and Hindi with Malayalam	1%	1
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Sikh	1%	1
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Buddhist	0%	0
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Bahá'í Faith	0%	0

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Faith in Motion

It's important to understand and respect the fluidity of faith groups in our society

The data is tied to the time point when it was gathered December 2023 to January 2024

Growing churches are the theologically conservative ones: with leaders who believe that Jesus really rose from the dead, that salvation is only available in Christ, and following Christ calls us to culturally unpopular commitments (Haskell et al. 2016)

Groups I believe will close soon
Fowlmere United Reformed
Orton Waterville Methodist Church

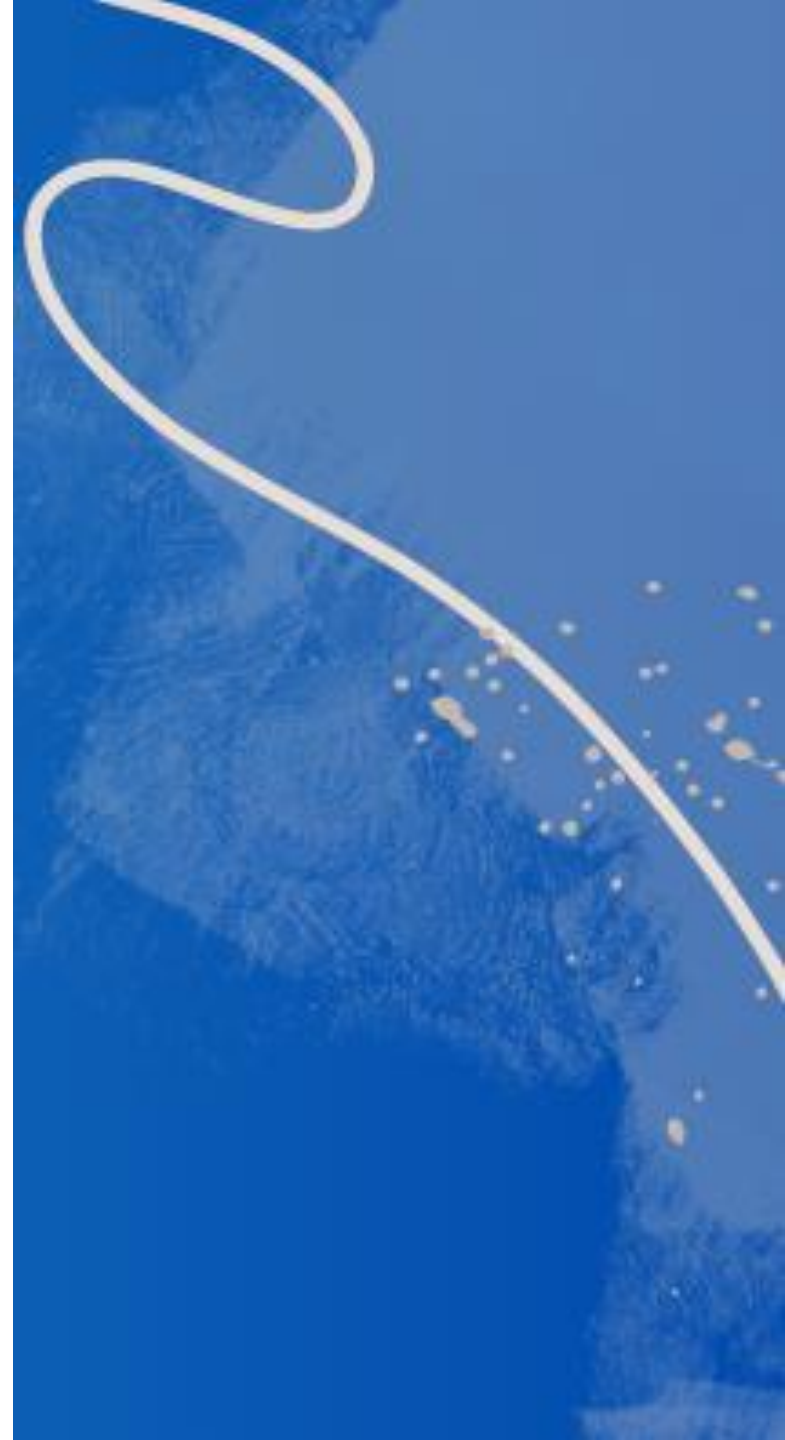
Open community activities

need to be **free** to the community

- ☒ free sign language courses
- ☐ paid Buddhist meditation sessions
- ☐ ballet, zumba, yoga, mums & tots

do not need faith practice to take part

- ☒ coffee morning, Foodbank, debt advice, exercise groups, playgroup
- ☐ bellringing, choir, playgroup with bible story
- ☐ CPSC Mind, Supporting Muslim Mums in Fenland



Comparison of faith groups

It is not fair to compare the amount of open activities across faiths. As different faiths have different missions.

Catholic

There is a desire to move towards what the Catholic diocese in East Anglia is calling "Alive in Faith". Alive in Faith supports our vision for the future our Diocese which is to have:

- † Seminarians who are well formed, and clergy who are supported when they step down from active ministry
- † Strong and vibrant parishes that are addressing local needs
- † Programmes of outreach to help those who are most vulnerable in our communities

<https://www.rcdea.org.uk/alive-in-faith/>

Comparison of faith groups

Other Christian

“To win souls for Christ through outreach programmes and to train people for ministry through discipleship. To integrate those on the fringe of society into the Church and the community through community projects”

Apostolic Church of United Nations

Church of England

“Community Focused where we aim to: - Welcome and include all - Love and support our neighbourhood - Share, bake and celebrate”

Christ Church, Ely

“Our vision is to grow St Mark’s, making a MARK for Christ in our community and city: Making Christ known, Acting in love, Keeping Christ central, Keeping Christ central”

St Mark's Church, Peterborough

Comparison of faith groups

Ecumenical partnership CoE / Methodist

“To engage fully and courageously with the needs of
our communities, locally and globally”

St James, Stretham

Percentage of those who have open community activities

35% of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough faith groups run open activities



Activities run by 228 faith groups

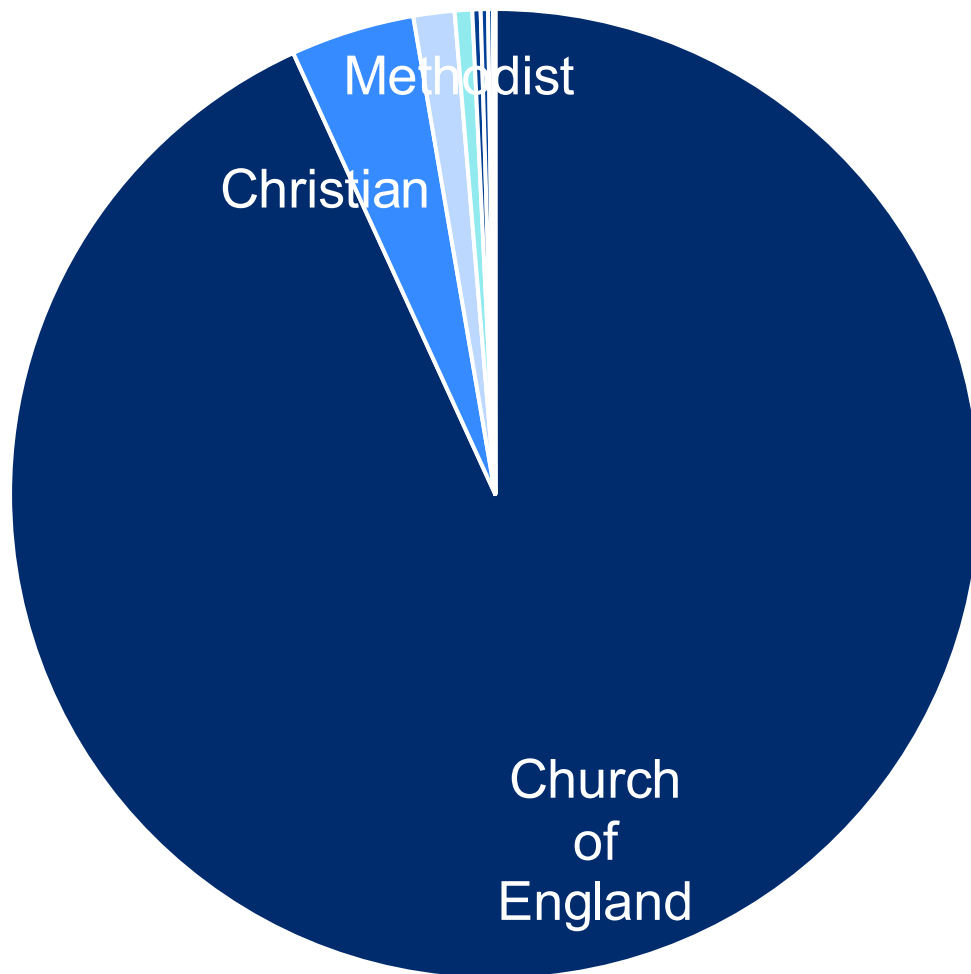


Total 489 open activities

Groups without open activities are not necessarily inactive.

Rather their focus either:

- 1- Fundraising for their group (eg roof repairs, renovations)
- 2- Growing their faith community



Ranked
Church of England
Christian
Methodist
Ecumenical partnership
Islam
United Reformed
Catholic
Jewish
Pentecostal
Quakers
Buddhist
Sikh
Hindu
Orthodox
Gurdwara
Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains
Bahá'í Faith

To allow for comparison across faith groups (as there are huge differences in the number of faith groups), I've weighted the data to look at the proportion of groups who run open activities



What type of support do faith groups offer their communities?

Cost of living support hub

Community Fridge

Community café

Winter Night Shelter [homeless]

Badminton

Coffee morning

food project

Bobtails playgroup

Coffee House [loneliness]

Cobweb walks [guided walk]

The Backroom Cafe [warm hub]

Welcome Café [warm hub]

Soup-kitchen
[Homeless]

Community hub

Sing and sign

6-a-side football league

Warm space (tea, coffee, games, jigsaws)

Coffee break

SVP Autumn Club [loneliness]

Repair Café

Community Access Point [use computers and internet]

Cost of living support hub

Community Fridge

Heavily food
focused

Community café

Winter Night Shelter [homeless]

Badminton

Coffee morning

food project

Bobtails playgroup

Coffee House [loneliness]

Cobweb walks [guided walk]

The Backroom Cafe [warm hub]

Welcome Café [warm hub]

Soup-kitchen [Homeless]

Community hub

Sing and sign

6-a-side football league

Warm space (tea, coffee, games, jigsaws)

Coffee break

SVP Autumn Club [loneliness]

Repair Café

Community Access Point [use computers and internet]

Thick

Common good.

Community focused,
supporting their community
with open activities

Thin

Offer to the community is
strictly faith based

“A thick institution, becomes part of a person's identity and engages the whole person: head, hands, heart and soul”

Brooks (2017)

There is a difference in religious missions and values and their understanding of “common good”

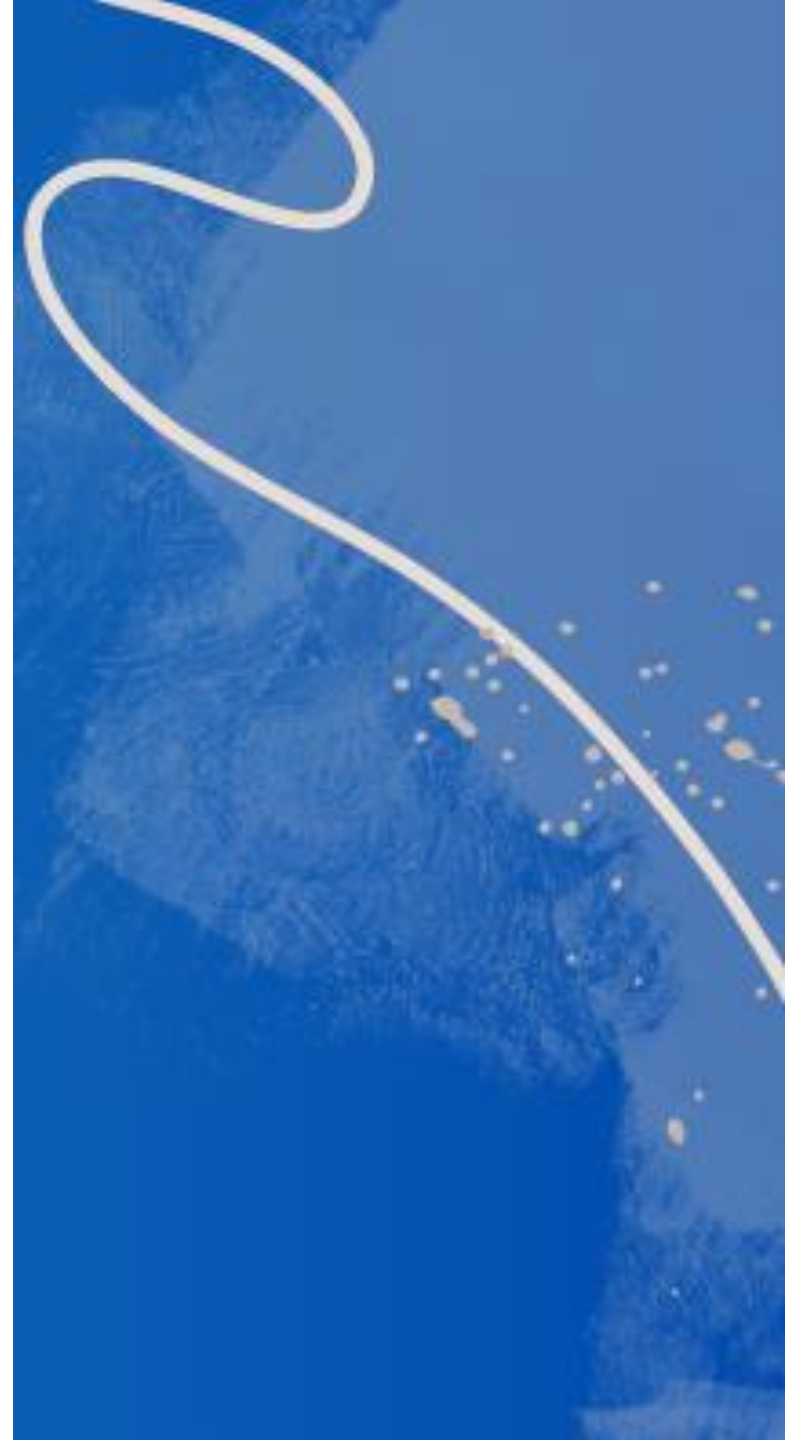
Reactive

Faith groups are great at reacting to community need.

global Ukraine crisis, Ebola
local flooding, energy crisis,
cost of living

But this much needed reactivity requires focused communication to meet their communities need. There is limited promotion to showcase their community work.

Community need changes rapidly. As resources are tight, faith groups react quickly when support is no longer needed, and flex their support to meet the current community need.



Activities by theme	eg
Foodbank / Community Fridge / Foodhub	Food parcels
Playgroup (babies, toddlers, pre-school)	Tots group
Loneliness	Friendship group
Coffee morning and a chat / Tea, cake and chat	Free coffee with a vicar
Warm hub (often includes hot dinner) / A warm Welcome / Community Hub / Community access point / Community café	Sponsored hubs
Grief	CRUSE
Craft and Craft for mental health	Knit & Natter
Debt advice/ Money advice and savings / Finance education / Job club (CAP)	CAP Debt advice
Connects organisations	Web based communication tool
Wellbeing through music / walks / book club / gardening club	Duck walks
Youth space / Afterschool care	Youth motorbike restoration

Activities by theme	eg
Pop-up cinema / Film club	Friday films
Holiday lunches (children)	Holiday hampers
Health awareness / nurse	Nurse
Homelessness	Garden House
Sports	Table tennis
Practical support	Legal Counselling
Carers support group	Dementia Walk
Quiet space	Garden
Language	Practice speaking English
Refugee support	Resettlement Hub

21 themes

Theme	Count of activities	% of total activities
Warm hub (often includes hot dinner) / A warm Welcome / Community Hub / Community access point / Community café	95	19%
Coffee morning and a chat / Tea, cake and chat	63	13%
Foodbank / Community Fridge / Foodhub	55	11%
Playgroup (babies, toddlers, pre-school)	48	10%
Craft and Craft for mental health	35	7%
Loneliness	32	7%
Practical support	26	5%
Wellbeing through music / walks / book club / gardening club	22	4%
Youth space / Afterschool care	22	4%
Sports	17	3%
Debt advice/ Money advice and savings / Finance education / Job club (CAP)	15	3%
Homelessness	13	3%
Carers support group	13	3%
Grief	11	2%
Health awareness / nurse	5	1%
Language	5	1%
Holiday lunches (children)	4	1%
Pop-up cinema / Film club	3	1%
Refugee support	3	1%
Connects organisations	1	0%
Quiet space	1	0%

The faith groups that have one open activity the majority have a Warm Hub and then a coffee morning

Warm Hubs are funded

“very easy to apply for, and they just surprised us with £1000 this year” Dean & Chaplain at Pembroke College

Community Hubs a new community-led approach to South Cambridgeshire in tackling poverty and social isolation.

All CofE churches offer a Warm Welcome, some are part of the official scheme

Coffee mornings have been part of faith life for a long time. Coffee mornings are commonly used as **fundraisers**. Those that have been counted here are free or donation based, and this pulls from **English culture** to welcome guests with a cup of tea and biscuit (or cake!).



Example group

They surveyed their community to find out what they needed.

Open activities:

1. Lunch break [warm hub]
2. Ark [primary aged youth club]
3. Wonderfully made [craft/mental health]
4. Music for everyone [wellbeing]
5. holiday lunches [school age]
6. SPACE2BU [afterschool care]



**Not responded to request for details*

Contact Details



Contact details **68%** (436)

Unique main contact details **58%** (251)

 Additional unique contact details **24%** (104)

 Total unique contact details **81%** (355)

Name, email or phone, role

No response from Admin **30%** (190)

By area:

Peterborough	41%
Huntingdonshire	25%
South Cambridgeshire	16%
Cambridge	42%
East Cambridgeshire	21%
Fenland	25%

Contacted x2

*Peterborough and
non-majority faiths
contacted x3*

No online presence **2%** (14)

Unwilling to participate **1**

Interregnum (leadership vacancy) **19**
this will change as leaders move in April

Cambridge

Rabbi

Dean

Centre Manager

Pastor

Lama

HD

Acting Dean

Team Rector

Parish Priest

Church Warden

Rector

Priest in Charge

Lead Minister

Reverend

Vicar

Chaplain

Priest

Assistant Curate

Imam

Dean of the Chapel

Trustee

Minister

Rector & Parish Priest

Principal

Interim Priest in Charge

Lay Minister

Vice Principal

Pioneer Curate

Senior Pastor

Major (Commanding Officer)

Peterborough

Church Warden

Corps Officer

Shepherd

Pastor

Minister Reverend

Priest

Reverend

Minister

Vicar

Father

President

Rector

PA & Office Secretary

Lay-Pastoral Minister

Head of Community Action

Street Chaplain

Nuances of faith

Quakers: “Anyone can contribute to a Quaker meeting for worship – there is no leader. We do have people with a responsibility to encourage and nurture ministry, but we don't believe that makes them more important. We call these people 'elders'.”

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/faith/our-faith>



Database Walkthrough

Helpful links

Ely Diocese Reach Project

<https://www.elydiocese.org/outcomes-and-documentation.php>

report on community activities – these are not open activities, typically a small fee and/or faith element. Slimming clubs, art exhibitions, musical concert, fete.

Team Vicar at Shudy Church shares their thoughts about church activities

<https://shudycamps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Camps-Review-Article..pdf>

Foodbanks it may be helpful to identify which are associated with the Trussell Trust. Many are independent.

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>

Lovely mapping tool from Diocese of Peterborough. The map shows parishes, churches, schools, and ecclesiastical boundaries. Each parish has census and deprivation information attached.

<https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/aboutus/places/places-noshow/mapping-the-diocese.php>

Church Glossary

<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f0f7281dadce/content/pages/documents/reachely---glossary-for-case-studies.pdf>

Questions



Thank you

Heartfelt thanks to Julie and Kat for entrusting me with the leadership of Phase 1.

A big shout-out to the administrators and secretaries who enthusiastically responded to my research participation requests.

Best wishes to all for a successful Phase 2 journey!



Expert Evaluation
DR GRIFFIN - JAMES