

# Counting Religion in Britain

A Quarterly Bibliographic Round-Up of New Statistical Sources

New Series, Number 3 – January-March 2026

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## OPINION POLLS

**Fieldwork date: 27 December 2025–3 January 2026**

Brendan Research/ScotPulse: *Scotland's Christmas, 2025: Panel Survey Results*, 5 + 4 pp.

<https://www.brendanresearch.com/projects/scotland-christmas-report-2025>

**Fieldwork date: 21 January 2026**

YouGov: religion as a positive or negative influence on the world

<https://yougov.com/en-gb/trackers/the-influence-of-religion-on-the-world-according-to-brits>

**Fieldwork date: 24–26 January 2026**

YouGov: perceived importance of teaching Religious Studies at secondary school

[https://d3nkl3psvxxpe9.cloudfront.net/documents/P\\_Main\\_Political\\_Tracker\\_Survey\\_Rotatio\\_n15\\_sr\\_2.pdf](https://d3nkl3psvxxpe9.cloudfront.net/documents/P_Main_Political_Tracker_Survey_Rotatio_n15_sr_2.pdf)

**Fieldwork date: 26 January–4 February**

JL Partners/Union of Jewish Students: anti-Semitism on university campuses

<https://www.jlpartners.co.uk/polling-results>

**Fieldwork date: 28 January 2026**

YouGov: extent to which Britons care about the Church of England

<https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/survey-results/daily/2026/01/28/c0a18/1>

**Fieldwork date: 28 January 2026**

YouGov: belief in god(s) or spiritual greater power

<https://yougov.co.uk/topics/society/trackers/brits-beliefs-about-gods>

**Fieldwork date: 29 January–16 February 2026**

Survation/Hope Not Hate: attitudes of Reform UK party members to current issues [including to Muslims and Jews]

<https://www.survation.com/archive/2026-2/>

**Fieldwork date: 14–16 February 2026**

YouGov: attitudes to Sunday trading hours in England and Wales

[https://d3nkl3psvxxpe9.cloudfront.net/documents/P\\_Main\\_Political\\_Tracker\\_Survey\\_Rotatio\\_n15\\_sr\\_5.pdf](https://d3nkl3psvxxpe9.cloudfront.net/documents/P_Main_Political_Tracker_Survey_Rotatio_n15_sr_5.pdf)

**Fieldwork date: 23–24 February 2026**

Whitestone Insight/Danube Institute and Pusey House Oxford: values and Christianity [117 tables]

<https://www.whitestoneinsight.com/values-poll>

**Publication date: 5 March 2026**

Pew Research Center: necessity to believe in God in order to be moral and have good values [Pew Global Attitudes Survey, Spring 2025]

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/03/05/in-the-us-and-other-countries-fewer-people-now-say-its-necessary-to-believe-in-god-to-be-moral/>

**Publication date: 25 March 2026**

Ed Hodgson and Andrew Fowler, *Britons and Secularism: How the Public Approach the Relationship Between Religion and Society*, More in Common/National Secular Society, 61 pp.

<https://www.secularism.org.uk/uploads/britons-and-secularism-more-in-common-polling.pdf>  
data tables at:

<https://www.moreincommon.org.uk/our-work/polling-tables/june-2025-polling-tables/>

OPINION POLLS – CRITIQUES OF BIBLE SOCIETY’S *THE QUIET REVIVAL* (2025),  
BASED ON 2024 YOUNGOV POLLING DATA

The Bible Society’s report on *The Quiet Revival*, published in April 2025 and underpinned by YouGov polling conducted in November-December 2024, continued to be newsworthy – and controversial – during the quarter under review, with vigorous defences of its accuracy on the one hand and expressions of scepticism from social scientists on the other regarding methodology and credibility. A selection of contributions to this debate is listed below:

**Publication date: 22 December 2025**

John Curtice: ‘Is There a Religious Revival in Britain?’, *National Centre for Social Research Briefing Paper*

<https://natcen.ac.uk/publications/there-religious-revival-britain>

**Publication date: 23 January 2026**

Conrad Hackett: ‘Has There Been a Christian Revival Among Young Adults in the UK? Recent Surveys May be Misleading’, *Pew Research Center Short Reads*

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2026/01/23/has-there-been-a-christian-revival-among-young-adults-in-the-uk-recent-surveys-may-be-misleading/>

**Publication date: 28 January 2026**

Humanists UK: ‘Gen Z Churchgoing is Actually Still Declining, New British Social Attitudes Survey Shows’

<https://humanists.uk/2026/01/28/gen-z-churchgoing-is-actually-still-declining-new-british-social-attitudes-survey-shows/>

**Publication date: 29 January 2026**

David Voas: ‘No, There is No Christian Revival in the West’

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2026/01/29/no-there-is-no-christian-revival-in-the-west/>

**Publication date: 3 February 2026**

Madeleine Davies: ‘Experts Challenge “Quiet Revival” Doomsters – but Say that the Picture is Complex’ [also in *Church Times*, 6 February 2026, p. 6]

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2026/6-february/news/uk/experts-challenge-quiet-revival-doomsters-but-say-that-the-picture-is-complex>

**Publication date: 16 February 2026**

Chris Eyte: ‘Bible Society Researcher Defends “Quiet Revival” Findings on Rising Christian Confidence’, *Christian Daily International*

<https://www.christiandaily.com/news/bible-society-researcher-defends-quiet-revival-findings-on-rising-christian-confidence>

**Publication date: 18 February 2026**

Mark Woods: ‘The Quiet Revival is Happening: We Have the Stats and the Stories, too’, *Premier Christianity*

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/the-quiet-revival-is-happening-we-have-the-stats-and-the-stories-too/21013.article>

**Publication date: 22 February 2026**

Catherine Wyatt: ‘We Thought Gen Z Had Started Going to Church in Doves. But the Truth is More Complicated’, *BBC News*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k1jddl51no>

On 26 March 2026, after standing by the robustness of their polling for months, YouGov finally conceded that there were substantive issues affecting the quality of their 2024 data for the Bible Society, including fraudulent responses, and indicated the study would need to be rerun later this year, whereupon the Bible Society retracted the 2024 YouGov data featured in *The Quiet Revival* report. YouGov and Bible Society statements are available at:

**Publication date: 26 March 2026**

‘Conclusions of Investigation into 2024 Bible Society Study’

<https://yougov.com/en-gb/articles/54406-conclusions-of-investigation-into-2024-bible-society-study>

**Publication date: 26 March 2026**

‘Statement from Paul Williams, Chief Executive Officer, Bible Society’

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/the-quiet-revival/statement-from-paul-williams>

The Religion Media Centre organized an online briefing on 30 March 2026 about the retraction of *The Quiet Revival* data, at which guests included the chief executive of the Bible Society (Paul Williams) and Professors David Voas and Sir John Curtice as academic experts. See the briefing website at:

<https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/rmc-briefings/quiet-revival-report-withdrawn-key-lessons-and-future-implications/>

Undaunted, the Bible Society has also published a new report, highlighting other evidence about grounds for optimism concerning the UK religious landscape:

**Publication date: 26 March 2026**

*The Quiet Revival One Year On: What’s the Story?*, Bible Society, 42 pp.

<https://bible-society.directus.app/assets/4e08929c-6148-49f6-9269-757f6ba3d87d>

FAITH ORGANIZATION STUDIES

**Publication date: 15 January 2026**

*British Sikh Report, 2025*, 44 pp.

<https://britishsikhreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/British-Sikh-Report-2025.pdf>

**Publication date: 28 January 2026**

Stewardship/Whitestone Insight: *Generosity Report, 2026: Exploring Christian Giving in the UK*, 64 pp.

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/sites/default/files/2026-01/Stewardship-Generosity-Report-2026.pdf>

**Publication date: 11 February 2026**

Community Security Trust, *Antisemitic Incidents, 2025*, 44 pp.

<https://cst.org.uk/research/cst-publications/antisemitic-incidents-report-2025>

**Publication date: 23 February 2026**

*Diocese of Bristol Social Action Audit Report, 2025*, 24 pp.

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/news/diocese-releassocialaction-reportchurchessupported-40733people-in-2025.php>

**Publication date: 26 February 2026**

David Graham, *Masks and Noisemakers: The Celebration of Purim Among Jews in the UK*, Institute for Jewish Policy Research, 9 pp.

<https://www.jpr.org.uk/reports/masks-and-noisemakers-celebration-purim-among-jews-uk>

**Publication date: 9 March 2026**

Centre for Media Monitoring, *State of British Media, 2025: Reporting on Muslims and Islam*, [5] + 103 pp.

<https://cfmm.org.uk/resource/the-state-of-british-media-2025-reporting-on-muslims-and-islam>

**Publication date: 26 March 2026**

*“This Night, of All Nights”*: *The Celebration of Passover Among UK Jews*, Institute for Jewish Policy Research, 11 pp.

<https://www.jpr.org.uk/reports/night-all-nights-celebration-pesach-passover-among-jews-uk>

ACADEMIC STUDIES

*Please note: not all these studies are necessarily available on an open access basis.*

**First publication date: 15 January 2026**

Andrew Village and Leslie Francis, ‘The Parish in Peril? From the Grassroots of the Church of England’, *Rural Theology*, 13 pp.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14704994.2025.2604446#abstract>

**First publication date: 20 January 2026**

David Graham, 'The Enumeration of Strictly Orthodox (Haredi) Jewish Households in the 2021 Census of England and Wales', *Journal of Population Research*, Vol. 43, Article No. 6, 2026, 23 pp.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12546-025-09414-w>

**First publication date: 28 January 2026**

Clive Field, 'Secularisation Exemplified: Churchgoing in Dundee, 1836–2016', *Journal of Scottish Historical Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 2, November 2025, pp. 69–102

<https://www.eupublishing.com/doi/10.3366/jshs.2025.0392>

**First publication date: 30 January 2026**

Leslie Francis and Stephen Parker (eds), *Cathedral Studies (Part 3)* [13 articles], in *Journal of Beliefs and Values*, Vol. 46, No. 4, 2025, pp. 585–783

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cjbv20/46/4>

PERSONAL NEWS

**Michael P. Hornsby-Smith**

We pay tribute to the life, humanity, and scholarship of the late Michael P. Hornsby-Smith (1933–2026), Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Surrey, who, among other things, researched the sociology of Roman Catholicism in England from the early 1970s to the present and published several acclaimed books and numerous other outputs on the subject, as well as leaving a legacy of datasets for others to repurpose. A Catholic himself, he also wrote *Reflections on a Catholic Life* (Upfront Publishing, 2010).