

SUMMARY

England and Wales are now minority Christian countries, according to the 2021 census, which also shows that Leicester and Birmingham have become the first UK cities with "minority majorities." It is the first time that less than half of the population describe themselves as Christian. It means that, over the past 20 years, the proportion of people who say they profess no religion has soared from 14.8%, an increase of more than 22 percentage points.

The Guardian analysis shows that areas with higher proportions of people from ethnic minorities are also more religious. And places with a higher proportion of white people also have a higher proportion of people with no religion. The society in which we live is increasingly multicultural, but despite growing ethnic diversity, "nine out of ten people in England and Wales still identify with a British national identity, and almost eight out of ten do so in London."

In a prelude to a new era of "super diversity" across the city, ONS data indicated that 59.1% of Leicester's residents now belong to minority ethnic groups, a big change from 1991, when the black and minority ethnic population accounted for just over a quarter of the city's residents.