

# Choosing a dating site

By Jackie Elton, Founder/Director, Christian Connection dating site

## Internet Dating for Christians

When the internet first started in the late 1990s, internet dating was quickly established as a key way for Christians to meet. At least third of single people in the UK have used dating sites, one in five relationships start online, and this proportion is set to grow.

Christians are encouraged to get married by their churches but in practice the opportunities for meeting another Christian at your local church or even your big urban church have proved difficult and limited. Not everybody finds it easy or desirable to date somebody from their church, whereas the internet provides far greater opportunities to meet a whole range of Christians.

There is a big difference between dating sites – some are very well run and focused on people finding relationships; others are there to make money quickly. Some have good customer service; other have very little or none. Some take care to eliminate fake profiles; other don't or even create their own!

[Christian Connection](#) was established in 2000 and is the largest UK based site for Christians. There are a couple of large US based sites, [ChristianCafe.com](#) and [ChristianMingle.com](#) which are based in Canada and the US respectively.

But be careful! As well as some smaller Christian sites in the UK, there are several sites that purport to be Christian and advertise extensively but are simply part of larger mass sites with large mixed databases. Look carefully to see who owns and operates these sites and you may find that not only are they not Christian at all, but they mix up and share databases with sites without any kind of Christian ethos at all.

Free sites may not have the same levels of customer care and protection that subscription sites generally have, and people may not perhaps not be as committed to finding a relationship.

Christians also go on larger secular sites like [www.eharmony.com](#), [www.match.com](#) and [www.mysinglefriend.com](#) and look for Christians on those sites. It is not unusual to go between different sites and try out what works best for you.

Many Christians have found success through internet dating, found love online and built new lives and families. Others have found some interesting dates and good social opportunities through the sites and it has helped them build a wider social life. Some find the process of internet dating hard and very time consuming. At [Christian Connection](#) and other sites there are also events which are organised by the site and members and Discussion Boards which provide different avenues for meeting people.