

RECENT SURVEYS/MAPPING EXERCISES UNDERTAKEN ACROSS THE ENGLISH REGIONS, SCOTLAND AND WALES TO MEASURE THE CONTRIBUTION OF FAITH GROUPS TO SOCIAL ACTION AND CULTURE

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- Notes: 1. Not all the reports are quantitative; some are qualitative choosing to focus on individual case studies;
 2. Almost all reports set out to include all denominations and faiths;
 3. Where known I have included a web link for each report: either from where the report can be downloaded or ordered;

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Region	Regional Forums/ Networks – where one aim is to be the faith body that engages with Gov/regional bodies	Reports on contribution of faith groups to social action and culture	Key findings	Main recommendations
NORTH WEST	Northwest Forum of Faiths - inaugurated January 2006 in Preston www.faithnorthwest.org.uk	1. <i>Faith in England's Northwest: the contribution made by faith communities to civil society in the region</i> , November 2003 In partnership with the NW RDA Supported by the NW Regional Assembly http://www.faithnorthwest.org.uk/key-publications.html	Survey of 4,400 faith communities with a response rate of 54%. Faith communities running c.5,000 social projects; More than 45,500 volunteers working through faith communities on community and social projects; Huge community resource available in form of buildings.	Need to capacity build within faith communities so they can access, more effectively, partnership initiatives and funding; Need to make potential partners more aware of what faith communities have to offer; Need to work to ensure that faith networks are inclusive of and accountable to all faiths.
		2. <i>Faith in England's Northwest: Economic Impact Assessment</i> DTZ Piedad Consulting, February 2005 (based on the data collected for the 2003 survey – above)	Faith communities in the Northwest generates between £69.6 million and £94.9 million; 697,114 faith visitors and tourists to the Northwest	Identified further areas of research which would provide a deeper level of knowledge about the contribution of the faith communities sector.

		In partnership with the NW RDA http://www.faithnorthwest.org.uk/key-publications.html	generate around £8.4 million per annum.	
NORTH EAST	The Churches Regional Commission (CRC) in the NE - formed 1995 www.northeastchurches.org.uk	<i>COALFIELDS REGENERATION in North East England : The contribution of Faith Communities</i> by Fiona Clarke (January 2002) The Coalfields Regeneration Trust and the CRC supported by the Church Urban Fund. http://www.northeastchurches.org.uk/library/files/5~CoalfieldsRegenReport.pdf	Most parishes supported between 1 and 3 paid staff, and an average of between 8 and 15 regular volunteers running activities. 75% of churches provided rooms for community use, and 50% also used other local premises for their activities. Most popular activities offered were community events, regular social, welfare and recreational pursuits. c.50% offered pensioners' activities and play or toddler groups alongside other regular leisure and recreation clubs. 33% undertook youth-work, and more were planning such provision in the near future.	Need to: - develop a regional community development strategy; - tackle the fabric of some church buildings to make more suitable for other community uses; - develop a strategy for funding regeneration activities by faith communities; - improve communication and networking between faith communities who are engaged in regeneration within the region; - provide more support for isolated faith communities and tailoring recruitment practices to match the skills and experience needed by specific neighbourhoods; - develop a resource strategy for each diocese or church community to find innovative ways of supporting local action.
		<i>Faith in the North East: Social action by faith communities in the region</i> (September 2004) - supported by the Government Office NE/Home Office, CUF - in partnership with One NorthEast and the North East Regional Assembly.	Survey of 1448 faith communities of which 50.21% responded. Faith communities involved in 4,762 separate activities; 96% have their own building	New partnerships and ways of working need to be generated between and across faith groups to maximise their potential for community involvement; Need to capacity build within faith

		http://www.northeastchurches.org.uk/library/files/5~Faith_Survey_Report.pdf?PHPSESSID=3fe96567f05687fbb3dda504f8fe5911	and 56.7% had rooms used by community groups; 13,439 volunteers from faith communities involved in activities in the wider local community equalling a total of 4,192,968 volunteers hours pa.	communities so they can access, more effectively, partnership initiatives and funding; and support their volunteers; More understanding is needed by those involved in governance and policy-making as to the distinctive contribution of faith communities.
		<i>Promoting Social Inclusion of Young People – the contribution of faith communities</i> CRC research project in partnership with Durham University funded by Big Lottery	2 year project commenced May 2005.	
YORKSHIRE	SEARCH (Social and Economic Action Resource of Churches in Hull and District) Formed 1999 to undertake research and now a resource for Hull churches.	<i>Count Us In</i> SEARCH report published 2000. A major research exercise carried out amongst churches within the city of Hull. Using a questionnaire and structured interview gathered information about church-based social action and relevant resources. Subsequent annual reports which contain advice, useful information, updated directories of church social projects and further case studies : <i>Count the Difference</i> 2001 <i>Shoots and Roots</i> 2002 <i>Who Do We Serve</i> 2003 For further information email: search@care@care4free.net	- 85% of churches participated, of these 90% are involved in some form of social action; - at least 1,000 hours of church-based action takes place across the city each week = c. 350 regular activities; - wide range of activities for children, young people, families, older people; addressing issues of health and disability, women's issues, relieving poverty, counselling and advice, social exclusion; - approx 8,500 individuals (the majority volunteers) taking part in church-based community activities each week; - majority of this work has developed from the vision and energy of church members; - church buildings are an important resource in local	- Need to facilitate networks and information sharing; - New church partnerships and ways of working together need to be found to maximise potential; - Churches need greater access to information and advice about funding opportunities - There is huge potential to develop volunteers: training and support; - Churches need to consider different models for developing social action to be more accessible and to find out what local communities need.

			communities community access and involvement.	
	<p>Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber (CRC) - formed 1998</p> <p>www.crc-online.org.uk</p> <p>A regional Faiths Forum supported by CRC and Yorkshire and Humberside Assembly due to be launched Autumn 2005</p> <p>www.yorkshireandhumberfaiths.org.uk</p>	<p><i>Angels and Advocates: Church Social Action in Yorkshire and the Humber</i> (November 2002) CRC - publication funded by Yorkshire Forward (RDA)</p> <p>(Research sources: - surveys of church social action in Leeds (1995), Hull (2000) and Sheffield's 12 most deprived wards (2001) and certain rural areas of Yorkshire (2002)) - Church Life Profile carried out by Church Information for Mission in Yorkshire (2001)</p> <p>http://www.crc-online.org.uk/reports.asp?slid=89&mid=90</p>	<p>- Churches engaged in c.6,500 social action projects; - between 50,000 - 70,000 churchgoers are regularly involved in church social action and a similar number engage in social action not organised by the churches; - some 3,000 staff on church projects; - over 150,000 people benefit regularly from church projects. The economic value of church social action to the region is likely to be between £55 - £75 million a year. - over 3,000 buildings located in virtually every community, being used extensively by the church and many other organisation.</p>	<p>- faith groups need more support, training and help with maintaining the 3,000+ buildings available for community use; - public bodies should involve the churches as partners in the development of regeneration and social policies in the region; - churches should be included in strategic partnerships and networks of service deliverers; - the CRC and the sub-regional support networks should seek to enhance the quality of church projects through increasingly professional management, development of staff & volunteers and through careful monitoring and evaluation.</p>
	<p>Compiled from many sources of information and research data.</p>	<p><i>Sowing the Seed: Church and Rural Regeneration in Yorkshire and Humberside</i> (October 2003) CRC - publication funded by Yorkshire Forward (RDA)</p> <p>http://www.crc-online.org.uk/reports.asp?slid=89&mid=90</p>	<p>Rural data included in statistics produced for <i>Angels and Advocates</i> (see above).</p>	<p>To work effectively churches must work with other agencies in partnership, and work ecumenically.</p>
		<p><i>Sticking together – Faith and Community Cohesion</i> (2004) CRC</p>	<p>Christian response to the Northern city riots of 2001.</p>	
		<p><i>Enterprising Faith: Faith in the Social Economy</i> (2004) CRC</p> <p>http://www.crc-online.org.uk/reports.asp?slid=89&mid=90</p>	<p>Looks at role of faith groups in the social economy and also some of the issues this raises for faith-based organisations; and suggests ways we can</p>	<p>There should be room for all kinds of groups:- - those social enterprises that want to become successful businesses and gain more</p>

			develop this contribution and gain recognition and support.	funding with the aim of becoming self-funding; - those small grassroots and organic projects which will probably remain dependent on grants
		Report produced by Thomas Low Partnership February 2004. Research project carried out in Bradford.	Christian congregations in the City of Bradford employ 150 people in social action initiatives. Based on the minimum wage of £4.85 an hour, this work is valued at over £1.3 million per year.	
		<i>Cultural Beacons</i> : a survey of 116 churches across all denominations in Hull and East Riding of all aspects of activity within the church and local community. CRC for Yorkshire and the Humber's Cultural Task Group (Spring 2005)	94% use music in regular worship; 22% also used art; 30% retained a traditional choir; 50% of churches involved in flower arranging; 70% use their church for music events; 42% host flower festivals; 25% art exhibitions; 13% plays 88% allowed visitors; only 52% open outside service times 41% had produced an information leaflet for visitors	Mapping of church culture on-going
WEST MIDLANDS		<i>Faithful Regeneration: the Role and Contribution of Local Parishes in Local Communities in the Diocese of Birmingham</i> (September 2004) Study undertaken by Diocese of Birmingham and the Centre for Voluntary Action Research at Aston	Looked at 12 parishes in detail in order to come to greater understanding of the different and various roles played by people in the parishes (eg: clergy, lay people from the church, people from church-	Highlighted the need for a strategic approach to the development and sustainability of parish work with local communities. Also looked at barriers to effective engagement eg:

		Business School. Part-funded by the Home Office. http://www.birmingham.anglican.org/upload/pdf/Diocese_FinalReport_TOPCOPY_24Jan05.pdf	related organisations) in their local communities. Also set out to understand impact of local parishes to their local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recruitment of new volunteers esp. for leadership role; - securing funding; - working with non-faith partners
	The West Midlands Faith Forum (WMFF) - formed June 2003. First Conference held 16 March 2005. www.wmfaithsforum.org.uk	<i>Believing in the Region: a baseline study of faith bodies across the West Midlands</i> May 2006 by Regional Action West Midlands (RAWN) with funding from the Government Office West Midlands http://www.wmfaithsforum.org.uk/home/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=6&Itemid=27	Over 60% of all communities worked with people outside their own faith. Over 80% of faith groups own buildings. Almost 90% of respondents allow the wider community to use their buildings. Almost 80% of respondents deliver some kind of service, resource or activity to local people. 33% offer certified courses or training within their walls.	Have produced a West Midlands Forum Policy Paper on Key Issues for Faith-based Regeneration and a Resources CD Rom.
		Survey conducted by Diocese of Hereford around Bishop's Council Vision Statement. Survey conducted June/July 2005. Report January 2006 Part of survey looked at " <i>recognising and responding to needs of our communities</i> " http://www.hereford.anglican.org/pages/factsfigures_report.html	85% of respondents felt the church to be at least an <u>important partner</u> to the social and cultural life of the community. 15% considered it be the <u>only major local contributor</u> . c.2,000 people are involved in musical activity, in choirs, music groups or ringing the bells. More than 50% of buildings are used for concerts. More than 40% of parishes are involved in the Governing Body of their local school, 15% are involved in parish and town	That the diocese help to create more opportunities for the creative and sensitive development of church-owned buildings; and continue to develop a strategy. That the diocese should map the links between the church and community eg: through its participation in regional and sub-regional partnerships.

			councils, a further 27% of parishes are participating in Parish Plans and more than 33% are represented on local charities.	
		<p><i>Faith in the Black Country: the role of faith groups in community transformation</i> Autumn 2006 across the four local authority areas of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, and Wolverhampton.</p> <p>Commissioned by the Black Country Net, with funding from the Home Office's Faith Communities Capacity Building fund and Equal (Black Country in the Lead)</p> <p>Study conducted by Transformations Community Projects Partnership, consultants in community project development and social policy research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 21,000 people actively working in their community as paid staff or volunteers; - 1.3 million volunteers hours per year; - 57,000 children and young people attending more than 2,000 youth activities; - an investment of over £32 million a year in people resources. - 61% have facilities currently used by other community groups; - 32% have rooms available for hire to seat 100+ people and 17% have rooms available to seat more than 300 people (30 organisations) 	<p><u>For the Faith Sector:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - build on strengths of creativity, innovation and commitment; - build better relationships with the public sector and tackle perceptions about the narrow or insular look of faith groups; - become more creative in the development of financial and property assets; - develop more professional approaches to project development, fundraising, monitoring and evaluation; - become more organised as a sector, avoid duplication of limited resources and become a more strategic co-ordinated partner. <p><u>For the Public Sector:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognise significant contribution already played by faith groups; - find ways to partner more effectively and equitably with the faith sector and harness its strengths; - dedicate more resources to helping the faith sector interface more effectively with public agencies at all levels; - accept that faith groups may have different motives for community involvement, but that overwhelming

				majority believe that works of service are an essential means of expressing their faith.
		<p>Faith Action Audit - Stoke-on-Trent 2006 http://www.saltbox.org.uk/community/faith_action_audit.php</p> <p>[Salt Box Christian Centre based in Stoke-on-Trent] Funding came from the Local Strategic Partnership with support from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund team and the Knowledge Management Unit. Also supported by Faithworks, North Staffs Forum of Faiths, and other Senior Faith leaders</p> <p>62% of the city's 150 individual faith groups responded. Also looked at contribution of faith groups to the City LAA and specifically the four LAA priority blocks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 88 (91%) of the responding faith groups have their own building, in 51 different neighbourhoods. 58 (66%) of the buildings are located within the 25 most deprived neighbourhoods. - Responding faith communities are involved in 235 projects aimed to benefit the local community. - Estimate that over 5,000 hours are given in voluntary service every week, which equals 130 full-time jobs and with a monetary value of £1.25million. - Over 5,000 children and young people use the services provided by faith groups as well as over 1,700 older people. Over 2,000 adults access services with a social purpose and 150 adults regularly attend health projects. 	See under Faith Action Audit – Staffordshire 2008 below
		<p>Faith Action Audit – Staffordshire 2008 http://www.saltbox.org.uk/community/faith_action_audit2.php</p> <p>Salt Box Christian Centre based in Stoke-on-Trent in partnership with Lichfield CoE Diocese, Staffs Consortium of Infrastructure Organisations, Staffs</p>	<p>Responding faith communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are involved in 551 projects / initiatives aimed at benefiting the local community; - provide over 2,350 volunteers, providing over 5,200 weekly volunteer hours – equating 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff/volunteer training to meet legal requirements and professionalise service delivery; 2. Training on partnership working within the own faith tradition, across faiths and with the wider VCS and statutory sector;

		<p>County Council, Staffs Fire & Rescue, West Midlands Faiths Forum.</p> <p>49% of the county's 500 individual faith groups responded including Christian churches, and Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Baha'i, Hindu and multi-faith groups.</p> <p>The findings show that, when combined with the Stoke-on-Trent audit (above) some 64,000 people use faith-based community facilities each week. The facilities include Mums and Toddlers' groups and after-schools projects for children, detached work with young people, lunch clubs and activities for the elderly and support for vulnerable people, including the homeless, ex-offenders and refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>The audit also specifically looked at the ways in which faith groups are contributing to the Local Area Agreements esp the Five Priority Blocks.</p>	<p>more than 140 fulltime jobs. An annual financial contribution from the sample audit of over £1.49million.</p> <p>If extrapolated to include all faith groups in Staffs, the estimate is that faith groups contribute over 4,800 volunteers – providing in excess of 10,500 weekly volunteer hours – equaling over 280 fulltime jobs with a financial contribution of over £3million pa</p> <p>237 (94%) of the responding faith groups have their own buildings, with 113 of these (48%) hiring their facilities out to external users.</p>	<p>3. Training on how to effectively apply for funding;</p> <p>4. Develop a countywide, faith-based infrastructure support agency to form a bridge between the faith communities and the wider VCS and statutory sector;</p> <p>5. Faith communities must be encouraged to provide representation into the Third Sector and the LAA process, both at district and county levels. Capacity needs to be built and resources made available to provide such engagement.</p> <p>6. Faith groups must develop a strategic approach to project delivery through joined up research of local need and regular monitoring and evaluation of existing services eg: community audits.</p>
EAST MIDLANDS	<p>The East Midlands Churches Forum (EMCF) - founded 1998 for Christian denominations.</p> <p>http://www.emcf.org.uk/</p> <p>Faiths Forum for the East Midlands set up in 2006 (no website yet)</p>	<p>1. <i>Supporting Faith and Community Action in the East Midlands - feasibility study report</i> (December 2004) on behalf of EMCF to support a bid to the EMDA for funding for a resource to support churches' community activities in the East Midlands.</p> <p>Part (?) -funded by EMDA http://www.emcf.org.uk/ - website in process of being rebuilt.</p>	<p>Provides examples of church activities which demonstrate a considerable contribution to the social and economic regeneration of their local communities.</p> <p>In rural areas, church is often only organisation providing any kind of support and often available building to the community.</p> <p>In urban areas, church social action work is often 'low profile and unsung'.</p>	<p>There is specialist need for support in terms of social and economic development within faith structures and a need to link that into the regional structure.</p> <p>Recommends two-phase development to:- (a) demonstrate the benefits a specialist resource and support in faith-based social and economic regeneration can have on faith groups projects;</p> <p>(b) create a churches and regeneration hub to ensure a higher profile for church social action and to</p>

				provide more effective support for those faith groups active in this area.
		<p>2. <i>Faithful to Culture: Exploring the Link between Culture and Faith across the East Midlands, Interim Report</i> (June 2004) - undertaken by Culture East Midlands and Art Council England, East Midlands</p>	<p>Large numbers of staff/volunteers within faith-based organisations overseeing interesting, diverse and innovative cultural activities; Very few had ever received funding from any the main funding bodies; Very few indicated that they had ever worked in partnership with any of the potential partner organisations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - aim to ensure that faith-based organisations are included in regional and local cultural and community strategies; - bring an end to policy makers and funders sidestepping the 'minefield' of faith and educate and inform decision-making; - encourage faith-based organisations to celebrate their cultural activities/ events; - enable faith-based organisations, through the dissemination of good-practice and development of networking opportunities, to establish strategies/ visions to help them progress up the cultural 'hierarchy'
		<p>3. <i>East Midlands Regional Faith and Cultural Project: a report into the range of cultural activities undertaken by the Faith Sector.</i> by Creative Associates (Autumn 2006) for East Midlands Churches Forum in partnership with Culture East Midlands, East Midlands Forum of Faiths, Engage East Midlands, FATIMA Women's Network as part of the Regional Change Up Programme for the East Midlands.</p> <p>http://www.emcf.org.uk/ - website in process of being rebuilt.</p>	<p>Research targeted 50 responses out of an initial data of 250. An average of 40 active volunteers in each faith centre involved in delivering cultural programmes. From the survey of 50 respondents, those who gave membership numbers represented a total of almost 19,000 people. Cultural events seen as one way of bringing different faiths together as joint hosts.</p>	<p>Recommends the setting up of an East Midlands Faith-Culture Network which should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raise the capacity of faith-culture groups to manage their activities; - provide a programme of training and awareness-raising for local groups; - increase the profile of activities of faith-culture groups; - provide advice on sources of expertise, professional services, equipment and opportunities provided by regional and national agencies.

			<p>Appeared to be significant difficulties for faith groups to access public funding for these activities. Most funding came from internal sources.</p>	
		<p><i>4. Embracing the present, planning the future: social action by the faith communities of Leicester</i> (July 2004) - sponsored by Diocese of Leicester, Leicester Council of Faiths and Voluntary Action Leicester - assisted by GO for EM, Leicester City Council</p> <p>http://www.leicester.anglican.org/bsr/regen/index.htm</p>	<p>240 faith groups across 14 faiths operating in Leicester were surveyed. 67% response rate overall. - these groups support just under 450 different social projects; - just over half of all faith groups (52%) are engaged in social action.</p> <p>Faith groups operate in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Leicester where they provide 'social arenas' where community activities can flourish.</p>	<p>The need for increased funding and assistance for faith-led community projects, including help with accessing external funding. Currently only 22% of faith-led projects receive external funding;</p> <p>Social partners such as criminal justice agencies and health service providers need to increase the levels of partnership working with faith communities to better understand each other, share resource and launch joint initiatives.</p>
	<p>Research undertaken by the Derby Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility in partnership with the ecumenical Church and Society Forum and the Multi-Faith Centre of Derby. Funded by the ChangeUP Programme and</p>	<p><i>5. Faith in Derbyshire: Working towards a better Derbyshire; faith-based contribution</i> (May 2006)</p> <p>Research aims to: Gain a better picture of the nature and extent of faith group activity within the locality. Assess support needs of faith groups in their community activity. Increase understanding between faith groups and the public sector thereby increasing the opportunity for collaborative working.</p>	<p>- on average churches run 9 activities: usually including activities for pre-schooler and parents, children's activities, activities in local schools, social groups & music groups; - Church activity for under 18s benefits a majority of non church members; - the majority of Christian Individual Contributions are providing individual or family care to related or unrelated</p>	<p>- Develop accountability structures which are appropriate to Faith Communities while meeting the needs of funders and other statutory partners; - Develop skills base within Faith Communities to enhance the capacity to engage in community regeneration; - Develop support, including grants, with other appropriate groups, for Faith Communities who struggle to maintain buildings them available and of acceptable standard for community</p>

	Diocese of Derby		<p>older or disabled people;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - almost 50% of respondents said that community groups use their church premises; - almost 50% of respondents want to develop community use of their premises; - returning churches contribute more than the equivalent to £1.4million per year in church run & individual community activities; - Projects run through Churches mostly need help with volunteers and funding. They also want help with research, vision and suitable premises and networking skills. 	<p>use;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop engagement of Faith Communities in local governance; - Develop the understanding of the nature of Faith Communities, including their needs and potential; - Develop an agenda for continuing research to refine the insights developed in this research.
		<p><i>6. More than Bricks and Mortar? A study into the community use of church buildings</i> by Diane Sheppard for the Industrial Mission in Derbyshire. Funded by the Derbyshire Economic Partnership (March 2007).</p> <p>http://www.derbyshirechaplains.org.uk/news_and_events.htm</p>	<p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to address perceptions of some funders & regeneration agencies that activity in church buildings makes no contribution to regeneration activity, or should not be funded because it is of a “religious purpose”; - to raise awareness generally (in private, public, voluntary & faith sectors) of benefits to be gained through use of church buildings; - to enable greater understanding of the issues - involved in developing church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - examination of the barriers to their participation in local networks should be taken up by both faith groups and external organisations; - a mechanism needs to be identified which allows the information gathered at strategic levels to be useful and relevant to those working on the ground; - open dialogue and some form of cultural awareness training for funding bodies, LAs and other agencies regarding Christian denominations and practice would do much to clear mis-conceptions and aid joint working; - a mechanism should be developed

			<p>buildings by identifying the difficulties, real or perceived;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to explore the relationship of grass roots faith groups to wider area or community development initiatives & infrastructures 	<p>to enabling the sharing of expertise gained by those who have successfully developed their POWs and churches;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - by working together, faith orgs should meet these needs, support the volunteers involved, operate and develop in a cost effective way, and increase access to finance.
	<p>Audit commissioned by the East Northamptonshire Faith Group on contribution to community in East Northamptonshire, (December 2005)</p> <p>Sponsored by the Welland Catalyst Fund and the East Northamptonshire Council</p>	<p><i>Faith Group Community Audit</i></p> <p>Very rural area of Peterborough Diocese. Largest town is Rushden with a population of 30,000; other towns in the area are very small and some of the Anglican churches have electoral rolls in single figures.</p> <p>24 churches took part (60%). Showed by far the biggest providers of voluntary social work. Activities include: youth & children's groups, afternoon clubs, luncheon clubs for the elderly, bereavement & debt counselling, welcome packs for new residents, hospital chaplains' assistants, and charity shops.</p> <p>http://www.enfg.org.uk/aboutus.htm</p>	<p>85% of buildings owned or managed by faithgroups are already being used to support community activities;</p> <p>75% faith groups support other voluntary organisations by giving money, representatives or space;</p> <p>29% employed paid staff to support these initiatives;</p> <p>in total 372 volunteers per week supported these initiatives at a total number of hours per week of 2,314 - valued at £600k</p>	<p>Barriers to doing more included: finance, shortage of volunteers, time, lack of space and expertise;</p> <p>79% said they would like a faith-based district wide network to help facilitate and co-ordinate initiatives</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <p>Appointment of a development worker to:</p> <p>Work with and initiate dialogues with the LSP's to understand local and national government priorities;</p> <p>Improve access to funding;</p> <p>Encourage volunteer involvement in community related activities.</p>
EAST OF ENGLAND	<p>East of England Churches Network (for Christian denominations)</p> <p>www.faithneteast.org.uk</p>	<p><i>Church Buildings in the Community</i> (200?) by the East of England Churches Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supported by a grant from EEDA. 	<p>Set out to define as far as possible those factors which make for establishing one (or more) community projects in a church building;</p> <p>Not aiming to quantify the amount of such activity in the region, but studied 15 case studies to identify best practice.</p>	<p>Report ends with a simple set of suggested guidelines as a resource for other churches.</p>
	East of England	<i>Faith in Action: a Report on Faith Communities</i>	Looking at communities in	- that partnership with statutory or

	<p>Faiths Council formed in 2002 and is made up of leaders of all the major faith traditions. (Dominate faith body in the region)</p> <p>www.EEFaithsCouncil.org.uk</p>	<p><i>and Social Capital in the East of England</i> (May 2003) prepared for the East of England Faiths Leadership Conference. (now Faiths Council) - financial support from EEDA and the Government Office EoE & the East of England Churches Network.</p> <p>(Source of information based on interviews with faith representatives identified by members of local faith councils). http://www.eefaithscouncil.org.uk/inact.htm</p>	<p>Luton and Peterborough, it shows how faith groups provide a wide range of valuable services and benefits to their local communities; faith groups were often best placed to identify the social needs of their members.</p>	<p>charitable bodies was important in helping them offer sustainable services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that faith groups should seek to develop skills in communicating what they do describe their work in terms of 'social capital' in order to win increased public funding. - Potential funding bodies/partners also needed to develop awareness of the specialised knowledge held by faith groups.
		<p><i>Faith in the East of England: a research study on the vital role played by faith communities in the social, economic and spiritual life of a region.</i> (July 2005) Undertaken by the East of England Faiths Council and the University of Cambridge, on behalf of the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). http://www.eefaithscouncil.org.uk/fiee.htm</p>	<p>50% response rate from postal survey. A total of 6,275 people benefitted from the total group surveyed. Projected across the region, this would indicate that c.180,000 people are actively benefiting from the presence of faith groups every week On average among respondents, each faith community had started two new projects over last five years. Major beneficiaries were children and the elderly: 86% and 82% of respondents respectively provided services for them; 30% of respondents ran projects designed for unemployed adults, 22% for people seeking to improve their skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - need to raise awareness of the value of partnership and seek to reduce tensions arising out of the different values and priorities of faith communities and secular bodies. - need to manage and disseminate information on funding sources, training, legislation to faith communities. - need to 'grow' suitable volunteers through training courses provided by faith bodies and secular partners.

		<p><i>City of Norwich: A survey looked at the extent of the churches' social action in the City of Norwich. (September 2003)</i></p>	<p>Church volunteers provide 154,555 hours of social action services; - included bereavement counselling, drug and alcohol user support and home visiting. This equates to 80 full-time works that would otherwise cost £650,000 (at the national minimum wage of £4.20 per hour).</p>	
		<p><i>Church Buildings: A Source of Delight and a Cause of Anxiety – the report of a Working Group, Diocese of Norwich, (November 2003)</i></p> <p>(Source of information: letter sent by Bishop to all Churchwardens in the Norwich Diocese)</p>	<p>A huge number of activities are taking place in these churches;</p> <p>Most common problems were cost of needed substantial repairs, lack of facilities which make it difficult to extend use, & isolation in terms of small and decreasing populations and being off the tourist route.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gov. to recognise the significant educational and community use to which the church buildings are put; - recognise the huge financial burden placed on sometimes small church communities in maintaining heritage building; - Dioceses to provide support and expert assistance to the parishes (on request) seeking to maximise their (and their building's) contribution to local community life; - parishes to share good ideas and practice with other parishes/other denominations/faiths; - parishes to work in partnership with the Parish Council and other organisations.
SOUTH WEST		<p><i>Culture South West, Cathedrals and Cultural Investment (July 2002)</i></p> <p>South West Church Leaders,</p> <p>Pilot study based on the six SW cathedrals.</p>	<p>c.£10m annually (2002) spent by the region's six cathedrals on cultural activities; 305 concerts being given each year with an estimated total attendance of 122,049.</p>	

		<p><i>A Vibrant Church: A Report of the Church of England in Rural Gloucestershire</i> (February 2003) - commissioned by the Gloucester Diocesan Rural Group</p> <p>(Questionnaires sent to each PCC Secretary of a rural parish and one to each incumbent with a rural responsibility – response rates of 58% and 54% respectively)</p>	<p>- 45% of rural churches are already being used at least once during the week for other activities as well as for Sunday worship; - a total of 19 out of 155 parishes had no other building available for community use than their parish church; - 56% of PCCs and 82% of Incumbents said they would like to see a wider range of uses in the main church building.</p>	<p>the cathedrals should be seen as part of the region's cultural life;</p> <p>Should be noted that they currently give to the community more than they get from the government.</p>
	<p>Faithnetsouthwest www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk/</p>	<p><i>Faith in Action in the South West</i> June 2006 - a survey of social and community action by faith groups in the SouthWest of England produced by <i>faithnetsouthwest</i>. www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk</p>	<p>65% use their buildings for activities for the local community. Includes use by public bodies and community associations as well as social and recreational activities. 69 (8%) have 10 or more different activities taking place in their building and 218 (26%) have 5 or more activities. 43% offered support to young people, 41% to older people, 38% to toddlers, 38% to children, 61% had connections with local schools At least 33,000 people are being supported in the community by faith groups responding to the survey. Regionally this indicates a figure of more than 165,000.</p>	<p><i>Churches and faith groups should consider ways to develop their buildings as a community resource & reach out to the widest community, address some of the social issues of their community and finance the maintenance of their building both for their worship community and as a community resource.</i></p> <p><i>Public bodies, including funding bodies, should recognise the vital importance of such buildings to local communities and look for ways of offering support in their development and maintenance as a community resource.</i></p> <p><i>Faith groups should be far more proactive in seeking funding for the work they do in the community.</i></p>

				<i>Funders should be more flexible in their thinking and consider the support that faith groups can provide for the whole community. There is a danger that such bodies may see faith groups merely as religious people trying to make converts.</i>
	South Gloucestershire Faith Forum http://www.southglosfaithforum.org.uk/	South Gloucestershire Faith Forum are planning a faith action audit in South Gloucestershire. Project to be managed by <i>faithnetsouthwest</i> . Currently seeking funding. [July 2008]		
SOUTH EAST	The South East England Faith Forum (SEEFF) http://www.se-faithforum.net/cms/	" <i>Beyond Belief?</i> " (March 2004) SE England Faith Forum - funded by SEEDA and Churches in the SE. Additional support by RAISE and the Regional Assembly SEERA (Research based on information collected in areas selected according to Index of Multiple Deprivation statistics) http://www.se-faithforum.net/cms/beyond-belief.html	400 faith groups surveyed with a response rate of 26%. On average just over two projects of social action were carried out from the premises of each faith centre in the region; 94% said that their faith group was involved in social action.	- need for more support for faith groups to provide advice on funding, partnership working, project management and other skills; - need for an infrastructure networking organisation that will be able to put faith groups in touch with other faith groups elsewhere in the Region to share experience; - need for faith groups to engage more with secular groups in order to break down barrier and build positive relationships of trust
		<i>Being Here: How the Church is Engaging with the Communities of Brighton and Hove</i> (April 2004) Engage, The Brighton and Hove Churches Community Development Association - funded by SEEDA and CUF	- 301 egs of congregations & organisations running their own community activities, groups or projects; - 250 egs of churches supporting another voluntary	Church to look outward for the resources through learning, sharing, and partnering with others; The government and voluntary sector to respect the equality and diversity of

		(120 faith groups identified; 100 interviewed (83%))	organisation by giving: money, representatives, space and other resources; - Out of the 55 community buildings identified as essential to the provision of services and facilities, 47 were church halls & worship spaces provided by the Churches themselves.	service-providers as well as users.
		A survey in Hastings, Chichester Diocese commissioned by Hastings Voluntary Action and carried out by Churches Together in Hastings and St Leonards. (November 2004)	1200 hours of voluntary community each week, the equivalent of 22 full-time staff working 52 weeks a year; Churches on average run two community projects, often working ecumenically, focusing on hard-to-reach groups eg: excluded young people, drug addicts, refugees, and asylum seekers.	"An enormous amount of community work takes place around Churches but often it is ignored". Steve Manwaring, Director of Hastings Voluntary Action
		<i>Faith in Culture: A Faith Contribution to Cultural Strategies</i> Diocese of Oxford (April 2004) http://www.oxford.anglican.org/files/fic.pdf	Huge number and range of cultural activities being organised by faith groups and taking place in church buildings; Focuses on 13 case studies.	The Regional Cultural Consortiums need to recognise faith groups' contribution to the cultural agenda and reflect this in their strategies; Churches need to "tell their stories" .
LONDON	London Churches Group for Social Action http://www.londonchurchesgroup.org.uk/	<i>Neighbourhood Renewal in London: the Role of Faith Communities</i> (May 2002) Greater London Enterprise and London Churches Group <i>Regenerating London: Faith Communities and Social Action</i> (October 2002) Greater London Enterprise and London Churches Group http://www.londonchurchesgroup.org.uk/Publications.htm	Quantitative survey of 3,298 churches and other faith centres. Response rate of 30% suggests - faith communities running more than 7,000 projects in London, employing 10,000 staff and involving over 45,000 volunteers; - 2,200 buildings are available	- more co-operation between local councils and faith organisations would benefit both organisations; - involvement of faith communities in LSPs is patchy. Models need to be developed of regular meetings between faith groups that could allow LSP faith representatives to be fully

	London Faith Forum still under development		for community use; in many neighbourhoods the only building available for wider community use; - these activities serve some 390,000 people.	briefed on all issues from the perspectives of all faith groups
ENGLAND-WIDE		<i>Church Life Profile</i> based on survey of over 100,000 churchgoers from more than 10 denominations questioned on or around 29 th April 2001, Churches Information for Mission.	Almost 25% of churchgoers were involved in community service, social justice and welfare activities not related to the church. More than 1 in 5 churchgoers hold a responsible in the their community eg: school governor, trade union official, magistrate, councillor, etc	
SCOTLAND		<i>Churches and Social Capital: the Role of Church of Scotland Congregations in Local Community Development</i> (September 2002) The Church of Scotland's Board of Social Responsibility (Questionnaire sent out to every Church of Scotland. Total of 454 returned: response rate of 42%) http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/reviewreform/downloads/rrsocialcapitalsummary.txt	Churches located in urban deprived and very ethnically diverse parishes more likely to be engaged in social capital activities; 65% of congregations provide educational, cultural or health services to local people; 62% of congregations provided meeting rooms for local community use and 59% community halls.	Congregations need support from the Church of Scotland and policy makers to help them access mainstream funding, and existing networks and develop partnerships with community groups, agencies and local government; Policy makers should recognise the substantial contribution that CofS makes to social capital in Scottish communities and facilitate access to funding and other support; Policy makers should support the maintenance of church buildings as sites of civic engagement.
WALES		<i>Results of a Survey of the Community Use of Church Buildings</i> (April – June 2005) Church in Wales: Church and Society in the Council	Over 15,000 sessions of community activity taking place in Wales each week in Church in Wales buildings.	

		for Ministry and Mission and the Property Department of the Representative Body Questionnaire sent to all Incumbents (40% response rate)	Over 2 million uses each year of Church in Wales buildings for community activities. c.700,000 visitors to churches each year and over 600 churches regularly open to visitors. (Cathedrals account for a further 500,000 visitors).	
		<i>Faith in Wales: Counting for Communities</i> (March 2008) Produced by Gwenni: The Council of the Christian Voluntary Sector in Wales and Wales Council for Voluntary Action supported by the Welsh Assembly Government http://www.gweini.org.uk/audit/index.htm - provides new information on the services provided by faith communities to the wider community, the numbers of volunteers they mobilise, and the rooms and halls they make available. Response rate of just over 49%, with almost a third of the replies in the Welsh language.	Faith communities provide: - more than 42,000 volunteers give almost 80,000 hours a week equivalent to c.2,000 full-time workers; - 600+ purpose built communities centres, 1,800 rent rooms to outside groups and 1,100 supply accommodation free of charge; - maintain 1,600 listed buildings and welcome over 2.5m tourists pa. Services provided to local communities has been estimated at £102m pa.	Want to use report to get over messages that:- - faith communities are well placed to provide public services: in touch with hard to reach groups and are concentrated in urban areas now suffering high levels of deprivation; - faith communities want to work with government to tackle problems; Want to foster better understanding and awareness of faiths and cultures in Wales.

Other relevant research:

1.DEFRA commissioned a research project entitled '*Faith in Rural Communities: Contributions of Social Capital to Community Vibrancy.*' '*People who attend church regularly make a significant contribution to community vibrancy through their engagement in church based activities and their role in the village*'. It was launched on 19 October 2006.

Research carried out by three organisations: the University of Coventry, the Church of England (through Dr Jill Hopkinson, National Rural Officer) and the Arthur Rank Centre.

It can be downloaded from www.defra.gov.uk or from www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications/faith_in_rural_communities/ or in printed form Dr Jill Hopkinson, the Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ

2. *“The Footprint of a church in its neighbourhood”*

The **Churches Community Value Toolkit** has been developed by the Church Urban Fund in conjunction with the Commission on Urban Life and Faith, the Research and Statistics Department of the Archbishops’ Council and the Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber. The Toolkit is a way for churches to show what they contribute to their community in terms of outputs and outcomes - the footprint of a church in its neighbourhood. In this are included the people who are employed, the volunteers, the money spent, the activities supported and hosted, the projects run and supported, the use of buildings and the involvement in wider community life.

In particular, there are calculations that can demonstrate the financial contribution of a church and ways to identify a church's distinctiveness.

The Toolkit is there to be used as people see fit perhaps in support of a grant application or in negotiations with others such as the Local Authority, the Local Strategic Partnership, or the Primary Care Trust. The Toolkit can also be used over a period of time to identify changes and developments. This version is for Church of England churches but specific versions for Baptist, Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches are in development that will reflect each denominations different financial arrangements.

Launched May 2006 and can be downloaded from www.culf.org.uk and www.cuf.org.uk

3. Research commissioned by DEFRA, conducted by Rural Partnerships in association with the University of Gloucestershire and CJC Consulting, *Research into the Funding of Rural Community Buildings and their Associated Benefits*, 2006

Key findings: Most (village halls, church halls etc) are managed by a voluntary committee and charge a hire-fee to groups and individuals to use the facilities for community events, meetings and clubs. Few generate sufficient income to be able to meet the cost of major refurbishment and the research found that 50-60% will require major capital funding over the next decade. Their ability to reduce social exclusion and bring about community cohesion especially in small and remote communities was recognised as the factor that contributed most to the Government’s rural agenda. The report recommends that RCBs need to become more enterprising and extend their services to a wider cross section of their community.

4. *Faithful Representation: Faith representatives on local public partnerships*, September 2006

In conjunction with the **Church Urban Fund** and the **Faith Based Regeneration Network**, SURGE have recently completed a major research project on behalf of the Home Office. The first of its kind, the research investigated the particular needs of faith representatives on local public partnerships (LPPs) to enable them to effectively fulfil their roles. The project involved the analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data collected from questionnaires and a series of regional workshops.

The report provides an analysis of the detailed findings of the research as well as a number of recommendations for the Department for Communities and Local Government and other key stakeholders. A significant number of the report's recommendations can be actioned and monitored through the establishment of a National Network and expertise database, which, according to the report, should be set up by the users of the database themselves and facilitated by government through ensuring funding and lines of communication to government. For further information or to obtain a copy of this report please contact the Church Urban Fund on 020 7898 1647 or visit [Church Urban Fund](#) to download a copy of the full report.

5. *The Impact of the Investment in Village Halls*, a Research Report by Village Halls Advisers in the South West of England 2007

30 village/community halls in the SW which had been the recipients of grants to either improve or replace their hall were surveyed to ascertain the impact that that investment had had on the development and sustainability of, not only that hall, but the community as a whole.

The findings showed consistently that investment in a village hall resulted in significant increases in its usage and in the diversity of that use. It was also clear that the buildings had become more cost effective. Eg: income to the village halls increased by 167% in total, once the project had been completed, whilst the expenditure only increased by 67%. In this way, capital investment to village halls also resulted in new surpluses being generated, which helps to sustain these halls in the future.

The overall recommendation is that funders need to be informed that sustainability can be achieved through capital investment.

However, the research also noted that from the time of investment (i.e. grants spent) into a community building, such as a village hall, it takes at least two consecutive years before impact should be evaluated. This allows adequate time for re-opening of the hall, re-launch of activities after a period of possible closure due to refurbishment and new activities to be developed, promoted and started.

Copies of this report can be obtained from the South West ACRE Network of Rural Community Councils or by going to:

http://www.swan-network.org.uk/uploads/documents/the_impact_of_the_investment_fd_15.11.pdf

6. *Faith in Lewisham: a review and evaluation of partnership work between the London Borough of Lewisham and local faith groups*, May 2007. Undertaken by Richard Farnell with Sally Ramsay based in the Applied Research Centre in Sustainable Regeneration, The Futures Institute, Coventry University. Can be downloaded at <http://www.coventry.ac.uk/researchnet/d/182/a/765#Reps>

Review examined the relationship between faith communities and the London Borough of Lewisham since 1999. It identified the three ways that faith communities and the Council engage with each other namely as:-

- **customers** of services provided by the local authority;
- as **partners** the Borough in the delivery of services for local people;
- as **citizens** affected by local decisions.

The report made recommendations for the future of these relationships in the light of local experience and shifts in government policy and practice. The study involved semi-structured interviews and group discussions with participants from both the local authority and a wide range of faith group leaders in the locality. The review concluded that good progress has been made by Lewisham in developing long term relationships with faith communities but that “new mindsets and new approaches are needed” in these different times.

7. Faith Groups and Public Service Contracts in the South West of England: Mapping Report, faithnetsouthwest, May 2007

A mapping survey conducted by *faithnetsouthwest* as part of FaithAction, a planned national three year programme to facilitate the development of a national database of faith-based organisations interested, or experienced in public sector delivery. This survey was to ascertain the degree of involvement of faith groups in the contract tendering process in the south west region. Separate questionnaires were devised for faith groups, support agencies that faith groups may turn to for advice on contract tendering/starting social enterprise projects and bodies offering contracts.

Key findings:

- 25% of faith groups responding indicated their potential interest in contract tendering; low because -
- 53% of those responding either did not know about contracts for public service or did not indicate this was an issue of importance to them;
- Only 12% of those responding had successfully gained a contract with a public body

Recommendations:

- Faith groups needed to be more proactive in seeking support from agencies that can give advice in bidding for contracts eg: CVS, RCCs and local authority commissioning staff;
- Agencies need to pay more attention to faith groups as potential providers of community services through the commissioning process.
- Faith groups need to work in partnerships with each other; and
- Spend more time in establishing relationships with voluntary and community sector networks and services as well as commissioning agencies;
- Need to be involved with project development at earliest possible stage so that they are well prepared and positioned to bid for services

For more information go to: www.faithnetsouthwest.org.uk

8. *Effective Christian Presence and Enterprise* June 2008

Two year research project undertaken by the Churches Regional Commission in Yorkshire and the Humber, and Faithworks, a national movement of Christians committed to community service, funded by Yorkshire Forward. They studied 19 local 'presences' (expressions of Christian work in communities) to identify what makes an effective presence, and the issues that can help or hinder this kind of work. The activities delivered by these presences included after-school activities, social housing schemes, drug and alcohol rehabilitation programmes, community cafes, services for the elderly, and even a theatre company.

The research found evidence of a remarkable contribution made by the 19 presences, including a total financial value of £2.9 million being contributed to their communities. There was also an estimated annual footfall figure of up to 280,000.

The report also highlights seven main findings which demonstrate the components of an effective Christian presence, and point to ways forward for the future:

1. Partnership or collaborative working is the default position for effectiveness.
2. Volunteers are crucial. Churches need to better at managing them.
3. Effectiveness requires three distinct leadership styles working together (team building, entrepreneurial and project/strategic management).
4. Effectiveness is dependent on more than the church leader! Teams are crucial.
5. Striving for quality is essential.
6. Flexible 'church structures' can actively encourage effectiveness.
7. Sustainability is about more than long-term funding: it's about 'keeping the fire alive'.

Liz Carnelley, Chief Executive of the Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber said the report's findings were of national significance when it came to promoting the effectiveness of Christian engagement in local communities:

"We can learn from what has made these presences effective, and there are real lessons here that churches need to hear. Lives are being changed and communities transformed by what Christians are doing across the region."

For more information go to: <http://www.faithworks.info/Standard.asp?id=8282> or <http://www.crc-online.org.uk/reports.asp?slid=89&mid=90>

9. *Believing in Social Action*, Church Urban Fund, June 2008

http://www.cuf.org.uk/Believing_in_Local_Action.aspx

Produced in collaboration with NAVCA and CLG, this report show how working together improves services to local people in some of England's poorest communities. The study has identified the benefits of successful partnership working between third sector local infrastructure organisations (LIOs) and local faith communities. It also offers some good practice points, which can be considered and adapted in the light of local circumstances. It provides material which will be of particular use to local infrastructure organisations, as well as faith organisations and

networks.

The report provides and analyses seven case studies from locations across England illustrating how it can be done.

In the final section, it recommends seven actions for faith organisations and LIOs to explore further, drawing on the experience from the case study areas and other examples of good practice.

10. Survey of Mosques in England and Wales (February 2009) prepared for the Charity Commission by BMG Research and commissioned by its Faith and Social Cohesion Unit as part of its wider work with faith-based charities. The results show that mosques contribute to their local communities through a wide range of services and activities in addition to providing space for worship. 34 per cent (255) of mosques contacted responded to the telephone survey. The findings show that most are well-established, with over 80 per cent of those surveyed having being in existence for over ten years. The average number of attenders at Friday prayer meetings is over 400 (rising to over 600 for *Eid*) and, on average, the mosques surveyed reported that their estimated annual income was £233,452.

The mosques that responded offer a wide range of services and activities for the local community:

- nine out of ten deliver educational programmes for children and young people;
- eight out of ten carry out fundraising for the relief of poverty and hardship;
- three in five have women's groups or activities;
- almost half deliver sports and leisure activities; and
- almost one third have health / healthy living activities and activities for senior citizens.

Seyyed Ferjani, Chair of the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) welcomed the research, which he hoped would be “*a really useful starting point on which we can build*”. To read full report go to

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/Library/tcc/pdfs/fscumosque.pdf>