

POVERTY IN NUMBERS:

UPDATE OF ONLINE LOOKUP TOOL FOR PARISHES

Church Urban Fund, with assistance from the Church of England's Research and Statistics division, has developed an online tool that provides information on a range of poverty-related indicators at the parish level. Entering your postcode in to this tool allows you to see where your parish ranks, nationally or within the diocese, on ten different indicators including child poverty, pensioner poverty and life expectancy.

This online tool is designed to increase awareness of poverty in England and to help churches as they engage with their local community, equipping them with data to plan and deliver targeted activities.

Originally launched in May 2012, this tool has recently been updated, incorporating 2011 Census data and other more recent data sets. This short paper is a summary of the key findings from the updated tool.

KEY FINDINGS:

- Marked inequality exists in England. In the most affluent parishes, less than 1% of children live in poverty and boys can expect to live for 85 years or more. In the most deprived parishes, up to two-thirds of children live in poverty and male life expectancy is around 70 years or less.
- Poverty is heavily concentrated in the north of England, and in urban and coastal areas. For example, almost half of all parishes in the dioceses of Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester rank in the 10% most deprived parishes in England. By contrast, no parishes in Guildford, Hereford or Salisbury dioceses rank in the 10% most deprived parishes.
- Yet affluence and deprivation often closely co-exist. Our data shows that affluent parishes may be just a few miles away from significantly more deprived parishes. Such close proximity offers churches many opportunities for partnership work.

Church Urban Fund's vision is for every church in every community to be involved in tackling poverty, working alongside others to support the poorest and most marginalised in our country.

To find out more about the level of poverty in your parish, go to: www.cuf.org.uk/povertyinengland

POVERTY IN NUMBERS: ONLINE LOOKUP TOOL FOR PARISHES

ABOUT THE TOOL

Our tool includes eight poverty-related indicators (index of multiple deprivation, child poverty, working-age poverty, pensioner poverty, life expectancy, lack of qualifications, lone parenthood and social housing) and two descriptive indicators (ethnic diversity and older population size). All of these indicators are derived from publically available government data sets and have been converted from Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) to parish boundaries. In order to conserve accuracy, data for parishes with populations of less than 500 people, where low numbers may distort poverty rates, have been omitted from the tool.

In July 2013, eight of the ten indicators were updated with more recent data sets. For more information on current data sources and calculations please visit: www.cuf.org.uk/povertyindicators.

POVERTY IN ENGLAND

Poverty is a very real phenomenon in England. One fifth of children live in low-income families in receipt of out-of-work benefits or tax credits – a commonly accepted measure of poverty. Almost a quarter of adults have no academic, vocational or professional qualifications and almost a fifth of households are living in social housing. In a time of economic stagnation and following significant reform of our national welfare system, many households are increasingly struggling to make ends meet.

INEQUALITY BETWEEN PARISHES

According to recent research, inequality in Britain has grown sharply over the last 15 years (Squeezed Britain, Resolution Foundation, 2013). This inequality is clearly visible at the parish level, with considerable variations occurring on every poverty-related indicator included in our tool. Shockingly, a boy born in one parish might expect to live 22 years longer than a boy born in another parish.

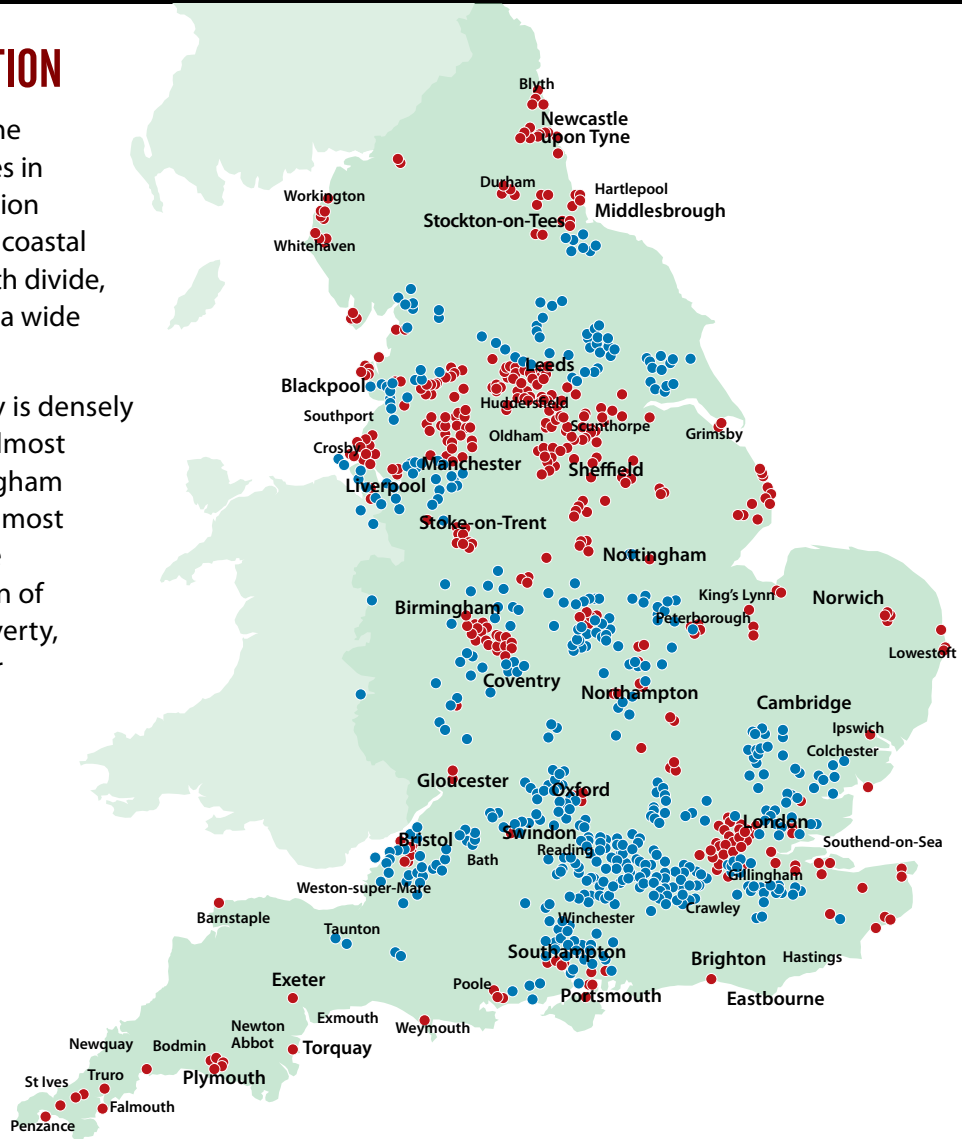
The table below shows the lowest and highest results in the country on five poverty-related indicators, demonstrating the degree of inequality that exists in England.

	Lowest in country (on each indicator)	Highest in country (on each indicator)
Child poverty (% of children in poverty)	0% St. Andrew, Southwark	65% St. Margaret, Toxteth, Liverpool
Working-age poverty (% of adults on key out-of-work benefits)	1% St. Catherine, St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich	60% St. Philip & St. Jacob, Bristol
Pensioner poverty (% of pensioners on low incomes)	0% St. Sepulchre, London	69% Holy Trinity, Guildford
Life expectancy (boys) (life expectancy at birth)	66 years St. Peter, Blackburn	88 years Sibford, Oxford
Life expectancy (girls) (life expectancy at birth)	70 years St. Simon & St. Jude, Chichester	99 years St. Michael the Archangel, Worcester

DISTRIBUTION OF DEPRIVATION

This map shows the distribution of the 10% least and most deprived parishes in the country. As you can see, deprivation is heavily concentrated in urban and coastal areas. There is also a clear north/south divide, with most affluent parishes found in a wide arc around London.

The table below shows how poverty is densely clustered in certain dioceses, with almost half of parishes in Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester ranking in the 10% most deprived parishes in England. These dioceses also have a high proportion of parishes with high rates of child poverty, working-age poverty and pensioner poverty. By contrast, no parishes in the dioceses of Guildford, Hereford or Salisbury rank in the 10% most deprived nationally.



● 10% most deprived parishes
● 10% least deprived parishes

**This map shows the 10% most and least deprived parishes in England, based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010.*

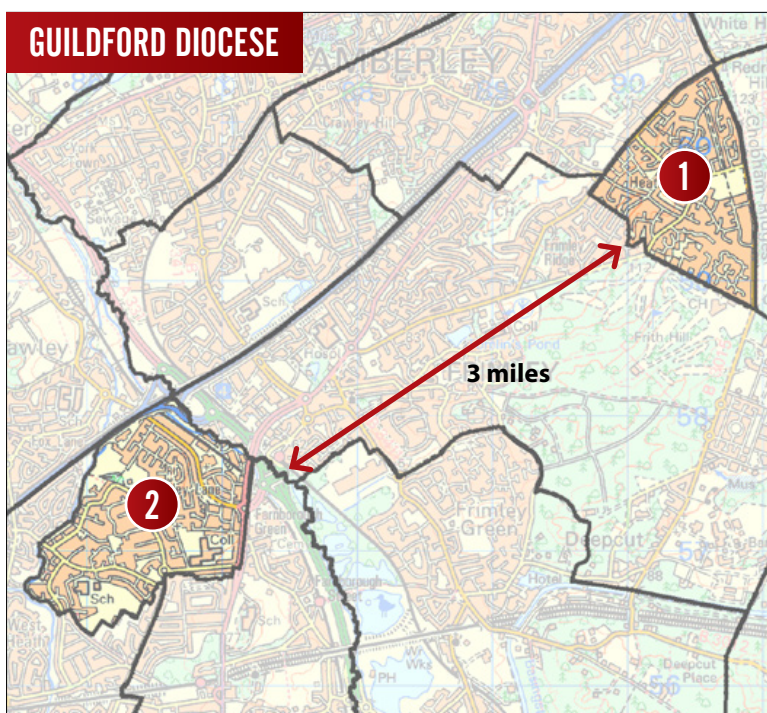
% OF PARISHES IN THE 'WORST' 10% NATIONALLY ON EACH OF THESE INDICATORS, BY DIOCESE							
Overall Deprivation		Child Poverty		Working-age poverty		Pensioner poverty	
Birmingham	45%	Birmingham	40%	Liverpool	39%	Birmingham	37%
Liverpool	45%	London	35%	Birmingham	38%	London	36%
Manchester	45%	Manchester	33%	Manchester	37%	Manchester	35%
Sheffield	32%	Liverpool	30%	Sheffield	29%	Liverpool	35%
Durham	30%	Southwark	26%	Durham	28%	Southwark	27%
London	25%	Sheffield	24%	Wakefield	18%	Bradford	18%
Hereford	0%	Salisbury	0%	Salisbury	0%	Salisbury	0%
Guildford	0%	Guildford	0%	Guildford	0%	Hereford	0%

POVERTY IN NUMBERS: ONLINE LOOKUP TOOL FOR PARISHES

PROXIMITY BETWEEN LEAST AND MOST DEPRIVED PARISHES

While poverty is more heavily concentrated in northern and urban areas, it is certainly not exclusive to these parts of the country. Indeed, there are parishes within every diocese that face poverty-related issues. The map below shows just how close an affluent parish, such as Camberley Heatherside, might be to a parish with a much higher degree of deprivation, such as The Good Shepherd in Farnborough. These two parishes are just three miles apart.

Such close proximity offers churches many opportunities for partnership work. For example, the 'Life Expectancy Wirral' project (available to download from our website) paired churches in the area to help them explore why life expectancy varied to such a large degree between parishes.



1 Camberley Heatherside

IMD rank*	5
Child poverty	6%
Working-age poverty	3%
Pensioner poverty	5%

2 The Good Shepherd, Farnborough

IMD rank*	9754
Child poverty	23%
Working-age poverty	12%
Pensioner poverty	29%

**Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) rank, where 1 is the least deprived parish in the country and there are a total of 12,775 parishes in England.*

CONCLUSION

Our poverty lookup tool reveals that marked inequality and deprivation exists in England. Yet, the Church has an important role to play in tackling poverty. Working alongside others, churches can offer both the short-term support that is needed by those in crisis and also the longer-term relational networks that ultimately help to transform lives. Our hope is that this tool will continue to support churches as they seek to engage and work with their local communities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on our online poverty lookup tool, please contact Bethany Eckley at Church Urban Fund. To download this and other research reports, please visit www.cuf.org.uk/research.

Church Urban Fund Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ

T 020 7898 1667 F 020 7898 1601 E enquiries@cuf.org.uk W www.cuf.org.uk

Registered Charity number 297483