

LOOK UP TOOL
Resources

CHURCH
URBAN
FUND⁺

The CUF Look Up Tool is a free and invaluable resource for churches looking to make a meaningful difference in their community.

www.cuf.org.uk/lookup-tool

USING THE LOOK UP TOOL

The Look Up Tool can help you:

- Identify and understand who lives in your parish, and the real issues they may face, such as poverty, housing and education.
- Discover new opportunities to reach your community.
- Ensure projects and initiatives are targeted and effective.

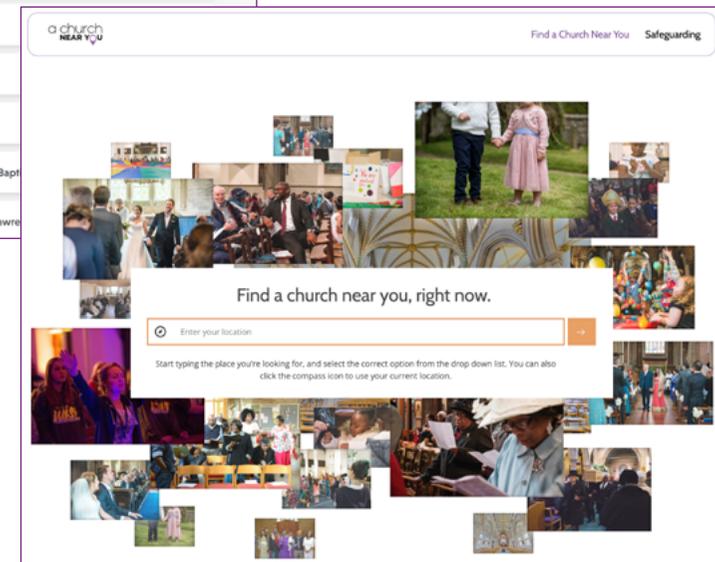
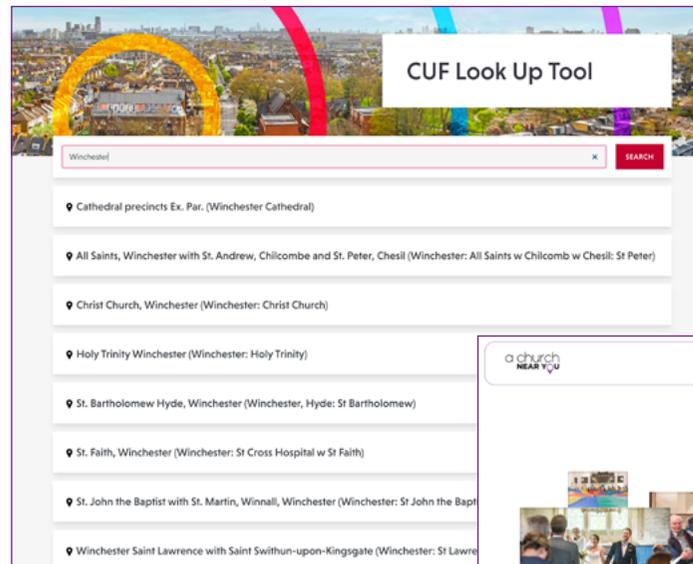
www.cuf.org.uk/lookup-tool

Enter your parish into the CUF Look Up Tool and get a clear picture of poverty in your community and how it compares in your diocese and across England.

A Church Near You can help you find the name of your Church of England parish: achurchnearyou.com

In this guide

- **Where does the data come from?**
Understanding the three data sources and how the deprivation scores are calculated.
- **How to interpret your results**
Understanding your parish data and suggestions for digging deeper.
- **What the data might mean for people living in your parish**
The issues and priorities that might be affecting people in your community.
- **How can I use the data?**
Planning for mission, project planning and praying for your community.
- **Glossary**
Key terms.



WHERE DOES THE DATA COME FROM?

Look Up Tool data is provided by Data Services at the Church of England. For further information and an interactive map we recommend taking a look at the census and deprivation data in the Church of England's [resources, publications and data.](#)

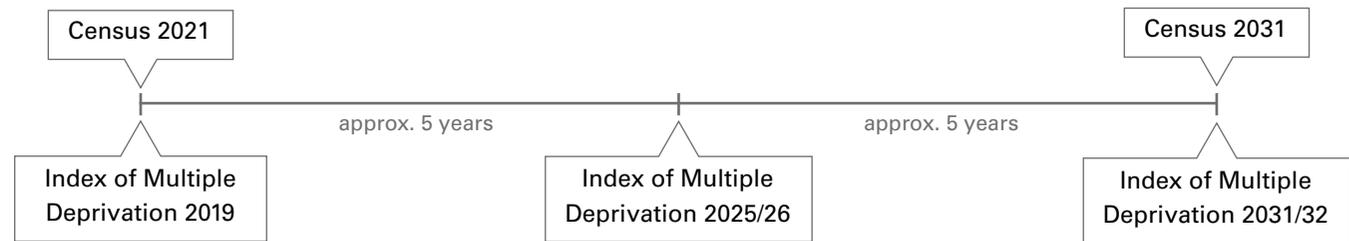


Data sources for reference

There are three key data sources used in Church Urban Fund's Look Up Tool:

1. Index of Multiple Deprivation (2019)
2. Census data (2021)
3. Church of England Parish Boundaries (as per date of the update, see data sources spreadsheet)

The data sources used in the Look Up Tool are the most up to date at a national level. Refreshed data at this scale is expected:



Indices of Deprivation 2019

Index of Multiple Deprivation

DOMAIN INDICES	SUB-DOMAIN INDICES
Income Deprivation	
Employment Deprivation	
Education Skills and Training	1. Children and Young People 2. Adult Skills
Health Deprivation and Disability	
Crime and Disorder	
Barriers to Housing and Services	1. Geographical Barriers 2. Wider Barriers
Living Environment	1. Indoors 2. Outdoors
SUPPLEMENTARY INDICES	
Income Deprivation Affecting Children	
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People	

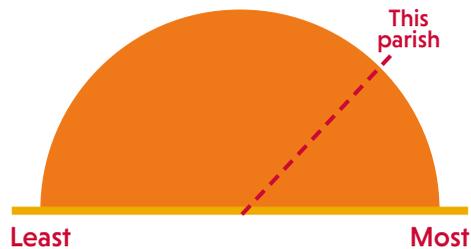
Parish deprivation score

A parish deprivation score is available for each of the 12,000+ Church of England parishes, which cover the whole of England. The parish deprivation scores are based on the Government Indices of Deprivation and consist of an overall Index of Multiple Deprivation including seven domain indices, two supplementary indices and six sub-domain indices.

Calculating deprivation ranks

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data is published at the Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level. Where two or more LSOAs overlap a parish, a population-weighted average is calculated. Data Services at the Church of England find this average by using the postcode populations to work out the proportion of the parish's population that falls into each of the LSOAs. Once this is done, the LSOA scores are weighted such that the scores for the majority of the parish's population count for more. An average of these weighted scores is then calculated.

Finally, each parish is ranked relative to other parishes nationally and within their diocese, for example:



Overall Deprivation

The population of this parish is **9003**. It ranks **3040** out of **12178**, where **1** is the most deprived parish.

This means that the parish is relatively deprived compared with other parishes in the country.

Other variables available at parish level

For parishes with a population greater than 500 the Look Up Tool can provide percentages and rankings for other variables at parish level. This includes:

VARIABLE	DEFINITION	SOURCE
Child poverty	The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.	IMD
Pensioner poverty	The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.	IMD
Working age poverty	The proportion of working-age adults who experience income deprivation. This includes those in receipt of Job Seeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Carer's Allowance.	IMD
Life expectancy men/women	The average number of years a person would live, if they experienced the particular area's age-specific mortality rates.	See data sources spreadsheet
No qualifications	Percentage of 16+ year olds who reported 'Highest level qualification: No qualifications'.	Census 2021
Social housing	Percentage of households who reported 'Tenure: Social Rented: rents from council or Local Authority'.	Census 2021
Older population	Percentage of population aged 65+	Census 2021
Lone parenthood	Percentage of those who reported 'Household composition: Lone parent family: With dependent children'.	Census 2021
Single occupant households	Percentage of those who reported 'Household composition: One-person household: Aged 66 years and over' and 'Household composition: One-person household Other'.	Census 2021

HOW TO INTERPRET YOUR LOOK UP TOOL RESULTS

Deciles and parish deprivation rankings

It is common to describe how relatively deprived an area is by saying whether it falls among the most deprived 10%, 20% or 30% of areas in England.

To help with this, all parishes can be divided into 'deciles' – 10 equal groups.



For example: Parish X is ranked 2,000 out of 12,178¹ parishes in England, where 1 is the most deprived. This means that parish X is amongst the 20% most deprived parishes in the country. Below we share the decile ranges for all parishes in England and offer simple descriptions for each.

	DECILES	DESCRIPTION	LOOK UP TOOL RESULT
1	1 – 1,217	Among the most deprived 10%	This means that the parish is among the most deprived in the country.
2	1,218 – 2,435	Among the most deprived 20%	
3	2,436 – 3,653	Among the most deprived 30%	This means that the parish is relatively deprived compared with other parishes in the country.
4	3,654 – 4,871	Among the most deprived 40%	
5	4,872 – 6,089	Slightly more deprived than average	This means that the parish is around average on the deprivation scale for parishes in the country.
6	6,090 – 7,306	Slightly less deprived than average	
7	7,307 – 8,524	Among the least deprived 40%	This means that the parish is relatively wealthy compared with other parishes in the country.
8	8,525 – 9,742	Among the least deprived 30%	
9	9,743 – 10,960	Among the least deprived 20%	This means that the parish is among the wealthiest in the country.
10	10,961 – 12,178	Among the least deprived 10%	

1. 12,178 is the number of Church of England parishes as of November 2024. Please note that the number of Church of England parishes is subject to change which will influence rankings included in each decile.

Parish Data Table

The parish data table included in the results of the Look Up Tool can provide comparison data at diocese and national level. This data is available for each of the variables included in the tool and can help to interpret parish results in context.

Parish Data

Percentages and ranks	Least in Nation	Least in Diocese	This parish	Most in Diocese	Most in Nation
Child Poverty 	1%	1%	15% Ranked 5161/12178	47%	58%

Digging deeper

The Look Up Tool results provide one lens through which you can get a clearer picture of the levels of poverty within your parish. The data can help you start to build your understanding of the issues that individuals and families in your community might be facing. However, this will only be part of the story. You might want to explore other sources of statistical and demographic data, or gather your own, to get the bigger picture.

Other national sources of information and data:

- **Office of National Statistics**
Search for results at local authority or ward level
explore-local-statistics.beta.ons.gov.uk
- **Police**
Search by postcode for local crime statistics
www.police.uk
- **StreetCheck**
Search by postcode for street level data including housing types, health and employment
www.streetcheck.co.uk

Gathering you own information:

Listening and learning from local people is one of the best ways of seeing beyond the statistics and learning from people's lived experience of the local area. Use our guides to help you engage your community and fill in the gaps in your knowledge. Use '[Know Your Church Know Your Neighbourhood](#)' to map and survey your area.

- **Neighbourhood mapping**
Gathering together a group to take part in a neighbourhood mapping exercise will help you gain knowledge and understanding of the community. This activity includes mapping the resources and assets already present in the area, as well as the gaps, and considering any non-physical assets that may exist in the neighbourhood, including social networks, key people, informal associations and community groups. It can also be an opportunity to identify key priorities like education, green space, childcare and youth provision or transport links.
- **Community survey**
This will involve talking with and listening to people who work or volunteer for local organisations in order to identify local issues and priorities. Our guide will help you plan and prepare to run a community survey and then to reflect on the results.

WHAT THE DATA MIGHT MEAN FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN YOUR PARISH

Local context

It's important not to make generalisations or assumptions and to take time to listen and learn from the experience of individuals. However, the data and statistics about your parish might suggest some of the issues and priorities that are affecting people locally and that are worth investigating further.

VARIABLE	POSSIBLE RELATED ISSUES AND PRIORITIES	NEXT STEPS	EXAMPLE
Older population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community Almost 5m people aged 50 and over live alone. ■ Identity Research from Age UK shows that many people in later life wish to help others and make an active contribution to civic and community life but sometimes face barriers including flexibility of roles, transport requirements and accessibility issues. ■ Resources Poverty in later life can lead to reducing or stopped spending on medication or specialist food, skipping meals and not being able to heat the home. 	<p>Find out what local services and support groups already exist for older people in your area. Are there any gaps in provision?</p> <p>Are there places where people can meet, keep warm and socialise without paying?</p> <p>Are there local opportunities for people from different generations to mix, share their experiences, skills and time?</p> <p>How easy is it for older people, who may have mobility issues, to use public transport to access essential services and leisure activities?</p>	<p>Mandy and her mum attend a Place of Welcome at St Ambrose Barlow Roman Catholic Church in Hall Green, Birmingham:</p> <p><i>“It’s been lovely to see my mum engage with other people and feel comfortable at the cafe. She also helps out a little bit, with cleaning the tables and things like that, it makes her feel useful. She’s eighty seven now and to see her find that purpose here is so good, it’s a safe place for her to make friendships. Sometimes everyone will sit and sing songs and she really enjoys that. Mum met a couple of ladies the other week who didn’t know how to knit, so she taught them. It was nice for me to stand back and watch and I could see the joy in my mum as she did that.”</i></p>

VARIABLE	POSSIBLE RELATED ISSUES AND PRIORITIES	NEXT STEPS	EXAMPLE
<p>Child poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community Poverty can mean children missing out on everyday fun, play and relaxed time with family because family outings are too expensive, and being excluded from social activities with friends. ■ Identity Poverty denies children chances to try new things and develop their interests and talents through extra-curricular clubs, and even school trips and activities. 65% of children in low income households miss out on school activities. ■ Resources Poverty can mean children going without basic necessities – food, appropriate clothing, even a bed. 	<p>Find out what local services and activities already exist for children in your area. Are there any gaps in provision?</p> <p>Are there free local activities that children and families can access without cost?</p> <p>School holidays can be particularly difficult for families who rely on free school meals, breakfast clubs and after school provision. What is available in your area during the holidays?</p>	<p>Many CUF Together Network members work with community groups, schools, churches and local businesses to run free holiday clubs and fun days where children enjoy fun activities, outings and a healthy meal.</p> <p><i>“We came to your church Feast of Fun-Day and wanted to say thank you... We all had a great time and really enjoyed the lunch time sat together, especially the cakes! I really enjoyed making things with the kids and taking the pictures home to show their nanna. Everyone was so kind... Thank you.”</i></p>
<p>Working age poverty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community Financial difficulty isolates people from family and friends when they are most in need of support. ■ Identity Poverty of identity is when people lack self-worth and a belief in their ability to overcome challenges. This can lead to low self-esteem, a lack of resilience and aspiration, poor mental health and low emotional well-being. ■ Resources 55% of people receiving Universal Credit said that they had run out of food in the last month and couldn’t afford more (YouGov survey commissioned by the Trussell Trust, Feb-24). 	<p>Listen to people in your local area. Often individuals who are experiencing deprivation have an acute awareness of existing gaps and what support could make a difference for them and the wider community.</p> <p>What do people already engage with? What do they not engage with and why?</p> <p>Mistrust of institutions, lack of time, stigma, shame and digital exclusion can all be barriers to seeking support.</p> <p>If present, how could some of these barriers be addressed in your local area?</p>	<p>Abdullah received support through The Hope Foundation that received a CUF grant for work with refugees.</p> <p>Abdullah is an Afghan refugee and father of six who has rebuilt his life within a welcoming community in the North West of England after being forced to flee the dangers of his homeland.</p> <p>The family have been supported to move into long-term safe accommodation, Abdullah’s children have settled into school, and he is working at a scrap yard and contributing to his new community.</p> <p><i>“It’s very quiet and nice around here and I don’t feel like I’m rushing around, it feels safe. There’s space here and my wife likes it a lot better than the hotel for the kids, I’m happy.”</i></p>

VARIABLE	POSSIBLE RELATED ISSUES AND PRIORITIES	NEXT STEPS	EXAMPLE
Lone parenthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community Single parents often experience social isolation and reduced support networks. ■ Identity Single parenthood can lead to a significant shift in identity, stigma and additional pressures. ■ Resources Single-parent households may face greater financial strain due to reliance on a single income. Limited access to affordable childcare and housing insecurity can exacerbate these difficulties. 	<p>Spend some time listening to single parents in your community to find out more about the challenges they face.</p> <p>Community activities are often shaped around two-parent families. Consider how your church, group or activity can be more inclusive.</p> <p>This might include, flexible timings, offering childcare options during events, and activities that don't inherently rely on a two-parent structure.</p>	<p>Many churches, faith groups and community groups run holiday clubs which offer children an affordable, safe and fun place to spend part of their summer break.</p> <p>Some clubs also welcome parents and carers, providing a way for them to spend worry-free time with their children and others.</p> <p>A project worker in Liverpool says, <i>'A lot of families can't afford to go away in the school holidays so having this activity is amazing'</i>.</p>
Single occupant households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community The number of one-person households is rising, particularly in older age groups. Individuals living alone may experience loneliness and may have a smaller immediate support system. ■ Identity Those living on their own report lower levels of happiness and higher levels of anxiety. ■ Resources People living alone are more likely to be renting, and feel less financially secure than couples without children, with fewer reporting they have money left over at the end of the week or month. 	<p>Consider how welcoming, inclusive and accessible your church, group or community activity is to single people.</p> <p>Are there local opportunities for people from different generations to mix, share their experiences, skills and time?</p> <p>During the pandemic some communities set up informal neighbourhood support networks to drop off food or medicine to those who were shielding. Find out if these still exist in your area and if not, consider starting one.</p>	<p>Volunteering has many benefits including new friendships, a sense of purpose, connection to informal support networks and learning opportunities.</p> <p>Colin found friendship and support during a difficult time at a Place of Welcome and now volunteers at the food pantry at the same venue.</p> <p><i>"I'm volunteering here now. They've helped me so I'm going to help them using my experience and qualifications. I've made friends coming – it's like family."</i></p>

The web of poverty

Poverty extends far beyond lack of financial resources. When people cannot afford essential needs like heating and nutritious food, it can be daunting to seek help, particularly when compounded by feelings of low self-esteem and lack of social support. This can lead to a sense of isolation and disconnection from the community, leaving individuals questioning their sense of belonging.

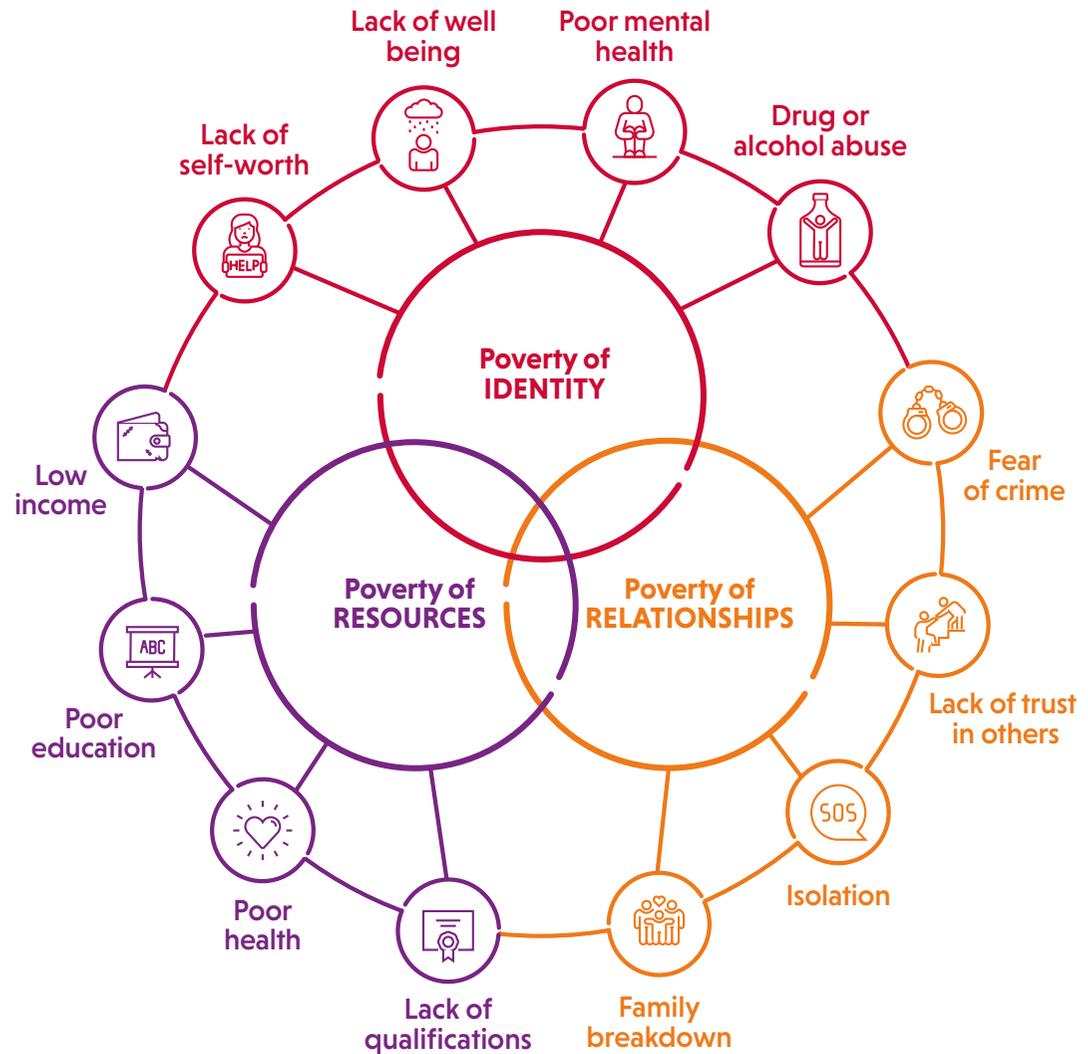
It can be helpful to imagine poverty as a web of interconnected challenges that significantly impact an individual's or a community's ability to thrive.

This includes:

Poverty of identity is when people lack self-worth and a belief in their ability to overcome challenges. This can lead to low self-esteem, a lack of resilience and aspiration, poor mental health and low emotional well-being.

Poverty of resources is a lack of essential resources such as money, skills, qualifications, housing or health needed to achieve a good standard of living. This extends beyond material possessions to include opportunities, choices, and the ability to participate fully in society.

Poverty of relationships is characterised by social isolation, lack of belonging, and limited access to supportive networks and resources, depriving people of vital connections and opportunities for growth and well-being.



HOW CAN I USE THE LOOK UP TOOL DATA?

Using the Look Up Tool with your church to plan for mission and to pray for your community

“The Look Up Tool has been so helpful to us at Holy Trinity Clapham, as we explore opportunities to serve Christ in more deprived areas of south London. It’s been very useful to see stats showing key data – and to remember that behind each individual stat is a unique person, made in God’s image, precious to Him, and personally offered the hope there is in Jesus. I pray that the Lord uses these stats in the Tool to inspire a new generation to serve God’s Kingdom, in word and deed, in some of England’s least reached areas.” **Revd Ed Veale**

Your Look Up Tool results can help inform your church’s understanding of the specific needs, issues and priorities in your local community.

PLANNING FOR MISSION	PROJECT PLANNING	PRAYING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY
<p>Mission includes loving God and loving our neighbours through words and actions.</p> <p>In the Anglican church this is framed by the Five Marks of Mission that, alongside proclamation and discipleship, include responding to human need in loving services and seeking to transform unjust structures of society.</p> <p>Your Look Up Tool results can provide helpful context for the process of mission action planning, or help you refocus and plan ahead at the beginning of a new season or phase in your church’s life.</p>	<p>As you get to know the needs and opportunities in your community better ideas for projects and initiatives will start to emerge.</p> <p>The data and statistics about your parish might suggest some of the issues and priorities that are affecting people locally and that are worth investigating further. You can also use the data to inform project plans and funding applications.</p> <p>For example, you might discover that you have a large proportion of older people living in your community but few places where they can socialise and enjoy a hot drink without a cost. You start to think about opening a Place of Welcome but need to create a plan, gather a group of volunteers and apply for some funding to purchase mugs and an urn.</p>	<p>In prayer we join together with all who pray with concern for the needs of our neighbours and communities. Prayer for our communities makes us more mindful of the needs around us and motivates us for action that makes a difference.</p> <p>Your Look Up Tool results can provide an insight into the needs in your community and inform your prayers for the local area.</p>

PLANNING FOR MISSION	PROJECT PLANNING	PRAYING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY
<p>Use the results to inform a discussion with your PCC or leadership team</p> <p>Here are some questions to help shape your conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Do the results match people's impression or experience of living in the parish?  Does anything surprise people?  What do you want to investigate further?  How will you find out more and test your understanding – who in the area knows more than you, who are the experts? Are there opportunities to join in with what is already happening rather than duplicate? 	<p>Use the results for project planning, grant applications and local advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Project planning Your Look Up Tool results can help you develop the vision for your project, specifically the need and the specific audience you are seeking to address. They will also indicate where you might need to do more research. ■ Grant applications Many funders will ask you to describe the need your project is seeking to address and that this aligns with their funding criteria. The Look Up Tool will give you data for your application. ■ Talking to the diocese How are resources deployed across your diocese? Your Look Up Tool results can help inform conversations about what resources are needed and where. ■ Talking to local authorities The Look Up Tool can identify priorities for your area that can inform engagement with your local authority about the provision of local services, partnerships with the voluntary sector and faith groups, and allocation of local resources. 	<p>Use the results to inform your prayers for your local area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prayer map Put up a map of your parish or local area somewhere visible as a reminder to pray for your community. Or use a map as a focus for a time a prayer – you could light candles around the map to as a reminder to share the light of Christ in your community. ■ Prayer walk Walking the streets where we live prayerfully, on our own or with others, can make us more aware of the people, the blessings and the challenges in our community. <div data-bbox="1659 1139 2040 1517" style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Tip</i> You might want to start by looking at our prayer walk activity guide for helpful information on planning, gathering and sharing as you lift your community up in prayer.</p> </div>

PLANNING FOR MISSION

Other resources from CUF to help with mission planning

■ **Growing Good Toolkit**



From improving the visibility of your church to creating new ways for more people to get involved, the six sessions of the Growing Good Toolkit provide a framework for conversations about mission action planning with a group of church members, your church leadership team or church council.

■ **Community Survey**



A community survey involves talking with and listening to people who work for local organisations in order to identify local issues and priorities. Our guide will help you plan, deliver and reflect on your community survey.

PROJECT PLANNING

Other resources from CUF to help with project planning

■ **Project Planning & Fundraising Guide**



Designed to help churches and small community groups plan, fund, and evaluate impactful projects. Whether you are launching a new initiative or refining an existing one, this resource will support you in creating a clear vision, securing funding, and demonstrating impact to stakeholders and funders.

■ **Webinars**



Watch past events for help with monitoring and evaluation, Growing Good, church heating, welcoming refugees and much more.

■ **Exploring Asset Based Community Development**



Asset based community development (ABCD) is a call to find the treasure in our local neighbourhoods in ways that can nurture flourishing communities, and transform the local church's engagement in the mission of God. Our guide helps individuals and groups understand ABCD and think about how they can practice some of the principles of ABCD in their lives, community and church.

PRAYING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Other resources from CUF to help you pray for your community

■ **Prayer Walk Guide**



Walking the streets where we live can make us more aware of the people, the blessings and the challenges that surround us.

■ **Prayer Diary**



Our prayer diary is a thoughtful resource designed to guide your prayers. It's free, and a great way for us all to unite in our shared concerns, motivate us for service and bring about transformation.



Story

The leadership team at Church On The Corner in North London used the Look Up Tool to help them get to know their community and plan for action.

“The resources also helped us identify specific socio economic and wealth needs in the community. We were aware of the wealth inequality in our area but this experience was an opportunity to drill down into specific issues which can be associated. We considered poor mental health, child deprivation and single parent families when identifying needs in this area.

Rather than saying we should do this for our community and work in isolation, this gave us an opportunity to think about where the needs were and join in with the community. A number of our congregation volunteer locally and at the foodbank and as church members we can resource something like the foodbank which is meeting significant need in this area.”

Prayer

Lord you have given us this community to treasure and to tend, to love and to cherish; and to proclaim your good news through our words and works. We pray for all those who work here and live here, may we know how best to respond to needs, and to recognise and accept your generous gifts with grace. Amen

Domain Indices

The Index of Multiple Deprivation combines information from seven domain indices (which measure different types or dimensions of deprivation) to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. You can use the domain indices on their own to focus on specific aspects of deprivation.

Sub-Domain Indices

The Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain comprises two sub-domains: one relating to children and young people and one relating to adult skills.

The Barriers to Housing and Services Domain comprises two sub-domains: the Geographical Barriers Sub-domain, which relates to the physical proximity of local services, and the Wider Barriers Sub-domain includes issues relating to access to housing such as affordability.

The Living Environment Deprivation Domain comprises two sub-domains. The Indoors Sub-domain measures the quality of housing; while the Outdoors Sub-domain comprises of measures of air quality and road traffic accidents.

Supplementary indices

There are two supplementary indices: the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI). These are created as subsets from the Income Deprivation domain.

The scores are meaningful and relate to a proportion of the relevant population experiencing that type of deprivation. So, for example, if a Lower-layer Super Output Area has a score of 0.38 in the Income Deprivation Domain, this means that 38 per cent of the population is income deprived in that area.

LSOA

Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are made up of groups of Output Areas (OAs), usually four or five. They comprise between 400 and 1,200 households and have a usually resident population between 1,000 and 3,000 persons.

Deciles

Deprivation deciles are calculated by ranking small areas (in the LUT case parishes) from most deprived to least deprived, and dividing them into 10 equal groups. These range from the most deprived 10 per cent of small areas nationally to the least deprived 10 per cent of small areas nationally.

About CUF

Church Urban Fund is a national charity working with local leaders, churches and other faith groups all over England. Our local partners are committed to serving and strengthening the community where they live.

We are working to build just and flourishing communities so that everyone across England can access support when they need it most.



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