



POVERTY IN NUMBERS

REFERENCE PAPER FOR NATIONAL AND DIOCESAN STATISTICS

Poverty is a very real phenomenon in this country. Approximately 14 million people in the UK live below the poverty line (in households earning less than 60% of the national median wage). This number has almost doubled since 1980. As well as low income, poor education, a lack of qualifications, breakdown in family relationships and poor housing can also limit people's ability to lead full and fulfilling lives.

All these problems are closely interlinked, trapping individuals and communities in a 'web of poverty': poor education dampens aspirations; unemployment and lack of opportunities promote crime; low income makes healthy eating unaffordable; dependence on benefits disempowers people; and the closure of local services damages community cohesion.

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 this end, we have worked with the Church of England's Research and Statistics Division to develop an online tool that provides information on ten poverty-related indicators at the parish level.

This paper aggregates that parish data to provide national and diocesan-level poverty statistics, looking particularly at six poverty-related indicators: child poverty, working-age poverty, pensioner poverty, adults with no qualifications, lone parenthood and social housing. It provides a number of summary charts and tables to make data available for those conducting their own research or planning future work. Our hope is that these statistics will help to further inform diocesan offices and churches about the contexts in which they work and the particular issues faced by their local and regional communities.

Key statistics:

- One fifth of children in England live in poverty.
- Approximately 15% of working-age adults and pensioners live in poverty.
- Almost a quarter of working-age adults in England have no academic, vocational or professional qualifications and almost a fifth of households live in social housing.
- Poverty is heavily concentrated in the dioceses of Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool, with high rates of child, working-age and pensioner poverty seen in all three areas.

To search data at the parish level, visit our online lookup tool at: www.cuf.org.uk/povertyinengland

About the lookup tool

Our online poverty lookup 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 Output Areas or Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) to parish boundaries¹. In order to conserve accuracy, data for parishes with populations of less than 500 people, where small within-parish sample sizes may distort poverty rates, have been omitted from the tool.

In July 2013, eight of the ten indicators were updated with more recent data sets². For more information on current data sources and calculations please visit: www.cuf.org.uk/povertyindicators.

Our tool draws on the most recent data available for each indicator and as such, the years referenced vary. Our child poverty data refers to 2010, our working-age and pensioner poverty data refers to 2012 (although the national mean is taken from 2010) and our data about adults with no qualifications, lone parent households and social housing all derive from the 2011 census.

Poverty in England

A high proportion of adults and children in this country struggle with low income and currently live in poverty:

21%	of children live in families where the household income is less than 60% of the national median income and they are in receipt of out-of-work benefits or tax credits (a commonly accepted measure of poverty) ³ .
13%	of working-age adults (aged 16 – 60) claim one or more ‘key’ working-age benefits including Jobseeker’s Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support and any other income-related benefits ⁴ .
15%	of pensioners claim the Guarantee Credit element of pension credit, which provides a minimum means-tested level of weekly income ⁵ .

¹ For more information about this conversion process, please see our methodology paper on this page: www.cuf.org.uk/povertyindicators

² Multiple Deprivation and Life Expectancy data were not updated as more recent data sets have not yet been published.

³ Data taken from DWP 2010 statistics: <http://buff.ly/12lhY2j>

⁴ Data taken from the Poverty Site, calculated from DWP 2010 statistics: <http://buff.ly/1dhDPZT>

⁵ Data taken from the Poverty Site, calculated from DWP 2010 statistics; <http://buff.ly/1dhDPZT>

Individuals and whole communities can be trapped into a ‘web of poverty’, where a lack of qualifications, family breakdown and poor housing can all affect people’s abilities to take hold of opportunities:

23%	of adults (aged 16 and over) have no academic, vocational or professional qualifications ⁶ .
24%	of households with dependent children are lone parent households.
18%	of all households live in social housing or housing association properties.

Yet changes to poverty rates over recent decades show that poverty is not inevitable and can be reduced by effective government policy, among other things. For example, increases in the value of means-tested benefits (including Pension Credit and Child Tax Credit) have directly contributed to the decrease in child and pensioner poverty in the last ten years. Similarly, the rise of in-work poverty in the last 30 years is related to the fact that the main means-tested benefit available to working adults has not risen in value (above inflation) for nearly 40 years (JRF and NPI, 2012).

Poverty within dioceses

Deprivation is heavily concentrated in northern, urban areas of England. As such, certain dioceses have much higher poverty rates than others. The tables below show the four dioceses with the highest and lowest rates of child poverty, working-age poverty, pensioner poverty, adults with no qualifications, lone parent households and social housing⁷. Diocesan averages have been calculated as the population-weighted mean over all parishes in the diocese.

As the first table shows, child poverty is highest in the diocese of London at 28% and lowest in Guildford at 10%, while working-age poverty ranges from 16% in Liverpool to 5% in Guildford⁸. Around a quarter of pensioners in the dioceses of Birmingham, London and Manchester live in poverty, compared to just one in ten in Guildford and Salisbury.

⁶ Data for each indicator in this table taken from 2011 Census data: <http://ow.ly/9gLmz>

⁷ Data sources: child poverty 2010 <http://buff.ly/12lhY2j>; working-age poverty 2012 <http://buff.ly/1cH1key>; pensioner poverty 2012 <http://buff.ly/16c6ws4>; adults with no qualifications, lone parent households and social housing (2011 census data) <http://ow.ly/9gLmz>.

⁸ Figures in the tables have been rounded to the nearest 1.

Children in poverty (as % of all children 2010)		Working-age adults in poverty (as % of working-age adults 2012)		Pensioners in poverty (as % of pensioners 2012)	
Four dioceses with highest rates					
London	28%	Liverpool	16%	Birmingham	25%
Birmingham	27%	Manchester	15%	London	24%
Manchester	25%	Birmingham	15%	Manchester	23%
Liverpool	24%	Durham	15%	Liverpool	22%
Four dioceses with lowest rates					
Bath & Wells	13%	Winchester	7%	Oxford	11%
Salisbury	13%	Salisbury	7%	Ely	11%
Oxford	13%	Oxford	7%	Salisbury	10%
Guildford	10%	Guildford	5%	Guildford	9%

This second table shows that in the dioceses of Lichfield, Sheffield, Birmingham and Durham, almost a third of adults have no academic, vocational or professional qualifications. Similarly, almost a third of all households with dependent children in Liverpool are single parent households and almost a quarter of all households in the dioceses of London, Southwark and Manchester live in social housing.

Adults with no qualifications (as % of all adults 2011)		Lone parent households (as % of households with children 2011)		Social housing (as % of households 2011)	
Four dioceses with highest rates					
Lichfield	31%	Liverpool	31%	London	25%
Sheffield	31%	Manchester	29%	Southwark	24%
Birmingham	31%	Durham	29%	Manchester	24%
Durham	31%	Southwark	28%	Durham	23%
Four dioceses with lowest rates					
Oxford	19%	Oxford	19%	Exeter	13%
London	18%	Gloucester	19%	Blackburn	12%
Southwark	17%	Ely	17%	Truro	12%
Guildford	17%	Guildford	15%	Guildford	12%

The charts below show the average child, working-age and pensioner poverty rates for all dioceses (lists of diocesan means for these and other indicators are included in Appendix A.)

Figure 3: average child poverty rates, by Church of England diocese, 2010

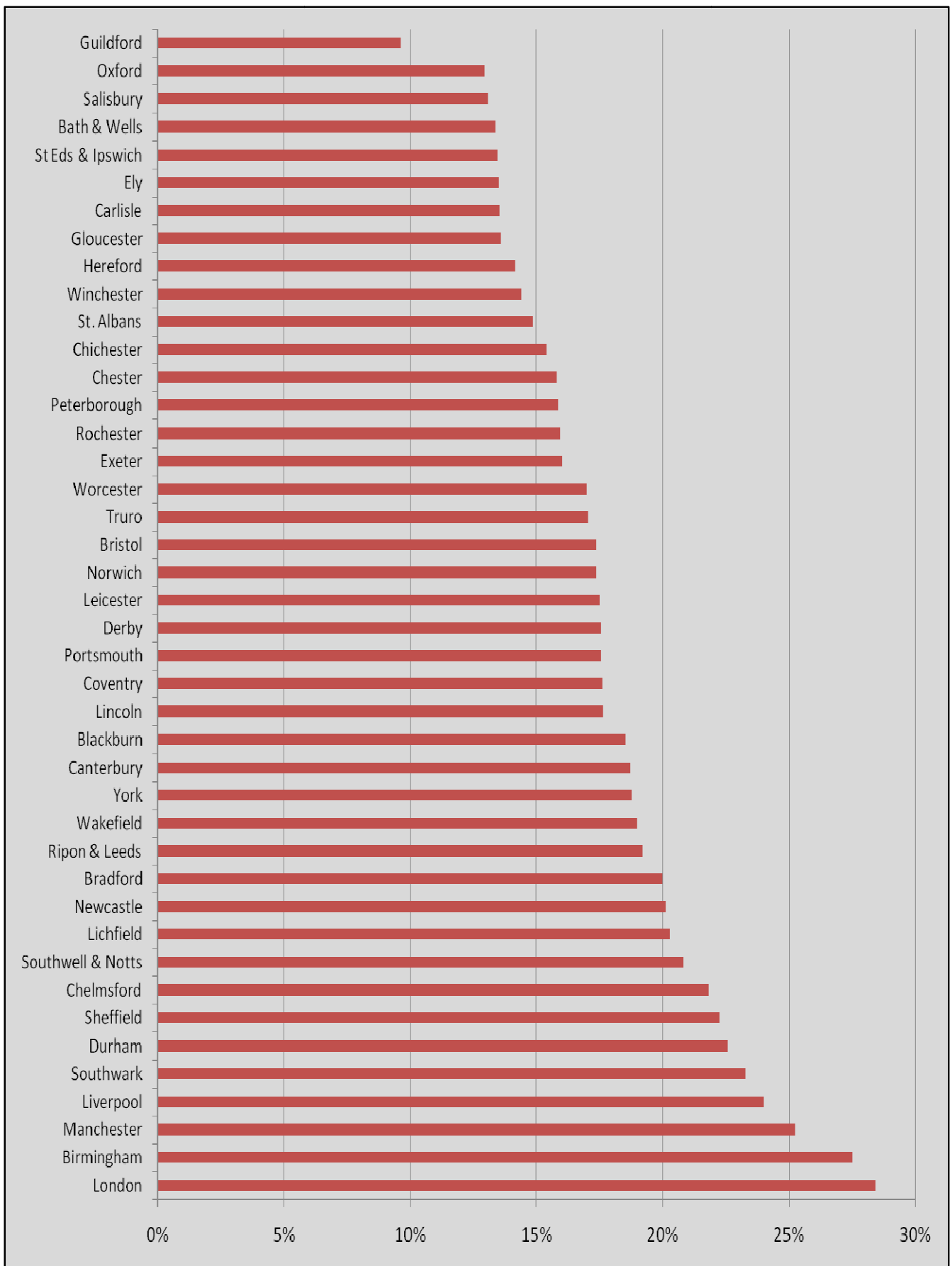


Figure 4: average working-age poverty rates, by Church of England diocese, 2012

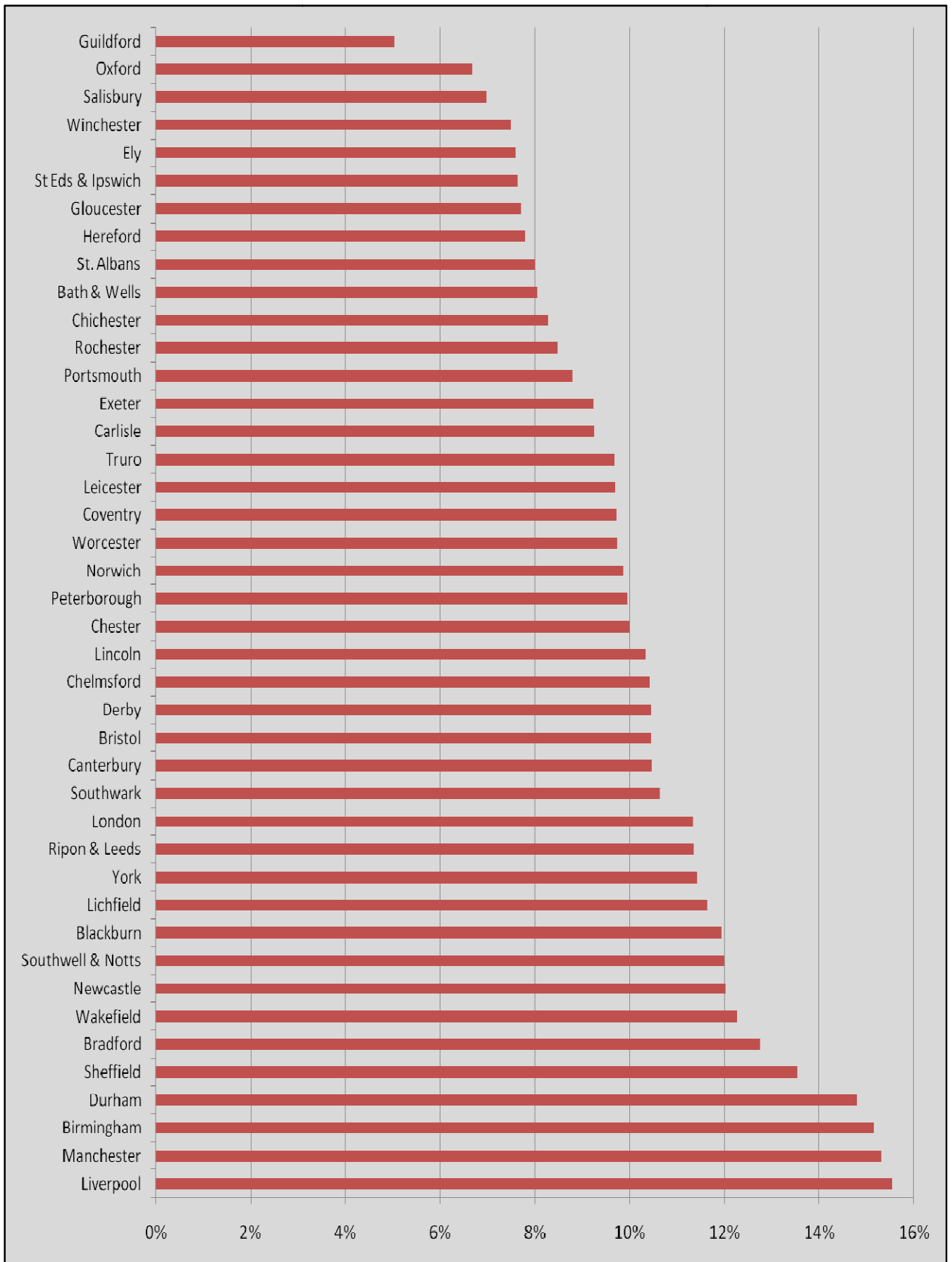
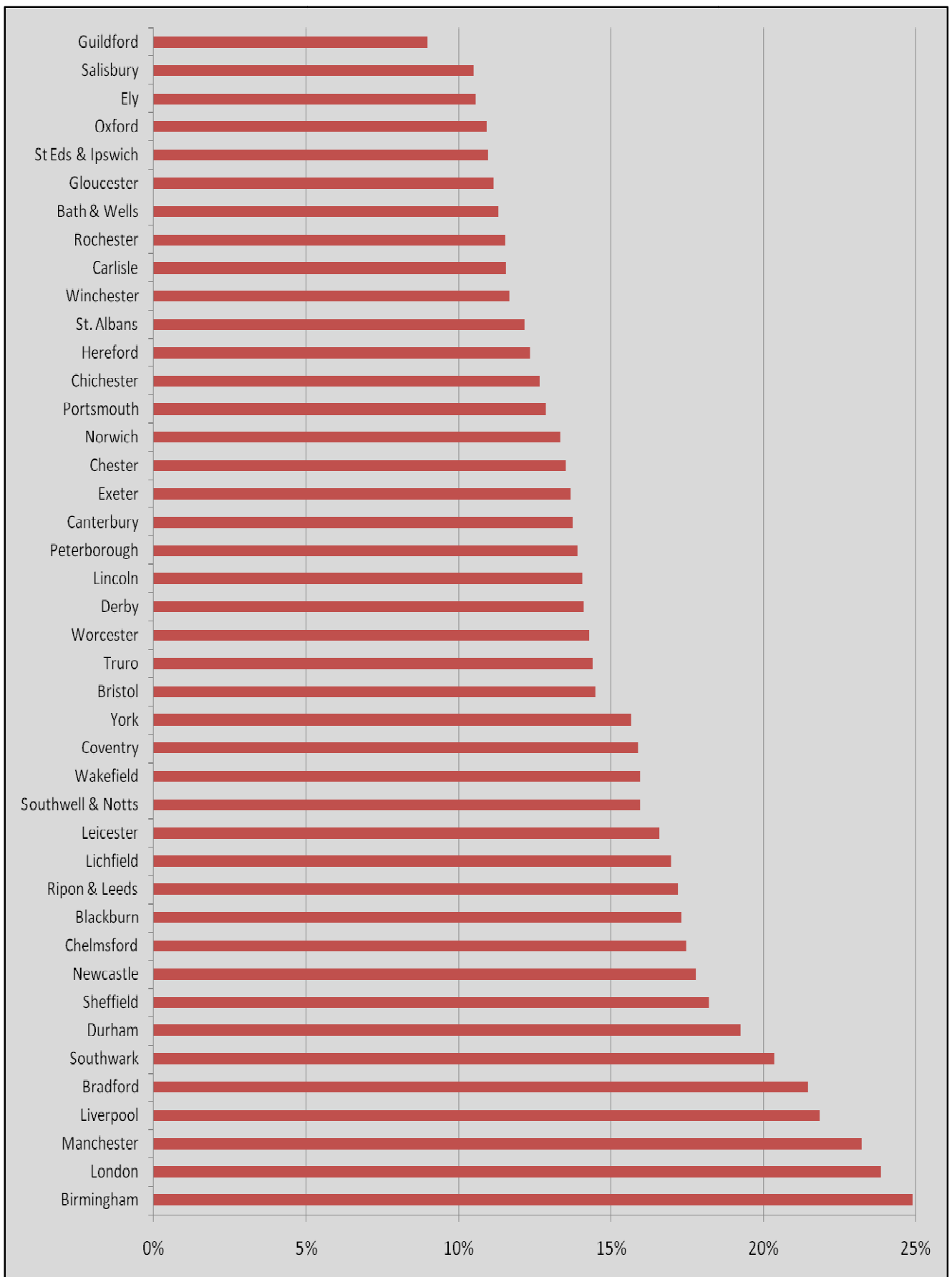


Figure 5: average pensioner poverty rates, by Church of England diocese, 2012



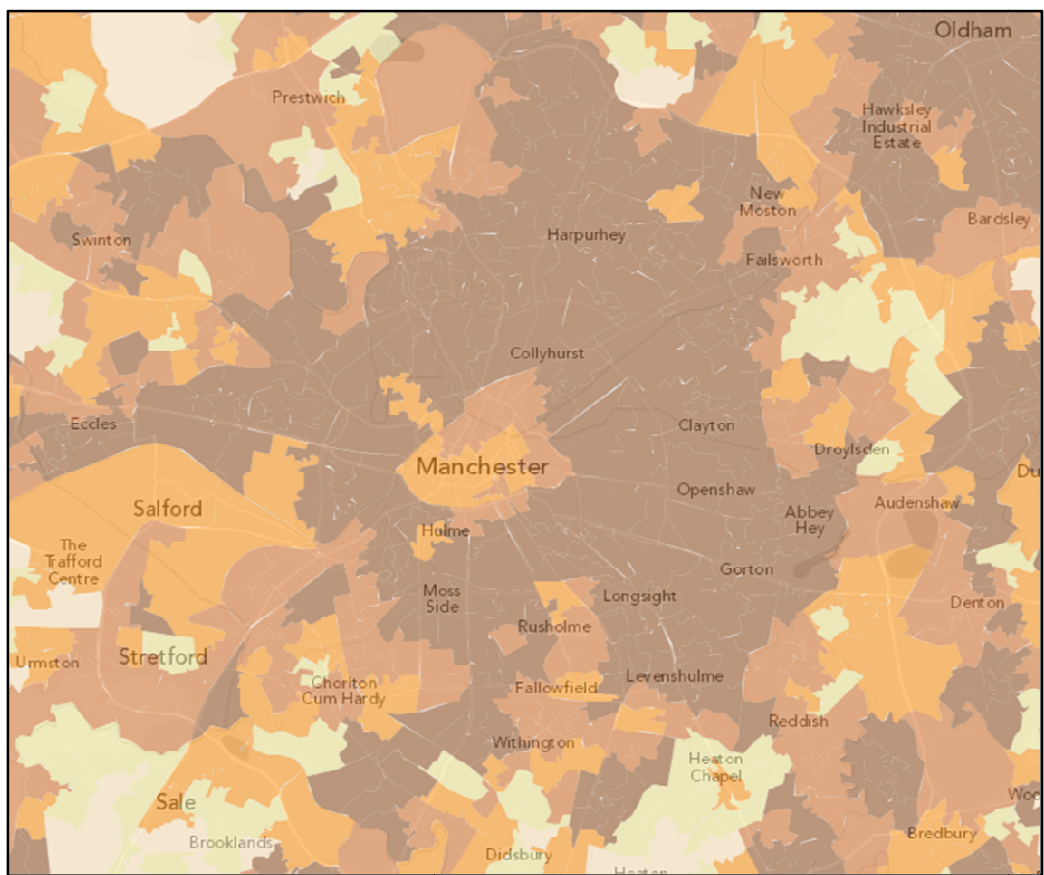
Clusters of Deprivation






The high rates of poverty seen in certain dioceses are not caused by isolated parishes with extremely high levels of deprivation, but rather large clusters of deprived parishes. These clusters are clearly visible when we geographically map Index of Multiple Deprivation data.

Figure 6 visualises Index of Multiple Deprivation (2010) data for the city of Manchester. To create this map, IMD 2010 data was converted from Lower Super Output Areas to parish boundaries and then each parish was colour coded according to the level of deprivation in that area. The darker the colour, the more deprived a parish.

The map shows that many parishes across the city of Manchester have a high level of deprivation (shown in the dark brown and orange colours). Indeed, 45% of parishes in the dioceses of Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool rank in the 10% most deprived parishes in the country. By contrast, no parishes in Guildford rank in the 10% most deprived parishes nationally, as is clearly seen in Figure 7 below⁹.

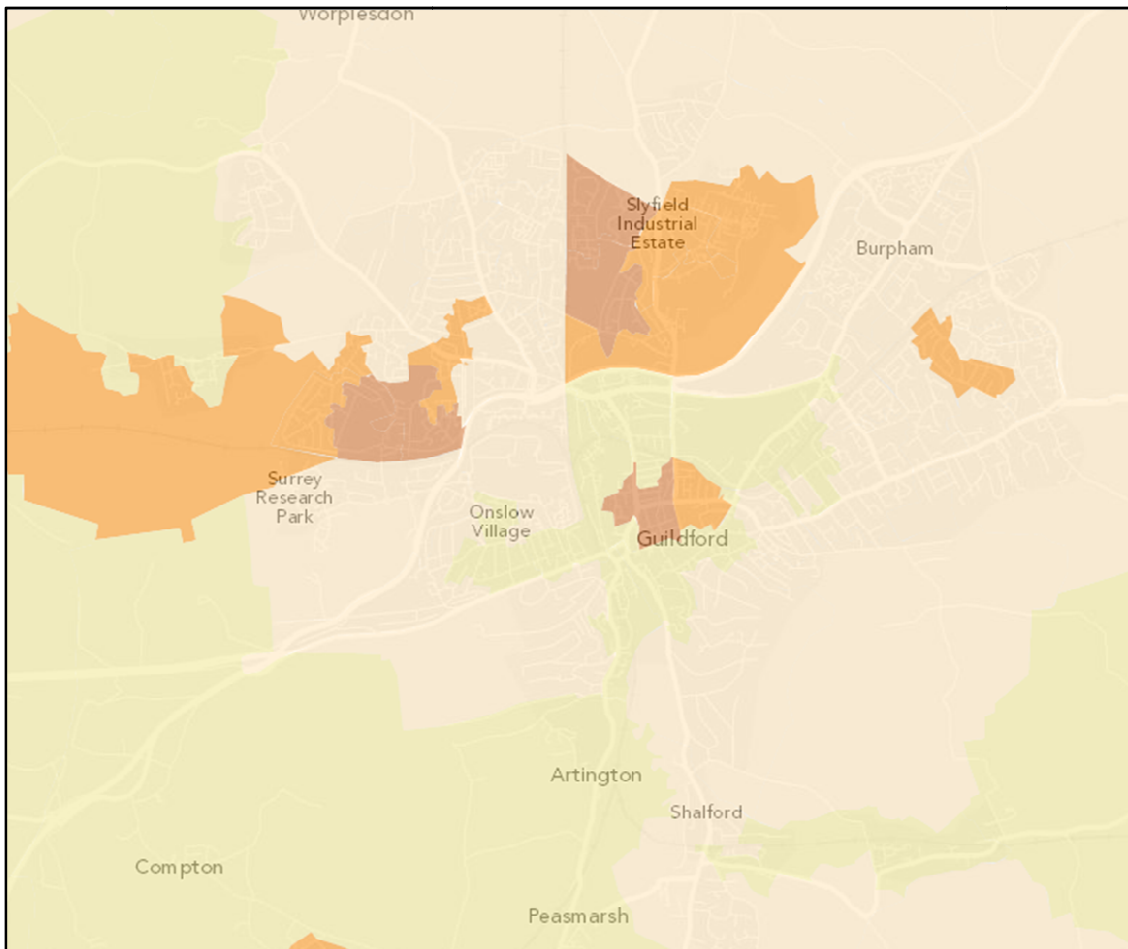
Figure 6: Map of multiple deprivation in Manchester








	20% least deprived		Less deprived than average		About average
	More deprived than average		20% most deprived		

⁹ To use our online mapping tool, please visit: <http://www.cuf.org.uk/poverty-map>

Figure 7: Map of multiple deprivation in Guildford



	20% least deprived		Less deprived than average		About average
	More deprived than average		20% most deprived		

Distribution of poverty within dioceses

The charts below explore the distribution of child, working-age and pensioner poverty within dioceses. They tell us two additional things about diocesan poverty rates: firstly, the median poverty rate in each diocese (the blue line running through the boxes), as opposed to the mean seen in Figures 3 - 5¹⁰; secondly, the interquartile range of poverty rates within dioceses (the spread of the box itself)¹¹.

If we compare the dioceses of Bradford and Chester in the chart below, the difference in the distribution of child poverty within the dioceses becomes clear. The two dioceses have very similar median values of child poverty at around 10%, yet their means vary considerably: on average 16% of children in Chester live in poverty, compared to 20% in Bradford (as seen in Figure 3). This disparity is the result of different spreads of poverty within the dioceses, with Bradford having a much larger interquartile range than Chester (as seen in the larger box in the chart below).

In this case, the greater spread is primarily due to the upper quartile (the 75th percentile) being substantially higher in Bradford diocese than in Chester diocese (the lower quartile i.e. 25th percentile is little different between the dioceses in this case). This reflects the fact that there are a substantial number of parishes within Bradford diocese that have child poverty rates well above the median for the diocese (what is sometimes called a 'fat tailed distribution'), whereas in Chester there are fewer parishes with particularly high child poverty rates and more parishes with similar rates to each other and the median.

Conversely, Bradford and Durham have a very similar spread of poverty in their dioceses, as summarised by the size of the interquartile range, but their medians vary: Durham's median poverty rate is approximately 19%, compared to Bradford's 10%.

Similar differences between dioceses are seen when we look at working-age and pensioner poverty (Figures 9 and 10). For example, Rippon and Leeds and Salisbury have very similar median values of working-age poverty (approximately 5%), but Rippon and Leeds has a much larger interquartile range – a much greater spread of working-age poverty.

¹⁰ Median refers to the middle value if all parish values within a diocese were lined up from smallest to highest values, whereas the mean refers to the average of all parish values.

¹¹ If all parish values within a diocese are lined up from smallest to highest values, the interquartile range would be the difference between the 25th and 75th percentile values.

Figure 8: box graph depicting child poverty, by Church of England diocese, 2010

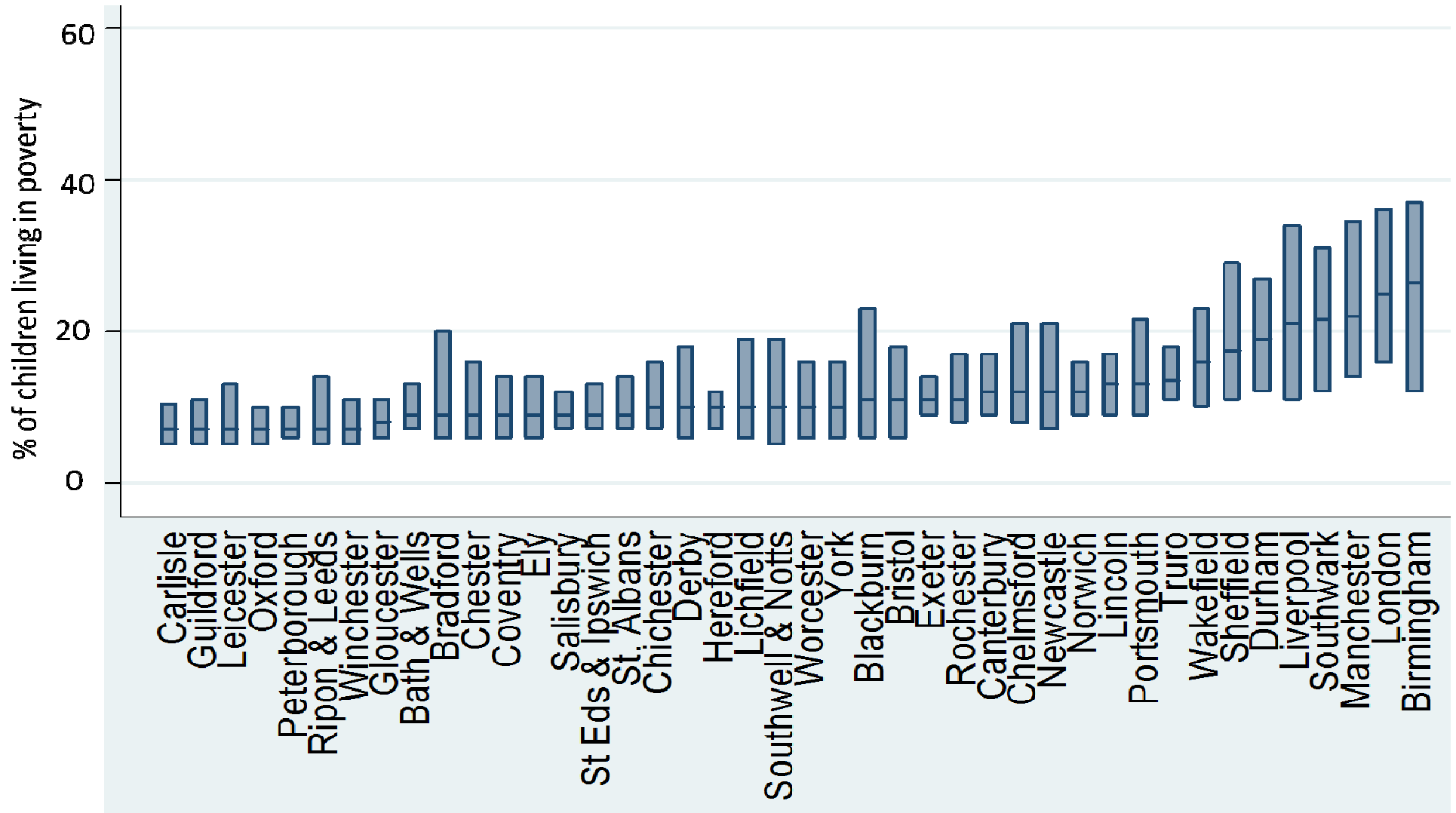


Figure 9: box graph depicting working-age poverty, by Church of England diocese, 2012

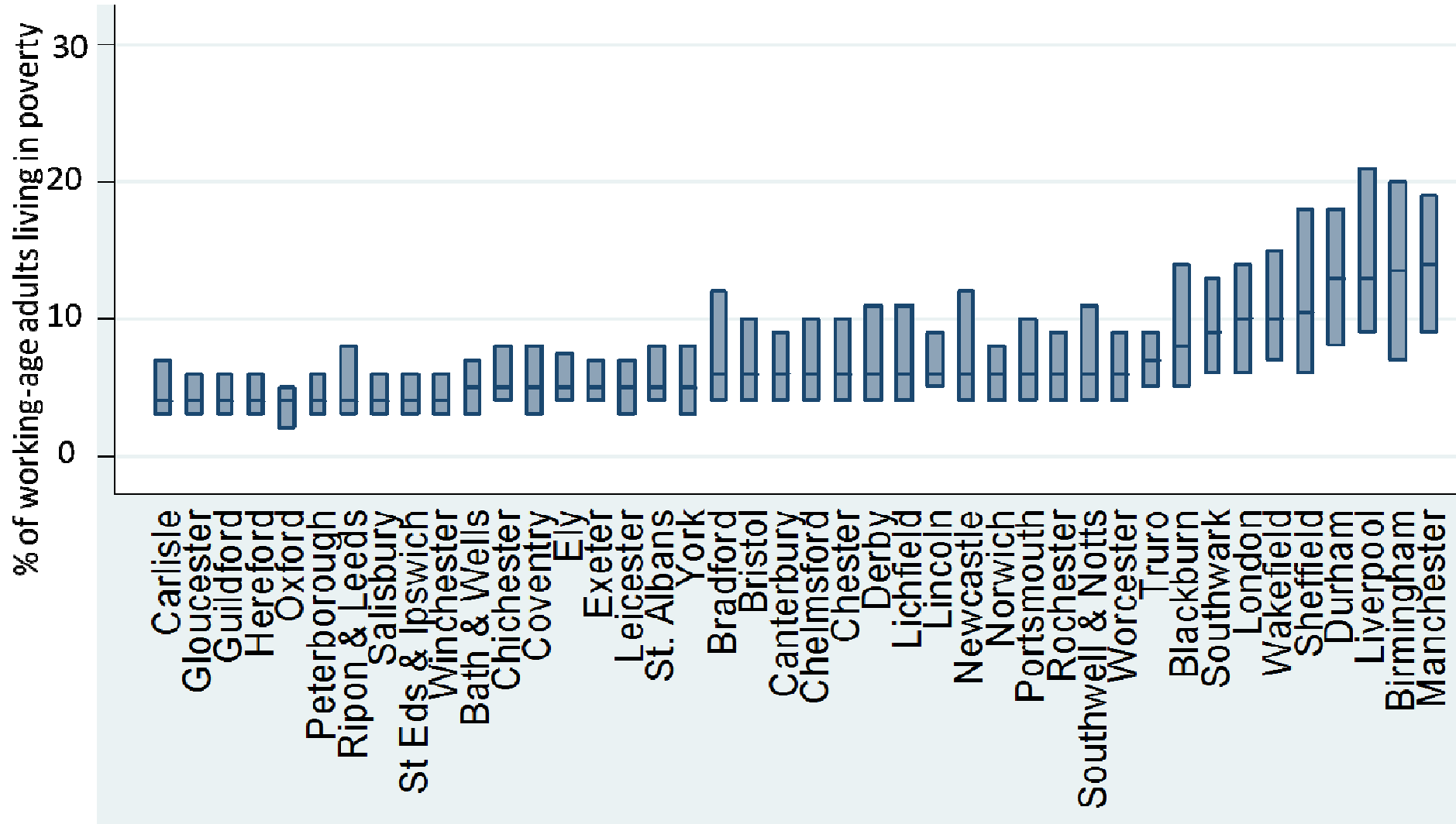
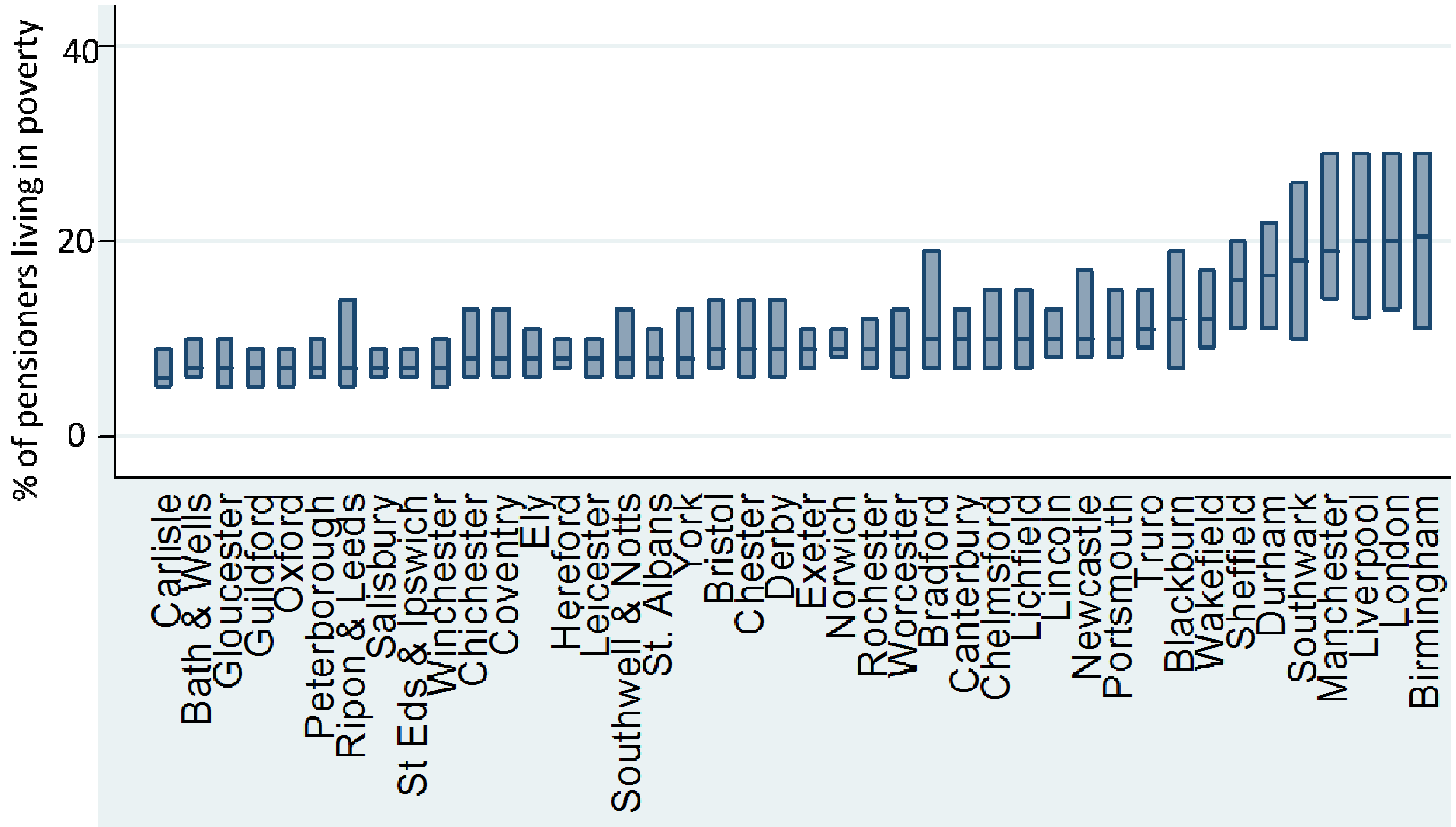


Figure 10: box graph depicting pensioner poverty, by Church of England diocese, 2012



Conclusion

Different parishes and dioceses face different challenges. In some areas, child poverty might be the most pressing issue whereas in others, churches might be dealing with high levels of benefit dependency amongst working-age adults. For those based in more affluent areas, poverty might feel like a distant reality compared to other, more immediate concerns.

Despite these differences, it is Church Urban Fund's vision that every church in every community will be involved in tackling poverty, whether they find themselves in very deprived or very affluent areas.

To this end we are not only providing data, but also developing the [Together Network](#); a network of Joint Ventures between Church Urban Fund and Dioceses that aim to provide, long-term, sustainable support for Christians and churches engaging in social action.

The Network aims to provide support and encouragement through resources, bespoke project support and partnership building for those in deprived areas. For those in more affluent areas, the Network seeks to provide a mechanism for churches to support others' work, through time, money, action or prayer.

If you would like to find out more about the Together Network, please visit: www.cuf.org.uk/together-network

Appendix A: Diocesan averages

This appendix shows diocesan averages for six poverty-related indicators: child poverty, working-age poverty, pensioner poverty, no qualifications, lone parenthood and social housing. Diocesan averages have been calculated as the population-weighted mean over all parishes in the diocese.

Our data is derived from published government data sets and was converted from Output Areas or Lower Super Output Areas to parish boundaries by the Church of England's Research and Statistics Division. Definitions and data sources of the six indicators shown in this appendix are included in the table below.

Indicator	Definition	Source
Child poverty	Percentage of children living in families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits, where their reported income is less than 60% of the national median income (a commonly accepted measure of poverty).	Estimated using Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level statistics published by HM Revenue and Customs, based on data for 2010. http://buff.ly/10nlkMe
Working-age poverty	Percentage of working age adults (aged 16-60/65) claiming one or more 'key' working age benefit, including Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support and any other income-related benefits.	Estimated using Output Area (OA) level statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions, based on data for 2012. http://buff.ly/1cH1key
Pensioner poverty	Percentage of older people in receipt of the Guarantee Credit element of Pension credit, which provides a minimum means-tested level of weekly income for single people (£145) and couples (£222).	Estimated using Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions, based on data for 2012. http://buff.ly/16c6ws4
No qualifications	Percentage of adults (aged 16 and over) with no academic, vocational or professional qualifications.	Estimated using Output Area (OA) level statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics and downloaded from their Neighbourhood Statistics website, based on data from the 2011 Census. http://ow.ly/9gLmz
Social housing	Percentage of households living in local authority or housing association properties.	As per no qualifications.
Lone parenthood	Lone parent households as a percentage of all households with dependent children.	As per no qualifications.

1. Child poverty

Diocese	Child poverty average
London	28%
Birmingham	27%
Manchester	25%
Liverpool	24%
Southwark	23%
Durham	23%
Sheffield	22%
Chelmsford	22%
Southwell and Nottingham	21%
Lichfield	20%
Newcastle	20%
Bradford	20%
Ripon & Leeds	19%
Wakefield	19%
York	19%
Canterbury	19%
Blackburn	18%
Lincoln	18%
Coventry	18%
Portsmouth	18%
Derby	18%
Leicester	17%
Norwich	17%
Bristol	17%
Truro	17%
Worcester	17%
Exeter	16%
Rochester	16%
Peterborough	16%
Chester	16%
Chichester	15%
St. Albans	15%
Winchester	14%
Hereford	14%
Gloucester	14%
Carlisle	14%
Ely	13%
St Edmundsbury & Ipswich	13%
Bath & Wells	13%
Salisbury	13%
Oxford	13%
Guildford	10%

2. Working-age poverty

Diocese	Working-age poverty
Liverpool	16%
Manchester	15%
Birmingham	15%
Durham	15%
Sheffield	14%
Bradford	13%
Wakefield	12%
Newcastle	12%
Southwell and Nottingham	12%
Blackburn	12%
Lichfield	12%
York	11%
Ripon & Leeds	11%
London	11%
Southwark	11%
Canterbury	10%
Bristol	10%
Derby	10%
Chelmsford	10%
Lincoln	10%
Chester	10%
Peterborough	10%
Norwich	10%
Worcester	10%
Coventry	10%
Leicester	10%
Truro	10%
Carlisle	9%
Exeter	9%
Portsmouth	9%
Rochester	8%
Chichester	8%
Bath & Wells	8%
St. Albans	8%
Hereford	8%
Gloucester	8%
St Edmundsbury & Ipswich	8%
Ely	8%
Winchester	7%
Salisbury	7%
Oxford	7%
Guildford	5%

3. Pensioner poverty

Diocese	Pensioner poverty
Birmingham	25%
London	24%
Manchester	23%
Liverpool	22%
Bradford	21%
Southwark	20%
Durham	19%
Sheffield	18%
Newcastle	18%
Chelmsford	17%
Blackburn	17%
Ripon & Leeds	17%
Lichfield	17%
Leicester	17%
Southwell and Nottingham	16%
Wakefield	16%
Coventry	16%
York	16%
Bristol	14%
Truro	14%
Worcester	14%
Derby	14%
Lincoln	14%
Peterborough	14%
Canterbury	14%
Exeter	14%
Chester	14%
Norwich	13%
Portsmouth	13%
Chichester	13%
Hereford	12%
St. Albans	12%
Winchester	12%
Carlisle	12%
Rochester	12%
Bath & Wells	11%
Gloucester	11%
St Edmundsbury & Ipswich	11%
Oxford	11%
Ely	11%
Salisbury	10%
Guildford	9%

4. Adults with no qualifications

Diocese	No qualifications
Lichfield	31%
Sheffield	31%
Birmingham	31%
Durham	31%
Liverpool	31%
Norwich	31%
Wakefield	30%
Lincoln	30%
Worcester	29%
Bradford	29%
Southwell and Nottingham	28%
Derby	28%
Manchester	28%
York	28%
Blackburn	28%
Carlisle	27%
Leicester	27%
Canterbury	27%
Hereford	27%
Newcastle	27%
St Edmundsbury & Ipswich	27%
Chelmsford	26%
Truro	26%
Exeter	25%
Peterborough	25%
Coventry	25%
Ripon & Leeds	25%
Portsmouth	24%
Bath & Wells	24%
Salisbury	24%
Chester	24%
Chichester	23%
Rochester	23%
Ely	23%
Gloucester	22%
Bristol	22%
St. Albans	21%
Winchester	21%
Oxford	19%
London	18%
Southwark	17%
Guildford	17%

5. Lone parent households

Diocese	Lone parenthood
Liverpool	31%
Manchester	29%
Durham	29%
Southwark	28%
Birmingham	27%
London	27%
Ripon & Leeds	26%
Newcastle	26%
Blackburn	26%
Southwell and Nottingham	25%
Sheffield	25%
Coventry	25%
York	25%
Wakefield	25%
Portsmouth	25%
Chester	25%
Bristol	25%
Canterbury	24%
Chelmsford	23%
Lichfield	23%
Exeter	23%
Lincoln	23%
Derby	23%
Peterborough	23%
Chichester	23%
Norwich	23%
Worcester	22%
Rochester	22%
Carlisle	22%
Truro	22%
Bath & Wells	21%
Bradford	21%
Leicester	21%
Salisbury	21%
Winchester	21%
St. Albans	21%
St Edmundsbury & Ipswich	21%
Hereford	20%
Oxford	19%
Gloucester	19%
Ely	17%
Guildford	15%

6. Households living in social housing

Diocese	Social Housing
London	25%
Southwark	24%
Manchester	24%
Durham	23%
Newcastle	23%
Birmingham	22%
Sheffield	22%
Liverpool	21%
Ripon & Leeds	20%
Lichfield	20%
Wakefield	18%
Southwell and Nottingham	18%
Chelmsford	17%
Worcester	17%
St. Albans	17%
Derby	17%
York	16%
Bristol	16%
Norwich	16%
Peterborough	16%
Leicester	15%
Winchester	15%
Coventry	15%
Ely	15%
St Edmundsbury & Ipswich	15%
Portsmouth	15%
Chester	14%
Oxford	14%
Carlisle	14%
Lincoln	14%
Salisbury	14%
Rochester	14%
Hereford	14%
Bradford	14%
Canterbury	13%
Chichester	13%
Gloucester	13%
Bath & Wells	13%
Exeter	13%
Blackburn	12%
Truro	12%
Guildford	12%