

POVERTY IN NUMBERS:

ONLINE POVERTY LOOKUP FOR PARISHES IN ENGLAND

A new online tool, developed by Church Urban Fund with assistance from the Church of England's Research and Statistics division, provides easy access to information on a range of poverty-related indicators for parishes in England, including poverty rates (for children, working age adults, and pensioners), life expectancy, lack of qualifications, lone parenthood, and social housing, as well as descriptive statistics on ethnic diversity and older population size. The aim is to help churches to engage with these issues by finding out more about the extent of poverty in their communities and how this compares with other parishes locally and nationally. This note presents some of the most striking findings and information on how to access our online tool.

- Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester have the highest concentrations of poverty, with nearly half the parishes in each of these dioceses being in the 10% most deprived in the country. By contrast, no parishes in Guildford diocese and less than 1% of parishes in Oxford diocese rank in the bottom 10% nationally, highlighting the continuing north/south divide.
- In the least deprived parishes, child poverty is as low as 1%, fewer than 5% of working age adults have no qualifications and boys can expect to live for 85 years or more. In the most deprived parishes, up to two-thirds of children are living in poverty, at least half of all working age adults have no qualifications, and male life expectancy is typically around 70 years or less. These are not the small, localised pockets of deprivation found within nearly all parishes, but rather whole communities blighted by the interrelated problems of income poverty, poor health, low skills and family breakdown.
- The most affluent parishes are never very far from very deprived communities, even in the south of England. For example, St John Baptist, Brightwell – the fourth least deprived parish in England, and where 6% of children live in poverty – is only 6 miles from St Mary-le-Tower in Ipswich, which ranks among the poorest 200 parishes in the country (out of around 12,700 parishes in England) and has a child poverty rate of nearly 40%.
- Church Urban Fund's vision is for every church in every community to be involved in tackling poverty. Part of making this happen is increasing churches' awareness of the extent of poverty across other parishes in the country and encouraging a sense of shared responsibility. To find out more about the level of poverty where you live, go to: www.cuf.org.uk/povertyinengland

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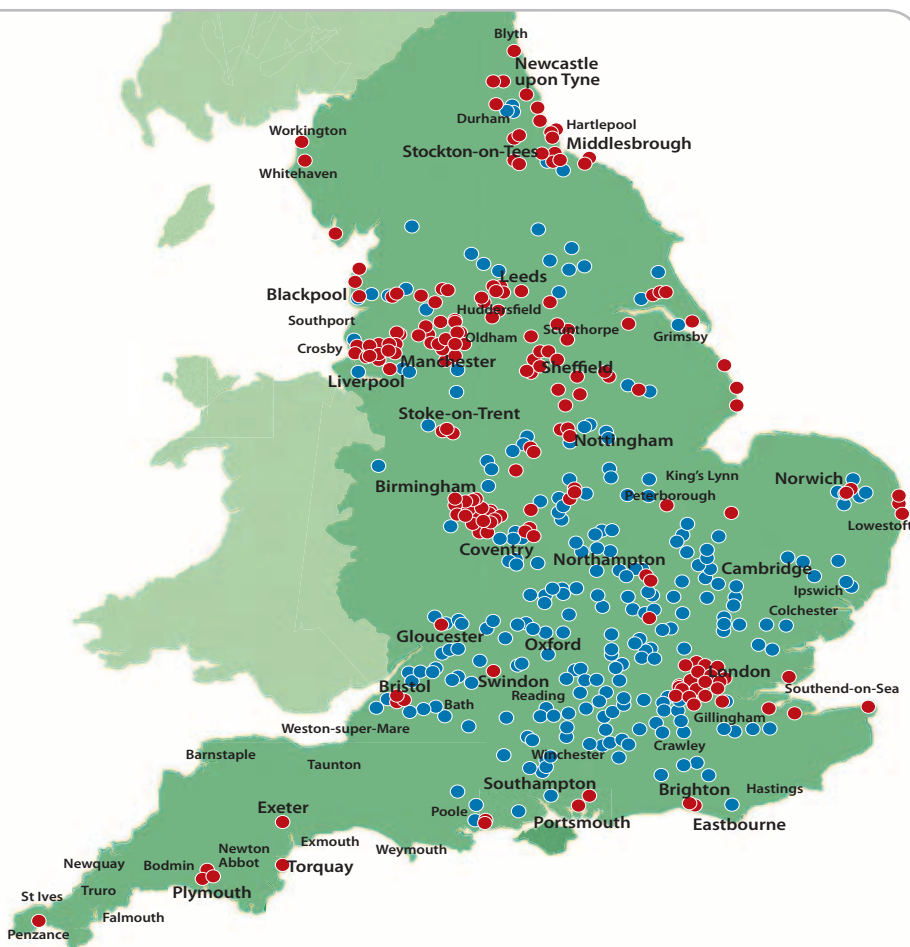
INTRODUCTION

Britain is one of the most unequal countries in the western world, where children born within just a few miles of one another can have widely differing life chances and even life expectancies. How do we feel about these vast differences in opportunities and what can churches do to help bridge the gap between the least and most deprived communities?

Church Urban Fund's online tool is designed to increase awareness of poverty in this country, especially among churches. For the first time, this resource makes available online parish-level data on poverty, mapping published government data on to Church of England parishes. The information is fully searchable and easy to compare and interpret. Parishes are arguably more 'natural' communities than the local authority wards or census output areas used in most small area analyses by government and academics. There are around 12,700 parishes in England, organised into 43 dioceses.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LEAST AND MOST DEPRIVED PARISHES

The map below shows the distribution of the 10% least and most deprived parishes in the country. Deprivation is heavily concentrated in urban areas and coastal areas. There is also a clear north/south divide with a majority of the most affluent areas found in a wide arc around London stretching between Northampton (in the north), Winchester (in the south), Bristol (in the west) and Cambridge (in the east).



The table opposite shows how poverty is heavily concentrated in certain dioceses. **In each of the dioceses of Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester, nearly half (45%) of parishes are ranked in the 10% most deprived in England.** These dioceses also have a high proportion of parishes with low life expectancy, lack of qualifications and high rates of lone parenthood. **Sheffield and Durham, too, rank among the worst dioceses on all of these indicators.** With the exception of London and Southwark, no southern dioceses appear on the 'top 10' for any of these poverty-related indicators.

- 10% most deprived parishes
- 10% least deprived parishes

** This map shows a random sample of 500 parishes in the 10% least and most 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		Life expectancy (boys)		Lone parenthood		No qualifications	
Liverpool	45%	Manchester	42%	Southwark	41%	Birmingham	40%
Birmingham	45%	Liverpool	36%	Liverpool	34%	Sheffield	37%
Manchester	45%	Birmingham	32%	Birmingham	33%	Durham	36%
Sheffield	32%	Newcastle	24%	Manchester	33%	Liverpool	34%
Durham	29%	Durham	22%	London	29%	Manchester	29%
London	26%	Blackburn	19%	Ripon & Leeds	20%	Wakefield	25%
Blackburn	24%	Ripon & Leeds	18%	Newcastle	16%	Lichfield	24%
Wakefield	24%	Sheffield	18%	Durham	16%	Lincoln	20%
Southwark	23%	Bradford	16%	Sheffield	15%	Newcastle	19%
Bradford	21%	Southwark	16%	Blackburn	15%	Southwell	18%

* The four indicators shown here (and the thresholds for the 'worst' 10% of parishes) are: the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010; estimated male life expectancy at birth (less than 73 years), lone parent families as a proportion of all families with dependent children (greater than 31%); and the proportion of working age adults with no qualifications (greater than 40%).

PROXIMITY BETWEEN LEAST AND MOST DEPRIVED PARISHES

However, there are some very deprived parishes in most dioceses and relatively deprived parishes in all dioceses. Even the most affluent parishes are never very far from a parish that is near the top of the deprivation scale (see Table below). These are not the small, localised pockets of deprivation found within nearly all parishes, but rather whole communities blighted by the inter-related problems of income poverty, poor health, low skills and family breakdown.

	Deprivation ranking out of 12,706 parishes (1=least deprived)	% of children in poverty
Guildford diocese: Heatherside, Camberley Church of the Good Shepherd, Farnborough (3 miles away)	3* 9,648	6% 24%
Chester diocese: St John the Evangelist, Lindow St Luke, Brinnington (12 miles away)	4* 12,639	4% 47%
Oxford diocese: St James, Barkham St Agnes, Reading (4 miles away)	5* 11,247	4% 33%
St Edmundsbury & Ipswich diocese: St John Baptist, Brightwell St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich (6 miles away)	6* 12,514	6% 38%
Ely diocese: St Mary, Comberton St Mary the Virgin, Fen Ditton (8 miles away)	7* 10,823	4% 30%

* This table shows the 5 least deprived parishes in the country, excluding two very small parishes with a population of less than 500.

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ONLINE POVERTY LOOKUP TOOL

To find out more about the level of poverty where you live, go to: www.cuf.org.uk/povertyinengland. By typing in your postcode or searching for your parish name by diocese, you can find out where your parish ranks on ten different indicators relative to other parishes nationally and in the same diocese.

All of the indicators are derived from published government data sets and were converted to parishes by the Church of England's Research and Statistics division. Below is an example of the output for one particular parish - **St John the Evangelist, Farsley** – which ranks in the middle on the overall deprivation scale.

On the overall deprivation scale, where 1 is the least deprived in the country, this parish ranks 6352 out of 12706 parishes in England. That means that the parish is around average on the deprivation scale for parishes nationally.

	Lowest in country (on each indicator)	St John the Evangelist, Farsley (rank in country, 1= lowest)	Highest in country (on each indicator)
Child poverty (% of children in poverty)	1%	9% 3321 out of 9792	65%
Pensioner poverty (% of pensioners on low incomes)	2%	14% 6216 out of 9698	72%
Working age poverty (% of adults on key out-of-work benefits)	1%	9% 4168 out of 9799	53%
Life expectancy (boys) (life expectancy at birth)	66yrs	76yrs 3047 out of 8885	88yrs
Life expectancy (girls) (life expectancy at birth)	70yrs	79yrs 1866 out of 8984	100+yrs
No qualifications (% of adults with no qualifications)	1%	26% 4698 out of 9698	62%
Social housing (% of households in social housing)	0%	14% 5949 out of 9799	97%
Lone parenthood (lone parent families as % of all families with children)	0%	18% 5859 out of 9797	68%
Ethnic diversity (% who are not white British)	0%	4% 4615 out of 9415	91%
Older population (% aged 65 and over)	1%	15% 2988 out of 9415	53%

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information about our online poverty lookup tool, please contact Tom Sefton at Church Urban Fund (tom.sefton@cuf.org.uk). To download this and other research reports, go to www.cuf.org.uk/research

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