

RECENT SURVEYS/MAPPING EXERCISES UNDERTAKEN ACROSS THE ENGLISH REGIONS MEASURING THE CONTRIBUTION OF FAITH GROUPS TO SOCIAL ACTION AND CULTURE

- Notes: 1. Not all the reports are quantitative; some are qualitative choosing to focus on individual case studies
 2. Almost all the reports set out to include all denominations and faiths
 3. Only one report (North West) has to date carried out an in depth economic impact assessment

SOUTH WEST		<i>Culture South West, Cathedrals and Cultural Investment</i> (July 2002) South West Church Leaders, Pilot study based on the six SW cathedrals.	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.	
	South West Churches Advisor for Regional Affairs. South West Council of Faiths South West Churches Regional Forum	<i>Daily Service: How faith communities contribute to neighbourhood renewal and regeneration in the South West of England</i> (September 2004) - commissioned by the Government Office in partnership with the SW Council of Faiths and the SW Churches Regional Forum. (Research carried out in selected areas that exhibited multiple deprivation)	138 faith groups identified of which 70 (c.50%) responded. c.50% of the faith groups contacted reported that they were involved with community social welfare activities; Relatively few of those faith groups had any experience of involvement with regeneration initiatives, nor had they received any funding for projects related to neighbourhood renewal.	Local governance, funding agencies and officers in the field need better information on the size and distribution of all the faith communities in their areas, and a better understanding of what they are and can contribute to regional agendas and their capacity needs; Faith groups should respond to the increasing number of opportunities to get involved in neighbourhood renewal initiatives by having the courage to make applications and by being willing to embrace partnership working.
	Faithnetsouthwest	<i>Faith in Action in the South West</i> June 2006 - a survey of social and community action by faith	65% use their buildings for activities for the local community. Includes use	<i>Churches and faith groups should consider ways to develop their buildings as a community resource & reach</i>

		<p>groups in the SouthWest of England</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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>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> <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></p>
		<p><i>A Vibrant Church: A Report of the Church of England in Rural Gloucestershire</i> (February 2003)</p> <p>- 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;</p> <p>- a total of 19 out of 155 parishes had no other building available for community use than their parish church;</p> <p>- 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>

Other on-going research that we know about:

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.