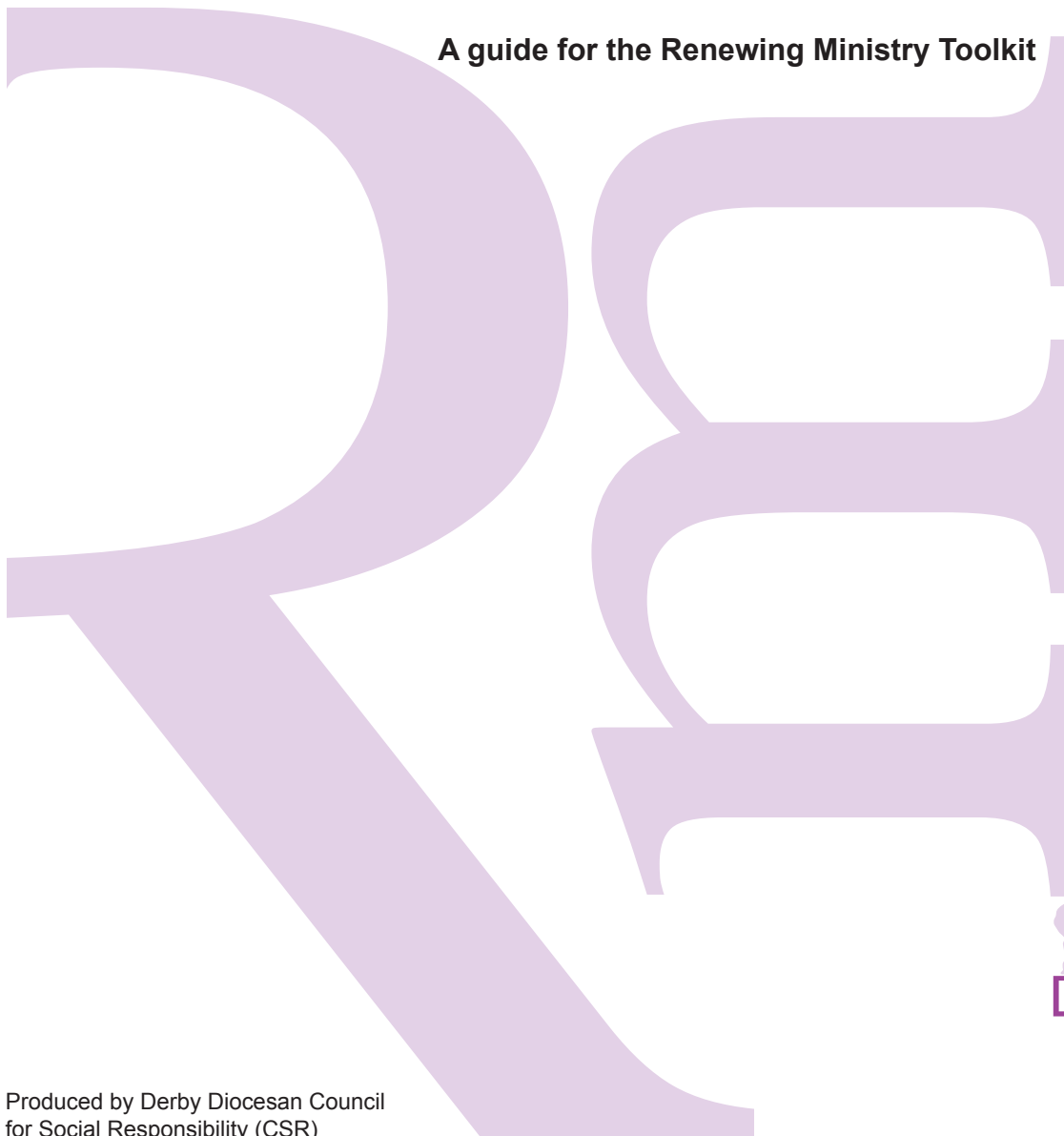




RENEWING  
Ministry

# Local Social Audit: Getting to know your area

A guide for the Renewing Ministry Toolkit



Produced by Derby Diocesan Council  
for Social Responsibility (CSR)

Diocese  
of Derby



This tool is designed to help you look at the local area of your church and at the people who are your mission.

*'The most necessary prerequisite for the churches to carry forward the community development agenda is not funding, but a sense of commitment, a determination to move forward, and a clear sense of purpose.'*

'Challenging Communities' Doreen Finneron et. Al.

## Getting to know your area

- Who makes up your community?
- What makes that diverse?
- What is the social and economic make up of the community?
- How are people occupied?
- What is their working role and where do they work?
- What is their accommodation?
- How many people live alone?
- How many in extended families, how many as lone parents?
- What ratio do you have of under 5's? under 25's?
- How does that compare with 25-65s and 65-85 or 85 plus?
- What is the mix of ethnic groups in the locality?
- What do people do and where do they go for recreation?
- What is the area known for and how do the local population feel about this?
- What are the strengths of your community and divisions in the community and how does that impact the area?
- What is beyond the doors of your church in the immediate vicinity?
- How do the features of the area effect the population e.g. roads, railways, heavy industry, rivers?
- Do these features have particular hazards?
- What needs changing in the area in the opinion of local people?
- How are you / could you be part of the solution?
- What is the focus of the local community?
- What are the local issues that effect local people?
- Who is working locally for the benefit of the area?
- Where are they based?
- Where are the poor in your locality?
- Where are the needy?
- How are you engaged as a group of people there?
- Are they represented in your church community?
- Who speaks for these people? Are they represented accurately?
- Where are you engaged as church members in your locality in non-church activities?
- What are you doing?
- How good are you at asking questions and listening to answers?

Some of this starter tool may make you feel you need support to answer some of these questions. You may want advice about researching or auditing in your area. This can be done in a number of creative ways. Consulting with the widest range of people can seem a daunting task but can also be highly informative and help you to make connections with others and understand their role and perspective which becomes invaluable as you re-orientate to a community focus.

The results of this research will inform your decisions on how and where to focus your mission. It may also provide a solid evidence base to any funding applications you may need to make.

Useful sources of information are listed below but CSR are currently producing a document entitled "Community Focussed Mission and Ministry" which may also assist you. This will look at the reasons why to engage, more detail on how to engage, responding to your research and suggestions for further training. Likewise there is also useful material in the CSR library that can be loaned through the post.

# Research Resources

## Local statistics research

Local Government [www.localregions.dtr.gov.uk](http://www.localregions.dtr.gov.uk)

Local Government Association [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)  
[www.info4local.gov.uk](http://www.info4local.gov.uk)

Indices of deprivation [www.urban.odpm.gov.uk/research/summaries](http://www.urban.odpm.gov.uk/research/summaries)

Government departments research into areas such as:

Education [www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

Employment [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)

Crime Government National Statistics [www.nationalstatistics.gov.uk](http://www.nationalstatistics.gov.uk)

The Public Information Office, House of Commons, London, SW1A 2DG, Tel 020 7219 5839  
[pio@parliament.uk](mailto:pio@parliament.uk)

You can contact local police stations and other statutory agencies to find out what local research has been done. Also if there is a community regeneration or economic development worker for your locality they may also be a useful source of information, telephone Mike Britain 01629 580000 ext 7348

## Publications Review

### **Faithworks 3**

Unpacked Steve Chalke 2002

A practical manual to equip churches for community involvement.

ISBN 1 84291 028 0

Published by Kingsway Communications Ltd, Lottbridge Drove, Eastbourne, BN23 6NT

Email: [books@kingsway.co.uk](mailto:books@kingsway.co.uk) or obtainable from [www.faithworks.info/books](http://www.faithworks.info/books)

The Faithworks movement exists to inspire and resource churches, Christian charities and agencies to live out their belief that faith works and to put faith back into the heart of the community.

[www.faithworks.info](http://www.faithworks.info)

020 7450 9086

This manual provides the information and help you will need to get involved more effectively in your local community and to work with local government and other agencies to obtain the resources you need.

It gives practical advice on researching your community, techniques for research. Analysing data and planning. Strategies. Recording and Evaluation. Implementation and Funding. Managing the project. Working with local and national government.

Sections 2 and 3 are concerned with getting your church involved and researching your community.

### **Faithworks Community Audit 2002**

Workbook which accompanies the Faithworks 3 Unpacked

This repeats much of what is said in Faithworks 3 Unpacked but is probably not enough on its own.

Available from Faithworks.

Faithworks Consultancy

Resources the local church to serve their community more efficiently.

[consultancy@faithworks.info](mailto:consultancy@faithworks.info)

Tel 020 7450 9086

### **Faithworks Funding Bulletin**

Updated online bulletin of information regarding existing and new financial resources

[www.faithworks.info/funding](http://www.faithworks.info/funding)

### **Faithworks Directory**

Models of best practice and high quality resources

[www.faithworks.info/churchresources](http://www.faithworks.info/churchresources)

### **Faithworks Church Audit**

Designed to enable you to make an accurate assessment of your available resources as you begin to build a strategy for action.

A simple SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

Available from Faithworks

### **TearFund**

A Christian development and relief organisation working to support partners at home through its UK team.

020 8943 7758

[www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)

### **Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation**

0870 770 0339

[www.nifonline.org.uk](http://www.nifonline.org.uk)

### **The Shaftesbury Society**

The Development and Regeneration Group works alongside churches to help them respond in practical and relevant ways to community needs. Part of this is through 'Programme Initiative Partnerships' where a Community Initiatives manager works alongside a church to help establish a new project or make a current one more effective, through prayer, advice, support, direction and links with other projects. One such partnership exists in north west Derbyshire.

The Shaftesbury Society

Development and Regeneration Services

16 Kingston Road, London, SW19 1JZ

0845 330 6033

[communityinfo@shaftesburysoc.org.uk](mailto:communityinfo@shaftesburysoc.org.uk)

[www.shaftesburysociety.org](http://www.shaftesburysociety.org)

### **Wired-Up**

Bi-monthly information and funding bulletin. Available from Shaftesbury.

### **The Shaftesbury Society Development and Regeneration Group Questionnaire Pack**

£5.00 Available from The Shaftesbury Society

This questionnaire Pack is about researching community needs. It is for churches who recognise that in order to respond to the needs and issues of people in the area the church first needs to listen to them. It is a practical resource for churches covering all aspects of researching writing, conducting and evaluating community questionnaires. It uses real life experience as the basis for its step by step approach with helpful do's and don'ts to help you through the process. Conducting a questionnaire is just one of the many techniques and tools that can be used to survey a community. This pack should be used alongside other community survey techniques and research methods to enable you to gain a 'rounded' view of your local area.

### **Participation Works!: 21 techniques of community participation for the 21st Century.**

New Economics Foundation and UK Community Participation Networks

ISBN 1 899407 17 0

£7.00 or bulk order £25.00 for 5 copies

New Economics Foundation, First Floor Vine Court, 112-116 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1JE

This book explains different techniques for engaging with your community, gathering data and building relationships at the same time.

### **The Purple Pack for Planning Projects**

Part One – Finding Out 1996

This is the first of three volumes and is the one which deals with researching your community.

ISBN 1 899292 10 1 £5.00

Southwark Diocesan Board for Church in Society, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court,

Borough High street, London SE1 1HW

020 7939 9412

Part One takes you from vision through a clear process to the point of planning a specific project by finding out about the neighbourhood, the church – people resources and church – building resources. The pack is designed to help in four ways- as a reference tool, as checklists, as a guide and with examples of how other churches have done it.

### **Discerning Church Vocation: A Listening Exercise for the local church**

Published by Springboard, 4 Old Station Yard, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3LD  
01235 553722

A guide to help the church listen to God and listen to their context.

This is a process rather than a one-off event.

The purpose of the process is to pay attention to the world in which we live in such a way as to enable the local church to discern the shape of God's call to mission for this church, at this time, in this place.

This is a fairly easy process but which needs commitment and can be used in conjunction with other techniques.

### **Building Bridges of Hope**

Bridges to Build

£13.99 for book and video = £2 p+p

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Publications  
ISBN 0 85169 259 6

Available from

CTBI Publications, 31 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BN

020 7898 1300

orders@ctbi.org.uk

www.chbookshop.co.uk

The aim of Building Bridges of Hope (BBH) is to discover what different ways of relating to local communities are most effective for mission – mission being God's purposes for human community declared in Jesus Christ. It is designed to work with churches locally and nationally to discover 'best practice' for moving from maintenance to mission. It is therefore about implementing:

Creative ways of building bridges within and between communities.

New ways of being church that connect to the local context.

Appropriate patterns of local mission.

This requires:

- Making fresh connections between community, church and mission.
- The overall purpose of this phase of BBH is action-research for a changing church in a changing world.
- This is a workbook and video programme to help your church through this process.

If you would like to know more about BBH – the 40 congregations who have taken part and the learning process contact:

Building Bridges of Hope

C/o CCOM, Inter-Church House, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL

bbh@ctbi.org.uk

A booklet 'Building Bridges of Hope: A Challenge and an Invitation' is available for £2.50 from above address.

Further resources are available through the BBH website [www.ccom.org.uk](http://www.ccom.org.uk)

### **Changing Churches: Building Bridges in Local Mission**

Jeanne Hinton 2002 £7.95

ISBN 0 85169 264 8

Published by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

This is a compilation of inspiring stories of churches who have piloted the 'Building Bridges of Hope' programme.

It also carries a summary of 'Building Bridges of Hope'

### **Community Research – Getting Started**

Detailed resource pack for small groups to carry out community research.

*£30.00 from:*

Association for Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector (ARVAC)

2d Aberdeen Studios, 22-24 Highbury Grove, London, N5 2EA.

020 7704 2315

### **Community Works Skills Manual**

Substantial guide to all areas of community work, which includes a helpful section on gathering information about your community.

From- Community Work Training Co., 128 Sunbridge Road, Bradford, BD1 2AT.

01274 745551

[www.community-work-training.org.uk](http://www.community-work-training.org.uk)

### **Doing Community Research**

*(Downloadable from web)*

Gives reasons and rationale for effectively researching local communities.

Bassac, Winchester House, 11 Cranmer Road, London, SW9 6EJ

020 7735 1075

[www.bassac.org.uk](http://www.bassac.org.uk)

### **Ensure**

[www.ensure.org](http://www.ensure.org)

Web based resource network for sustainable urban regeneration. Easy to read guide with in-depth section called 'Getting to know the neighbourhood'.

### **Getting to Know Your Neighbours**

Basic guide on how to research the needs of a community.

The Shaftesbury Society, 16 Kingston Road, London, SW19 1JZ

0845 330 6033

[www.shaftesburysociety.org](http://www.shaftesburysociety.org)

### **Neighbourhood Surveys Info Sheet 48**

*£1.50*

Brief straightforward explanation of why community organisations should regularly survey their neighbourhood and how to go about it.

Community Matters, 12-20 Baron Street, London, N1 9LL

0207 837 7887

[www.communitymatters.org.uk](http://www.communitymatters.org.uk)

### **Skills in Neighbourhood Work**

*£17.99 ISBN 0 415 23323 2*

Textbook for community workers to work effectively in and with communities, which includes a useful, in-depth appendix on community audits.

Community development Foundation, 60 Highbury Grove, London, N5 2AG

020 726 5375

[www.cdf.org.uk](http://www.cdf.org.uk)

### **Prayershield**

Praying for your local area

Prayershield Trust, PO Box 6246, Derby DE23 1WS

[admin@prayershield.org.uk](mailto:admin@prayershield.org.uk)

## **Case Studies**

Stories from churches and Christian communities who have embarked on engaging and journeying with their communities.

### **Mystery in the Ordinary**

The Story of the Shaftesbury centre in Eastbourne

'The Shaftesbury Centre's vision is to see communities transformed into places where people are released to develop their potential and discover their gifts; where the church is really part of the community rather than just a building at its centre; where people are touched in practical ways by the love of Christ.'

### **The Cephas Story**

The Cephas story is a good example of how much can be done in a local community with limited resources but passionate, committed people.

'...slowly building the Kingdom through relationship and long term presence is actually the way God would have done it.'

Available from The Shaftesbury Society.

### **Life Centre Story**

This is the story of a youth facility in Salford.

'...challenging the dualism inherent in the social action versus evangelism debate – combining the two by living alongside people in the community evangelism is as much about how you relate to people as what you say.'

Available from The Shaftesbury Society.

### **Faithworks – Stories of Hope**

Stories of Hope tells of eight churches from different denominations across the UK who are effectively tackling a wide range of social issues – each chapter tells an inspiring story of a local church or individual that has responded to a God-given sense of purpose and direction.

Available from Faithworks.

### **Community – Led Regeneration and the Local Church**

Samuel Wells

What happens when a church, with its own story of salvation, becomes involved in the secular 'salvation' of community regeneration? What can it offer – and what must it learn? What are the crucial questions arising from such an encounter?

This is a story of early challenges which gives us the sense that the risks of engagement in community regeneration can provide defining moments for a local church that wants to be true to its God and to the Christ who sacrifices all to attain for us the most profound regeneration.

Available from the Grove office 01223 464 74 £2.50

Email: [sales@grovebooks.co.uk](mailto:sales@grovebooks.co.uk)

[www.grovebooks.co.uk](http://www.grovebooks.co.uk)

### **Challenging Communities: Church Related Community Development and Neighbourhood Renewal**

*Doreen Finneron. Laurie Green. Sue Harley. Jim Robertson*

This book starts with an explanation of Church related community development and goes on to some examples of this. It finishes with practical issues of what churches and other partner agencies need to know.

Available from CCWA, St Chad's College, North Bailey, Durham, DH1 3RH

0191 374 3309 £6.00

### **Starting where we are: the story of a neighbourhood centre**

*Kathy Galloway 1998 ISBN 1 901557 04 9*

Published by Wild Goose Publications, The Iona Community, Unit 15, Six Harmony Row, Glasgow, G51 3BA

This is the story of the Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre. Orbiston is a housing scheme in Belshill, near Glasgow which has suffered from sectarian divisions and economic difficulties following the decline of heavy industry. Through this project the challenge to 'Love thy neighbour' has been enacted by ordinary people becoming involved in the decisions of local and national government which affect their everyday lives. Feelings of apathy and helplessness have been challenged by mutual support, prayer and accountability, in a creative and imaginative way.