

CHURCH & COMMUNITY AUDITS/PROFILING (as of March 2012)

(Web links provided wherever possible)

FREE resources

Church & Community Appraisals: Rural Evangelism Network

<http://ruralmissionsolutions.org.uk/app/download/4875124402/Appraisal+booklet+%28A4%29.pdf>

This is a simple guide for local rural churches that identifies key areas that they should consider in building up a better idea of their community and congregation - with a view to developing an appropriate action plan for the church.

Church & Community Surveys: Rural Ministries

www.ruralministries.org.uk/downloads/pdf/Church%20and%20Community%20Surveys.pdf

This is a simple series of questions for rural churches part of Rural Ministries' larger Rural Church Leaders' Toolkit. It is aimed primarily at leaders, aiming to prevent them from becoming too detached from their congregations & communities.

Church Community Value Toolkit: Church Urban Fund

www.cuf.org.uk/act/resources-projects/community-value-toolkit

Here you will find comprehensive & detailed toolkits for Anglican, Methodist & Baptist churches to use. They are designed for an urban environment, and make a number of assumptions in their approach that are less relevant in many rural contexts. They have considerable material to help analyse both church and community.

Community Audits - Introduction: London Diocese

www.london.anglican.org/resources/Blocks/11134/Community%20Audits.pdf

This readable description is of the general process that churches in London Diocese are encouraged to adopt to generate a good picture of their communities. Some elements are clearly determined by the urban context and the specifics of London Diocese.

Exploring the Local Church in Mission - Mission Audit: Salisbury Diocese

<http://moodle.salisbury.anglican.org/course/view.php?id=36>

This is an exceptionally detailed but modular approach to the whole issue of community mission. Designed as a module for an assessed programme of study, the course materials are free to use by anyone, and the course itself can be audited. There are some very helpful individual elements within the wider range of material available.

Faith in Action - Guide to Community Mission: Derby Diocese

Ch.2 Getting Started (Planning & Auditing)

www.faithinderbyshire.org/attachments/article/48/chapter-2.pdf

Part of the wider Faith in Action report & programme from Derby Diocese, this guide to planning & auditing has some exceptionally helpful material with considerable detail - allowing for adoption in, or adaptation to, different contexts. There are some significant rural case studies as part of this guide.

Fit for Mission/Doing a Parish Audit: Manchester Diocese

www.manchester.anglican.org/church-society/doing-a-parish-audit

This strategic planning resource from Manchester Diocese is designed to help any parish improve its approach to community mission. Although fairly basic, and with elements that clearly reflect its urban origins, it has helpful aspects that can be taken on board easily by any local church.

How Do We Do Community Research: Baptist Union

www.baptist.org.uk/resources-events/missionfiles/doc_download/383-how--do-we-do-community-research.html

This is a little different, but gives excellent pointers to resources & approaches that can be adopted to build up an accurate picture of a church's surrounding community.

Resources that have to be PURCHASED

Faithworks Church Audit

www.faithworks.info/churchaudit

Faithworks Community Audit

www.faithworks.info/communityaudit

These complementary toolkits represent the particular approach adopted by most churches and groups that are part of the Faithworks network. They are comprehensive, and expect that such fundamental research will form a significant part of the planning process for any new community-based venture.

The Healthy Churches' Handbook (Robert Warren; Church House Publishing)

- Chapter 11 - The Church Profile Exercise
- Appendix 3 - Church Profile Sheet

(Not currently available online)

This material has been used widely by many (mostly Anglican) churches, and has an excellent track record. It is simple and ties in very closely with the ideas of collaborative and team working. It also lends itself well to multi-church situations, which gives it a specific relevance for many rural situations. It does focus almost exclusively on the church rather than the community.

Listening for Mission: Fresh Expressions

www.freshexpressions.org.uk/resources/listening

A brief guide produced as part of the ongoing suite of materials from Fresh Expressions, this focuses on some of their specific priorities. It is mostly concerned with gaining an understanding of the constituency in which a fresh expression of church may be started, but has helpful ideas & approaches for a broader constituency.

ACRE/RCAN Community-Led Planning toolkit

www.acre.org.uk/our-work/community-led-planning/NEW+CLP+Toolkit

Access to the complete toolkit requires membership of RCAN, but the Information & Topic Sheets are free to download for anyone.

The full toolkit (for members of Rural Community Councils) appears to be quite a detailed resource. This may not be suitable for an individual church or even local group of churches; but would be ideal for a deanery group or similar looking to resource effective mission throughout a larger group of churches. It is, clearly, focused entirely on understanding the community and developing local planning by those communities.

Church, Community & Change and Discovery

<http://tilz.tearfund.org/Discovery/CCC+and+Discovery+home.htm>

"Discovery" itself is a resource from tearfund that involves an externally run training programme for church members. The purpose is to help churches understand their local community, appreciate their own church's assets, and then engage in local programmes of social action & community change.