



How to ...

Serve and engage with your community

Connecting with our communities

'To be connected with our communities is to be an incarnational Church. This means we have to start with people where they are, not where we might like them to be. In a post Christendom context this is challenging for us.

We participate in the mission of God by being planted and rooted in our local contexts. The call of the Church of England is to proclaim the Good News afresh in each generation and to be a sign of God's Kingdom in every community. We must move to develop a proper understanding of the communities that we are seeking to serve. Without research and consideration we will not be able to move from being inherently inward focused as a church, to become a church that connects effectively with the communities we serve in a way which is demand, not supplier driven.' +Mike

Resources and Ideas

What follows is a list of organisations that provide resources, programmes or courses that you can use to enable you to reach out to and engage with your community. Some of these provide resources for running a particular type of ministry, others enable you to become a delivery partner and offer support and training to help you serve your community using their project/model. We hope that this list inspires you to prayerfully consider which facet of the community you have a heart to reach out to and what resources you may have available to you to enable you to do that. These organisations will be more than happy to offer you advice, guidance and support as you explore to which ministry God may be calling you and your church and the Diocesan Support Service team are here to advise and support you too.

This list is extensive but not exhaustive. Inclusion in this list is merely by way of signposting and does not indicate endorsement of the organisation, its operation or its resources.

It may also be useful for you to read the 'How to ... Set up a community social action project' guide.

Organisation / Resource	Category	Website
Community Money Advice <i>Enabling churches to run money advice support</i>	Advice and Support	http://www.communitymoneyadvice.com/
Explore Together <i>A new approach to all age worship and learning</i>	All Age Bible Exploration	http://www.exploretogether.org
Big Ministries <i>All age worship resources – All in Thing</i>	All Age Worship	http://www.bigministries.co.uk/
Premier Childrenswork <i>Magazine with children'swork resources, links and articles</i>	Children's Ministry	http://www.premierchildrenswork.com/
Open the Book <i>A resource for leading a series of primary school assemblies</i>	Children'swork / Schools'work	http://www.openthebook.net
TLG <i>Volunteers supporting and mentoring children in schools</i>	Children'swork / Schools'work	http://www.tlg.org.uk/web

Prospects <i>Supporting churches who are engaging with those with learning disabilities</i>	Disability	http://www.prospects.org.uk/
ISAAC <i>International Christian coalition of those working in the area of Drug misuse</i>	Drugs / Alcohol misuse services	http://www.isaac-international.org/
Table Talk <i>Ugly Duckling Co. An electronic game of conversations exploring life and faith</i>	Evangelism	http://www.table-talk.org/
Happiness Lab <i>Ugly Duckling Co. A set of resources exploring happiness in our lives and society</i>	Evangelism	http://www.theuglyducklingcompany.com/thehappinesslab.html
Alpha <i>Course enabling people to explore the Christian faith</i>	Evangelism	http://www.alpha.org/
Box of Questions.com <i>A set of videos exploring questions of faith</i>	Evangelism	http://www.boxofquestions.com
Messy Church <i>Resource for creative families' ministry</i>	Families' Ministry	http://www.messychurch.org.uk/
4Family <i>Enabling churches to befriend and supporting vulnerable families in your community</i>	Families' Ministry	http://www.yeovilcommunitychurch.co.uk/serving/4family/
Baby Basics <i>Enabling churches to provide equipment, clothing and practical support to expectant families.</i>	Families' Ministry	http://baby-basics.org.uk/
Home for Good <i>Encouraging Christians in Fostering and Adopting and helping churches to support them</i>	Families' Ministry	http://www.homeforgood.org.uk/
Make Lunch <i>Enabling churches to feed children in need during the school holidays</i>	Families' Ministry / Childrenswork	http://www.makelunch.org.uk/
Mega Fitness <i>Church run holistic exercise and fitness courses</i>	Health and Wellbeing	http://megafitness30.com/?page_id=29
Parish Nursing <i>Church based nurses providing holistic healthcare</i>	Health and Wellbeing	http://parishnursing.org.uk/
Passing the Baton <i>Befriending people vulnerable to homelessness</i>	Homelessness	http://www.bethanychristiantrust.com/services/partner-projects/
Christian Vision for Men (CVM) <i>Resources for men's ministry with an annual conference</i>	Men's Ministry	http://cvm.org.uk/
Its Jesus.com <i>iTruth app and focused city wide mission resource</i>	Mission	http://www.itsjesus.com
Hope Together <i>Words and actions and Mission Academies Noteworthy resource: The Rhythm of Mission</i>	Mission Activity	http://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/256543/Resources.aspx
Clean Sheet <i>A 3 step pathway from prison to employment</i>	Offender rehabilitation	http://www.cleansheet.org.uk/
Caring for Ex-offenders <i>Rehabilitating offenders back into the community</i>	Offender rehabilitation	http://www.caringforexoffenders.org/
Supporting Ex-Offenders <i>Bristol based collaboration of organisations helping ex-offenders live meaningful lives</i>	Offender rehabilitation	http://sixty-one.org/
Street Pastors <i>Working to support people on the streets during their nights out</i>	Outreach	http://www.streetpastors.org/

One25 <i>Organisation running outreach to prostitutes in Bristol</i>	Outreach	http://one25.org.uk/
Hope into Action <i>Helping churches to help the homeless</i>	Outreach	http://hopeintoaction.org.uk/
Ignition <i>Churches supporting the unemployed and running job clubs</i>	Outreach	http://www.pecan.org.uk/what-we-do/employment-support/ignition-programme
Night Shelters (Housing Justice) <i>Overnight accommodation for the homeless</i>	Outreach	http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/pages/shelters.html
Link Visiting Scheme <i>Churches tackling social isolation amongst older people</i>	Outreach to Older People	http://linkvisiting.org/national-scheme/setting-up-a-link-visiting-scheme/
24-7 Prayer Rooms <i>Resources for running a prayer room in your church</i>	Prayer	https://www.24-7prayer.com/
Labyrinth <i>How to set up a labyrinth prayer journey</i>	Prayer	http://labyrinthociety.org/labyrinths-in-places/3249-labyrinths-in-churches
Reflex <i>Working in and resourcing ministry in young offending institutes</i>	Prison Ministry to young offenders	http://www.reflex.org/
Prayer Spaces in Schools <i>Resources for prayer linked to the school curriculum</i>	Prayer Schools' work	http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/
Foodbank / Trussell Trust <i>Resource for setting up and running a Foodbank</i>	Social Action	http://www.trusselltrust.org/foodbank-projects
Christians Against Poverty <i>Resource for setting up a local debt counselling service</i>	Social Action	https://capuk.org/
The Noise <i>Running social action projects initially focussed on young people</i>	Social Action / Youth Ministry	http://www.thenoise.org.uk/
Christians in Sport <i>Supporting and resourcing churches reaching out through sports ministry</i>	Sports Ministry	http://www.christiansinsport.org.uk/
The Mentoring Network <i>Resources to enable you to support people through Mentoring</i>	Support and care	http://thementoringnetwork.net/
Coaching <i>Resources to enable you to support people through coaching by qualified coaches</i>	Support and care	http://www.coachnet.org/
1277 <i>Supporting churches who run toddler groups</i>	Toddler Groups	http://www.1277.org.uk/
Who Let The Dads Out <i>Resourcing churches to run toddler groups for dads</i>	Toddler Groups	http://www.wholetthedadsout.org.uk/
Care for the Family <i>ParentTalk newsletter and support for families</i>	Toddler Groups and Families' ministry	http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk
Good Neighbours <i>Coordinated, pastoral care visiting and support for people</i>	Visiting/Pastoral Care	http://www.goodneighbours.org.uk/website/
Fruitfulness on the Frontline (LICC) <i>An LICC resource helping people to live out their Christian faith</i>	Whole Life Discipleship	http://www.licc.org.uk/splash/index.html
Area 52 <i>Creative worship ideas every week from Engage Worship, Built around the lectionary.</i>	Worship	http://engageworship.org/area52

YFC Resources <i>Rock Solid, Lumen, Mettle, resources for youthwork</i>	Youth Ministry	https://yfcresources.co.uk/
Urban Saints <i>Energize and other resources for youthwork</i>	Youth Ministry	http://www.energize.uk.net/
Premier Youthwork <i>Magazine with youthwork resources, links and articles</i>	Youth Ministry	http://www.premieryouthwork.com
Romance Academy <i>Relationships and Sex Education programme resource for young people</i>	Youth Ministry	http://www.romanceacademy.org/

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