

# MODULE OUTLINE



# Community Engagement

## Aims - to enable participants to:

- Have a better understanding of the Church's relationship with its wider community and the imperative to engage with that community
- Discover the real needs of their local community and how they can be addressed
- Ensure that the projects and pieces of work initiated by a church in its community are well-resourced, well-organised, and effective
- Be better able to work with others in a way which enables, encourages, and empowers

## Assessment:

To complete a parish / community audit as outlined in the Know your Church, Know your Neighbourhood process – and to outline possible next steps for their church

## Principles:

- Biblically-rooted – using an example from Scripture to start the sessions
- A 'train the trainers' approach so that those completing the module are able to be a resource and encourage other people
- Using the pastoral cycle as a framework – experience → analysing → theological reflection → action / response → evaluation → new experience

## Session outlines:

- 1) Asking ourselves what we think community is and examining what others have written and said about it. Different ways of describing the place you find yourself in. Getting out and about – an observed community walk.
- 2) Considering the question 'why get involved in the world?' The theological imperative: a) being salt, light, yeast; b) being prophetic. The Five Marks of Mission.
- 3) The 'language' of community engagement: getting to grips with phrases, words and ideas commonly used.
- 4) Building up a tool kit: strengths and weaknesses of various methods and approaches – eg community service, community development, community action /organising, social enterprise.
- 5) Getting to know your patch: know your church.
- 6) Getting to know your patch: know your neighbourhood.
- 7) Action planning and resourcing. Finding the purpose, the people, the place and the pennies – including preparing funding applications.
- 8) Working in partnership: who else is involved; what do they do; how to make contact and keep it. How to avoid reinventing the wheel: learning about existing programmes and what they offer.
- 9) Measuring and evaluation: checking whether you've done what you set out to do.