RECENT SURVEYS/MAPPING EXERCISES UNDERTAKEN ACROSS THE ENGLISH REGIONS TO MEASURE 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. All the reports set out to include all denominations and faiths;
3. Only one report (NW) has to date (that I know about) carried out an in depth economic impact assessment

BP 9.1.2006

Region	**Regional Forums/ Networks** – where one aim is to be the faith body that engages with Gov/regional bodies	**Reports on contribution of faith groups to social action and culture**	**Key findings**	**Main recommendations**
NORTH WEST	Northwest Forum of Faiths - launched February 2005	1.*Faith in England's Northwest: the contribution made by faith communities to civil society in the region,* (November 2003) - in partnership with the NW RDA - supported by the NW Regional Assembly	Survey of 4,400 faith communities with a response rate of 54%. Faith communities running c.5,000 social projects; More than 45,500 volunteers working through faith communities on community and social projects; Huge community resource available in form of buildings.	Need to capacity build within faith communities so they can access, more effectively, partnership initiatives and funding; Need to make potential partners more aware of what faith communities have to offer; Need to work to ensure that faith networks are inclusive of and accountable to all faiths.
		2. *Faith in England's Northwest: Economic Impact Assessment* (February 2005) - in partnership with the NW RDA (based on the data collected from the above 2003 survey)	Faith communities in the Northwest generates between £69.6 million and £94.9 million; 697,114 faith visitors and tourists to the Northwest generate around £8.4 million	Identified further areas of research which would provide a deeper level of knowledge about the contribution of the faith communities sector.

			per annum.	
NORTH EAST	The Churches Regional Commission (CRC) in the NE - formed 1995	*COALFIELDS REGENERATION in North East England: The contribution of Faith Communities* (January 2002) The Coalfields Regeneration Trust and the CRC supported by the Church Urban Fund.	Most parishes supported between 1 and 3 paid staff, and an average of between 8 and 15 regular volunteers running activities. 75% of churches provided rooms for community use, and 50% also used other local premises for their activities. Most popular activities offered were community events, regular social, welfare and recreational pursuits. Nearly 50% offered Pensioners' activities and play or toddler groups alongside other regular leisure and recreation clubs. 33% undertook youth-work, and more were planning such provision in the near future.	Need to: - develop a regional community development strategy; - tackle the fabric of some church buildings to make more suitable for other community uses; - develop a strategy for funding regeneration activities by faith communities; - improve communication and networking between faith communities who are engaged in regeneration within the region; - provide more support for isolated faith communities and tailoring recruitment practices to match the skills and experience needed by specific neighbourhoods; - develope a resource strategy for each diocese or church community to find innovative ways of supporting local action.
		Faith in the North East: Social action by faith communities in the region (September 2004) - supported by the Government Office NE/Home Office, CUF - in partnership with One NorthEast and the North East Regional Assembly.	Survey of 1448 faith communities of which 50.21% responded. Faith communities involved in 4,762 separate activities; 96% have their own building and 56.7% had rooms used by community groups; 13,439 volunteers from faith communities involved in activities in the wider local community equalling a total of	New partnerships and ways of working need to be generated between and across faith groups to maximise their potential for community involvement; Need to capacity build within faith communities so they can access, more effectively, partnership initiatives and funding; and support their volunteers; More understanding is needed by those involved in governance and policy-making as to the distinctive contribution of faith communities.

			4,192,968 volunteers hours pa.	
		Promoting Social Inclusion of Young People – the contribution of faith communities CRC research project in partnership with Durham University funded by Big Lottery	2 year project commenced May 2005.	
YORKSHIRE	SEARCH (Social and Economic Action Resource of Churches in Hull and District) Formed 1999 to undertake research and now a resource for Hull churches.	*Count Us In* SEARCH report published 2000. A major research exercise carried out amongst churches within the city of Hull. Using a questionnaire and structured interview gathered information about church-based social action and relevant resources. Subsequent annual reports which contain advice, useful information, updated directories of church social projects and further case studies : *Count the Difference* 2001 *Shoots and Roots* 2002 *Who Do We Serve* 2003	- 85% of churches participated, of these 90% are involved in some form of social action; - at least 1,000 hours of church-based action takes place across the city each week = c. 350 regular activities; - wide range of activities for children, young people, families, older people; addressing issues of health and disability, women's issues, relieving poverty, counselling and advice, social exclusion; - approx 8,500 individuals (the majority volunteers) taking part in church-based community activities each week; - majority of this work has developed from the vision and energy of church members; - church buildings are an important resource in local communities community access and involvement.	- Need to facilitate networks and information sharing; - New church partnerships and ways of working together need to be found to maximise potential; - Churches need greater access to information and advice about funding opportunities - There is huge potential to develop volunteers: training and support; - Churches need to consider different models for developing social action to be more accessible and to find out what local communities need.
	Churches Regional Commission for	*Angels and Advocates: Church Social Action in Yorkshire and the Humber*	- Churches engaged in c.6,500 social action projects;	- faith groups need more support, training and help with maintaining the 3,000+ buildings

	Yorkshire and the Humber (CRC) - formed 1998 A regional Faiths Forum supported by CRC and Yorkshire and Humberside Assembly due to be launched Autumn 2005	(November 2002) CRC - publication funded by Yorkshire Forward (RDA) (Research sources: - surveys of church social action in Leeds (1995), Hull (2000) and Sheffield's 12 most deprived wards (2001) and certain rural areas of Yorkshire (2002)) - Church Life Profile carried out by Church Information for Mission in Yorkshire (2001)	- between 50,000 - 70,000 churchgoers are regularly involved in church social action and a similar number engage in social action not organised by the churches; - some 3,000 staff on church projects; - over 150,000 people benefit regularly from church projects. The economic value of church social action to the region is likely to be between £55 - £75 million a year. - over 3,000 buildings located in virtually every community, being used extensively by the church and many other organisation.	available for community use; - public bodies should involve the churches as partners in the development of regeneration and social policies in the region; - churches should be in included in strategic partnerships and networks of service deliverers; - the CRC and the sub-regional support networks should seek to enhance the quality of church projects through increasingly professional management, development of staff & volunteers and through careful monitoring and evaluation.
	Compiled from many sources of information and research data.	*Sowing the Seed: Church and Rural Regeneration in Yorkshire and Humberside* (October 2003) CRC - publication funded by Yorkshire Forward (RDA)	Rural data included in statistics produced for *Angels and Advocates* (see above).	To work effectively churches must work with other agencies in partnership, and work ecumenically.
		Sticking together –Faith and Community Cohesion (2004) CRC	Christian response to the Northern city riots of 2001.	
		Enterprising Faith: Faith in the Social Economy (2004) CRC	Looks at role of faith groups in the social economy and also some of the issues this raises for faith-based organisations; and suggests ways we can develop this contribution and gain recognition and support.	There should be room for all kinds of groups:- - those social enterprises that want to become successful businesses and gain more funding with the aim of becoming self-funding; - those small grassroots and organic projects which will probably remain dependent on grants
		Report produced by Thomas Low	Christian congregations in the	

		Partnership February 2004. Research project carried out in Bradford.	City of Bradford employ 150 people in social action initiatives. Based on the minimum wage of £4.85 an hour, this work is valued at over £1.3 million per year.	
		Cultural Beacons: a survey of 116 churches across all denominations in Hull and East Riding of all aspects of activity within the church and local community. CRC for Yorkshire and the Humber's Cultural Task Group (Spring 2005)	94% use music in regular worship; 22% also used art; 30% retained a traditional choir; 50% of churches involved in flower arranging; 70% use their church for music events; 42% host flower festivals; 25% art exhibitions; 13% plays 88% allowed visitors; only 52% open outside service times 41% had produced an information leaflet for visitors	Mapping of church culture on-going
WEST MIDLANDS		*Faithful Regeneration: the Role and Contribution of Local Parishes in Local Communities in the Diocese of Birmingham* (September 2004) Study undertaken by Diocese of Birmingham and the Centre for Voluntary Action Research at Aston Business School. Part-funded by the Home Office.	Looked at 12 parishes in detail in order to come to greater understanding of the different and various roles played by people in the parishes (eg: clergy, lay people from the church, people from church-related organisations) in their local communities. Also set out to understand impact of local parishes to their local communities.	Highlighted the need for a strategic approach to the development and sustainability of parish work with local communities. Also looked at barriers to effective engagement eg: - recruitment of new volunteers esp. for leadership role; - securing funding; - working with non-faith partners
	The West Midlands	A pilot mapping study to look at faith		

	Faith Forum (WMFF) - formed June 2003. First Conference held 16 March 2005.	communities' contribution to the West Midlands conducted in 2004. Results used to obtain funding for a more in depth mapping exercise which is due to commence end of May 2005. Draft report due to be produced July and launched September 2005.		
EAST MIDLANDS	The East Midlands Churches Forum (EMCF) - founded 1998 for Christian denominations. Proposals for a Forum of Faiths for the East Midlands being developed.	1.*Supporting Faith and Community Action in the East Midlands* - *feasibility study report* (December 2004) on behalf of EMCF to support a bid to the emda for funding for a resource to support churches community activity in the East Midlands. - part (?) -funded by EMDA	Provides examples of church activities which demonstrate a considerable contribution to the social and economic regeneration of their local communities. In rural areas, church is often only organisation providing any kind of support and often available building to the community. In urban areas, church social action work is often 'low profile and unsung'.	There is specialist need for support in terms of social and economic development within faith structures and a need to link that into the regional structure. Recommends two-phase development to:- (a) demonstrate the benefits a specialist resource and support in faith-based social and economic regeneration can have on faith groups projects; (b) create a churches and regeneration hub to ensure a higher profile for church social action and to provide more effective support for those faith groups active in this area.
		2. *Faithful to Culture: Exploring the Link between Culture and Faith across the East Midlands*, Interim Report (June 2004) - undertaken by Culture East Midlands and Art Council England, East Midlands	Large numbers of staff/volunteers within faith-based organisations overseeing interesting, diverse and innovative cultural activities; Very few had ever received funding from any the main funding bodies; Very few indicated that they had ever worked in partnership with any of the potential partner organisations.	- aim to ensure that faith-based organisations are included in regional and local cultural and community strategies; - bring an end to policy makers and funders sidestepping the 'minefield' of faith and educate and inform decision-making; - encourage faith-based organisations to celebrate their cultural activities/ events; - enable faith-based organisations, through the dissemination of good-practice and development of networking opportunities, to establish strategies/ visions to help them progress up the cultural 'hierarchy'
		3. Embracing the present, planning the	240 faith groups across 14	The need for increased funding and assistance

		future: social action by the faith communities of Leicester (July 2004) - sponsored by Diocese of Leicester, Leicester Council of Faiths and Voluntary Action Leicester - assisted by GO for EM, Leicester City Council	faiths operating in Leicester were surveyed. 67% response rate overall. - these groups support just under 450 different social projects; - just over half of all faith groups (52%) are engaged in social action. Faith groups operate in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Leicester where they provide 'social arenas' where community activities can flourish.	for faith-led community projects, including help with accessing external funding. Currently only 22% of faith-led projects receive external funding; Social partners such as criminal justice agencies and health service providers need to increase the levels of partnership working with faith communities to better understand each other, share resource and launch joint initiatives.
	Derbyshire Faith Groups in Action and the Derby Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility	*"Every church makes a contribution to the community"*	Research being carried out by means of a questionnaire – September 2005. Results to be made available and launched next year 2006.	
EAST OF ENGLAND	East of England Churches Network (for Christian denominations)	*Church Buildings in the Community* (200?) by the East of England Churches Network - with a grant from the EEDA.	Set out to define as far as possible those factors which make for establishing one (or more) community projects in a church building; Not aiming to quantify the amount of such activity in the region, but studied 15 case studies to identify best practice.	Report ends with a simple set of suggested guidelines as a resource for other churches.
	East of England Faiths Council formed in 2002 and is made up of leaders of	*Faith in Action: a Report on Faith Communities and Social Capital in the East of England* (May 2003) prepared for the East of England Faiths	Looking at communities in Luton and Peterborough, it shows how faith groups provide a wide range of	- that partnership with statutory or charitable bodies was important in helping them offer sustainable services; - that faith groups should seek to develop skills

	all the major faith traditions. (Dominate faith body in the region)	Leadership Conference. (now Faiths Council) - financial support from EEDA and the Government Office EoE & the East of England Churches Network. (Source of information based on interviews with faith representatives identified by members of local faith councils).	valuable services and benefits to their local communities; faith groups were often best placed to identify the social needs of their members.	in communicating what they do describe their work in terms of 'social capital' in order to win increased public funding. - Potential funding bodies/partners also needed to develop awareness of the specialised knowledge held by faith groups.
		Faith in the East of England: a research study on the vital role played by faith communities in the social, economic and spiritual life of a region. (July 2005) Undertaken by the East of England Faiths Council and the University of Cambridge, on behalf of the East of England Development Agency (EEDA).	50% response rate from postal survey. A total of 6,275 people benefitted from the total group surveyed. Projected across the region, this would indicate that c.180,000 people are actively benefiting from the presence of faith groups every week On average among respondents, each faith community had started two new projects over last five years. Major beneficiaries were children and the elderly: 86% and 82% of respondents respectively provided services for them; 30% of respondents ran projects designed for unemployed adults, 22% for people seeking to improve their skills.	- need to raise awareness of the value of partnership and seek to reduce tensions arising out of the different values and priorities of faith communities and secular bodies. - need to manage and disseminate information on funding sources, training, legislation to faith communities. - need to 'grow' suitable volunteers through training courses provided by faith bodies and secular partners.
		City of Norwich: A survey looked at the	Church volunteers provide	

		extent of the churches' social action in the City of Norwich. (September 2003)	154,555 hours of social action services; - included bereavement counselling, drug and alcohol user support and home visiting. This equates to 80 full-time works that would otherwise cost £650,000 (at the national minimum wage of £4.20 per hour).	
		Church Buildings: A Source of Delight and a Cause of Anxiety – the report of a Working Group, Diocese of Norwich, (November 2003) (Source of information: letter sent by Bishop to all Churchwardens in the Norwich Diocese)	A huge number of activities are taking place in these churches; Most common problems were cost of needed substantial repairs, lack of facilities which make it difficult to extend use, & isolation in terms of small and decreasing populations and being off the tourist route.	- Gov. to recognise the significant educational and community use to which the church buildings are put; - recognise the huge financial burden placed on sometimes small church communities in maintaining heritage building; - Dioceses to provide support and expert assistance to the parishes (on request) seeking to maximise their (and their building's) contribution to local community life; - parishes to share good ideas and practice with other parishes/other denominations/faiths; - parishes to work in partnership with the Parish Council and other organisations.
SOUTH WEST		*Culture South West, Cathedrals and Cultural Investment* (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	*Daily Service: How faith communities contribute to neighbourhood renewal and regeneration in the South West of England* (September 2004)	138 faith groups identified of which 70 (c.50%) responded. c.50% of the faith groups	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

	Faiths South West Churches Regional Forum	- 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)	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.	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.
		A Vibrant Church: A Report of the Church of England in Rural Gloucestershire (February 2003) - commissioned by the Gloucester Diocesan Rural Group (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)	- 45% of rural churches are already being used at least once during the week for other activities as well as for Sunday worship; - a total of 19 out of 155 parishes had no other building available for community use than their parish church; - 56% of PCCs and 82% of Incumbents said they would like to see a wider range of uses in the main church building.	the cathedrals should be seen as part of the region's cultural life; Should be noted that they currently give to the community more than they get from the government.
SOUTH EAST	The South East England Faith Forum (SEEFF)	"*Beyond Belief*?" (March 2004) SE England Faith Forum - funded by SEEDA and Churches in the SE. Additional support by RAISE and the Regional Assembly SEERA (Research based on information collected in areas selected according to Index of Multiple Deprivation statistics)	400 faith groups surveyed with a response rate of 26%. On average just over two projects of social action were carried out from the premises of each faith centre in the region; 94% said that their faith group	- need for more support for faith groups to provide advice on funding, partnership working, project management and other skills; - need for an infrastructure networking organisation that will be able to put faith groups in touch with other faith groups elsewhere in the Region to share experience; - need for faith groups to engage more with secular groups in order to break down barrier and build positive relationships of trust

			was involved in social action.	
		Being Here: How the Church is Engaging with the Communities of Brighton and Hove (April 2004) Engage, The Brighton and Hove Churches Community Development Association - funded by SEEDA and CUF (120 faith groups identified; 100 interviewed (83%)	- 301 examples of congregations & organisations running their own community activities, groups or projects; - Out of the 55 community buildings identified as essential to the provision of services and facilities, 47 were church halls & worship spaces provided by the Churches themselves.	Church to look outward for the resources through learning, sharing, and partnering with others; The government and voluntary sector to respect the equality and diversity of service-provides as well as users.
		A survey in Hastings, Chichester Diocese commissioned by Hastings Voluntary Action and carried out by Churches Together in Hastings and St Leonards. (November 2004)	1200 hours of voluntary community each week, the equivalent of 22 full-time staff working 52 weeks a year; Churches on average run two community projects, often working ecumenically, focusing on hard-to-reach groups eg: excluded young people, drug addicts, refugees, and asylum seekers.	"*An enormous amount of community work takes place around Churches but often it is ignored*". Steve Manwaring, Director of Hastings Voluntary Action
		Faith in Culture: A Faith Contribution to Cultural Strategies Diocese of Oxford (April 2004)	Huge number and range of cultural activities being organised by faith groups and taking place in church buildings; Focuses on 13 case studies.	The Regional Cultural Consortiums need to recognise faith groups' contribution to the cultural agenda and reflect this in their strategies; Churches need to "tell their stories" .
LONDON	London Churches Group for Social Action	*Neighbourhood Renewal in London: the Role of Faith Communities* (May 2002) Greater London Enterprise and London Churches Group *Regenerating London: Faith*	Quantitative survey of 3,298 churches and other faith centres. Response rate of 30% suggests - faith communities running more than 7,000 projects in London, employing	- more co-operation between local councils and faith organisations would benefit both organisations; - involvement of faith communities in LSPs is patchy. Models need to be developed of

		Communities and Social Action (October 2002) Greater London Enterprise and London Churches Group	10,000 staff and involving over 45,000 volunteers; - 2,200 buildings are available for community use; in many neighbourhoods the only building available for wider community use; - these activities serve some 390,000 people.	regular meetings between faith groups that could allow LSP faith representatives to be fully briefed on all issues from the perspectives of all faith groups
SCOTLAND		*Churches and Social Capital: the Role of Church of Scotland Congregations in Local Community Development* (September 2002) The Church of Scotland's Board of Social Responsibility (Questionnaire sent out to every Church of Scotland. Total of 454 returned: response rate of 42%)	Churches located in urban deprived and very ethnically diverse parishes more likely to be engaged in social capital activities; 65% of congregations provide educational, cultural or health services to local people; 62% of congregations provided meeting rooms for local community use and 59% community halls.	Congregations need support from the Church of Scotland and policy makers to help them access mainstream funding, and existing networks and develop partnerships with community groups, agencies and local government; Policy makers should recognise the substantial contribution that CofS makes to social capital in Scottish communities and facilitate access to funding and other support; Policy makers should support the maintenance of church buildings as sites of civic engagement.
WALES		*Results of a Survey of the Community Use of Church Buildings* (April – June 2005) Church in Wales: Church and Society in the Council for Ministry and Mission and the Property Department of the Representative Body Questionnaire sent to all Incumbents (40% response rate)	Over 15,000 sessions of community activity taking place in Wales each week in Church in Wales buildings. Over 2 million uses each year of Church in Wales buildings for community activities. c.700,000 visitors to churches each year and over 600 churches regularly open to visitors. (Cathedrals account for a further 400,000 visitors).	
ENGLAND		*Church Life Profile* based on survey of	Almost 25% of churchgoers	

		over 100,000 churchgoers from more than 10 denominations questioned on or around 29th April 2001, Churches Information for Mission.	were involved in community service, social justice and welfare activities not related to the church. More than 1 in 5 churchgoers hold a responsible in the their community eg: school governor, trade union official, magistrate, councillor, etc	

Other on-going research that we know about:

1. DEFRA has commissioned a research project entitled '*Faith in Rural Communities: contributions of Social Capital to Community Vibrancy?'* Research is being 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. The study is ecumenical and is seeking to involve other faiths present in the communities being studied. It is expected to be completed in mid-2006.

2. *What a Church adds to its local community: the footprint of a church in its neighbourhood.*

The Commission for Urban Life and Faith and the Church Urban Fund and the Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber have come together to devise a tool kit which can be used to measure the contribution of a local church to a community – the footprint of a church in its neighbourhood. In this are included the people who are employed and volunteers, the money spent, the activities supported and hosted, the projects run and supported, the use of the buildings and the involvement in the wider community life. It is currently being tested on a range of churches, both rural and urban by a team from Sheffield Hallam University who have been commissioned to carry out this work. The aim is to produce a 'churches community value formula' which can be used by churches in a given area and the results placed alongside census data and community strategies to demonstrate to public bodies the scale of church activity, the needs being met and the gaps that churches could fill.