

POVERTY BRIEFING 2016



Online lookup tool for parishes in England

Currently, 13.5 million people in the UK live in relative poverty, which means that their household income is below 60% of the national median income. This lack of money causes a great deal of difficulty, stress and anxiety as people feel unable to take control of their own lives, to plan for their future or provide for their families.

Yet poverty is about much more than income. It is a complex and multi-dimensional experience that impacts every aspect of people's lives. People in poverty are more likely to have physical and mental health problems, to experience family breakdown and to be a victim of crime. They are less likely to achieve well in school, to be in secure employment and even to live as long as more affluent people.

Church Urban Fund, with assistance from the Church of England's Research and Statistics division, has developed an online tool to provide churches with information about poverty-related issues in their parish. The tool includes a range of indicators from different government datasets that when taken together, help to paint a picture of what life is like for local people.

The lookup tool allows you to search for information at a parish level.¹ We have also provided summary papers for each diocese.² To complement these existing resources, this short paper highlights key national trends.

Our vision is for every church to be transforming lives that are blighted by poverty and building flourishing, connected communities. We hope that these tools and resources are helpful in furthering that work.

¹ The tool can be accessed at www2.cuf.org.uk/poverty-lookup-tool

² These can be downloaded at www.cuf.org.uk/diocesan-briefings

Inequality in England

Marked inequality exists between different communities in England. In the most affluent parishes, just 1% of children live in poverty and boys can expect to live for over 90 years. In the most deprived parishes, almost two-thirds of children live in poverty and male life expectancy at birth is less than 70 years (see Table 1).

According to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2015) many of the most deprived neighbourhoods face multiple issues. The Index consists of seven different domains of deprivation: income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; crime; barriers to housing and services; and living environment. Almost all of the most deprived parishes (98%) are highly deprived (i.e. in the 10% most deprived) on at least two of the seven domains. Two-thirds (67%) of them are highly deprived on four or more domains, and over a third (37%) are highly deprived on five or more domains (see Table 2).

Table 2: the most deprived 10% of parishes, by number of domains on which they are also in the most deprived decile (according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015)

Number of domains	Number of parishes	Percentage of parishes	Cumulative percentage of parishes
1	28	2%	2%
2	150	12%	14%
3	242	19%	33%
4	373	30%	63%
5	413	33%	96%
6	49	4%	100%
7	0	0%	100%
Total	1,255	100%	

These are not the small, localised pockets of deprivation that can be found within nearly all parishes, but rather whole communities blighted by the inter-related problems of income poverty, poor health, low skills and family breakdown.

Being born into a deprived community can have a huge impact on someone's life. Like a web,

poverty is difficult to escape and the cycle of deprivation all too often passes from one generation to the next. A parent's poor educational attainment, lack of opportunities or low self-esteem can have a detrimental effect on their children's health and well-being; the impact of which is felt right into adulthood and their own experience of parenthood.

Table 1: the highest and lowest values nationally, on five indicators

	Lowest in country (on each indicator)	Highest in country (on each indicator)
Child poverty	1% St. James Riding Mill, Newcastle	64% North Ormesby, Middlesbrough
Working-age poverty	1% St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford	50% St Columba, Middlesbrough
Pensioner poverty	2% South Wonston, Winchester	71% Sparkbrook, Birmingham
Life expectancy (boys)	68 years St. Peter, Blackpool	93 years St Martin In The Fields, London
Life expectancy (girls)	75 years St. Peter, Blackpool	95 years Brampton, Ely

Distribution of deprivation

10% MOST AND LEAST DEPRIVED PARISHES IN THE COUNTRY

This map shows the distribution of the 10% most and least deprived parishes in the country. It shows that deprivation is heavily concentrated in urban areas – particularly in places that have historically had large heavy industry – as well as coastal towns and large parts of east London. There is also a clear north-south divide, with the majority of the most affluent areas to be found in a wide band around London. These patterns of deprivation are long-term and have changed little in recent years.

Poverty is also heavily concentrated in certain dioceses. In each of the dioceses of Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham, nearly half of all parishes are ranked in the 10% most deprived in England (see Table 3). These dioceses also have a high proportion of parishes with low life expectancy, lack of qualifications and high rates of lone parenthood. By contrast, no parishes in the diocese of Guildford rank in the 10% most deprived nationally, and just 1% in the diocese of Salisbury.

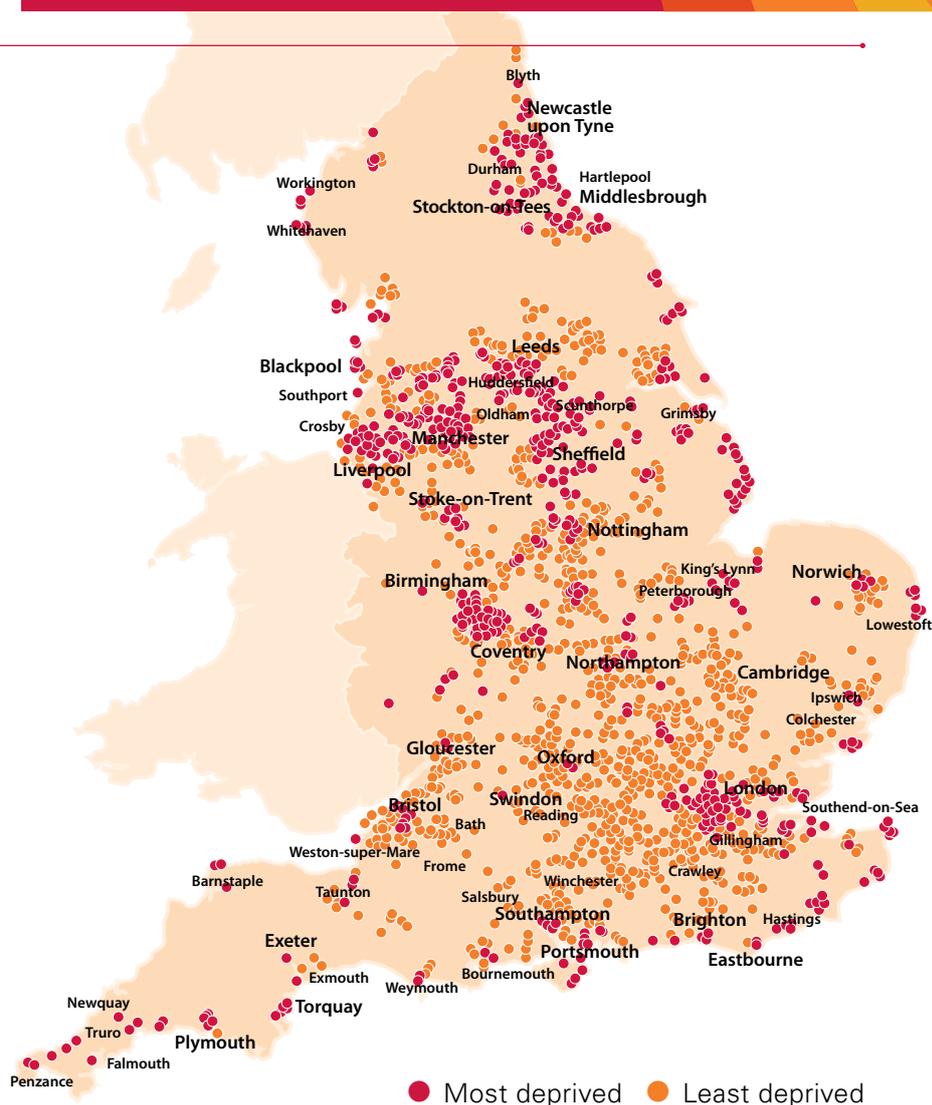


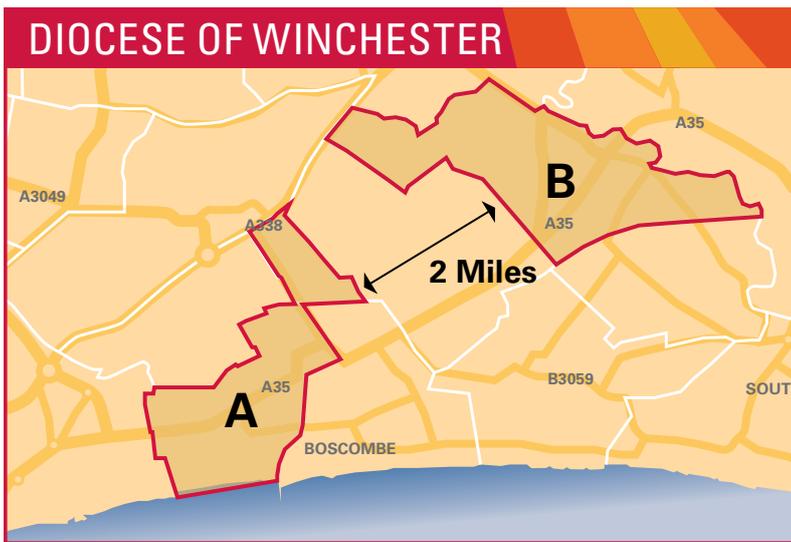
Table 3: the percentage of parishes in the ‘worst’ 10% nationally on each of these indicators, by diocese (including the ten dioceses with the highest proportion and the two with the lowest proportion)

Overall deprivation		Life expectancy (boys)		Lone parenthood		No qualifications	
Liverpool	46%	Manchester	52%	Liverpool	44%	Birmingham	37%
Manchester	45%	Liverpool	49%	Manchester	39%	Sheffield	36%
Birmingham	45%	Durham	34%	Southwark	39%	Liverpool	34%
Sheffield	33%	Birmingham	32%	London	33%	Durham	32%
Durham	26%	Sheffield	31%	Durham	32%	Manchester	26%
Blackburn	24%	Blackburn	30%	Birmingham	30%	Lincoln	21%
London	22%	Leeds	21%	Sheffield	21%	Lichfield	19%
Leeds	20%	Newcastle	18%	Blackburn	19%	Blackburn	18%
Newcastle	16%	Chester	14%	Newcastle	17%	Norwich	18%
Southwark	15%	Lichfield	14%	Chester	16%	Leeds	17%
Salisbury	1%	Salisbury	1%	Ely	0%	London	0%
Guildford	0%	Guildford	1%	Guildford	0%	Guildford	0%

*The four indicators shown here (and the thresholds for the ‘worst’ 10% of parishes) are: the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 (parishes ranked 1-1,259, where 1 is most deprived); estimated male life expectancy at birth (less than 77 years); lone parent families as a proportion of all families with dependent children (greater than 30%); and the proportion of working-age adults with no qualifications (greater than 33%).

Proximity between least and most deprived parishes

Although deprivation is more concentrated in some areas, it is important to note that there are pockets of deprivation in each diocese. Often these pockets of deprivation can sit alongside far more affluent areas. For example, in the diocese of Winchester, 9% of children in the parish of St. Saviour in Iford, Bournemouth live in income deprived families. Meanwhile, just two miles away in the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Boscombe 28% of children live in poverty.



POVERTY	PARISH A: St. John the Evangelist, Boscombe	PARISH B: St. Saviour, Bournemouth
Deprivation rank*	419	9,890
Child poverty	28%	9%
Working-age poverty	20%	7%
Pensioner poverty	34%	13%

*where rank number 1 is the most deprived parish in the country

Conclusion

Churches play a key role in responding to poverty. Churches of all traditions, sizes and locations are engaged in a wide variety of projects that provide essential material and emotional support to local people. Yet churches are far more than just providers of various community projects and social action initiatives. They are also hubs of relationships and community and so they can help to build, and help others to build, relationships of mutual care and support. These relationships and social networks are crucial for helping individuals and communities respond to the inter-related problems of poverty and begin to flourish.

To see more detailed information about the issues facing people in your parish, you can access our Poverty Lookup Tool here: www2.cuf.org.uk/poverty-lookup-tool

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