

Essential steps for setting up a community business in an active place of worship



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Plunkett
Foundation

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1. Create a **vision** and consult with your community. There are many types of community business so take the time to speak to your community to decide what would most benefit people locally.

2. Community engagement – share the idea. Ensure that you meet regularly with those who manage the place of worship, existing users of the building, survey your local residents, test ideas and gather support. Without the backing of your community you'll struggle to get volunteers or to fundraise.

3. Set up a **steering group** and at a public meeting elect a committee to drive things forward. You'll want different people with a range of skills and knowledge, including representatives from the place of worship.

4. Create a **business plan**, including legal structure and raising finance – this might seem daunting but there's plenty of help and expert advice from our team of advisers.

5. Carefully consider how the place of worship can **accommodate** such activity. This may involve repairs or even adaptation – which will need various permissions, funding and often heritage building expertise. We have teamed up with a range of faith and heritage organisations that are able to provide you with specialist help and advice in this respect.

6. Raise money. As well as fundraising you can look to loans, grants and community share schemes to raise your capital.

7. Share your success and struggles with our friendly network of members - they'll be happy to offer advice and help.

8. Get ready for trading – recruit and check that you comply with regulations and legislation.

9. Open the doors – celebrate your new community business and recognise all the hard work of those involved.

10. Remember to **stay tuned-in** to your community needs, your employees, volunteers and customers – diversify, adapt and innovate new services to reflect the support they really need and as this changes over time.



The Plunkett Foundation is a charity that supports groups to set up and run life-changing community businesses that help tackle issues of isolation, loneliness, employment and general wellbeing, they come in many forms from bakeries to bookshops and post offices to farmers' markets.

Working with Allchurches Trust we provide free bespoke advice and feasibility grants to encourage churches and community businesses to work closer together. If you'd like to explore the opportunities of setting up a community business within an active place of worship contact us: support@plunkett.co.uk or call **0845 5571469**.



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