



# Glossary of useful terms

for those in the wider community exploring setting up a community business in an active Christian place of worship

Community businesses are businesses that are owned and run by the community, for the benefit of the community. They are often created to address a lack within a particular community of vital services on which people depend including access to food provisions, cash, meeting spaces and health-related services. Community businesses can be anything from shops and cafes to pubs and woodlands but because of the inclusive and participatory way in which they are run, they all address a wide range of issues affecting today's society, including isolation and loneliness, mental health and wellbeing, employment opportunity and skills development, discrimination, and climate change.

One challenge faced by many communities looking to set up a community owned business is lack of a suitable venue from which to operate. At the same time many places of worship are looking to work with their communities in different ways, and to diversify their income to ensure they remain sustainable into the future. Running a community business from within an active place of worship can be an excellent way to address both issues.

This resource provides a short explanation of some of the commonly used terms that those in the community looking to explore the idea of 'co-location' with their local place of worship may come across in the first steps of their project's journey. Further resources as well as case studies and inspiring stories can be found on Plunkett's website <https://plunkett.co.uk/community-businesses-in-places-of-worship/>



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## Active place of worship

A church which is legally open and holding worship on a regular basis.

## Festival church

An open church, but one that has decided, for a variety of reasons, to reduce the number and pattern of its services in response to local capacity and needs.

## Incumbent/Minister/Priest

Each denomination has its own name for church leaders ie: those who ordained to undertake the ministry of the church.

The Church of England and the Church in Wales use a host of names for its ordained officials the most common being Vicar, Minister or Priest.

In the Methodist Church, they are usually referred to as the Minister.

In the Baptist Church, they are usually referred to as Pastor or Deacon.

Ordained clergy in the United Reformed Church are called Ministers.

## Managing body

The body that manages/has responsibility for a church or chapel.

In the **Church of England**, it is the Parochial Church Council (PCC). A Deanery is a grouping of parishes which come under an archdeaconry which in turn are a geographical subdivision of a Diocese, led by a bishop.

In the **Methodist Church**, it is the local Church Council whose members are called Managing Trustees. Neighbouring Methodist churches or chapels are grouped together in Circuits and each Circuit forms part of a District.

In the UK, most **Baptist** churches belong to the Baptist Union. This isn't a central authority but a central resource for assisting churches. Baptists are congregational: each church is self-governing and self-supporting, made up of members, each with a role to play.

The **United Reformed Church** is divided into 13 Synods: the national Synods of Scotland and Wales plus eleven regional Synods across England. Each provides oversight of about 100 local churches and is led by a Synod Moderator.

The **Church in Wales** is made up of six dioceses. Each Diocese is led by a Diocesan Bishop. Each Diocese contains archdeaconries which is made up of parishes.

## Lease

A lease is a contractual arrangement where a tenant agrees to pay rent to a landlord for exclusive occupation of a property or part of a property for a fixed term.

## Licence

A licence is merely a right to occupy and does not grant the tenant 'exclusive possession' of the property or part of the property, but is where the 'landlord' grants a tenant permission to use the property or land for a specific purpose. A licence may be for a fixed term or ongoing.

There is further information here:

<https://churchgrowth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Leases-Licences-and-Hiring-Agreements-for-Churches-January-2020.pdf>

Plunkett Foundation has been supporting community businesses to set up and thrive across the UK for over 100 years. Thanks to generous funding from Benefact Trust, we are able to offer free support and advice to groups exploring co-locating a community business within an active Christian place of worship as well as grants to help with feasibility and development work. Our friendly community business team would be delighted to talk through your ideas with you, no matter how early on you are in the journey to trading. Call us on **01993 630022** or email [info@plunkett.co.uk](mailto:info@plunkett.co.uk).



**Historic Religious Buildings Alliance**  
*a group within the Heritage Alliance*

*This guide was developed in partnership with Wendy Coombey of the Diocese of Hereford and Becky Payne of the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance.*