



Useful Resources

Creating a community business in an active place of worship



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Useful resources for creating a community business in an active place of worship

There is a wealth of information to support churches and community businesses who wish to work together. Below we have focussed on those we feel are most helpful to projects in the early stages of development.



Early stage advice - setting up a community business, engaging your community, business planning and simple 'how to get started' guidance is available for free from The Plunkett Foundation. There are a host of **online resources** for you to download. In addition there is an **archive of webinars** covering everything from fundraising to good financial practice. For a helpful introduction visit their **Community Businesses in Places of Worship** campaign.

Detailed step-by-step guide - read the **Crossing the Threshold Toolkit** created by the Diocese of Hereford. It offers a really useful guide to managing a church building project and for those groups thinking about adapting a church building for wider community use while balancing the needs of existing worshippers.

Exploring community & commercial activities – for anyone **managing a church building** this Church of England information helps you to explore activities beyond the primary role of worship and in **sharing your buildings with others**.

Practical actions – Growing The Rural Church provides some excellent **pre-recorded webinars** covering topics such as how to apply for a faculty to make changes to your church and how to work with your Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

Building advice – The National Churches Trust provide a detailed **Building Advice** section on their website which covers care and maintenance, making the most of your building as well as advice on managing building projects. There is also a Resource Centre with documents and links organised by topics.

Advice for different denominations – the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance aims to help secure a long-term future for historic religious buildings. They identify funding sources and **useful information** for specific denominations.

The Plunkett Foundation is a charity that supports groups to set up and run life-changing community businesses, which 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 of up to £5,000 to encourage churches and community businesses to work together.

If you'd like to explore the opportunities of setting up a community business within an active place of worship contact us: **0845 5571469** or **support@plunkett.co.uk**



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