

The church – centre of the local community	Year Group: KS2	No. of lessons: 3+
Links: Cambs: CPE4, CPE5, CPL3, CSC2, P'borough: CPE2, CPE5, CPL3, CSC2, N'folk: CC, CBB,		
Learning objectives: To discover what leaders of local churches do. To investigate the variety of local community activities which are centred on churches.		
Questions for reflection: Who are the people I enjoy spending time with? What kind of things do we do together? How does the church help people in the local community? Do people go to meetings and clubs in the church who do not usually go to church on Sundays? How do Christians feel about that?		
Activities and experiences: The church was once an important focus for the community – the only building large enough to hold the village, it was the centre of al that went on, including markets, plays and all rites of passage. Is this the case today? This topic requires interview and research skills on behalf of the pupils, <i>and</i> the active co-operation of some members of the local church. If the latter is not forthcoming, you can carry out an online investigation of other representative churches (see Introduction page (iv) for websites). If pupils (pairs / groups) work on different aspects of church / community life, the material gathered can be presented as pages for a “church & community website” – this could be in the format of a hand written storyboard or even a powerpoint cum website presentation, depending on the facilities available and pupils’ ICT skills. Potential areas to investigate include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What’s in the vicar’s diary? What kind of meetings are there? Why do individuals visit the vicar, or the vicar visit them? Does the vicar or some of the ministry team visit retirement homes, prisons, local schools, hospitals? Do they hold pram services? Do church groups such as the Sunday School do something special at harvest or Christmas in the community? • What kind of activities take place during the week at church (see noticeboards, magazines and weekly news sheets)? Are church hall facilities used for non-church groups e.g. playgroups, clubs, brownies? What facilities can you hire from the church? Do groups such as the Mothers Union or Alpha Courses attract people from outside the parish? Do church groups meet in people’s homes? • What happens over the church year which attracts people in? Examples might include special services at Christmas, Easter, Remembrance etc but also flower festivals, fundraising activities. Does your church host concerts and art shows? Can you see the weekly service log to see when most people attend church? Are there special open-air (ecumenical?) services? • Look at the parish rolls of baptisms, weddings and funerals. Have members of your families appeared in these over the years? • Where do Christians from the local church go to work? Do people travel into your community for church? 		