

PETERBOROUGH METHODIST CIRCUIT

MISSION AUDIT_RESOURCE

CHURCH AUDIT (ADAPTED FROM DETAILS SHARED BY REV PETER SOUTHCOMBE,
IMMANUEL CHURCH, SOUTHBOURNE AT SPRING HARVEST SKEGNESS 2017)

It is suggested that as you work through the questions, you prayerfully ask:
'God, what are you saying to us?'

1. What is the age profile of your church family? How many people are in each of the following age groups? Under 16s, 17-25, 26-65, 66-85, 86-100+
2. How does this correlate with your local community demographic? This can be found by doing an internet search for '*area name* (e.g. Orton Waterville) demographics'.
3. List all the activities that happen in the church building mainly for the church family. How often do they run?
4. List all the activities that happen in the church building as 'outreach/mission'. How often do they run?
5. List all the activities that happen in the church building run by any group from the community. How often do they run?
6. What proportion of the church building is being used for church events/for outreach/by the community each week? Is this God given facility being used/shared to its full potential?
7. Does your church building have a garden or outside space that could be used?
8. How much of the building is not being used each week? Could it be offered more for community use? Are there local needs that can be identified? For example, a toddler group, a friendship group or some churches host IT centres for people who want to learn how to send emails and search the internet safely, or to fill in online forms. Grants are available to set up phone lines and broadband. Find out about 'local super output areas' (LSOAs). In the most deprived areas there is funding available for what is needed to improve the lives of local people. Talk with your local council. Prayer walk and talk with people in the community.
9. Are there any groups offering activities for men? Do an internet search for 'Age UK Men in Sheds project' and AMSA (Australian Men's Shed Association) for ideas – "Men don't talk face to face they talk shoulder to shoulder" (AMSA quote)
10. How can your church family connect with local people who are lonely? Some churches have built up a relationship with the local GP surgery. GPs identify those who are at risk – lone pensioners for example – and give them information about church and community activities. Being a good neighbour, and encouraging others to do the same can be part of your pastoral outreach.

11. Are your church family open to offers of help from others – painters/decorators/gardeners? Men especially are blessed by this, and are a blessing.
12. How do your church family view the church building? Is it thought of as a 'sacred space' and not to be used for anything 'unchurchy'? Historically the nave of a parish church was a community space.
13. Is your church family in communication with other churches and community groups so that everyone is working together to provide what is needed in the local community? This might mean that something like a lunch club can be run at several venues to cover each day of the week if this is something there is a need for locally – the Winter Night Shelter and Foodbanks are good examples of this.
14. What groups/activities are members of the church family involved in or leading? Is someone from 'church' attending community groups? Interaction is important for building relationships.
15. How does your home church stay connected with families who come for baptisms, weddings and funerals?
16. Are the gifts of every member of the church being used? Could you do an audit of member's gifts – those they are aware of, and those that others recognize in them? You might be surprised by what comes out of this.