

**TOGETHER
NETWORK** 

Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood

INTRODUCTION AND SESSION OVERVIEW

**“Know Your Church,
Know Your Neighbourhood
is easy to use and
opens up possibilities.”**



Introduction


Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood (KYCKYN) is a facilitated process to help churches think about themselves in relation to the local communities they seek to serve, and make prayerful and informed decisions about their mission in those communities.

It was originally designed and piloted by the Anglican Diocese of Birmingham as part of a pastoral skills module. It has since been adapted by Together Network regional partner Thrive Together Birmingham and other Together Network members around the country. The Together Network is nationally convened by Church Urban Fund.

The process gives a small group of church members the tools to reflect on how their church is seen by others, to listen to the wider community, celebrate its strengths and have a deeper understanding of its needs. Sharing their findings with the wider congregation, the church is then able to make prayerful and intentional decisions about how it wants to respond. The course is adaptable to the needs of a church and neighbourhood, but it usually consists of five sessions of two hours, delivered over a six month period. There are also some tasks for the group to do in between these sessions.

This booklet aims to give you a taste of the KYCKYN process and to promote the full resource. This resource is offered entirely free of charge. Download the course at togethernetnetwork.org.uk/know-your-church-know-your-neighbourhood which includes the following::

- Full facilitator's guide
- Participant guide
- Feedback forms – so we can continuously improve our resources
- Links to further resources



“It really helps people to focus down onto what suits their context”

Project Aims

While the details of KYCKYN can be adapted, the core aims of the process remain the same. As a result of taking part in the process, we want churches to:



Develop a vision for their neighbourhood, as they begin to think about what a flourishing neighbourhood might look like and how God might be seen in it.



Understand the place of their church within the community, as they think about and collect information on how their church looks, feels and interacts with people outside of the church.



Learn about their local neighbourhood, finding out more about its strengths and needs through a process of collecting data and listening to local people and organisations.



Develop an active response, as they prayerfully reflect on all they have learnt.

“It’s so flexible – you can choose what’s relevant to you”

Session Overview

SESSION 1: Vision for a flourishing neighbourhood

The process starts with two questions:

- What would a flourishing neighbourhood look like?
- How might God be seen in it?

The group are asked to reflect on, discuss and carry out activities that relate to these questions.

Tasks for next session

- Gather material about the church, including photos of the building, church newsletters, flyers and any other written material about the church.
- Conduct a prayer walk in the neighbourhood.



SESSION 2: A church in and for a community

This session starts the process of exploring the relationship between the church and its neighbourhood. It is based on two questions:

- How is our church perceived by others?
- How does our church currently communicate with the local community?

The group will share and discuss the information they collected about the church and the feedback from a prayer walk and consider the following:

- What activities does the church run for church members and people in the community?
- What community groups use the church premises for their own activities?

They will then prepare to conduct a congregational survey, asking church members about their own voluntary activities.

Tasks for next session

- Conduct a congregational survey.
- Collate the responses and prepare to report them in the next session.

SESSION 3: Reflecting on learning and community mapping

This session will build on the work carried out over the previous three meetings. The information collected in the congregational survey will be presented and the group will then reflect on the most significant things they have learnt about their church.

The second part of session 3 focuses on the

group finding out more about the community in which the church is placed.

It begins with a neighbourhood mapping exercise, as group members mark on maps the resources and assets already present in their community. They can also highlight the key issues people may be facing.

SESSION 4: Community listening

In this session the group will feed back and reflect on all they have discovered about their neighbourhood since they last met. They will then prepare to conduct a community consultation in which they talk to people in local organisations, asking them about their work and their perceptions of or relationship to the church.

Tasks for next session

- Conduct the community consultation – visiting and listening to local organisations.

SESSION 5: Reflecting on all we have learnt

In this final session the group will review all that they have learnt from the community consultation and the other exercises they have completed. They will then begin to identify the next steps for the church's engagement in the community. The course will end with the group setting out some concrete steps for achieving these goals.

Tasks for next session

- Feedback their draft next steps to the church leadership and the wider congregation, raising awareness of and building support for these activities.