

The House of Good: Local Data sheet



Once you have started the calculator, there are nine pieces of information that you can add. These are listed as section A to I.

Information on each of the nine sections is given below.

Please note that while State of Life provides assurance of the House of Good: Local, churches take responsibility for their 'inputs' to the model and the use of their reports.

General information about your church

Sections A to C are for general information about your church.

A. Total number of attendees at your main service on a typical Saturday/Sunday

This is the total number of people who worship regularly at your church each week on a Saturday or Sunday. If your church holds more than one service, please enter the total for all the services.

You can enter the number here to use later.

B. Average annual church expenditure

The second thing you will need to do is to enter is the total amount of money you spend each year on the running of your church. That includes running costs like heating and electricity and any employment costs for staff or clergy. Do please include any regular building maintenance costs, **but do not** include any one-off building costs such as major repairs or installing new facilities. Do not include the running costs of any mission work you undertake that takes place beyond your church building, but you can include the costs of any staff involved in this work.

We ask for your church's annual expenditure because it helps balance the benefits you bring against the costs you incur. How much you spend represents your cost of investment.

On the benefit side, this spending supports local businesses, creates jobs, and generates income for workers. Economists measure this economic contribution using Gross Value Added (GVA), which reflects how your church's financial activity boosts the local economy.

You can enter the number here to use later.

C. Total number of regular volunteers in a year (people who volunteer at least once a month)

This can include people who volunteer for community activities that your church organises or who volunteer for community activities run by outside organisations, such as Scout groups, regular musical events or foodbanks. Include the number of people who volunteer in **any** capacity, not just those who volunteer to help with community activities. This could be people who look after the building, who help with financial matters or who assist with religious activities or education.



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Volunteering can include those who help to organise or take part in a church service including lay readers, bell ringers and those helping in a children's service. The key is to record the number of volunteers who come in on a regular basis rather than just as a one off or occasionally.

If you do not know the exact number, please give as accurate an estimate as possible.

The same person should only be counted once. For example, if you have one volunteer who helps out in the garden and cleans, count them under the activity they spend more time doing. So, if you have regularly each month 2 volunteer gardeners, 1 volunteer cleaner, and 3 volunteer fundraisers the answer would be 6 volunteers a month.

You can enter the number here to use later.

Information that is specific to activities and support services that take place in your church or church hall

Sections D to I are about activities and support services that take place in your church or church hall. Your church does not have to organise or run all the activities – you can add information about any activities or support services that are run by outside organisations that use your building for free or that hire out space to use. You will probably need to spend some time gathering the details you need. This may involve speaking to people who use your church to run events and activities. Your church does not need to have all the activities that The House of Good – local calculator measures for it to work.

You may also include activities that your church leads on that happen outside of the church building, provided they are covered as part of your expenditure.

Some of this information may be easy for you to gather. Other information may be harder to find. It is also possible that in some cases you cannot find the information at all. If you find it difficult to find the information, you can make **the best estimate**.

The specific activities or support services that you can enter are:

D. Total number of people who participate in a choir or a music group regularly (at least once a month)

This is the total number of people who used your church for singing or music over the last year. This could be, for example, the number of people who are members of a choir, who play the organ, or members of the community who are musicians who use your church for rehearsals or concerts

You can enter the number here to use later.



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E. Total number of people who attend drug/alcohol support sessions regularly (at least once a month)

This is the number of people who have attended drug or alcohol addiction support services held in your church regularly over the last year. These could be run by an organisation such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

You can enter the number here to use later.

F. Total number of people who use a food bank regularly (at least once a month)

This is the number of people who used your church to visit a foodbank or other food poverty services such as food pantries regularly over the last year. These could be a foodbanks that your church runs or that are run by organisations such as the Trussell Trust.

You can enter the number here to use later.

G. Total number of people who attend the mental health support sessions regularly (at least once a month)

This is the number of people who used your church to take part in counselling or mental health support in activities held in your church regularly over the last year. This could be any counselling run by outside organisations who use your church, or any activities you run to help people with issues such as bereavement, domestic abuse or loneliness.

You can enter the number here to use later.

H. Total number of young people who attend a youth group regularly (at least once a month)

This is the number of young people who have taken part in youth groups or activities held in your church regularly over the past year. This could be a youth club, sport groups or organisations such as Scouts or Brownies. Do not include activities for very young children such as nursery schools or classes).

You can enter the number here to use later.

I. Total number of people who attend a community group regularly (at least once a month)

The final category covers any other sort of community activity that takes places in your church. This needs to be an activity that brings people together in an organised way and as part of a group. That could be for a warm space, a lunch club, toddler/parent groups, bereavement groups, cooking classes, advice groups, regular meetings of external clubs and societies or other social or community activities that your church organises.

You can enter the number here to use later.

