

# Possible Partners



In many areas of the country, particularly in areas of population growth, there is a shortage of pre-school childcare. Some churches provide this themselves, while others allow an outside business to operate from the building; either way you get the significant benefit of footfall of parents and carers to the building during the day. Childcare can work very well with a cafe. Don't be surprised if the community fails to distinguish between church and non-church users in the building...



It is unlikely you will be providing space for outside operators such as Costa or Starbucks; for a discussion of other options on this spectrum see section on Cafés in [churchbuildingprojects.co.uk](http://churchbuildingprojects.co.uk), or the handout on St George's Holborn, or [churchcare.co.uk](http://churchcare.co.uk).

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Depending on the nature of your area, other community facilities such as a local library or healthcare outreach can work well. The key here is to work with your Local Authority / Healthcare Trust to understand where the areas of need are. There are a number of rural examples in historic churches, for example in Hereford Diocese.



In rural areas where the post office has closed there may be an appetite within the area to run a community shop – St Leonard's in Yarpole, again in Hereford Diocese, is one example.



For many people it is a lack of training that prevents them from playing an active part in society, so training provision can fit well with a church's mission aims. Again, the key is to understand where the local need lies. This might be computer training for the young or for the old; it might be catering training; it might be training for those with disabilities; it might be coaching for employment.