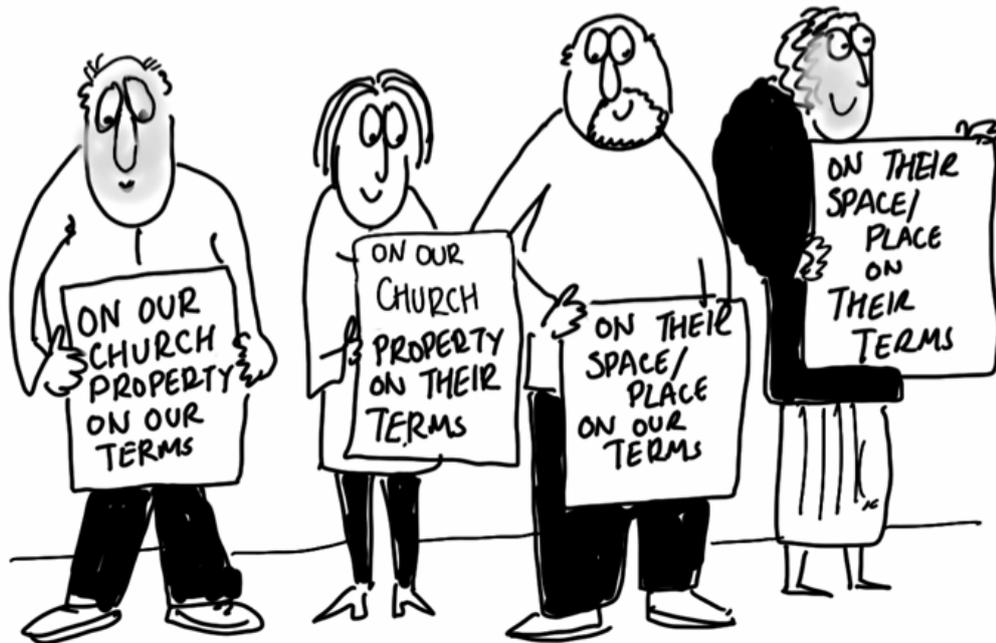




Engaging the Community:

Turf and Terms

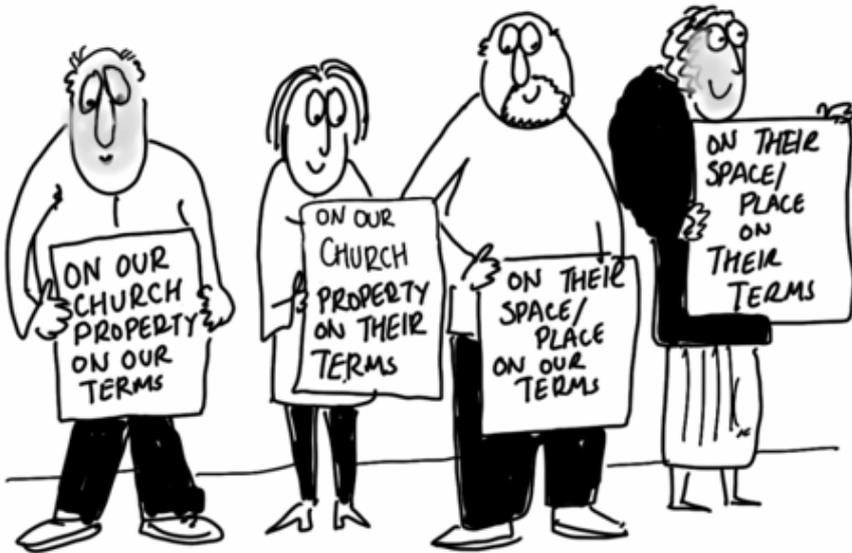


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Written and illustrated by
Bill Crooks and Jackie Mouradian

"Turf & Terms"



'Stories on the street' is about being salt and light in our communities to bring lasting positive change. This exercise helps us to analyse our current church activities and involvement in the community and look at ways in which we can increase our impact so there is ownership and positive lasting change. There is a quick guide to Turf and terms in 'Stories on the Street', page 101, but here we put a bit more meat on the bones.

For lasting change, sometimes this means the church stepping back so the community can take a lead and gain ownership of activities. The church should always stay involved as a good witness, influence and praying presence.

For this activity you need to draw a grid with four boxes as shown on the next page. We call this the Turf and Terms grid, where 'turf' relates to where the activity is taking place and the 'terms' relates to who chooses what happens.

For lasting change in a community it is ideal if the community takes over ownership of a project, but still with a church presence. In this scenario, church and community have an equal footing and the them and us lines disappear.

The Turf and Terms grid

Draw the grid below on a large piece of paper. Leave the boxes blank.

Their terms

(They choose)



This relates to any group that uses the church property as a place to meet and do their respective activities.

Examples: Alcoholics anonymous, Zumba or yoga class, Scouts and guides

With this option there is limited church connection apart from booking room space.

Provides an opportunity for church members to link with the community, and if appropriate involve them in identifying community issues



This relates to the community driving and owning an activity which could be a one off activity or regular activity.

Examples: Campaign for improvement in housing or services by the local community

Creation of community mural

Setting up a drop-in café in a block of flats

With this option there is a high level of ownership by the community and the church can either join in or be a catalyst for such activities.

Our terms

(We choose)



This relates to any activity which is on church property and church led.

Examples: mums and toddler groups, messy church, parenting classes, church youth drop-in

With this option there is a high level of church control and service provision. This is good but are there ways in which the community can take a lead and contribute to decision making and planning rather than being just beneficiaries?



This describes any activity that is church led but takes place in the community

Examples: befriending young people in homeless hostel, visiting the elderly, street pastors

In this scenario the church is seen as active in the community, and sometimes fills the gap left by the limitations on social and other local authority services. To create more ownership, the beneficiaries can contribute to the planning and decision making of how they are run and offered.

Our turf
(Our place)

Their turf
(Their place)

Here are examples of church projects. Cut out those that apply to your church or fill in the blank boxes with your church projects and cut them out.

Foodbanks	Prison visiting	Debt advice	Money advice	Inter generational skills sharing	Holiday clubs	
Toddler groups	Visiting the elderly	Job club	Community theatre Group	Silver surfing club	Community campaigns	
Church youth group	Domestic abuse support group	Xmas lunch	Community choir	Pop up cafe	Supporting refugees	
Church lunch group	Youth drop in	Foodbank	Holiday hunger	Community transport	Soup kitchen	
Yoga class	Story telling evenings	Litter pick	Open the book	Community DIY	Modern slavery awareness project	
Narcotics anonymous meetings	Drink and draw	Community cafe	Messy church	Tools sharing	Modern slavery response	
Street pastors	Single parent support group	Night shelter for the homeless	Support for young dads	Street parties/BBQs	Parenting classes	
Homeless hostel visiting	Employment for ex- offenders	Clean a street	Support to teenage mums	Knit and Natter	Drug and alcohol awareness classes	

Put your church projects on the turf and terms grid one by one. For each project ask the following questions:

- Who benefits?
- What lasting change do we want to bring?
- How do we effectively contribute to change?
- How does this build community?
- Are there ways we can increase community ownership of these projects?
- What changes do we want to make or what new projects would we like to start as a result of answering these questions?

