**Help your community plan for a positive future**

The census is a key source of information that informs all of the services and amenities that support your community. It benefits all of us, and churches can help in the following ways:

* Use the message below in your parish newsletter
* Make an announcement during your online service and encourage the congregation to take part.
* Offer support to those in your congregation who may face barriers to completing the census.

Find guidance about how to help others on the website:

<https://census.gov.uk/help/getting-started/helping-someone-who-has-asked-for-help>

Language support and guidance and accessibility options can also be found here: <https://census.gov.uk/help/languages-and-accessibility>

You can also request online helpers training or a census completion event delivered by the census engagement manager for your area.

Please contact Lisa Stead for further support: lisa.stead58@field.census.gov.uk

* Put up posters and sharing other resources: <https://census.gov.uk/downloadable-resources>

**Newsletter content**

**Have you got your census letter?**

The census is coming, and it’s about you. Without the information you share, it’d be more difficult to understand your community’s needs and to plan and fund public services.

By taking part and encouraging your congregation to do the same, you will help inform decisions about the services you and your community need, like doctors’ surgeries and new schools.

**Census day is on March 21**, but households will now be receiving letters with online codes explaining how they can complete their forms. If you don’t get one in the next couple of weeks, please get in touch with the census contact centre. You can also request a paper questionnaire if you’d prefer to complete your census that way.

There is lots of support available such as a help area on the census website and a contact centre that can give you help over the phone and guidance in a range of languages and accessible formats, including paper questionnaires and large print. You can also use your postcode to find local census support centres on the census website.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) runs the census in England and Wales and is independent from the government. All information is held securely for 100 years. Statistics are only compiled based on anonymised data and personal information is not shared with any organisation and is never sold.

For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit census.gov.uk or call the contact centre on 0800 141 2021.