

Finding Welcome – Lent 2012

This year, as last, we shall be joining in the Diocesan Lent Course, which this year is called *Finding Welcome*. Our preaching during Lent will follow the same themes.

Homegroups will be meeting weekly for the five weeks of Lent (not in the week of Ash Wednesday) and studying the material from the Diocese, (which I didn't write, although I am responsible for the blue wavy line!) As before, it is my hope that some people who have chosen not to be in Homegroups might be welcomed to join just for the duration of Lent.

In preparation for this I have adapted four questionnaires which we were encouraged to use at a recent Diocesan Synod, and which I found both encouraging and challenging. It would be great to have some kind of a sense of how welcoming we think we are as a church, so I would be grateful for anyone who would like to fill in the questionnaires, anonymously of course. I can then do some statistical analysis towards an overall picture. As with last year we shall be discussing the material fed back from Homegroups at PCC, and feeding back in turn to the Diocese.

To fill in the questionnaires, simply put a tick by each question in the column which you feel is the most appropriate answer, and then put the number of points indicated in the final column, totalling them at the bottom of each sheet.

Thanks!

John

Making our Church more Visible

		Yes, Good 3 pts	OK, Satisfactory 2 pts	Could be better 1 pt	No, Poor 0 pts	Total points
1	Are you in touch with any non-churchgoers?					
2	How easy would you find it to invite someone to church?					
3	Do you think we have a variety of services and events to which to invite people?					
4	Do you think we have a programme which is attractive and open to the whole parish?					
5	Do all members go out of their way to befriend hall-users and other contacts?					
6	Is it easy for people to progress from attending an event in the Hall to attending a service?					
7	Is there a culture of inviting contacts to church services and Alpha courses?					
8	Do we have a range of Christmas services which attract non-churchgoers?					
9	Do we have regular one-off special services throughout the year?					
10	Do congregation members make good contact with those who come for occasional offices?					
11	Do lots of members attend special services?					
12	Are attractive invitations to normal services given out at special services?					
13	Are individuals who attend special services befriended and followed up by a church member?					
14	Do we take part in 'Back to Church Sunday'?					
15	Do we have an informative website which is regularly updated?					
16	Is it easy to find our service times without going to look at a physical noticeboard?					
17	Are our noticeboards attractive and contemporary?					
18	Do we distribute a magazine around the parish?					
19	Do we distribute invitations to Christmas services?					
20	Do we have a 'Newcomers' Pack' to give to visitors?					

Making our Church more Inviting

		Yes, Good 3 pts	OK, Satisfactory 2 pts	Could be better 1 pt	No, Poor 0 pts	Total points
1	Is there a good, clear, safe route from the pavement/car park to the door?					
2	Are the church grounds kept safe, tidy and attractive?					
3	Is it obvious how to get into the buildings, and is any signage clear?					
4	Can you see through the door, or is it forbidding like a prison or castle? Is it easy to get in during the service?					
5	Is the access good for wheelchair users and partially-sighted people?					
6	Does the building provoke feelings of awe, wonder, and a sense of the glory of God?					
7	Overall, how good do you think is the experience of walking into the building for the first time?					
8	Is the lighting good for reading, and the sound system and loop effective without being overpowering?					
9	Is the heating effective, and the seating comfortable and back-friendly?					
10	Are the toilets clearly signed and always clean?					
11	Are materials such as books, service cards, screen etc clear, of good quality, and easy to read?					
12	Is the general feel of the place warm, uncluttered and tidy? Do the furniture and fittings draw you to God?					
13	Are tea and coffee close at hand and obvious, and are visitors accompanied there?					
14	Is there easy access to drinks, or do people have to queue for ages?					
15	Are drinks and eats appetising and attractive rather than cheap and nasty?					
16	Are drinks free or is a donation expected?					
17	Do children have good facilities and play options rather than being bored while adults chat?					
18	Is the Hall bright and attractive, and does it look as though Health and Safety issues have been addressed?					
19	Is provision made for those with disabilities and/or allergies? (eg Non-alcoholic wine)					
20	Is there provision for any who become distressed, or for whom English is a second language?					

Making our Church more Welcoming

Making our Church more Welcoming		Yes, Good 3 pts	OK, Satisfactory 2 pts	Could be better 1 pt	No, Poor 0 pts	Total points
1	Do welcomers appear smiling and confident, and greet people outside the door?					
2	Do they provide a bundle of what people will need, and escort them to seats?					
3	Do they introduce newcomers to regulars, and know who will be good regulars to pass newcomers onto?					
4	Do welcomers know how to adjust their welcome to the moods of visitors, and do they understand welcome as opposed to greeting?					
5	Are welcomers representative of the whole age-mix of the regular congregation?					
6	Does our worship make us feel spiritually alive, and does it help us regularly encounter God?					
7	Is our worship user-friendly and easy for newcomers to join in?					
8	Would newcomers always be shown the relevance of Jesus to their lives?					
9	Can everyone feel involved as participants? If an actor, jazz musician, poet or artist joined, would they be able to contribute?					
10	Do we have good links with schools, and use assemblies, lessons, visits, carols services etc to the full?					
11	Are our All-age services widely advertised and are children encouraged to bring their friends?					
12	Is there a culture of inviting parents to bring their children, and are service times child-friendly?					
13	Do we have a strong, committed children's team, and is the quality maintained each week?					
14	Are all adults friendly and tolerant towards children and babies?					
15	During services is everyone invited to stay for tea/coffee?					
16	Are there sufficient welcomers to make sure newcomers are specifically and individually looked after?					
17	Have we introduced the +McCulloch 'Three Minute Rule'?					
18	Are clergy free enough of other distractions to speak to newcomers at the end of services?					
19	Might a newcomer receive details of the life of the church, and be invited to an event by a regular?					
20	Do we use a simple database to record attendances, so we can spot people who are missing?					

Making our Church more Belonging

		Yes, Good 3 pts	OK, Satisfactory 2 pts	Could be better 1 pt	No, Poor 0 pts	Total points
1	Do you have some good friends at your church?					
2	When you joined, how easy was it to make and develop relationships?					
3	Do we have a non-threatening way to obtain contact details and arrange a timely follow-up?					
4	Do we have a wide variety of people with the time and energy to make friends so that newcomers would find a natural friend?					
5	Do all regulars go out of their way to befriend visitors?					
6	Have you personally become friendly with newcomers who have joined in the last year?					
7	Are newcomers invited to regular social events? Are there regular social events which would appeal to them?					
8	Do we regularly hold newcomers' events where people can find out about the church and how it works?					
9	Are events advertised clearly, and is publicity up-to-date?					
10	Are we a friendly church where visitors always get an invitation to events, perhaps free of charge?					
11	Do we ever hold communal meals or weekends away?					
12	Do we regularly run a nurture course?					
13	Are new people invited to nurture courses, and does the course suit the kinds of people who are coming?					
14	Is the nurture course attractive to people in the parish, and is it advertised to people outside the church?					
15	Is the timing of the course strategic and regular or ad hoc?					
16	Is there anything for people who have completed nurture courses?					
17	Do we have an effective pastoral care team, or is everything left to the clergy?					
18	Do small groups care for most people in the church?					
19	Are people missed when they stop coming, and is anything done about it?					
20	As a church do we take pastoral care seriously and do we do it well?					