

Connect
2 Church

SUNDAY

Welcome Workshop



Connect to Church Sunday
is all about the people
who are not here



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in association with
BacktoChurchSunday



We aim to reach the people
who are not here
through the people who are



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What is Christian Welcome?

“Christian Welcome is not just about being nice to visitors, it is about incorporating new people into the Body of Christ”



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What is Christian Welcome?

“Consider others better than yourselves”

Philippians 2:3



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What is Christian Welcome?

“Jesus said, ‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.’”

Matthew 10:40



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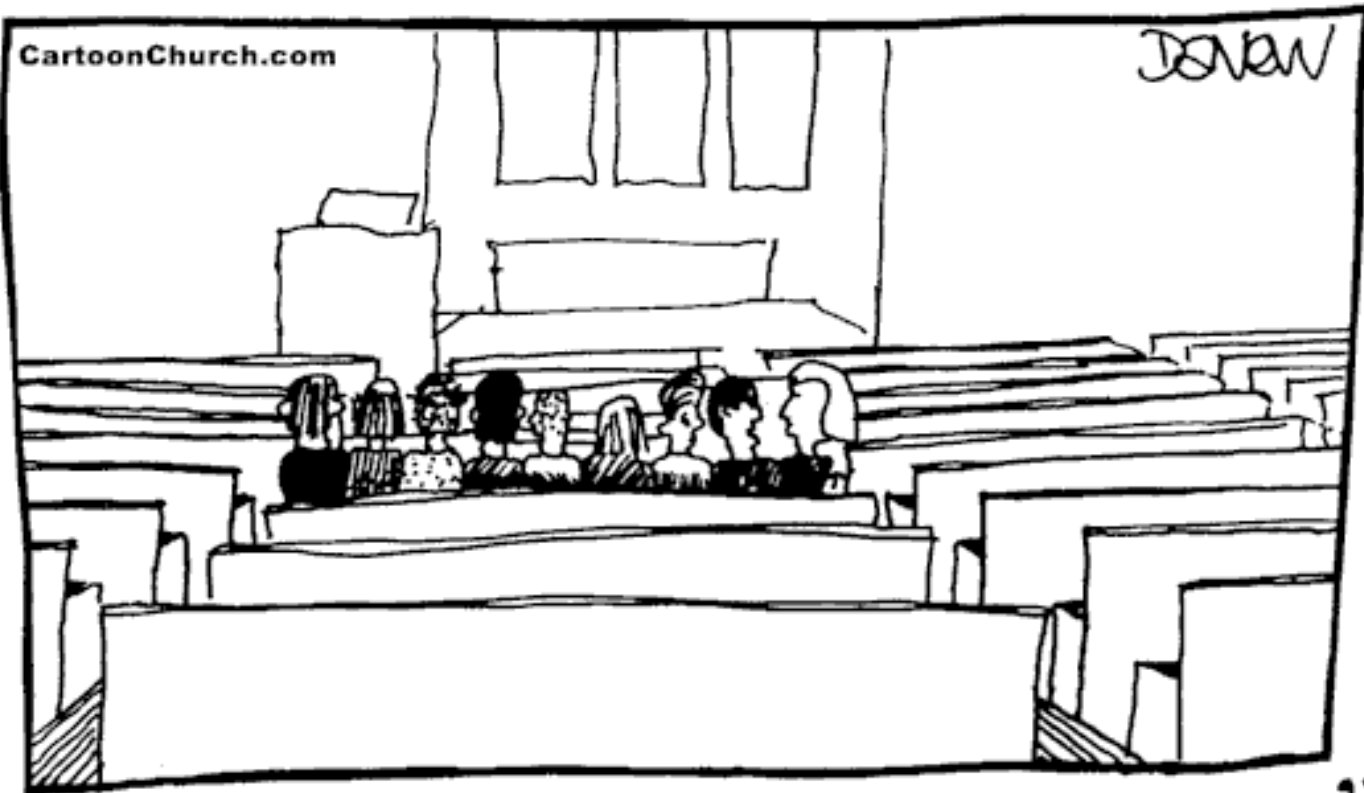
A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE NOW GOING
BACK TO CHURCH ONCE AGAIN



THIS IS USUALLY BECAUSE THEY
HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING LIKE
THEIR KEYS OR JACKET OR GLASSES

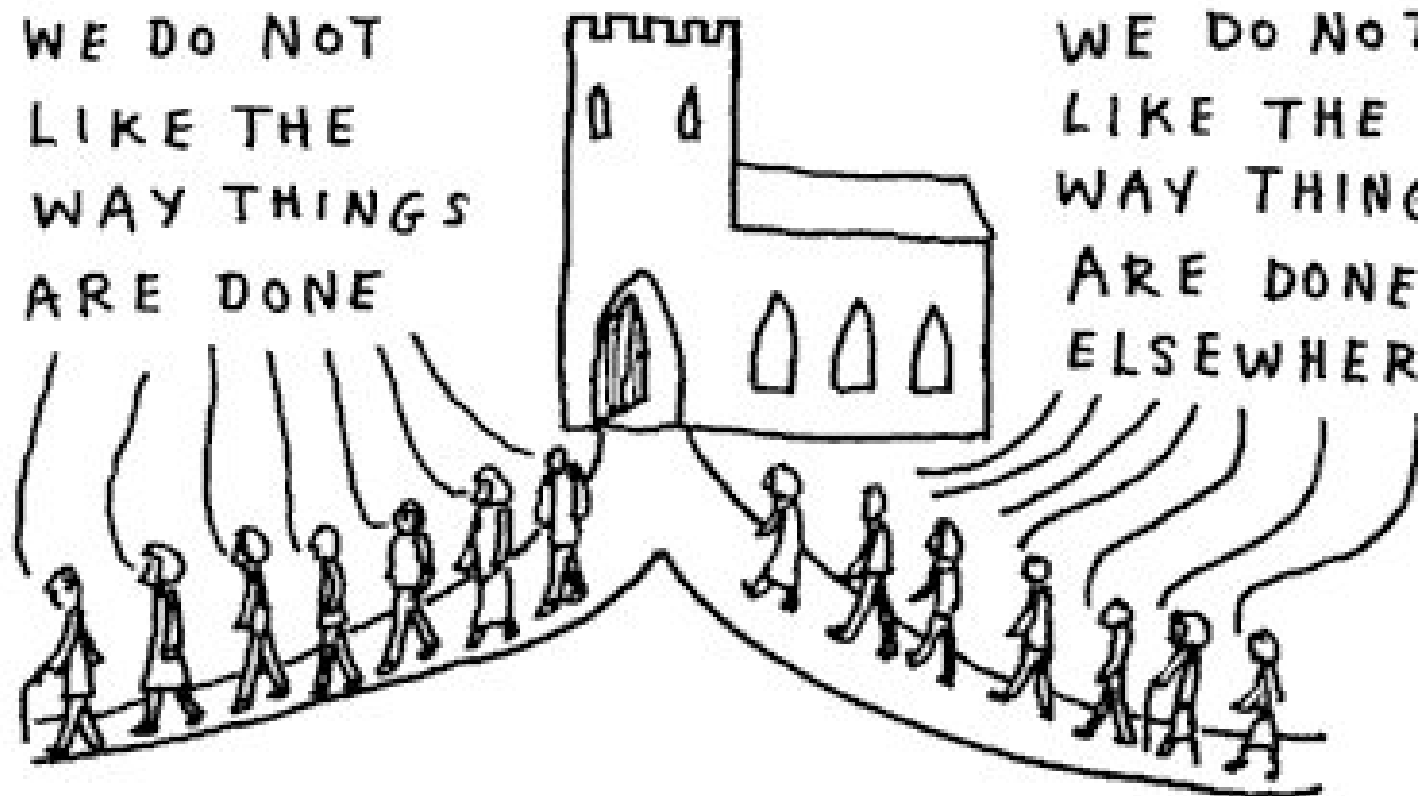
CartoonChurch.com

Donew



“Quite crowded in church tonight”

WE ARE
LEAVING,
BECAUSE
WE DO NOT
LIKE THE
WAY THINGS
ARE DONE



WE ARE
ARRIVING,
BECAUSE
WE DO NOT
LIKE THE
WAY THINGS
ARE DONE
ELSEWHERE



WE DO NOT NEED TO GET SOMEONE IN TO HELP US WITH MARKETING OUR CHURCH AS WE ARE PERFECTLY ABLE TO DO IT OURSELVES



**THOU
SHALT
NOT
PARK
HERE**

**CHURCH PARKING
ONLY**

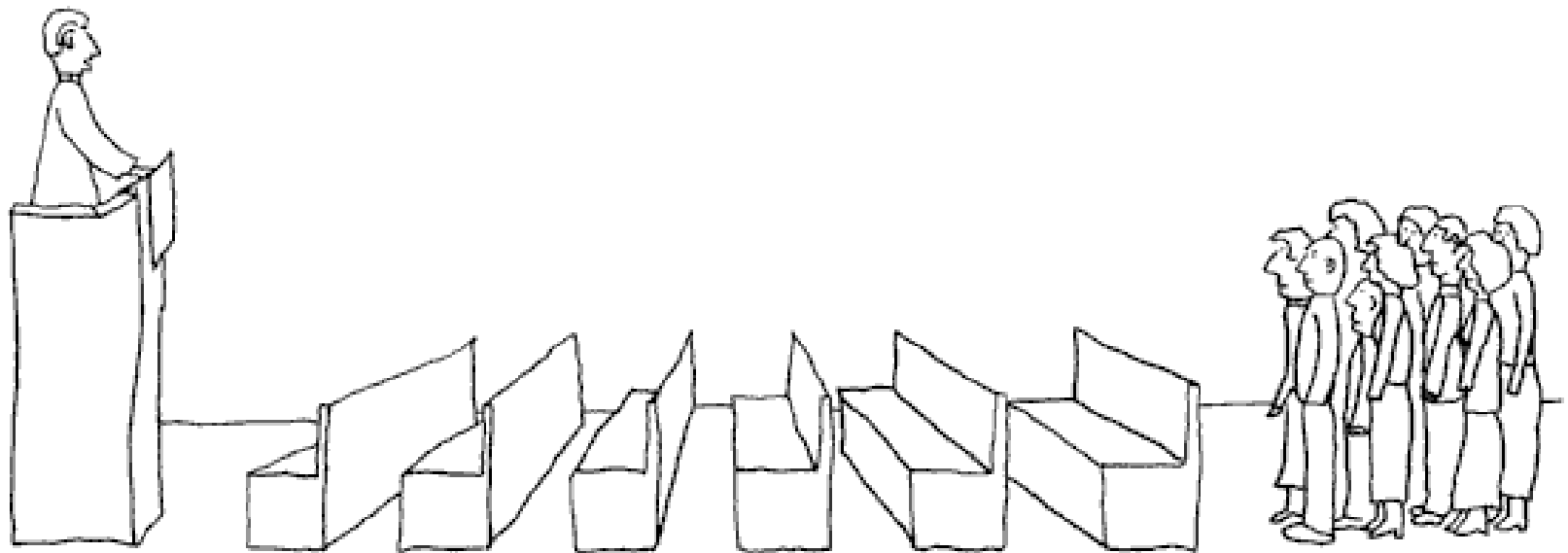
**CAR PARK
FOR CHURCH USERS**

If you park here, you are liable;

1. TO BE BLOCKED IN
2. TO BE PRAYED FOR!

RESERVED
PARKING FOR
**CHURCH
MEMBERS**

UNAUTHORIZED
VEHICLES
TOWED AWAY



BACK OF CHURCH SUNDAY

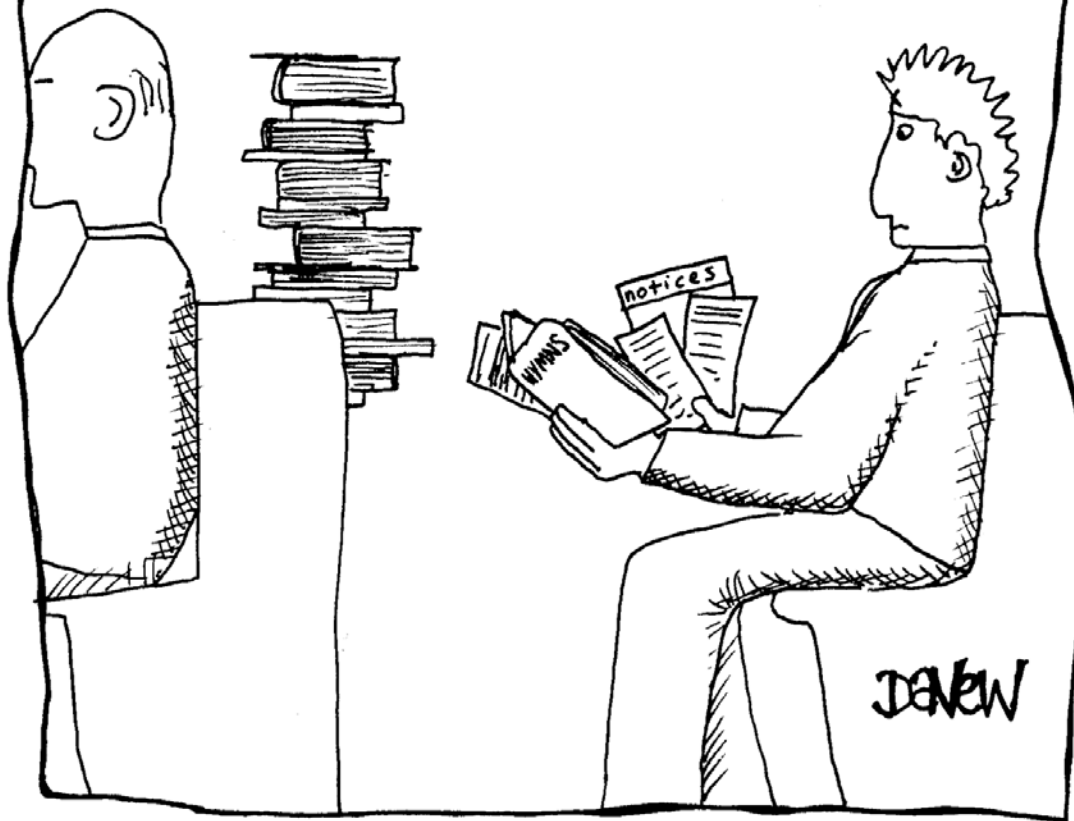
Self-Service!

- No greeters
- Get people to collect a notice sheet and find the right service book.



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“... and then we'll use the back of the yellow sheet, section 2 of the red card and the supplement at the back of the blue book...”

Our language!

- Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
- incapable of being expressed or described in words; inexpressible
- “bound yourself to the human race with a promises of a gracious covenant” Thanksgiving 4
- “Jesus is my best friend”



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THIS IS MY PEW

THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY PEW

What happens when you hang around after the service looking lost?

Is this your story?

Everyone had left within a few minutes so there was little point in waiting around apart from to light votive candles. No one approached me or said anything, but I had a quick few words with the priest outside before heading home.

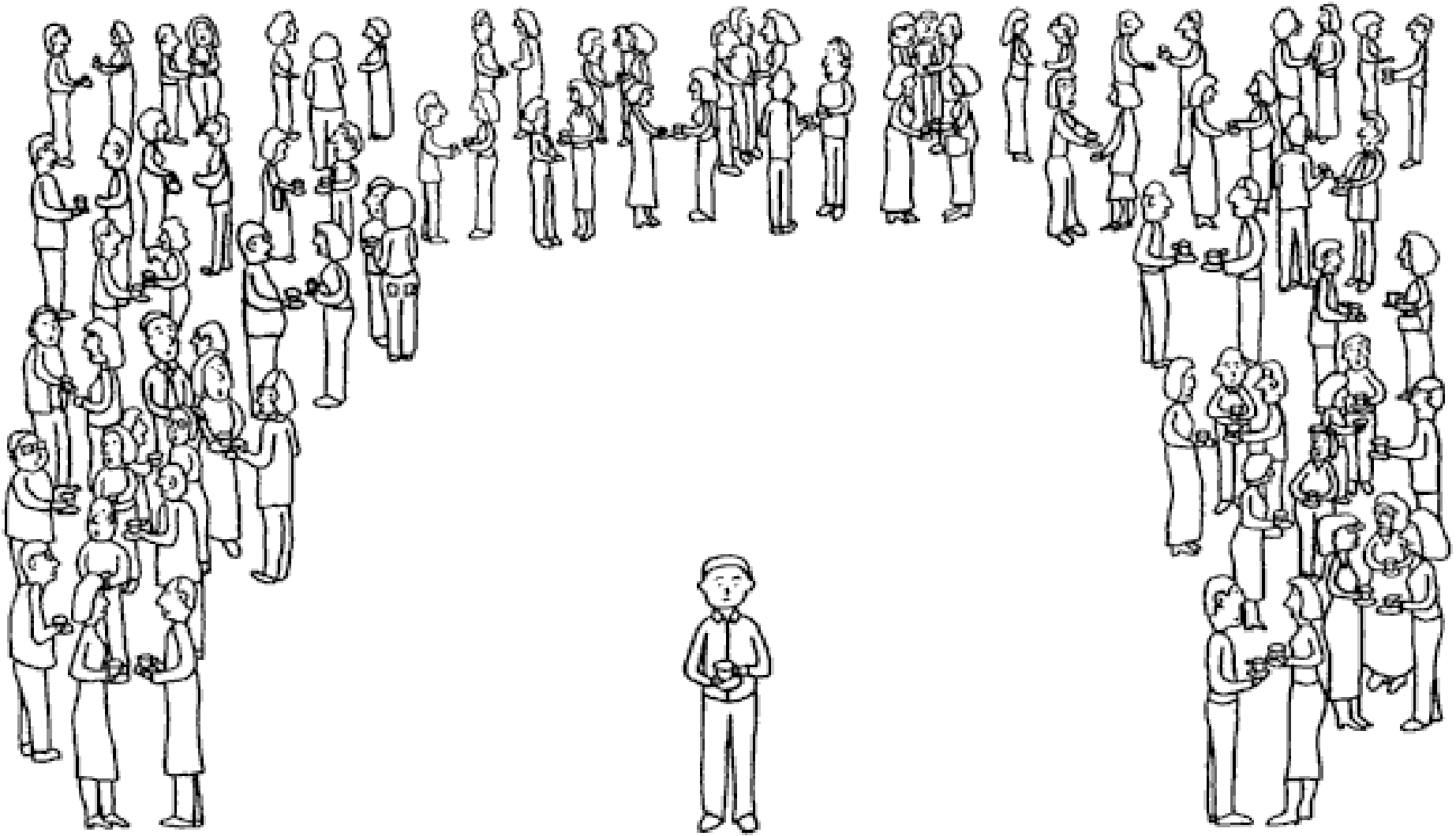


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AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE

THIS IS THE TIME WHEN NEWCOMERS CAN GET TO KNOW THE CONGREGATION

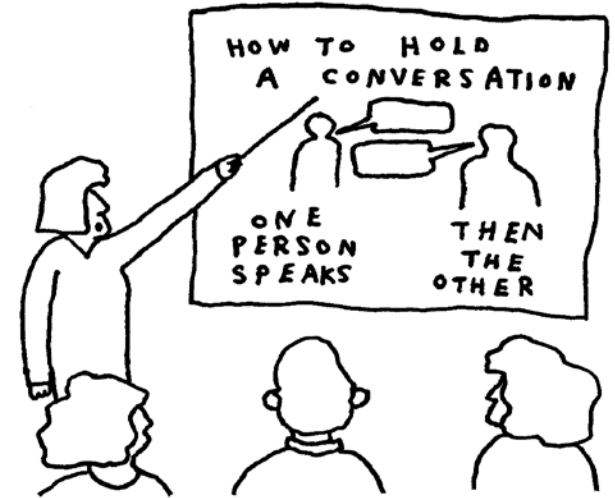


THE WELCOMERS

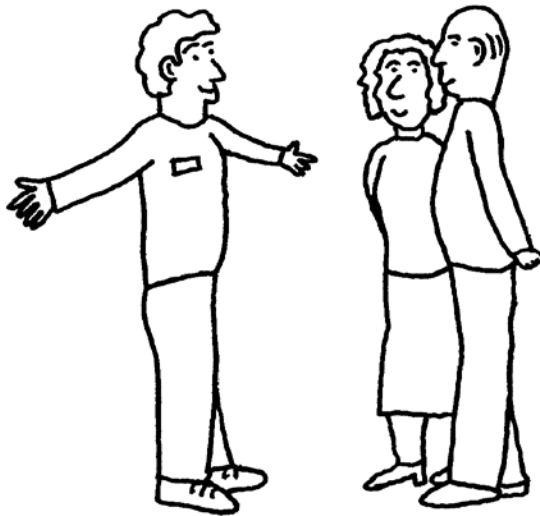
IT IS THE
JOB OF THE
WELCOMERS
TO BE
WELCOMING
AND WEAR
A BADGE



THEY ARE
GIVEN
IN-DEPTH
TRAINING
TO EQUIP
THEM FOR
THIS ROLE



IN THE
EVENT
OF ANY
NEWCOMERS
ATTENDING
A SERVICE
A WELCOMER
WILL BE
SUMMONED
TO DEAL
WITH THE
SITUATION



THERE IS
A ROTA
SO THAT
THE SAME
PEOPLE
DO NOT
HAVE TO BE
WELCOMING
EVERY WEEK



What is my experience of welcome?

Think about:

- A time when I have felt distant from God or the church

and/or

- A time when I have not felt welcome in the church (or somewhere else in the community)



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Reflecting on My Story

- What was happening?
- Why was it happening?
- What did I need?
- Who and/or what assisted in my connection /or caused my disconnection?
- What did I value or what was missing for me?



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Reflecting on THE Story

- What does the passage tell us about God's character and how we ought to act?
- Is there a command or exhortation in this passage which applies to welcoming?
- How can we apply this teaching practically in the way our church welcomes others?



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So...

How do we need to BE and act towards people who have become disconnected from the church?



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Parish group discussion

What do we value about welcoming someone else in a church community?

What do we do that helps people connect?

How can we strengthen/develop/encourage these things?



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THINGS YOUR INVITED FRIEND WILL PROBABLY NOT NOTICE IN CHURCH

DISTRACTIONS

WHISPERERS,
ERRANT
CHILDREN,
ETC

SERMON

DULL,
LONG,
OFFENSIVE,
ETC

MUSIC

FLAT,
HALF HEARTED,
ENFORCED ACTIONS,
ETC

**SERVICE
LEADER**

USING
JARGON,
IRRITATING,
ETC

**OTHER
CHURCHGOERS**

ODD HABITS,
ECCENTRICITY,
SMELLS,
ETC



So what will they notice? The welcome.



Parish group discussion

What do we do that hinders people connecting with God?

How can we discourage these things?



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Areas for improvement

Parish group discussion

- How can we take practical action to improve in this area?
- What will we do in time for September 11?
- What will we do in time for February 2012?



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QUESTIONS TO ASK IF
'WILL YOU COME TO CHURCH WITH ME?'
IS TOO DIFFICULT



SHALL WE GO FOR A COFFEE?



WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO AND SEE A FILM?



COULD YOU START USING DEODORANT?



WILL YOU MARRY ME?

Small Group Discussion

- Who will I invite?
- How will I do it?
- What words will I use?
- How will I do to make him/her feel welcome on the day?
- How can we involve our young people and children?



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HOW TO ASK THE QUESTION



MENTALLY PREPARE
YOURSELF



COMB YOUR HAIR
AND BRUSH YOUR TEETH



FIND A PIECE
OF LEVEL GROUND

THEN... JUST ASK



Welcome Audit

- Areas we are doing well
- Areas for improvement



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The Pack...

Prayer Cards: to ensure the whole concept is grounded in prayer.

Posters: so your congregation know the details of Connect2Church and reminds them to invite someone.

Invitation Cards: remember the personal invitation works best.

Bookmarks: for your details & special message for people to receive on the day.

Coffee sachets so you can plan for Connect2Church over a cuppa.



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11th September 2011

People are just waiting to be invited.

Let's not disappoint them,
and each do our bit to make them welcome



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