

Back to Church Sunday - 30th September 2007

Summary and Checklist

Recent research by Tearfund shows that 3 million people (6% of UK adults) who have stopped going to church - or who have never been in their lives - would consider attending *given the right invitation*. Back to Church Sunday is an ideal opportunity for us to invite people we know who haven't been to church for a while and want to come back to church but are reluctant to come alone.

The national date for Back to Church Sunday is Sunday 30th September, but you could choose a different Sunday or have a "Back to Church Month" in a rural benefice.

Who is it for?

- It is not for everyone.
Back to Church Sunday is an ideal opportunity for members of our congregations to invite back people they know who used to go to church and perhaps would consider coming back to church if invited.

Checklist

July/August

- Contact Jan McFarlane *as soon as possible* to register your interest and to give an approximate number of how many A4 posters and invitations cards you will need for your parish(es). She can be contacted on 01603 614172 or communications@norwich.anglican.org (Posters and invitations will be sent to you at the end of August – but we need an indication as soon as possible of how many to have printed.)
- Promote the idea in your congregation and involve them in prayer
- Consider follow up for those who come and for the church as a whole
- Consider welcome packs which say what is available during the entire week so that each person can begin to see that church could be a focal point for their lives

September

- Give invitations to congregation members so that they can invite their friends
- Personal stories are helpful.
 - In September *Across the See* will include interviews with people who have come back to church.
 - More copies than usual will be printed and distributed so that these can be given to people coming back to church
- Media Launch: there will be national and local advertising so please let the Diocesan Communications Officer know what you are doing so that she can tell the local media (communications@norwich.anglican.org or 01603 614172).
- Prepare service. This should be good quality but not be too dissimilar to the normal service otherwise people may have false expectations.

Remember

Back to Church Sunday is the beginning of a process and not the end

Further information is available at www.norwich.anglican.org

For further advice contact a member of the Mission Support Team. Details are overleaf

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David Hayden	Archdeacon of Norfolk	01603 702477	archdeacon.norfolk@4frontmedia.co.uk
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Rosie Bunn	Stoke Holy Cross	01508 492305	rev.rosie@venta-group.org
David Court	Cromer	01263 512000	David@CromerVicarage.fsnet.co.uk
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Jane Loades	Methodist Evangelism Enabler	01692 536652	oadesdee@jloades.fsnet.co.uk
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Cathy Nichols	Diocesan Director of CME, Norwich	01508 570557	cathynichols@norwich.anglican.org
Richard Seel	The Chet Valley Benefice	01692 650706	richard@emerging-church.org
Nicholas Tivey	Chaplain, HMP Wayland	01953 858080	Nicholas.tivey@hmpr.gsi.gov.uk

In addition:

Although not experts, members of the group are always willing to meet with others (groups or individuals) to help think through the issues of being a Mission Shaped Church from their own experience.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of a member of the MST coming to explore these issues with you, please contact the Archdeacon of Norfolk's secretary (01603 702477 Monday to Thursday 9am -1pm).