



The
Evangelism
And
Mission
GROUP

T E A M Newsletter

Back to Church Sunday – it works!

Last year 20,000 people came back to church – 260 of them in Wakefield Diocese. This is still the easiest form of outreach! All it needs is some forward planning and a lot of prayer – and we are here to help you with that.

This year the national date is 28th September 2008 and 41 dioceses will be taking up the challenge.

Here are a few tips to help you make Back to Church Sunday a good experience in your Parish:

- ❖ Get the whole congregation on board – whole congregation – wholehearted. Encourage everyone to use the Back to Church Sunday Prayer from now on, and every person to pray for one person they can invite back to church. Use the invitations in your Resource Pack
- ❖ Welcome – is yours a welcoming church? Is the outside of the church clean and tidy? Are there people visible to give a sincere welcome to ‘strangers’? In the feedback from previous years, the ‘welcome’ factor was very important in making people feel at home, and motivating them to come back again. You can order good quality, Fairtrade cotton T-shirts with your Resources Pack, to make your welcomers even more visible.
- ❖ Publicise – make sure you have articles in your parish magazines in the next few months, with the date prominent. Get your posters on display in August. Tell your local paper what you’re doing. Get creative – something eye-catching will arouse the interest of the local media. (We’re doing publicity for you at diocesan level too, including at least one Bishop!)
- ❖ People are sure to want to come again, so make sure they know what’s coming up at church in the weeks following Back to Church Sunday. Have an Introduction to Christianity course running. There are plenty of courses to choose from and this is a good time of year for people to enrol onto something new.

The Resources available to you include a 3-fold leaflet, with an invitation and the Back to Church Sunday Prayer, T-shirts, posters, pens, giftcards and balloons. Have a look at the website www.backtochurch.co.uk to see the full range. If you want to order any of these, please contact Jenny Lowery on: jennyl@blueyonder.co.uk, who is co-ordinating this event.

More helpful tips in the next issues of TEAM Newsletter; in the meantime if you want someone to talk to your PCC about making the most of Back to Church Sunday, please contact Tony or Jenny (details below).

For more details contact

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