

10 Top Tips for a Great Welcome

The Basics:

1. Clean up. Who's willing to check the outside of your church before the big day to make sure it's clean and tidy?
2. Comfort. Do you use travel rugs and cushions on pews for example, to make it as comfy as possible?
3. Loos. Are they stocked up with all they need? How about some nice soap?

The Welcome:

4. Gearing up: why not invest in a pay as you go mobile on behalf of your church? Divert parish calls to it when the office isn't staffed and share it round a team in the run up to the day. Make sure you put your friendliest people on phone duty to help people who are looking for you.
5. Welcome team 'who?': who are the 'people people' in your church? Would they love to serve on the welcome team? If you have one already, what changes would the team like to bring in specially for Back to Church Sunday. These are the people who will be on the lookout throughout the service for people who look unsure or uncertain.
6. Welcome Team visibility: mark out your team with the Back to Church t-shirts. Make sure they are your smiliest people. Why not put a welcomer outside the door to guide people in?
7. If you're coming with a special guest: why not have breakfast with them before the service or lunch with them afterwards. Make the most of your time together.

The Service:

8. Late arrivals: affix a simple piece of felt under the latch to make it easier for late-comers to slip in quietly.
9. Signpost and explain. Make sure you tell people where the service is going: explain the customs of the church like the peace, the collection, or when to stand and sit. Don't assume anything: Make sure everyone with an upfront role introduces themselves.

Afterwards:

10. Splash out on tea and coffee if you can. Fresh coffee and quality biscuits give a clear message that you value the people there.

Thanks to Coventry Diocese.

BacktoChurchSunday



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