



## 20 tips to keep the Church safe from visitors:

1. Make sure that no-one can easily find your church or any information about it: ensure that the notice board doesn't clearly give service times away too easily; make sure people have to get out of their car to be able to read it.
2. Ensure that negative notices (no entry, no parking, don't use this door – go round the side etc) predominate as you approach the church.
3. Keep lighting of all outside paths low and make sure that the paths themselves are badly kept and overgrown.
4. Keep all doors firmly shut, so that people have to turn a huge latch to get in: make sure that it's not obvious which door they need to use.
5. Do not heat the church adequately in winter.
6. If they do get inside, give them as many books as possible to get through the service with. Don't talk to them or smile: be busy sorting out a rota with someone else as you hand out this library. If you can, speak in language no-one else uses outside of church – CW or I662?
7. Make sure all welcomers develop body odour, and/or halitosis.
8. Either: ignore newcomers entirely, or; overwhelm them with information, appeals for their help with church projects, or questions about their past, family history, spiritual journey etc. (If following the latter route, make sure that you hug them regularly)
9. If newcomers are dressed inappropriately for church, or have any physical features that make them different, stare at them and mention them to everyone else, so that they can stare also.
10. Don't provide wheelchair ramps or any other disabled access; it only encourages the disabled. A hearing loop is OK though – for members.
11. Ask yourself: what does our building say about our values? Make sure that appeals for money obliterate any sense that this place exists for the worship of God.
12. Making the church look like a woman's boudoir, with lots of lace and flowers everywhere and with a predominance of pastel colours will make men feel uncomfortable and retain the *status quo* of female dominance in church attendance.
13. During the service, don't give any hints about when to stand, sit, kneel etc. – it's a giggle when they get it wrong (oh yes – do actually giggle). Don't mention which book is being used or which page number at any stage.
14. Ensure that any music used in worship is inaccessible to anyone without a music degree, or is pitched so that it is impossible to sing without jumping octaves.

15. If you are unfortunate enough to have toilets actually in the church, make sure that they are not properly cleaned, or preferably, don't work properly.
16. If you have to shake hands, employ one of two methods: the dead fish handshake or the squeeze-the-life-out-of-the-hand-shake (which can be accompanied by grabbing the elbow with the other hand to make sure the victim can't escape).
17. It is vitally important that any coffee served after the service is instant, comes from a huge catering tin of coffee (to ensure that it is stale) and is served in small green cups. Stale biscuits can be served alongside. Anyone who doesn't take a saucer is a Philistine and should be treated like one. Tea, unfortunately, is harder to get wrong but stewed tea can be produced eventually.
18. Make sure you have a basket for donations for tea/coffee: we wouldn't want the church to appear hospitable.
19. Keep talking with those you know well and maintain the small friendship groups of people who have been here for years.
20. Occasionally look at new visitors and then turn back to your conversations with your friends

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