

## **Welcome to our church**

### ***What importance does your group give to the role of welcomers on a Sunday morning?***

Very important; sidespersons should be in place until at least 11.15am

Very important to welcome

High importance

For the 11am we would recommend a separate welcomer or two, not involved with other duties. We consider it important.

Doesn't address the issue of people leaving church – how do we follow up with them?

Very important to be welcoming – separate role

### ***What does your group feel would be the advantages of making changes to the way we welcome people?***

Would be good idea to have someone downstairs to welcome people until at least 11.15am

It's a way to get people involved and play to people's strengths

True welcome hard for sidesperson given other responsibilities; good idea, but...

Encouraging them to return – happier atmosphere

Someone is delegated to notice new people – sidespeople are too busy; gives newcomers a chance to ask questions and feel at ease

People would feel welcomed

### ***What would be the disadvantages?***

We would need more people as sidespersons as sidespersons have to read too

Yet another rota! Volunteers

Difficult to have another committee / list

Can be coming on a bit strong for some people

Yet another rota

***What does your group think are three of the most important issues to bear in mind in welcoming others?***

A friendly smile; information (books; Christian activities); sensitivity

Helping through service; sensitivity to needs; knowing people

What is 'welcoming'? We need to define it; a simple arrow pointing up the stairs? are we afraid of confusing new people with people who come regularly?

Welcomers should know answers to a lot of question and be prepared to take people for coffee afterwards

***Does the group feel any church member could be asked to be a welcome, or that it would be better to choose welcomers with some care, and provide proper training?***

Every church member has a responsibility to welcome

Yes – with proper training; go with strengths of individuals

No! Perhaps there can be some training re: body language etc; maybe let people be anonymous during service, but note to talk to them at the end

Choose with care and give training

***Other issues / questions on this subject:***

Should have church sign outside again; lists when mentioned should be visible

Helping people through service: pew sheets vs service booklets

Are we making the best use of our 'welcome pack'?

Unattractive entrance & approach to Chapel

Maybe a greater role for welcomers after the service as well, when people aren't in a rush

Replace stair carpet!

## **Providing for young families through Crèche and Junior Church**

***How important does your group think that provision for young families is to the life of our church?***

Essential

Yes! Very...

Yes

Vital

Very!

Very! It's essential

***What priority should this have amongst the other things which we do as a church, and which we offer on Sunday mornings?***

High priority

Equal – whole family

High

Equal

High priority

Top priority

***Should we be asking parents themselves to be running the crèche and staffing the junior church, or that long-standing church members who are not themselves young parents should be asked to commit to this aspect of church life?***

Creche – yes; JC needs teachers with some training; no harm asking long-standing members

Go with strengths; parents to contribute

Not either / or – possibly both; should we recruit / pay someone to do it?

Set up crèche for parents to use; this might free up people for Junior Church;

no JC during school holidays (ie core school holidays); long-standing

members: no

Can't we do both? Beggars can't be choosers ☺

Both

***Other issues / questions on this subject:***

What about young people?! Vary services – why do young people prefer All

Nations? Vary media; more regular all-age services

It takes considerable skill – not everyone is suited; child protection and

background checks are quite complex; how does the helper actually

participate in the service itself?

Lions and Lambs brings people in, but how do we convert them into church

members? How do we make the all-age service more inclusive / involving for

the children?