

# BacktoChurchSunday



## In the Diocese of Peterborough

### Just four weeks to go until Back to Church Sunday

Thank you to the 60 churches who have said yes to this initiative and now have packs with posters, balloons and most importantly, **INVITATIONS**

Each week we want to give you some prompts and reminders to make sure you are doing everything you can to make this Sunday significant in the lives of those who are longing to come back to Church and find a home in God afresh.

#### 1. **Invitations**

By now everyone in the congregation should have at least one invitation card. Explain how the cards work clearly to the whole church. Encourage people not just to drop the card off, but to deliver it personally and offer to pick up and go to church with the person. Alternatively, be at the church door waiting for your guest and sit with them and help them through the service. Remember how scary and nerve-racking it can be coming to church after a while.

If you have run out of invites or posters, we have a few more in the office.

#### 2. **Pray**

Please try and make space and time in the service to pray specifically for both the day itself and individuals who are on the hearts of the congregation.

You might like to use this special prayer:

*Loving Lord, we thank you that in Jesus you have found us and we have found a home in you and your church.*

*We pray for Back to Church Sunday*

*for all those churches taking part*

*and particularly we pray for those we have invited.*

*In silence we remember and name them before you. (pause)*

*We pray that here in your church they would receive love and welcome and once more find a home.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

#### 3. **Prepare**

We have said all along not to do something too special and different with the worship. It needs to be faithful to what you usually do. But that doesn't mean that you can't look at everything you do from Welcome all the way through the service to make it the best it possibly can be both for those who are coming back and those who are regular and committed.

#### **4. Cross Keys**

Cross Keys are will be available from your Rural Deans from 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Coming soon, more on:

Welcome and Hospitality, Friendship, Media, Mission, The Service,  
The Sermon, The Follow up

For more details, invitations, advice and help, please contact: Gillian on 01604 887048  
(Downloads with more resources and ideas and a checklist are available from the  
Diocesan Website: [www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/b2c.htm](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/b2c.htm) and also ideas from  
[www.backtochurch.co.uk](http://www.backtochurch.co.uk)

#### **Inspire magazine for Back to Church Sunday**

CPO are printing thousands of extra copies of the Inspire magazine for churches to  
use for Back to Church Sunday. The articles each month are aimed at people who visit  
churches or who come to social and other events, as can be seen  
on: <http://www.inspiremagazine.org.uk/>

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