

Back to Church Sunday



In the Diocese of Peterborough

Less than ONE week to go until Back to Church Sunday!

1. **Press and publicity**

Local media may be covering Back to Church Sunday – there's no harm in you telling them what you are doing too.

2. **Welcome and the Service**

First impressions leave lasting impressions. Last impressions last!

Please make sure everything possible is done to make people feel comfortable and at ease before, during and after the service.

3. **Follow up**

Whilst you will be putting the finishing touches to the service and sermon, it's worth giving time now to the follow up.

1. An invitation at the end of the service to come back next week. Make sure that people feel welcome every week. Encourage those who have brought guests to invite them again the week after. Back to Church Sunday is not about coming back once, but reconnecting with a spiritual journey which we pray will last a lifetime.
2. An invitation to another event – maybe a Harvest Festival, if you are not combining both. Have some printed invitations ready to give out and information to both services and social events.
3. Personal follow up. Using a pastoral team or group of visitors or those who have invited guests, you are encouraged to follow up with a personal visit to see how guests felt about coming back to church and to gauge whether they would want to continue coming or to find out more about the Christian faith.
4. Many churches are starting Alpha, Emmaus or Start! Courses or other explorers groups. Please encourage people to come to these.
5. Make sure you have the contact details for ALL who came back to church. You could write to them to say thank you for coming, and also use this database to invite personally at Christmas.

4. **Prayer**

Please continue to pray. Pray for those who have come that God would continue to work in their lives and draw them closer to Him. Remember it is God who is the evangelist. He is the great inviter into life and fellowship with him. Pray without ceasing.