

Back to Church Sunday



Back to Church Sunday starts before you reach the Church Door

What does your Church say about a welcome for all?

You never get a second chance to make a first impression!



Here is a checklist of things that you might like to consider to be as inclusive as possible. You may not manage them all, or you may have ideas of your own.

- Make sure the Church notice board is up to date and with service times clearly indicated.
- Ensure the Church grounds are clean and tidy
- Leave NO room for uncertainty about the way in; have signs to show which door will be open and where the ramp access is available.
- If possible have welcomers outside to give people confidence in coming into Church.
- Welcome is everyone's job, not just those on duty. Encourage Church members to speak to those who sit near to them.
- Make certain that everyone is spoken to coming in and leaving; "hello" and "goodbye" are equally important **and** invite them to come again
- Prepare suitable greetings that are not too inquisitive or threatening.
- Smile.
- Listen carefully, do not be afraid to ask for people's names again if you do not hear if properly first time round.
- Make sure you can provide large-print versions of services and hymns and if you have a loop system ask someone with a hearing aid to test that it is working properly.
- If there are wheelchair users do they have good position? Is there space if someone has brought them to Church?
- Provide Fairtrade tea and coffee to show you care about Third World producers and re-use or recycle your plastic cups to show you care about the environment.
- Why not have fruit as well as any biscuits it is healthier and more culturally inclusive?
- Finally, act with integrity by treating everyone with equal love and care for we are all the guests of God.