

NEWS FROM PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE – 21 September 2011

Churches get set to welcome guests

About 50 churches across the Peterborough Diocese are gearing up to welcome back to church people who may not have been to a regular Sunday service for some time.

The annual Back to Church Sunday takes place this weekend (25 September). A national initiative, it has become a fixture in the church calendar for the past five years.

Last year 51,000 people across England accepted an invitation to attend a Back to Church Sunday service. People lose touch with the church for a variety of often understandable reasons, including house moves and the pressures of family activities.

Market research in previous years has shown that up to three million people have said they would go to church if someone personally invited them. The idea behind Back to Church Sunday is that church members give a special invitation to neighbours and friends to attend with them.

Generally services are the “normal” ones for each church although some churches also lay on special welcome events and refreshments.

The Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Dr John Sentamu, Tweeted an invitation on Monday this week, and is encouraging people to re-Tweet it to their friends and Twitter followers. It links to a downloadable audio invitation.

Among the churches taking part in various parts of the Peterborough Diocese (which covers Northants and Rutland, and much of the city of Peterborough) are the following:

Peterborough area:

- St Botolph Longthorpe
- St John the Baptist, city centre
- Thornhaugh and Wansford
- Kings Cliffe
- Emmanuel, Werrington
- St Paul's New England

Rutland area:

- Manton
- Glington
- Braunston in Rutland
- Gretton and Cottingham

Kettering/Wellingborough area:

- St Mary's Rushden
- St Peter's Rushden
- Harrowden, Orlingbury and Pytchley
- Finedon
- All Saints and All Hallows Wellingborough

Northampton area:

- Boughton and Pitsford
- St Michael's Northampton
- Arthingworth, Maidwell, Oxenden, etc
- St George's Wootton

For further information about local arrangements, please contact the clergy concerned.
Contact details can be found on our website: www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/churches/churchesaz.htm

For further information about Back to Church Sunday, please contact Revd Miles Baker, Diocesan Mission Enabler, on 01604 887043 and see www.backtochurch.co.uk .

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