



A welcome for all

A resource to help you
with your welcoming

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Welcome

The Diocese of Swansea and Brecon is a family that is rooted in Christ. We are committed to transforming the lives of others as our own lives express the gospel of Jesus. In our vision we speak of **gathering** as God's people, **growing** more like Jesus and **going out** in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This resource helps you reflect on the question "Does our welcome enable people to quickly feel comfortable and settled in our church?"

Getting the best from this resource

This document is designed to help your church reflect on the welcome and hospitality you offer both intentionally and unconsciously. It is about the welcome that is given to anyone who comes in through the door, and also to the local community. It is about the subtle signals you give out to those who are not yet interested. It is intended to show the scope and importance of the ministry of welcome.

What is important, essential even, is to recognise that our welcome to people is vital – we are not simply welcoming people in our name, or in the name of the church, but in the name of God. It is foundational to our faith that, when we extend a welcome to adults, children or young people, we do it because of the welcome Jesus offers to us.

1. How we welcome people at our church

Question	Answer
What do you call the people who exercise a ministry of welcome in your church? (please circle)	Welcomers Sidesmen Sidespeople Stewards Befrienders Other ...
How many people are involved: (a) at each Sunday service? (b) at any weekday service? (c) altogether	
What range of ages are involved?	
How are they recruited and organised?	
Do they receive any training?	

What are their main tasks?	
What is going well with the welcome you extended as a church?	
Who sticking points or difficulties are there?	
What opportunities do you see that you could take to extend your welcome further?	

2 Tasks within the ministry of welcome

Please tick to indicate how important you believe each task to be and if it is something you already do.

Task	Essential	Desirable	In place in our church
Getting the church ready in good time			
Greeting warmly at the door			
Chatting to newcomers to welcome them			
Knowing what to do if someone is ill or upset			
Helping people with mobility problems			
Noticing when regulars are absent			
Being available and able to answer questions			
Able to inform visitors or enquirers about faith or the life of the church			
Able to inform visitors or enquirers about the building			
Providing hospitality after the service			
Opening the church and welcoming people in the week			
Providing a prayer space and resources for prayer during the week			

3 How welcoming are your buildings?

Aspects of your buildings		
	Yes	No
Is your churchyard well cared for?		
Does your church path look inviting?		
What does your notice board say about you?		
Is your church open during the week?		
Is your church well presented?		
What do posters, banners or welcome packs inside the church say about you?		
Is your church heated appropriately?		
Do you have a special area for prayer?		
Do you have a kitchen and/or a WC?		
Do you have a sound system?		
Is your church child and toddler friendly?		
Is your church disability friendly?		

4 And now?

Response
<p>Having reflected on different aspects of your welcome, consider what one change would make the greatest improvement to the welcome you offer as a church.</p>