

Welcome to welcoming seminar



Anglican
Church of Noosa
Loving and serving you because of Jesus

Parish Council portfolio

Welcoming and integration

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Welcoming starts in the heart

¹ Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Luke 15:1-2

...and reflects the mission heart of God

¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for^[a] the sins of the whole world.

1 John 1:1-2

Welcoming is loving your neighbour

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35

...and loving God

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other.

John 15:16-17

Welcoming is letting your light shine

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

...and living as God's distinctive people

¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:12

Welcoming is humility in action

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4

...and not thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Romans 12:3

Welcoming is everyone's task

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:8-10

and **some** people's (special) task

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6-7

Thank you!

And especially to Jane and Anne

Time for a re-think



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I'm Not a Christian, But I'm Coming to Your Church This Sunday

Okay I'm not a Christian, but I've finally made the decision to come to your church this Sunday. Don't expect much from me though. If something comes up I might not, but right now I'm planning on it. I feel like I need to go, but I'm not sure why. I want to tell you a few things about myself before you meet me.

I'm Not a Christian, But I'm Coming to Your Church This Sunday

1. I'm not going to understand religious language or phrases so be aware of that when we talk. I don't understand slain in the spirit, God is moving in me, covered in the blood, I need to die to self, you just need to be in the Word, what you need is a new life, etc. If we have conversation filled with religious talk, I'm probably not going to understand half of the words...and maybe think you're a little crazy.

I'm Not a Christian, But I'm Coming to Your Church This Sunday

2. When you ask me how I'm doing, know that I don't trust you. I'm probably going to lie and tell you I'm fine. It's not that I don't want to tell you; it's just that I come from some pain and am not sure if I trust you yet. How about you tell me your story first? If I like you and get the vibe that you're not trying to capture my soul or anything, I'll tell you mine.

I'm Not a Christian, But I'm Coming to Your Church This Sunday

3. I've got pretty rough language and I can be bitter and angry about some things. If I sense in you a mindset of superiority, I'm out. If you are just waiting for your turn to talk instead of truly listening to me, I'm not going to be interested. Don't expect me to be exactly like you.

I'm Not a Christian, But I'm Coming to Your Church This Sunday

4. **Don't make a big deal of introducing me to everyone you know.** I understand a couple of people, but please; don't set up a welcoming line. I'm just there to check it out; I need a bit of space.

I'm Not a Christian, But I'm Coming to Your Church This Sunday

5. I'm going to be looking for genuine interest in me. I

don't want to feel like your personal salvation project or be a notch on your "I saved one" belt. If this Jesus is who you say he is, then I'm looking forward to seeing him in you. That's how it works, right?

I'm Not a Christian, But I'm Coming to Your Church This Sunday

6. **I'm going to have questions.** I need truth, not your preferences or your religion, so can you just tell me what the Bible says?

I'm Not a Christian, But I'm Coming to Your Church This Sunday

7. I need to feel welcomed. Is there a time limit or something on my visit before I'm supposed to feel unwelcomed? I mean, I've been to other churches and there seemed to be a push for me to make up my mind or something. How long until I'm unwelcomed?

Thanks for hearing me out. I'm pretty sure I'm going to come this Sunday. But I might not.

How welcoming is our welcoming?

- still possible for people to stand at MT on their own
- possible that we overwhelm some/embarrass ourselves
- probable that new people will not want to be identified
- highly likely we miss contact details of new people
- probably that we're not connecting with those we really need to

Our target for welcoming?

- as lovely and as important it is to welcome the visitor...
- our real target must be
- the local people checking us out
- the new people looking to settle

The most important aspects of welcoming

- a friendly face at the door
- a no pressure offer of a written name tag
- pointing out what they are being given > take them to seat
- everyone realises their responsibility
- someone to greet them in the greeting time
- filling out a connect card
- an invitation to morning tea
- an introduction to the one of the ministers
- not left alone during morning tea
- a note from one of the ministers early in the week
- a follow up phone call from whoever first met them
- a visit from one of the ministers (depending on indicators)
- invitation to a meal or coffee
- help in connecting with people through a small group



We'll discontinue

- writing down people's names at the door
- welcoming people by name in the notice time



Connect card

- new people handed one as they come in
- also available on seats around the building
- useful for regulars to request a visit or make a comment



Date ___ / ___ / ___

- I am visiting today
- I am new to Family Church
- I am thinking of attending regularly
- I would like to find out more about Jesus
- I come here regularly
- I'm updating my contact details

My contact details:

Name(s) _____

Children _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Home / Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

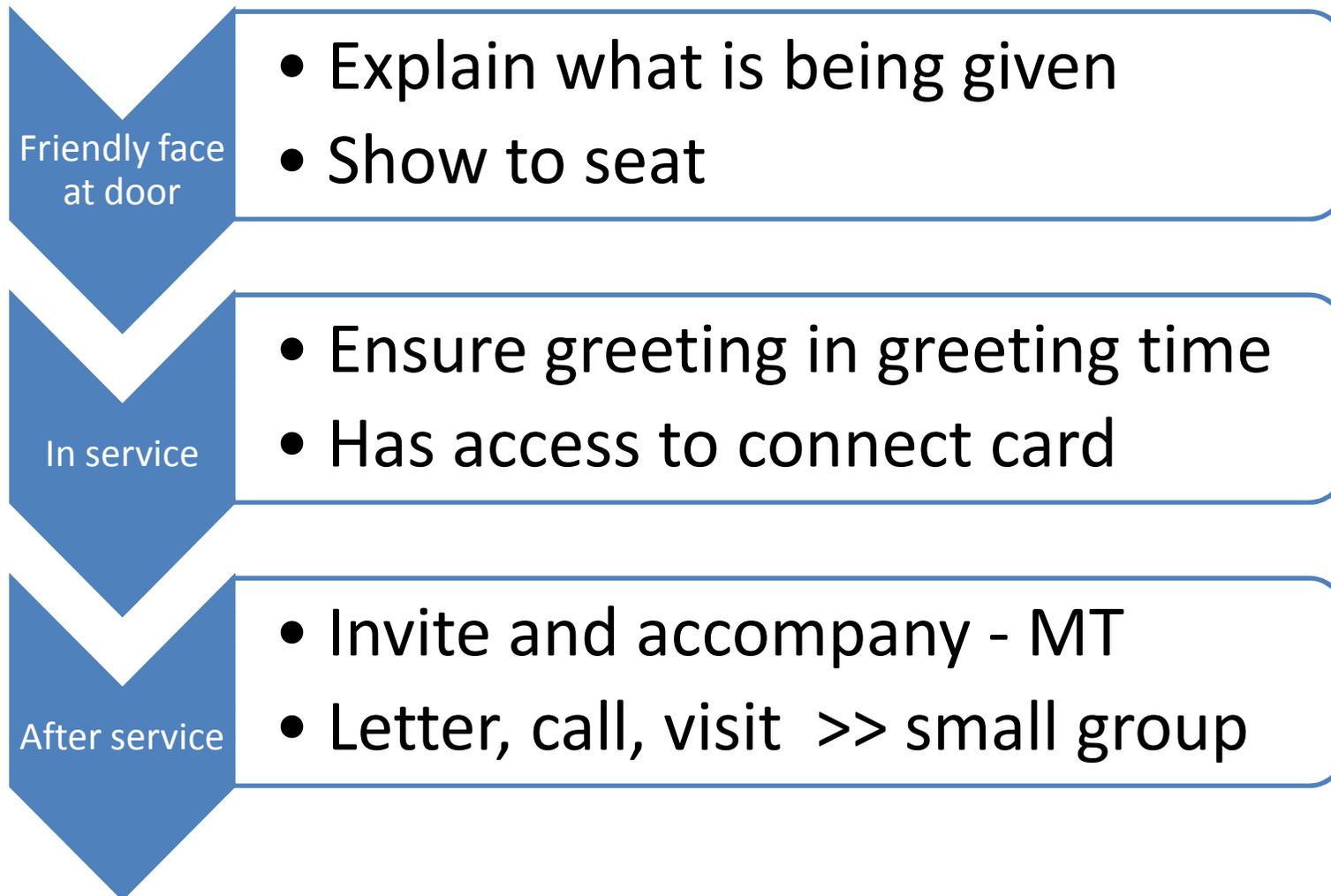


Advantages

- no pressure
- get more detail
- immediate entry on data base of visitors



Flow chart



Close

- questions or comments?
- change of culture needed
- prayer

