

# THE WELCOMING CHURCH

## Scenario-based role plays

*Following are a number of possible scenarios that you may encounter when you are welcoming at church.*

*Each person in your group should have a go at 'acting out' the role/s of people being welcomed, as well as someone who is the 'welcomer'.*

*Choose 3 or 4 scenarios that you consider most likely to occur in your particular congregation.*

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### **Scenario 1**

Role: A single female in her late 20s arrives at church by herself just as church is beginning. She seems flustered and a little cautious about being greeted by two people at the door.

*How would you welcome her?  
How would you follow her up after church?*

### **Scenario 2**

Role: A 'couple' (in their 30s) with no kids turn up to church 20 minutes early. They're a little embarrassed that they've arrived so early. They say they know someone who comes to this church. They are hoping to meet up with them. They are quite chatty and reveal that it's been many years since either of them has set foot in a church.

*How would you welcome them?  
How would you follow them up after church?*

### **Scenario 3**

Role: A family (dad, mum, & 3 kids) arrive at church 10 minutes before church begins. They are friends of a family who are having their child 'christened' today. They seem relaxed and friendly but it's pretty obvious they're not regular church goers (they're a little over-dressed!).

*How would you welcome them?  
How would you follow them up after church?*

### **Scenario 4**

Role: A couple of middle-aged women arrive at church together. They seem a little nervous and don't have a whole lot to say. They're pretty keen to keep a low profile and just sit up the back and to the side. One of them has brought a Bible with them.

*How would you welcome them?*

*How would you follow them up after church?*

### **Scenario 5**

Role: An older woman (in her 60s) arrives with her grandson (aged 8). She is friendly and obviously feels comfortable in a church setting. She is keen for her grandson to join 'Sunday School' and she is happy to bring him each week.

*How would you welcome them?*

*How would you follow them up after church?*

### **Scenario 6**

Role: A middle-aged couple (in their 40s or 50s) turn up to church 5 minutes before church begins. They are friendly and relaxed. They immediately reveal that they're in the area on holiday and that they are regular church-goers at St Ninian's by the Beach, somewhere on the south coast.

*How would you welcome them?*

*How would you follow them up after church?*

### **Scenario 7**

Role: A man in his 30s arrives at church. He's not very talkative, is a little dishevelled, and appears quite agitated. You get talking to him and he begins to tell you a long and 'fantastic' story about having met God in a dream. In the dream God told him to come to church. And here he is!

*How would you welcome him?*

*How would you follow him up after church?*

### **Scenario 8**

Role: A family (dad, mum, with baby & toddler) arrive at church. They've brought Bibles with them. They're a little flustered because the toddler is crying. However, they tell you straight away that they've just moved into the area and they are looking for a church to belong to.

*How would you welcome them?*

*How would you follow them up after church?*

### **Scenario 9**

Role: While the welcomers were talking to someone else an older woman has walked into church without speaking to anybody. She has found a seat toward the back of church and is obviously keen to keep a low profile. She has no Bible or bulletin. No one is sitting near her. Church begins in 5 minutes.

*How would you welcome her?*

*How would you follow her up after church?*