



God's Good News: opening the door to the Holy Spirit

Witness and evangelism are challenging activities, especially if you haven't done it before, or not for a while. Sometimes you need something new to open the door to the Holy Spirit and create the spark which will help you spread the Good News. Here are some ideas...

Ten things that work

1. PUB EVENTS
2. VIDEO MAKING / STORY TELLING
3. ANY QUESTIONS
4. TEATIME CHURCH
5. SOCIALS
6. SONGS OF PRAISE
7. FESTIVALS
8. ALL AGE PROVISION
9. SMALL GROUPS
10. COMMUNITY LINKS

PUB EVENTS

Quiz team, ladies darts, harvest festival in a pub, Christmas carol service in a pub. The list is endless.

VIDEO MAKING & STORY TELLING

People like stories and there are lots of ways of getting the message across on social media and the web.

ANY QUESTIONS

Follow the TV format use in a pub, club or hall etc. Questions on international, national, local issues: include a Christian on the panel and make sure that the day-to-day practical life of Christianity comes across.

TEATIME CHURCH

Sundays are not always the best time for Sunday School - so why not try teatime church or messy church

SOCIALS

Harvest suppers etc. sports quiz, barbecue. "I never knew Christians could have a good time/were so normal..."

SONGS OF PRAISE

Perennially popular! Use your local paper or social media to ask people about their favourite hymns and create a 'top ten' - ensure a good mixture of new and old.

FESTIVALS

Especially Christmas, Mothering Sunday, etc. Don't just dust down the old Nine Lessons and Carols. What latest songs has the local school been singing. Make room for drama and testimony.

ALL AGE PROVISION



If children enjoy the event, parents will participate and return. Remember, worship for children does not have to be totally child-centred. If your church currently attracts few children, try going to where they are (local nursery, schools, clubs).

SMALL GROUPS

Relationships and finding a reason to attend are the keys: art groups, reading clubs, walking groups, cinema visits, gardening or DIY volunteers for people who need help. Men, especially, are more likely to participate in a group than attend church service.

COMMUNITY LINKS

Working in partnership with other groups: flower and crafts festivals, your local hospice and MacMillan Nurses, arts groups, sports clubs, other voluntary groups. Links to other parts of the community are the beginning of sharing the Good News.

Eight changes that lead to growth

- Planting new congregations
- Making worship less formal, more relaxed
- Better provision for children and young people
- Improving welcome and integration
- Better quality, more varied, contemporary music
- More lay involvement in leadership
- Better small groups and pastoral care
- Improvements to building