

INSIDE THE CHURCH

How do we provide a warm welcome even
if there is no one there?

INSIDE THE CHURCH

Visitors have walked up the path to the main door, and what do they see now? Three areas to think about are:

1. The porch
2. First impressions stepping through the door
3. The Welcome table

Before considering the suggestions, make a note of your current provision


WELCOME IN THE PORCH

What elements of welcome can be found in the porch?




FIRST IMPRESSIONS

When visitors walk through the door what do they see?



WELCOME TABLE

Is there one, and if so, what's on it?



Who is responsible/in charge of giving attention to this area?

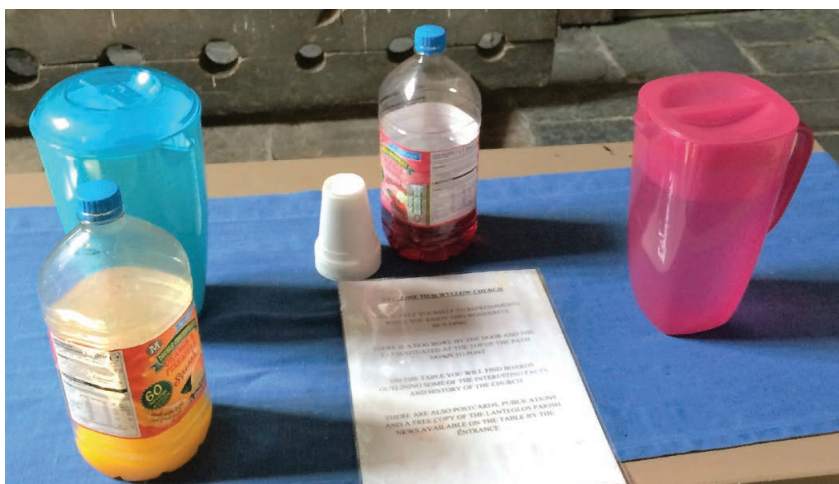
The following ideas are suggestions for enhancing your welcome in this area...

WELCOME IN THE PORCH	In place? (tick)	Action needed? (what, when and who)
The porch is clean.		
There is a welcome sign on or near the door.		
The porch noticeboard is tidy, up to date, has clergy/laity contact details and times of services.		
When the church is not open there is a sign stating this with opening hours and how to get in contact.		
We have a bowl of water for dogs.		



Every visitor will appreciate a simple sign of welcome

FIRST IMPRESSIONS	In place? (tick)	Action needed? (what, when and who)
The church is clean, tidy, and looks cared for.		
There is no musty smell or damp problem.		
There is appropriate lighting or sensor lights.		
We offer refreshments e.g. a bottle of water or carton of juice.		



A welcome notice
and squash at
St Wyllow

A WAY TO WELCOME

WELCOME TABLE	In place? (tick)	Action needed? (what, when and who)
We have a welcome table dedicated to visitors.		
There is a visitors book, with a pen, which we encourage people to fill in.		
A guidebook or leaflet is provided (free or at a small cost).		
There is a welcome pack suitable for children.		



↑ A clutter free table makes it easier to spot the visitors book



↑ A prayer board in the porch at Constantine



A corner for children
at St Anta, Carbis Bay



↑ St Levan is on the coastal path so
many walkers call in and feel a special
welcome with refreshments



↑ Mevagissey church welcomes visitors
with a basket full of goodies

RESOURCES

WHO CAN HELP YOU AT CHURCH HOUSE?

www.trurodiocese.org.uk/resource-collection/parish-support/

SECURITY

www.ecclesiastical.com

SCHOOL VISITS

www.trurodiocese.org.uk and search for 'How to Plan a Church Visit'



PADSTOW INTERVIEW

Padstow is a well known tourist destination in Cornwall and the Parish of Padstow has been welcoming tourists and visitors for years. I asked Tim Bishop, the treasurer, to tell me why welcoming tourists and visitors are so important to them.

Padstow and Trevone parish is lucky in having a very strong community spirit, where both Church-goers and non-Church-goers alike support their local Church, as well as having many tourist and second home visitors. The strong local community support helps us reach out to visitors and our Church activities all tend to address locals and visitors alike. Fundamentally I believe that the key to our approach is that we do not differentiate tourists but include them in our Church community wherever possible.

Q Why do you think visitors feel so 'at home' at St Petrocs & Trevone?

A We actively encourage regular tourist visitors and second home owners to become involved in our Church life joining with such groups as the Choir (we have spare vestments for the purpose), the Flower group and Bell ringers whenever they are with us.

Our Churches are always open during the day for a place of quiet and solitude and we always ensure that the votive candles are well stocked along with providing a gas lighter as we have found that many tourists like to light a candle before they leave the Church. For those visitors seeking to explore the history of the Church or the history of their family we have commissioned a study of the Church burials and this will be accessible via the Church web-site.

Once a week in tourist season, we put on a guided historical tour of the Church using information compiled by a professional historian. The tour is free but donations are welcomed.

Q How do your services welcome visitors?

A All our Church services commence with a specific welcome to visitors to our Church from the Vicar. We make our services easily accessible by having printed service books for all service types so that anyone can follow the service and responses without having to know their way round a prayer book. Also all Services end with notices about Church Events and an invitation to visitors to take a copy of our Church Magazine back to their home parish. After our main Sunday morning service all visitors are invited to stay for coffee/tea which gives us a chance to welcome them personally and engage with them.

Q How do you ensure everyone knows what's going on in the church?

A A monthly schedule of Services is posted on Church and Town notice boards and at Padstow Tourist Information. Wherever possible Services are the same time/same place each week enabling visitors to find a Service more easily.

All Church events, such as Choir and Music Concerts and Art Exhibitions are advertised by A4 colour posters on Church internal and external notice boards, Padstow Tourist Information office, Town notice boards, local shops, pubs and hotels. We also promote them on our Church web-site, Church Facebook page, Padstow Community Facebook page and Padstow Tourist Information web-site.

Major Church Events are advertised, wherever possible (and where ever free), using local Radio (Pirate FM), press (North Cornwall Advertiser & Cornish Guardian local edition) and magazines (LocalEyes).

We have a rota of people arranged to deliver Christmas and Easter service schedules as well as special event fliers to all properties in the parish including hotels, second homes and holiday lets.

Q Do you have a lot of tourists wanting to get married in your church? How do you feel about that?

A We recognise and accept the desire of many visitors and second-home owners to use our Churches for "wedding tourism". Many visiting couples (my own daughter and son-in-law included) find Padstow's Churches to be a more meaningful venue with a more welcoming community than the anonymous urban Churches where they have lived pre-marriage.

Q It has been good to see that through welcoming the community and tourists into the church for a range of events you have also increased your church income as a result. Can you give me some examples?

A We use St Petroc's Church to host Art Exhibitions by local Art Groups which bring visitors into Church and they donate 10% of sales to the church.

We ourselves put on annual exhibitions and shows in our Churches to outreach to both locals and visitors which is also a good fundraiser.

We also hold major summer events aimed at both locals and tourists providing a fun-filled holiday experience and Church outreach to all. We have a Grand Garden Party in Padstow attracting over 2000 locals and visitors and a BBQ & Novelty Dog Show in Trevone. Both these events have become regular fixtures on the summer tourist calendar.

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