



Care & Nurture

ST AGNES
LONGSIGHT

Notes from a meeting held on Monday 10th March 2008

Present:

Pearl, Beryl, Denzil, Stephen

1. Back to Church Sunday

The Mission & Action group will be coordinating this but it was noted that because it is the same Sunday as Bishop Stephen's visit perhaps we ought to ask +Stephen if he is happy coming on the same day. Whatever happens we should definitely keep Back to Church Sunday on the recognised day (28th September) because of press/tv coverage.

2. Bereavement Service/Meeting

Sunday 13th July has been suggested for an informal event to invite those who have been bereaved to come to church. Starting at 6.30pm there will be a short reflective service to remember loved ones in prayer and an opportunity to talk with others. Tea, coffee and conversation. Open to anyone – not just those who have connections with St Agnes. Stephen to create invitation for the next meeting.

3. Welcoming to church

Stephen read a research article about church welcome. The article stated that to newcomers, smiles and welcomes were more influential in choosing a church than music or preaching! We discussed our general hospitality and behaviour in church with the following areas mentioned:

- chit chat – especially from adults
- moving about – especially during quiet or important moments
- not enough room at back for late comers to use
- mobile phones
- eating/chewing
- coffee time – too quick! where does every one go? why don't we have tables anymore?
- peace is too long and noisy – needs to be quieter and shorter
- need to smile at newcomers / neighbours in pew more
- conversations with newcomers
- stress difference between conversations before and after Mass

There was also a discussion about Children & Communion (similar to that held by Junior Church leaders last year). This is such a difficult and sensitive area that the suggestion is that the PCC look at it and perhaps the whole congregation invited to think about it during sermons/talks etc.

Next meeting: Monday 12th May, 10.30am