

Welcome Team - 6 month Progress Report

Short term 0-6months:

- *Develop and provide welcome packs for newcomers.*

We discussed experiences and desired for the type of welcome we wanted. After sharing experiences of getting the right balance of informative but not overwhelming we agreed a two tier approach: A simple welcome leaflet; followed by a detailed information pack when individual more interested/invested in cogs.

We created draft of welcome leaflet, however certain elements weren't approved of and we were recommended to restart with support from Marcus Pullen. We have agreed in principle a new designed welcome leaflet, and plan to give a 'Welcome Card' (like business card) with contact numbers, to be given with the welcome leaflet. At our next meeting we plan to provide Marcus the content for the leaflet and will have the leaflet done as soon as possible, and then we would like to give to the church Wardens and Posy to check and sign off on.

We have also agreed in principle for the more detailed information pack to be an A5 folder for **all cogs member**, to hold various flyers of CoGS Events/ministries, and to also store the yellow pages and N-vision further along their path with us. We plan to have the information pack as a **mid-long term goal**, with the desire to be presented at the 12month mark. Our next step is to start contacting those who have volunteers to help write the content.

- *Appoint a team with specific responsibility for following up on the initial welcome to newcomers, and for contacting people who may have been absent from church for a significant period.*

We have contacted and created a list of church members who are willing to sit with and support newcomers. Just in the process of providing the list to the welcome team.

As for the list of members to contact anyone who has been absent from church, we are still in the process of contacting and praying over who is the right people who can appropriate respond to these sensitive situation(s).

Mid-Long Term 9-24months:

- *Emphasise the spiritual gift of hospitality.*

We all feel as a church, we are very good at hospitality to one another and newcomers, and we are looking for ways to improve.

We are looking at potentially having badges for welcome team and other church members to suggest opportunities for visitors to help provide hospitality for example, 'welcome to come to mine for lunch'.

We would like at the 9months/ 1 year mark from LYCIG and possibly every 3/6 months after to provide the congregation with some reminder to keep it in the forefront of their mind, be it: a sermon, reminder in notice form from the front or a line in the notice sheet depending on what is going on at church and what is appropriate.

Long Term 12-24+months:

- *Encourage church members to take responsibility for showing hospitality to the people seated near them.*

We feel that post LYCIG the many members are showing hospitality to those around, so we want to give congregation regular reminders to show compassion to keep it at the fore front of their mind, much like above.

- *Regular "Newcomers' Lunch"*
- *Regular lunches after a Sunday service.*

We would like to combine the above point to not isolate newcomers. We have completed the Friendship series of meals, and feel they have been very much appreciated by those who attended. However they were not majorly attended, apart from BBQ so we want to explore the reasons why, perhaps

bring and share meals are less popular than pay and be provided for. We are planning to return to plan and continue these points post-Christmas.

- Make the culture of befriending a prayer focus for the Church

Within the churches prayer diary we have many prayer opportunities to support one another and newcomers. We are planning to discuss with Sara Lane how it is cover in the prayer meetings/Sunday evening, and will continue to find ways of creating this culture