

A WAY TO WELCOME



...ature would be changed for
 In 1870 Hardy was intermittently employed as an architect, well versed in church restoration, by a practice in his home Dorset. He was 29 years old, an aspiring, but as yet unpublished author with a novel entitled *Desperate Remedies* almost complete.

...rtly after dark on Monday, 17 March 1870, that Thomas Hardy arrived at St Juliot Rectory following an arduous journey from Dorset.

...everend was laid up with rheumatism and was "received by young lady" who introduced herself as Miss Gifford.

...ral years in the planning of the dilapidated Church of St Juliot could finally commence. The estimated cost of taking down and rebuilding the Church as aforesaid is £1095 of which £500 has already been raised by voluntary contributions and the balance is to be forthwith raised by the same means."

Emma (pictured here in 1870) was the mainstay of the Revd. Carl Hoffer. Revd. of the parish. In 1863, shortly after the death of his first wife, he married Helen. Emma encouraged Thomas to pursue his literary talents, giving him the confidence to leave architecture and choose writing as his career.

On the 19th of August, while passing, Emma lost a glass lantern in the River Valley. The event was recalled fondly by Hardy who mentioned the incident and wrote about it in his poems, *Under the Waterfall* and *Blue Eyes*.

St Juliot's Old Rectory dates from 1847 and is virtually unchanged since Hardy's first visit. Those familiar with his first novel, *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, will recognise it as Endelstow Vicarage. The time he spent at the Rectory affected Hardy deeply and are remembered in numerous poems such as *At the Piano*, *The Frozen Greenhouse* and *The Sundial On A Wet Day*.

DIOCESE OF TRURO
 DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
 GROWING THE CHURCH

REVIEW DATES

Space for a date to be entered before filing along with a date to review again in the future. Bi-annually is recommended but you may prefer to look at each area on an annual basis.

	1 st Review Date	2 nd Review Date	3 rd Review Date
OUTSIDE THE CHURCH			
INSIDE THE CHURCH			
SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE			
COMMUNICATION			

FURTHER READING

CHURCH BUILDINGS FOR EVERYONE – A VISITOR WELCOME TOOLKIT

A free downloadable document from www.spiritinstone.co.uk/church-information

OPEN FOR YOU – THE CHURCH, THE VISITOR & THE GOSPEL

A book by Paul Bond with further ideas and suggestions for an effective welcome.

CHURCHES VISITOR AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION

The UK's leading body for promoting best practice in welcoming visitors to places of worship. www.cvta.org.uk



I am delighted to introduce 'A Way to Welcome' which I hope you will find useful in enhancing your welcome to visitors and tourists. Like you, I have visited churches around the country and abroad and I have always been grateful to find a church which is unlocked and accessible. There is both anticipation and joy in entering a place of rest and refreshment, sanctuary and prayer.

Our beautiful land of Cornwall is visited by thousands of people every year and they will want to step inside our churches for a variety of reasons: they may be curious about the building, have some family connection, or it may be raining and they want somewhere to wait for the clouds to pass. For whatever reason, our vision of discovering God's kingdom and growing the church is put into effect by welcoming those visitors. It doesn't necessarily need to be in person, it can simply mean having an unlocked church door, a 'We are open' sign, and an indication that we want to share with them this holy place.

If you need some ideas and examples of how other churches are doing this, 'A Way to Welcome' is for you. This resource can help every parish to fulfil our calling to be the outstretched arms of God declaring 'You are welcome'. So please take time to consider the material and to listen to how God might wish to shape and guide you in your ministry of welcome.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the inspiration of those in the past whose visions for the church in this community has created this shelter house of prayer. Guide and protect all those who visit or worship here.

May their souls find peace in this place and strength for the days ahead.

Amen.

*Chris
St Germans*

THE RT REVD CHRIS GOLDSMITH

INTRODUCTION

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People visit church buildings for a variety of reasons. They may be local or visiting from afar. They may be on a family history or war memorial quest. They may be on an organised walking (or cycling) trail or even on a pilgrimage. They may be curious or in need of a place of peace.

But why would you want to welcome visitors and tourists? There are several reasons, all valid, and they might include the following:

- The more people who come in to our church, the more people we can reach with the Good News!
- Our church is a beautiful piece of historically-significant architecture which deserves to be seen by as many people as possible.
- We are in a rural beauty spot where visitors far outnumber the local population.
- They are a useful source of extra revenue.
- The terms and conditions of a grant we received mean we have to open the church for visitors.

The most obvious reason is that the church is called to be a community of hospitality, responding generously to the welcome God gives to us in Christ Jesus. The Bible has something to say about this:

‘For I was a stranger and you welcomed me...’

Matthew 25:35

‘Practise hospitality’

Romans 12: 13

There is no doubt that having a church with an open door strengthens the role of the church in the community and gives opportunities for mission.

This file has been produced to help churches enhance their ministry and mission through reviewing the welcome they provide to visitors. It covers a wide spectrum of ideas and has been produced as a tool to help you think and reflect on what you already do well and identify areas to develop. At its heart is a desire that our communities and visitors should experience our churches as:

- Welcoming places
- Sacred spaces
- Life-giving places

HOW SHALL WE USE THIS?

This is designed to be a working document, for your own use, to record parish development over the years and to add your own ideas and pages. The suggestions recorded here are not exhaustive.

Four areas have been identified:

1 Outside the Church

2 Inside the Church

3 Spiritual Guidance

4 Communications

In addition there is a section on pilgrim routes and ideas for churches to develop their own. On the back page is space for a date to be entered before filing along with a date to review again in the future. Bi-annually is recommended but you may prefer to look at each area on an annual basis.

WHERE CAN WE FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIFFERENT AREAS?

Further resources are available if churches would like to review a particular area in more detail. So whether you want to attract more tourists, make the church more welcoming to children and young people, improve disability access or reassess your communications, the Parish Support Team at Church House can help. Welcome within church services is another subject and we will supplement this pack in due course.

Contact:

parishsupport@truro.anglican.org

www.trurodiocese.org.uk/welcome

NOTES

