

Welcoming and Incorporation

Co-ordinator

The Venerable Arthur Copeman, Archdeacon for Ministry Support

Overall Aim

This Ministry Skills Stream aims to enable participants to understand and engage in best practise in welcoming people to church activities including worship and to be able to incorporate those people into the life of the church community.

Learning Goals

On completion of this Ministry Skills Stream participants will be able to:

- Understand all the factors which contribute to a genuine welcome at a church activity;
- Know how a genuine welcome might be organised at a church activity;
- Know what steps need to be taken to incorporate new people in the life of the church community.

Dates of Stream

Saturdays: 9th April, 30th July and 19th November at Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College. Please check the NSTM website for further information and the programme for each day at www.schooloftheology.net

Successfully Completing Your Ministry Skills Stream

In order to successfully complete this ministry skills stream, you will be required to:

- attend all sessions throughout the programme, or have received permission to be absent from one session only prior to the session taking place, and satisfied the stream leader that aspects covered in that session have been studied in another form;
- actively participate as required in sessions;
- submit the assessed task on the date on which it is due.

Topics

The topics to be covered in the nine sessions will include:

- Why a church would want to be welcoming;
- Common misunderstandings about welcoming in churches today;
- Church buildings - how they can assist us to welcome people;
- How to be welcoming to visitors prior to a church activity;
- How to be welcoming to visitors during a church activity;
- How to be welcoming to visitors after a church activity;
- What it means to be 'incorporated' into the life of the church community;
- The process by which people move from being 'visitors' to 'newcomers';
- The process by which people move from being 'newcomers' to 'regulars'.

Assessed Tasks

Participants will be required to prepare, present to the group, and submit one of the following:

1. A 'welcoming audit' of the church that the participant currently attends;
2. A description of a visit by the participant to a church of another denomination;
3. An interview with a person from a non-church background who visited a church at the participant's request;
4. An interview with a person who now attends church regularly, but did not attend five years ago.

Bibliography

The Welcoming Church: how to welcome newcomers into the local church

Peter Corney Revised Edition Syd APA 1996