

## The Ven Arthur Copeman

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Dear Participant,

Greetings. I am very pleased that you have decided to be part of the 'Welcoming and Incorporation' Skills Stream this year. There are few aspects of church ministry more important than that we appropriately welcome people to our churches and then include them in the life of our parishes. Over the three Saturdays this year we will be working together at how all of us, myself included, can do this better. Each session will involve input from a variety of presenters, video clips, sharing of all of our insights and group discussion.

The first session this year is, as you would be aware, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April at Bishop Tyrrell College. I have invited Mrs Tracey Piggott and Mrs Anabelle Copeman (who is my wife) to conduct the session. Tracey and Anabelle have over the last twenty years been involved in congregations which have successfully welcomed and incorporated many new people. So they come with some experience in this area.

In this first session Tracey and Anabelle will be discussing with you the Christian context of welcoming, why we might not be as welcoming as we think, an audit of physical aspects of welcoming and an audit of relational aspects of welcoming.

For this session I would ask that you come prepared to share with the group the following:

1. What Parish you are from and how long you have attended church there.
2. When, as an adult, you regularly started attending church.
3. What ministries you are currently involved in at your church.
4. One example of a time when you did not feel welcome in church and why.
5. One example of a time when you did feel welcome in a church and why.

You will also need to bring a Bible with you to this session.

I will be leading the session in July.

Your brother in Christ,

Arthur Copeman  
Archdeacon for Ministry Support