



## Parish Visiting

Thank you for being willing to visit member of our congregation as part of the Giving in Grace initiative at our church. Your role is tremendously important; you will also find it to be a very enjoyable experience. The people that you are visiting have asked for the information you are bringing to them so this is not a cold visit or a hard sell. You may not be able to answer every question but it is OK to say that you will get back to people - providing you do that! Anyway, the most important thing is not answers but you, your openness, your commitment to our church, and its mission in this parish.

### What visiting is all about

- We are a family of God looking at our response to Gods love and generosity to us
- People need opportunity to ask questions and talk things through
- There are lots of myths about money and anxiety- visiting helps both reassure and inform
- To pastorally strengthen the family of God

### To Encourage you as a Visitor

- This is the Lords work and your pastoral gifts are important and valued in this service
- You will be supported by prayer and you should ask another member of the congregation to pray for you and those you visit.
- You are visiting members of your church family and they are expecting someone to call to talk things through.
- You will be asked to visit no more than 4-5 people
- You may like to visit in a pair with a friend

### Before you call

- Pray, for those you are visiting, and for God's help and guidance for you
- Act on your own response first. You can only ask others to do what you have done yourself. You cannot speak with conviction about someone else increasing their giving if you have not already done so yourself.
- Make sure you know the name and the context of the person you are visiting - for example, are they on the electoral roll or a member of the Sunday evening congregation.
- Arrange dates and times of visits- possibly when you deliver the brochure or telephone
- Plan enough time for the visit – don't try to rush it or make too many appointments for the one evening
- Familiarise yourself with the parish case statement and other material in the visiting packs

## INTERACTION Parish Visiting 2

### At the front door

- Introduce yourself and accept an invitation in
- Ask what they think of the brochure and the issues the church is trying to address.
- Listen attentively and try to respond to any issues and explain any misconceptions
- Give people space if they need it; don't try to fill any silence with conversation if they are thinking or reading.
- Be prepared to talk about how you arrived at your own commitment if asked to do so, explain why Giving in Grace is important to you
- Be prepared to call back if they need time to prepare their response
- Listen to the things they are saying. There may be another agenda apart from money
- Pass on any pastoral problems to the Vicar with the person's permission
- Respect confidentiality

### Following the visit

- Follow through any issues that need action or response
- Ensure supplementary requests are passed on e.g. a request for a visit from the gift aid secretary
- Let the visiting coordinator know you have completed your visits or any reasons for visits not being undertaken e.g. absence through holiday or hospitalisation, or refusals
- Thank people for their hospitality
- Offer your experiences to God in prayer

### Don't do this!

- Visit during soaps, rugby league or the X Factor on the TV
- Try to carry out the visit at the back of Church
- Get involved in arguments or feel you have to defend the church
- NEVER accept monetary donations
- NEVER give advice about what you think they ought to do
- Pretend to know the answers to questions when you don't - say you'll find out and get back to them - and do