

Supplementary material for handouts

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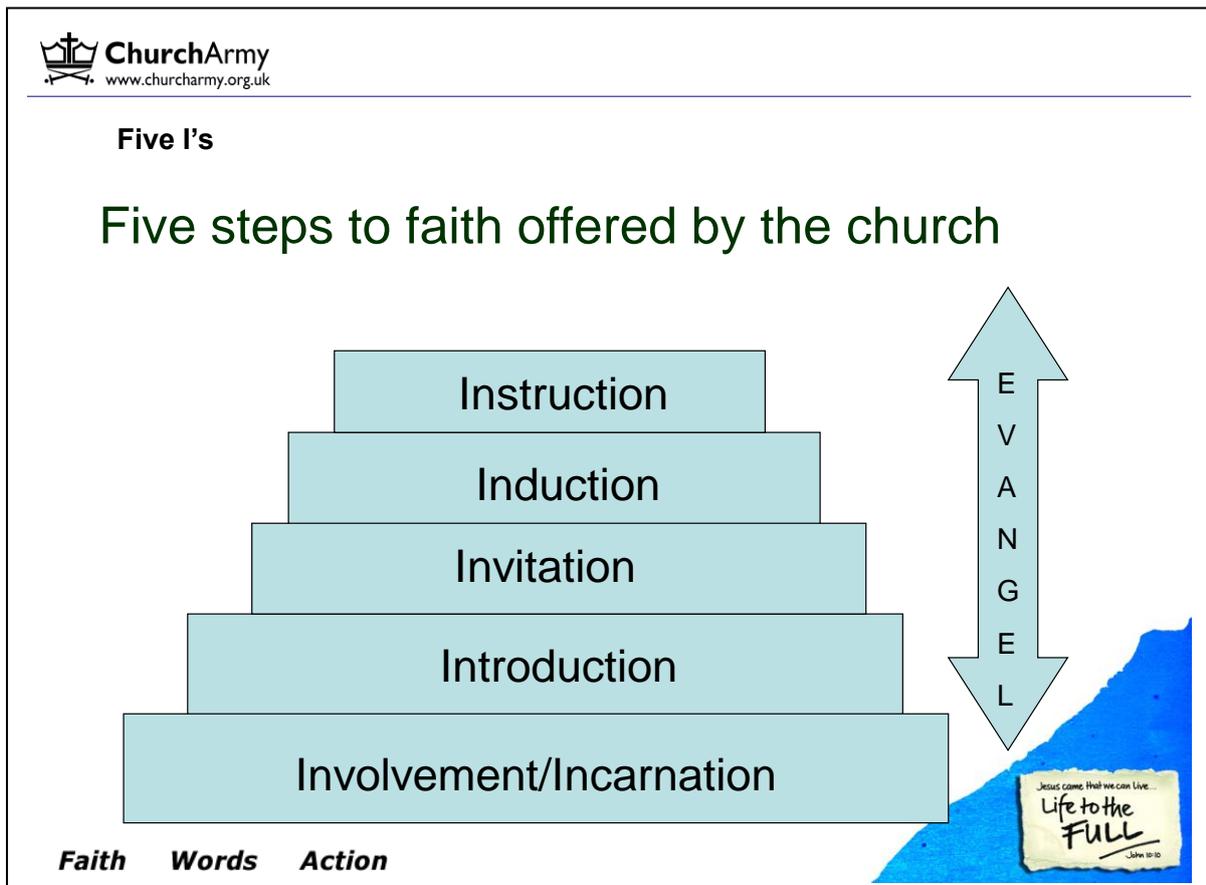
SUPPLEMENT 1: 5 I's & Intentional Evangelism

Five I's:

- An integrated programme of evangelism
- Creating evangelism as a heartbeat not a hiccup

A process of intentional parish evangelism that seeks to do things more evangelistically rather than do more evangelistic things

Because sharing our faith is not an optional extra



Involvement/Incarnation: e.g.

- Getting alongside people
- Working with all faiths and none
- Not hiding the faith but relaxed enough to allow it to shine out naturally
- Not getting stressed because you did not share Jesus
- Practical, hands on, caring

Introduction:

Jesus or the Christian faith is purposefully introduced, e.g.

- Parents and Toddlers begins with prayer and the clergy make a regular visit
- Coffee morning with leaflets/speaker
- Any questions event

Invitation:

At an appropriate moment and in a sensitive manner people are offered an invitation to respond to the call of God upon their lives, e.g.

- At the end of a series of sermons
- At the end of a Christian nurture course
- After a Harvest Supper with invited speaker
- When the moment feels right by any individual

Induction:

Finding an appropriate way of marking the step that has been taken in acceptance of Christ, e.g.

- Baptism or confirmation
- Rededication
- Prayer, laying on of hands, receiving a book

Instruction:

Lifelong learning, e.g.

- Mentoring
- Confessor
- Spiritual director
- Cell group
- Specific discipleship course
- Home group
- Prayer group

SUPPLEMENT 2: A Truthful Story

Once upon a time long ago a beautiful woman was travelling along a wild and lonely place in her horse drawn carriage. She came upon a poor young girl, beaten and half-starved and dressed in rags.

The woman asked the driver to stop and they picked up the young girl and put her into the carriage. The woman wrapped warm blankets around the girl and dressed her wounds as best as she was able. She also gave her some warm soup from a flask and made her as comfortable as possible.

They journeyed on for some time and the young girl fell asleep.

When she awoke she felt and looked much improved.

So the woman began to enquire about the young girl, who was she, how had she come to be left by the side of the road in such a desolate place and in such a condition. The young girl said that her name was Truth and that she had heard of a particular town notable for its vice, for its cruelty and lack of care for the most poor and vulnerable. She felt compelled to go and speak to them and hopefully get them to see the error of their ways. But they laughed at her and began to beat her and eventually tied her backwards onto a donkey and sent of her off into the wilderness. Eventually the donkey collapsed and she was left as the woman had found her, lying desolate by the wayside.

The woman gave the young girl a big hug and drew the blanket around her and offered her some more of the warm soup. The woman then said that from that day on the young girl would always travel with her in the carriage. They would become companions and together they would visit places where people lived in ignorance and seek to show them the error of their ways.

‘What is your name,’ the young girl asked. The beautiful woman replied, ‘my name is Story.’

So from that day to this - Truth has always been carried by Story.

SUPPLEMENT 3: A Back to Church Sunday Year

Making it a heartbeat not a hiccough!

Many churches will have an established pattern into which Back to Church Sunday can find its place. But for those who do not have such a pattern this suggested framework may be of some help.

September: Back to Church Sunday.

September/October: Harvest and thanksgiving time.

November: Remembrance Season. Apart from Remembrance Sunday and All Souls, you could add into this season 'Road Peace' remembering all those killed or injured in traffic accidents: www.roadpeace.org.

December: Advent and Christmas.

January: Welcome to St Ethelfrida's – a short 'course' with a good social content that introduces people to the life of your church. Use key people to introduce the various aspects that make up your church life, the social committee, the mission committee, the treasurer or stewardship link, etc. Take the time to explain why you offer worship the way that you do and the things that are meaningful, even down to things like no robes or robes and colours, etc. Even regulars will welcome such a refresher!

February/March: Lent Course that may also include a Basic Christianity Course.

April/May: Easter Celebrations.

May: Pentecost. An opportunity for community engagement and giving invitations to Back to Church Sunday in September.

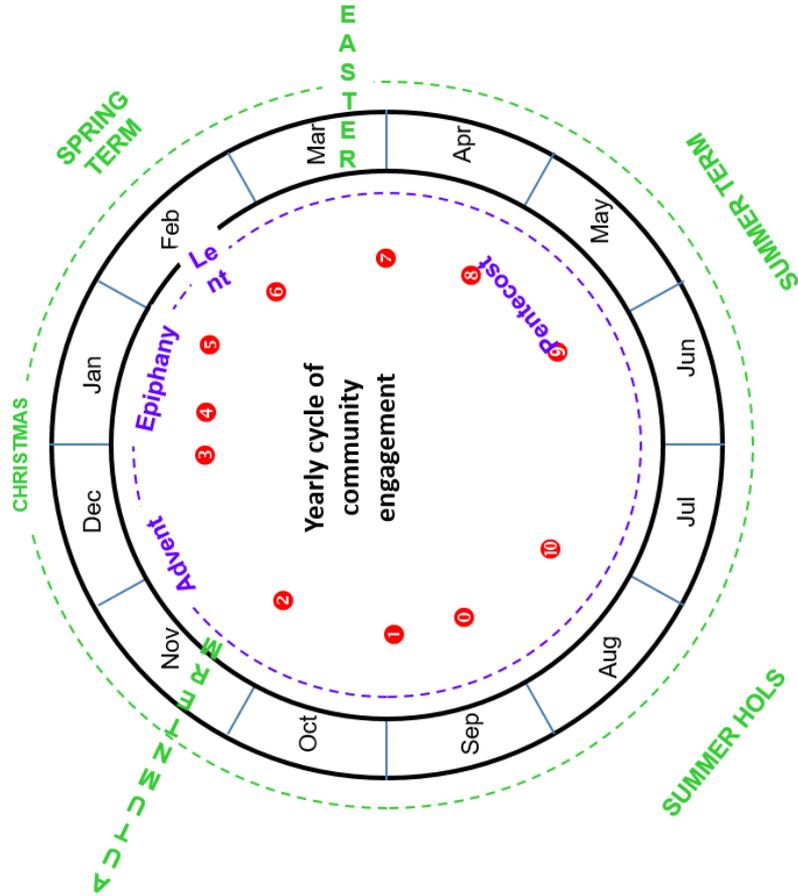
May- August: Annual check over on welcome, church building inside and out, type of worship, etc. in preparation for Back to Church Sunday.

September: Back to Church Sunday.

SUPPLEMENT 4: Rural Year Cycle

AN ANNUAL CYCLE FOR RURAL CHURCH & COMMUNITY

KEY:
GREEN – the world’s view of the year
PURPLE - Church seasons
RED BLOBS – opportunities for engagement



- 0 New school year – begin Alpha or other initiation courses
- 1 Back to Church Sunday & Harvest
- 2 All Saints / Remembrance
- 3 Christmas – hospitality and welcome
- 4 “Welcome to St Wilberts” course – meet the local teams
- 5 Candlemass – just completed tax returns – another Stewardship opportunity
- 6 Lent courses – deepening discipleship AND/OR Alpha (if not done in Sept)
- 7 Easter – baptisms and confirmations
- 8 Church check-up time – are we being effective?
- 9 Summer term – serving the community
- 10 Go to summer festivals – New Wine, Soul Survivor, Greenbelt, Walsingham.

Lammas ~ Rogation ~ Clypping ~ Beating the Bounds ~ Plough Sunday ~ Blessing of Milk Parlour ~ Service for Equine Event
 These can all be part of different rural communities’ yearly cycle
 Find worship resources related to these, and other, occasions, at www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/worship-resources-search?worship=yes

SUPPLEMENT 5a: *Six Serving Men*

I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.
I send them over land and sea,
I send them east and west;
But after they have worked for me,
I give them all a rest.

I let them rest from nine till five,
For I am busy then,
As well as breakfast, lunch and tea,
For they are hungry men.
But different folk have different views;
I know a person small –
She keeps ten million serving men,
Who get no rest at all!

She sends 'em abroad on her own affairs,
From the second she opens her eyes –
One million Hows, two million Wheres,
And seven million Whys!

SUPPLEMENT 5b: Notes on *Six Serving Men*

Inquisitiveness is a part of childhood that we sadly seem to be put to one side all too quickly. We 'think' we know if not all the answers at least most of them and fail to be in awe of new wonders or even to look for them.

Rudyard Kipling encapsulated this child like sense of wonder and questioning in a short poem 'Six Serving Men.'

These basic questions, What and Why and When and How and Where and Who can form the basis of a very informative Parish Away Day as you place these questions alongside all the activities of the Church.

And the perhaps the most important question here, yet the one most often overlooked is 'why.'

Why do we seek to share our faith? Why do we endeavour to worship God in the way that we do? Why should we care about the poor and the marginalised? Why do we pay huge sums of money for the maintenance and upkeep of our buildings and ministry?

It is answering the 'why' that we will be in a better position to begin to address the other 'serving men' and the set of questions they bring into the life of the Church. In particular the question of 'just what do we think we are doing for God's sake?'

SUPPLEMENT 6: Evangelism Quotes

<p>1.</p> <p>Evangelism is leading by example and so encouraging people gently into faith.</p>	<p>2.</p> <p>The most important thing in the world is to bring a person to a living faith in Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>3.</p> <p>To evangelize is to persuade lost sinners to put their trust in God by receiving and accepting Christ as Saviour, and then to serve Christ as Lord in every calling of life and in the fellowship of His Church.</p>	<p>4.</p> <p>Evangelism is the proclamation of the Gospel of the crucified and risen Christ, the only Redeemer according to the Scriptures.</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>Evangelism is a cross in the heart of God.</p>	<p>6.</p> <p>Evangelism is the sharing of gladness.</p>
<p>7.</p> <p>Evangelism is one beggar telling another where to find bread.</p>	<p><i>Your own "definition"?</i></p>

SUPPLEMENT 7: Jane's Story

As a child, Jane attended local Sunday School for many years. However, she stopped going when she was in her mid-teens. Apart from weddings (including her own), baptisms and funerals she's not been to a church service for close to 25 years. But the church in the village where she'd been living for the past 14 years is well-known and she has friends who go to church regularly; and she enjoys some of the social events the church helps with.

A year ago, the local church decided to get involved in Back to Church Sunday activities. As a result, one of Jane's churchgoing friends invited her to go to the special service they were holding. Partly out of curiosity (to see how things had changed since she was a teenager), and partly to please her friend, Kathy, Jane went. It was no big deal: they sang some hymns she remembered and then several contemporary songs and lots of things for children to do. The speaker had been interesting, and it was nice to see she wasn't the only non-churchgoer there. But she hadn't been back again since, although there had been a few church-related chats with Kathy and a few others over coffee & cakes when they met up at the village café every so often.

Just over a year later the church once more hosts the village Harvest Supper. However on this occasion they invited a speaker who talks about a 'Harvest for Africa.' As well as talking of the amazing things God is doing the speaker also speaks about how she became a Christian and what led her to seek to serve God in Africa. She also goes on to give a very clear Gospel outline including an opportunity to respond and say yes to God. Since Kathy is the one who invited Jane Back to Church and their friendship and relationship has not suffered as a result, Kathy invites Jane to the Harvest Supper and pays for her ticket. Jane makes no response to the invitation on that evening; but it does give Kathy a real opportunity to discuss the things of the faith and she knows that in the ongoing activities of the church there will be other opportunities.

Kathy picked up that the speaker at the Harvest Supper was a definite 'BEN'¹ whereas she herself is more of an 'ANN'². Eventually she is able to talk to Jane about her own journey to faith, highlighting how different people can take very different paths. So while Kathy has taken a distinct path from the speaker at the Harvest Supper, it has still led her to the same place of consciously putting her faith and trust in Jesus and wanting to serve God.

Jane is quite intrigued by this, and wonders whether she has always believed in God since childhood. Having chatted to Kathy, Jane realises she wants to find out more about what it means to have faith. As a result, Kathy and Jane decide to go together to the forthcoming Lent Group that will be looking at the question "Who Can Follow Jesus?" with a number of speakers, based around a book recently published by the Bishop of their diocese.

¹ BEN Before; Encounter; Now/Next

² ANN Always know God; Need to develop own faith; Now/Next

SUPPLEMENT 8: Closing Liturgy

This may be accompanied by symbolic use of salt & light (candles)

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16

You are like salt for everyone on earth. But if salt no longer tastes like salt, how can it make food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on.



You are like a light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lamp-stand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.



L: This is the word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God

L: Father we confess that we have at times been unwilling to get out of the salt shaker and into our communities

A: Lord forgive us and heal us

L: Risen Lord Jesus we are sorry for the times we have grumbled in the dark instead of singing in the light

A: Lord forgive us and heal us

L: Holy Spirit forgive us for the times we have kept you locked in the Upper Room and not allowed you to dance in the market place

A: Lord forgive us and heal us

L: May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit forgive us our sins, grant us the time for amendment and bring us at the last into his eternal kingdom. Amen

L: Our Lord taught us to call God our Father and so we are bold to pray...

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and for ever, Amen.

L: Let us continue our journey as the people of God, called to this place at this particular moment in history to minister and serve. May we follow the good example of the saints and martyrs rejoicing in the company of the angels and the archangels and of all the heavenly host. Amen

L: Let us pray together also ...

O Christ in the synagogue at Nazareth; O Christ in the pulpit of our Churches;

O risen and cosmic Christ; O voice of the compassionate and righteous God -

Give us no peace until we become co-workers for your Gospel. Amen

L: May the God who shakes the heaven and earth, whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us, bless us now with power to go forth and proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed.

A: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

SUPPLEMENT 9: Useful Resources

Gavin Wakefield's *Conversion Today* (Grove, 2006) – see www.grovebooks.co.uk/cart.php?target=product&product_id=17132&substring=

Tim Sumpter's *Evangelistening* (Grove, 2012) – see www.grovebooks.co.uk/cart.php?target=product&product_id=17520&category_id=265

Jim Currin's *The 360 Gospel of Jesus* (Grove, 2011) - see www.grovebooks.co.uk/cart.php?target=product&product_id=17464&substring= along with his *Sharing Faith the Jesus Way* (Bible Reading Fellowship, 2011) Both of these are associated with lots more resources at www.jesus360.org.uk

Barry Osborne's *Rural Evangelism in the 21st Century* (Grove, 2006) – see www.grovebooks.co.uk/cart.php?target=product&product_id=17150&substring=

Laurence Singlehurst's *Sowing, Reaping, Keeping: People-Sensitive Evangelism* (IVP, 2nd Ed 2006) remains an excellent introduction to local church evangelism

Back to Church Sunday at www.backtochurch.co.uk and Michael Harvey's *Unlocking the Growth* (Monarch, 2012).

Reviving Rural Ministry is the story of how one East Anglian rural parish successfully employed Back to Church Sunday as an integral part of reviving mission and evangelism. Find this at www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/signposts/item/8752-reviving-rural-ministry

The Big Welcome is a Baptist Union of Great Britain initiative that parallels some of the features of Back to Church Sunday, without the focus on potential returnees to church. Find more at www.thebigwelcome.org/ and www.baptist.org.uk/how-the-union-works/annual-reports/doc_download/900-the-big-welcome.html.

Tell Show Be is an interesting & helpful online tool to encourage individuals to be practical witnesses. Find it at www.tellshowbe.com

Table Talk is a series of resources that can be used to kick-start evangelistically-helpful conversations in small groups. These can be ordered at www.table-talk.org

Talking of God is a useful, freely downloadable resource from the Methodist Church that encourages sharing of faith around the whole idea of sharing our stories. Find this at www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentoworld.content&cmid=3400

Country Way: life & faith in Rural Britain is a high quality magazine produced 3 times yearly by the Arthur Rank Centre. Every issue contains helpful stories of local rural churches involved in mission and opportunities for evangelism. You can subscribe to the printed version, and back issues are available free online. Find all information at www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/publications-and-resources/country-way

The use of *Visual Media (Films, DVD, TV)* as well as other contemporary media as a springboard for conversation-based evangelism is resourced by the following:

The *Bible Society's Reel Issues* - www.biblesociety.org.uk/reel-issues/

Damaris - www.damaris.org

Culturewatch film resources - www.damaris.org/content/index.php?type=6&category=2

The organisation *Leading Your Church into Growth* produces the well-known *Start!* – a DVD-based course to help local churches with evangelism. They have now produced a follow up *Moving On!* – *Start!* is at www.startcourse.org.uk & *Moving On!* at <http://movingoncourse.org.uk/>