

Who visits our Churches?

Our society seems very secular. Fewer than 10% of the population worship regularly in a Church. Yet there is also a lot of 'spiritual searching' going on. Many people drop in to Churches to find peace and quiet or just out of curiosity. This leaflet is designed to help you share the Good News with them.



© www.thebible.net

**'He is the living stone...
set yourselves close to Him so that
you too may be living stones
making a spiritual house.'**

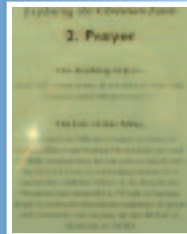
1 Peter 2:4-5

Different Audiences



The objects inside our Churches are full of meaning for Catholic people. However for the vast majority of Britons who have forgotten

the Christian story, they are like a foreign language. Simple explanations can work wonders.



www.istockphoto.com

What next?

CASE is here to help you put some of the ideas in this leaflet into practice. We can provide training days, at no cost, for your parish or deanery, and are happy to offer one-to-one consultation. Related resources can also be found on our website: www.caseresources.org.uk

Maybe you could direct a non-Catholic enquirer to: www.life4seekers.co.uk

For additional resources and enquiries, please fill in and return the reply slip below.

The work of CASE relies largely on donations. Please consider supporting our work which is the only national service of its kind.

(Please tick the boxes as applicable.)

I would like to receive:

Other 'Buildings Project' leaflets

Resources Catalogue

Samples of other CASE / CEO resources

Information about donations / Gift Aid

Name

Address

Post Code

Email

Please return to: **CASE, 114 West Heath Rd
London NW3 7TX**

Tel: **020 8458 3316**

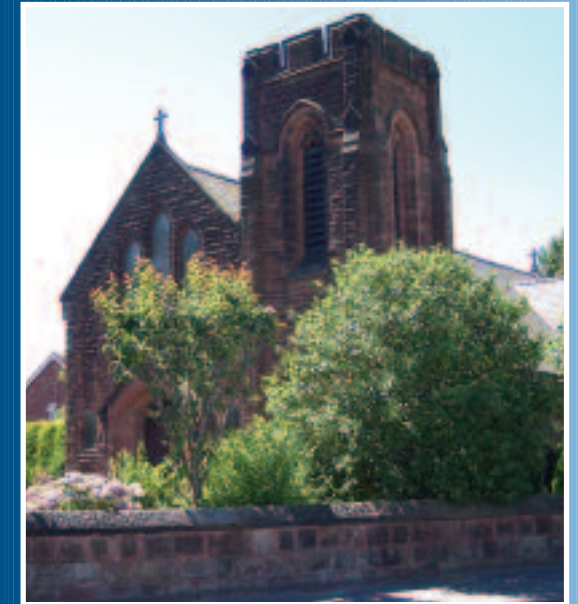
Email: info@caseresources.org.uk

Registered Charity N° 1097482



**Catholic
Agency to
Support
Evangelisation**

Evangelising Through Our Buildings



***'My house shall be called
a house of prayer
for all peoples.'***

Isaiah 56:7

Keeping the Church Open

Security is a big problem for many Churches, but a locked Church is a wasted opportunity, and the more the Church is open and friendly, the more people will use it, and the lower the risk of theft or fire damage.

Some suggestions for minimising risk are:

- Removing valuable or flammable items to the sacristy
- Installing CCTV
- Fitting an alarm to the sanctuary
- Having a rota of people adoring the Blessed Sacrament or ready to welcome visitors



Welcome

Some ways of creating a sense of welcome are:

- Notices outside and inside the Church, stressing that all are welcome to find quiet and explore, whatever their faith or none
- A visitors' book, inviting comments
- Notices in other languages for tourists or members of ethnic groups
- A free gift such as a bookmark or booklet

CASE has further specific resources on forming a 'welcoming group' and is collaborating with work being done in response to the Bishops' *Listening 2004* project. Contact us for more details or download materials from www.everybodyswelcome.org.uk

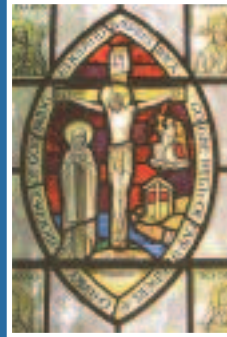
You are welcome...

...especially if this is the first time you have visited a Catholic Church.



Prayer

Why not prepare -with the help of CASE- a simple leaflet inviting visitors to make a prayer journey through your Church? Some of the features of the building that can stimulate prayer are:



- Statues
- Pictures and stained glass
- Memorials
- Banners
- The Word of God
- Above all, the Blessed Sacrament. Bear in mind that most visitors will need special help with this one.

The Life of the Parish

It is important to show visitors that this building is part of the world-wide Catholic Church as well as the local community. Notices and a table at the entrance can focus on some of these features:

- Follow-up literature
- Phone or email contacts, websites to explore
- Parish outreach to the poor
- Parish groups and activities
- Catholic concern for social justice
- Opportunities for healing or prayer that are open to all
- Information about groups using the parish hall



image © Housing Justice

Special Times

Certain times of year or critical events attract more visitors and provide a great opportunity for a special outreach. This could be in the form of leaflets and explanatory cards which include a simple invitation to spend a few moments of reflection in Church.

Some examples are:

- Christmas and Easter
- Mothering Sunday
- Harvest
- Hallowe'en and All Souls / Remembrance Sunday
- National or local crises, such as the Soham murders or the Asian tsunami



detail from *Nativity*
by Fra Angelico

Local Events

From sporting events to rock concerts and exhibitions, every area has some event going on from time to time which can attract visitors, not only to the area, but to our Churches as



well. This is a great opportunity for local outreach. Alternatively, you could organise your own event, such as a flower festival.

The picture below is from one such event which CASE helped parishioners and others organise for the Glastonbury Rock Festival.



What could you do in your area?