

Name of Church/logo

Date

Press Release

Churches give a warm welcome Back to Church

Name of Church, is joining with hundreds of churches across the Church of England in a bid to bring thousands of people to worship as part of 'Back to Church Sunday' this month.

Churches are preparing for a swell of attendants during Sunday Services on 30th September across the Dioceses of Southwell & Nottingham, Derby, Peterborough and 16 other dioceses. The Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham and the Bishop of Sherwood will also be launching the event with balloon launches at churches in Nottingham and Blyth.

This year 1,700 individual churches around the country are taking part in the initiative, which is about 10th of the Church of England.

Last year more than 400 parishes took part nationally, which resulted in an average attendance increase of 12 per parish.

Across the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham churches have been distributed invitations to 20,000 people and more than 75 parishes are taking part.

The Back to Church Sunday organisers have created a number of resources supplied by Tradecraft to accompany the event, including various invitations and posters that churches have been able to use to attract those who have lost touch with the church. Churchgoers will use the resources to advertise the day and invite family and friends who have lost touch with church.

The Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham, the Rt Revd Geroge Cassidy said: "People lose touch with church for all sorts of reasons. But we know some are looking for a way back to church and a personal invitation can make all the difference."

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Notes:

Back to Church Sunday was first trialed in the Diocese of Manchester in 2004, when more than 900 people came back to church. In 2005, the Diocese of Wakefield joined in with similar results.

[Tradecraft](#) was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty. It works with people of all faiths by trading with them directly, supporting them with training and information, and by

influencing policy makers to pull down the barriers which stop the poor enjoying their fair share of world trade.

For further information and photo opportunities, contact: *Name, email, phone numbers*