



SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP 1: Crossing the Threshold

AIM

To involve parishes in reaching out to non churchgoing Catholics through welcoming and keeping in touch with all local Catholics and their families, whether or not they go to church, through prayer, publicity and personal contact

INVOLVE THE PARISH:

THROUGH PRAYER:

Ask the housebound; religious communities; monthly bidding prayers; distribute prayer to parishioners; prayer sponsors

THROUGH PUBLICITY:

- Effective publicity is absolutely key; raises awareness that what we are doing is important.
- The importance of using technology and modern media: Web, email, Facebook, Twitter.
- For every parish running Alpha in the UK, we send out a launch pack including posters, postcard, drinks mat, business cards and a brand new DVD every year to help them in their promotion of their course locally. The KIT Welcome Pack is also sent to new groups.
- Advertise in local libraries, shops, local press, posters in school playgrounds and social centres.
- It only works if there is something for people to come back to – importance of welcoming parishes
- Publicity does not replace personal invitation.
- It is also important that parish secretaries and catechists have contact details for Alpha, KIT and Landings – Baptism and First Holy Communion programmes attract many non churchgoing Catholics who may be checking in with Church after a long time away.
- Leaflets in church for weddings, funerals, Confirmation, Christmas and Easter.

THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT:

Awareness; leaflets for neighbours; welcome ministry; neighbourhood links

HOME VISITING

PURPOSE:

To welcome; listen; respect; make their day!

PREPARATIONS:

Divide the parish into areas; always visit in twos; no cold calling; send each person to be visited a letter from the parish priest telling them of the visit and offering them the opportunity to refuse if they choose

WHAT TO TAKE:

ID; home blessing prayer; parish Information and contact details; invitation to explore faith; calling card; bookmarks/prayer cards for children

WHAT TO SAY:

Check names for parish records; Information or help needed? Suggestions about the parish?
Give literature; leave inviting them to contact you if needed

Further information about Alpha for Catholics, KIT and Landings from:

<http://uk.alpha.org/> www.kit4catholics.org.uk www.LandingsUK.org.uk

Prepared for 26th March 2011 Day Conference About Reaching Out To Non Churchgoing Catholics