

THE WELCOMERS

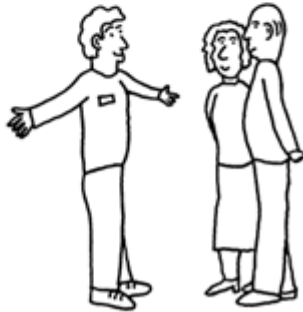
IT IS THE
JOB OF THE
WELCOMERS
TO BE
WELCOMING
AND WEAR
A BADGE



THEY ARE
GIVEN
IN-DEPTH
TRAINING
TO EQUIP
THEM FOR
THIS ROLE



IN THE
EVENT
OF ANY
NEWCOMERS
ATTENDING
A SERVICE
A WELCOMER
WILL BE
SUMMONED
TO DEAL
WITH THE
SITUATION



THERE IS
A ROTA
SO THAT
THE SAME
PEOPLE
DO NOT
HAVE TO BE
WELCOMING
EVERY WEEK



Dear Friends,

I sent this cartoon out this time last year – just after our 4th May 2026 church service, just after our disaffiliation from the NSW/ACT Association, when the ‘All are welcome in this place’ banner was displayed across the front of the church and the church had featured on the ABC evening news.

It was a tongue-in-cheek way of preparing us ALL to be welcoming!

We didn’t see a massive number of visitors the next Sunday, but over the weeks and months that followed we have had the privilege of welcoming many new people to our church – and we are so glad that you have come!

Sunday week - Sunday 3 May - we are celebrating again that “All people are welcome in this place!”

We have six teams doing jobs on the day; setting up tables, blowing up balloons, offering history tours, serving tea and coffee, staffing our info desk, and serving up sausages, and I am so thankful to all of you. (If you would like to join one of those teams – just email me!)

And we are asking everyone to (as you already know) BRING A PLATE! 😊

But most importantly, coming back to the cartoon above, we need to keep on being welcoming!

Here’s a few suggestions for conversation starters!

- "Is this the first time you’ve been here?"
- "What brought you to the event today?"

- “Are you part of one of the groups that meet here?”
- "Do you have any questions about the church or community centre?"
- “How did you hear about this event?”

Again, I don't know if we'll see a massive number of visitors on Sunday 3 May, but it has spurred us on to connect, to make personal contact, with the groups that use our centre through the week, and from speaking to many of them, I know they love the idea and appreciate our welcome.

It will also be amazing for people who are here mostly on Sundays to see everything that happens during the week. Who knows – you might find an activity you would like to be part of? And who knows what future connections and friendships, and inclusive caring community can grow from that?

And finally, it is just another chance to say to our wider community that this church is a place where – as the banner says – *“All are welcome...”*

Please pray for the 3 May, and please bring your plate of food to share, and please come and be part of that welcome!

Grace and peace,

Belinda