

*Name of Church*

*Date*

## Press Release

### Churches give a warm welcome Back to Church

*Name of church*, More than 90 churches across the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham are joining with thousands across the Church of England in a bid to bring thousands of people to worship as part of 'Back to Church Sunday' this September.

Churches are preparing for a swell of attendants during Sunday Services on 28th September across the Dioceses of Southwell & Nottingham and in 38 other dioceses in the UK plus Anglican churches as far away as New Zealand and Canada. Other Christian churches are joining in this including Churches Together in Scotland; the Church in Wales; United Reformed Church; Methodist Church; Baptist Union of Great Britain; Baptist Union of Wales; Elim Pentecostal Church.

Across the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham churches have been distributed invitations to 20,000 people and more than 90 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 will be using to encourage people to come back to 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."

More details on Back to Church Sunday are available on the Diocesan website [www.southwell.anglican.org](http://www.southwell.anglican.org) and the dedicated site: [www.backtochurch.co.uk](http://www.backtochurch.co.uk)

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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, it spread to nine in 2006, 20 in 2007 and 38 in 2008.

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