



A 'local church at work'

F3

A 'local church at work' booklet

Purpose

The purpose of this booklet is similar to the 'faith at work' display (see below).

Content

- The best size for this sort of booklet is A5.
- The booklet should list the occupations and names (in columns) of the paid or voluntary work in which church members are involved during the week.
- Include an introduction that sets out the purpose of the booklet – for sharing work interests, praying for those at work, etc.
- It is important to include (on an inside cover) two or three prayers to support and inspire people in their daily work.

Preparation

- Ensure that the purpose of the booklet is understood and its production agreed by the Church Council.
- Print out cards (postcard size) on which members can write their paid or voluntary occupation(s) and their name.
- Ensure that the congregation is briefed beforehand (if possible verbally) as to the reasons for the booklet and the use of the cards.
- Make clear that the information provided will be made public in booklet form. (This is necessary to comply with the Data Protection Act.)
- Hand out the cards personally, over two or three Sundays, and ask people to put them, when completed, in a box provided for that purpose. If people are away, they should be mailed a card with a covering letter and reply envelope.

Points to note

- This kind of booklet can be of value to any church. It is amazing, even in small churches, how little some members know of the work that others do during the week.
- Choose a person to head up this project who is a capable organiser and able to collate the responses into a draft booklet.
- Ensure that the booklet is attractively produced. With IT resources this can be done inexpensively.
- Make clear that the booklet will *not* include church offices or responsibilities.
- Do not press people to fill in a card if they do not wish their names included. (Some people do not want to 'go public' for professional or personal reasons.)
- If possible, link the launch of the booklet with a 'faith at work' service and/or display (see below).
- Ensure there is a reference to the booklet on the church web site.
- Revise the booklet as needed, but at least biennially.

Resources

A booklet of this kind has been produced by Bakewell Methodist Church (Peak Circuit in the Sheffield District). Free copies from David Clark, Hill View, Burton Close Drive, Bakewell DE45 1BG. (Please enclose a stamp-addressed A5 envelope.)

A 'local church at work' display

Purpose

The purpose of this display is to enable the members of a local church to:

- become more aware of the paid *and* voluntary work its members are involved in during the week;
- celebrate the gifts that God has given them in order to be able to work for the coming of God's kingdom;
- be encouraged to share experiences and insights about how the gospel can be communicated through their daily work;
- support one another in their working lives, not least through prayer and pastoral care.

Content

The display consists of visual items and 'aids' that represent the daily work in which members of the congregation are involved. Some examples are work logos, business cards, letter headings, badges, T-shirts with logos on them, photographs etc.

[Note: Do not include material related simply to church offices and responsibilities.]

The display can be made more ambitious by including artefacts, products, brochures, etc. that represent the daily work of church members.

Include within or around the display a number of short prayers related to 'faith at work'. Put these prayers onto cards that people can take them away.

Preparation

Ensure that the Church Council has been briefed about, and is supportive of, the display and the reasons for it. Choose a person to coordinate the project who seeks to relate their faith to their work, is able to enthuse church members to participate in such an initiative and can ensure good use of the display in enhancing the life and worship of the church.

The display should be set up by those with the skills to ensure that it makes a strong visual impact.

Give church members at least a month's notice of the display and a person, time and place, to whom contributions for the display should be given.

The impact of the display can be greatly enhanced by being linked to a 'faith at work' service or the launch of a 'faith at work' booklet (see above).

Points to note

It is important that the display is well presented with an appropriate title such as '... Church at Work'.

The display could be in the worship area, a church foyer or anywhere else that is easily accessible.

Ensure that a reference is made to the display on the church website if there is one.

It is helpful if the display can stay up for two or three weeks; but no longer or its impact will be lost.

David Clark

[David Clark is a member of the Methodist Diaconal Order.]