

BackToChurchSunday



National Report November 2010



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Executive Summary

Of the 3,500 churches who participated in Back to Church Sunday in 2010, 727 submitted feedback. 618 of these churches submitted feedback in the correct format to be used in this analysis.

Analysis of Quantitative Feedback

The 618 pieces of feedback were analysed to produce the following statistics:

- number and percentage of churches participating in BTCS
- number of extra people who attended church on BTCS as a result of receiving an invitation

Statistical Reliability

In order to ensure that the analysis is statistically reliable, a minimum of 5 pieces of feedback are needed from each diocese and denomination. However, 14 Church of England dioceses, 5 Church in Wales dioceses and 8 other denominations did not submit enough feedback. They were:

Bradford, Bristol, Coventry, Derby, Europe, Gloucester, Hereford, Lincoln, Newcastle, Norwich, Ripon & Leeds, Sodor & Man, Southwell & Nottingham, Wakefield, Bangor, Monmouth, St Asaph, St David's, Swansea & Brecon, Congregational Federation, Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, Baptist Union of Wales, Union of Welsh Independents and Welsh Presbyterian Church.

The statistical data for these dioceses is therefore not representative of BTCS results in the respective dioceses and denominations.

Variables

To draw valid conclusions from the statistical analysis a number of variable factors must first be taken into consideration.

The number of churches participating in each denomination and diocese is an estimate based on the number of Essential Packs ordered.

3328 of the Essential Packs sold can be traced through the Back to Church Sunday order system, and therefore this analysis was based on this figure.

Some churches will have ordered multiple packs, and some denominations/dioceses will have ordered packs for churches in their area that did not have a champion. A number of Essential Packs were purchased by churches directly from Traidcraft. There is no record of which diocese/denomination these were purchased by, therefore participation numbers do not include these packs, and must be considered as a calculated estimate.

A further 497 registrations of participation in Back to Church Sunday were made online by churches who did not order Essential Packs. However registration numbers cannot be included in statistical analysis for the following reasons:

- some churches were registered more than once by different church members, or because of forgetfulness or lack of computer literacy*

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- multi-church parishes and team ministries registered their churches in various ways – some registered once for the whole team/parish other registered each church separately
- a number of churches shared resources – some of them registered their participation independently, others registered once for all churches

*Duplicates could not simply be removed as multiple churches in each diocese/denomination share the same name

The number of churches in each denomination/diocese is taken from a variety of sources.

The number of churches in English dioceses is based on the number of parishes in each diocese according to *The Church of England Year Book 2009*. The numbers of Methodist and URC churches in England is taken from the English Church Census of 2005. The numbers of Church in Wales parishes, and Salvation Army, Elim Pentecostal, Congregational Federation, Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, Church of Ireland, Methodist Church in Ireland, Baptist Union of Wales, Presbyterian Church of Wales and Union of Welsh Independents churches were supplied by the appropriate diocesan/ denominational headquarters.

Scottish Participation

Back to Church Sunday was championed in Scotland by Churches Together in Scotland, and all orders were placed through them, regardless of diocese or denomination. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of Scottish participation.

Feedback not Included in Statistical Analysis

Independent feedback has been included in the report in the format in which it was provided. Independent data was received from:

Lichfield Diocese Feedback

Lichfield Diocese collated feedback independently before submitting this to the Back to Church Sunday. Some of this feedback was not in a suitable format to be used in the statistics in this report, but all qualitative data has been included.

Email Feedback

28 emails were received containing summaries of Back to Church Sunday events in various individual churches, and could not be included in the statistical analysis. Where possible the qualitative data from these has been included in the appropriate diocesan/denominational summaries.

Anomalies

4 pieces of online feedback submitted by churches did not contain numeric data in the correct format and could not be included in the analysis.

Independent Churches

52 pieces of online feedback were submitted by churches who took part in BTCS independently of their denomination. This feedback was not included in the statistical analysis, but qualitative data has been included for reference purposes.

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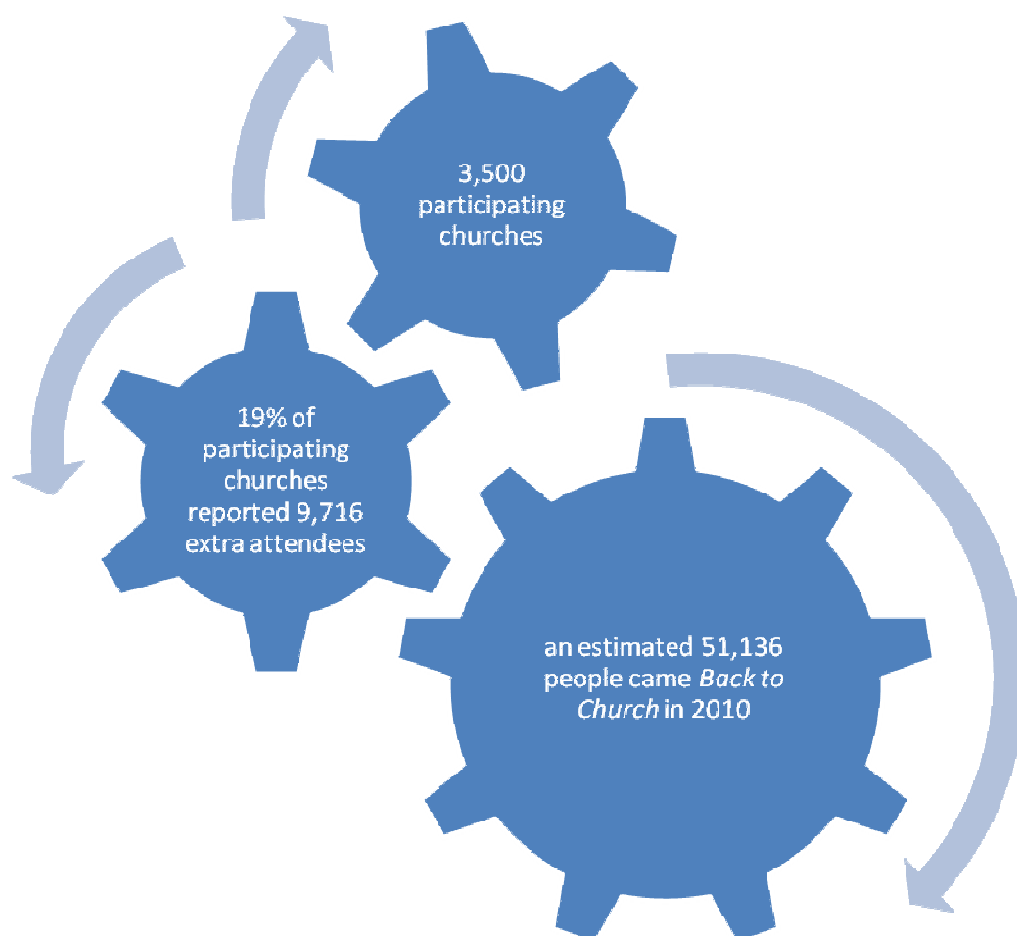
London, Oxford and Southwark dioceses declined to participate in Back to Church Sunday 2010. It should also be noted that the Baptist Union of Great Britain ran Back to Church Sunday independently this year. This accounts for most of the decrease in participation levels compared to 2009. However, a few of these churches ordered packs directly from Traidcraft, and subsequently submitted feedback. This feedback has been included in this report under 'non-participating/independent churches'.

Liverpool Diocese

Liverpool Diocese reported from their own research that 1207 people came back to church across 107 churches in the diocese. 29 of these churches submitted national feedback which has been included in this report, however the numbers for the remaining 78 churches could not be correlated with pack orders and therefore could not be included in the statistical analysis.

National Statistics

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Overall 19% of participating churches reported that 9,716 extra people attended church on Back to Church Sunday in Great Britain. 7131 of these attended Church of England churches. Based on these numbers it could be estimated that 51,136 extra people attended church on Back to Church Sunday. Across Great Britain an average of 18 extra people attended each participating church, and in the Church of England, this figure also 18.

Graphs displaying national, denominational, and diocesan participation and attendance (based on the 3,328 traceable participants) can be found in Appendix II.

Number of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average of Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
3,500	74	92	18	24%

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In England:

- 2,793 churches (13.74% of churches in participating denominations) took part in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 629 churches submitted feedback, 559 of which contained the statistical data which has been used in this analysis (20.01% of participating churches).
- The average congregation size on BTCS was 97. This included an average of 17 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 21.41 %.

In the Church of England:

- 2,137 churches (18.19%) participated in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 453 churches submitted feedback, 421 of which contained the statistical data which has been used in this analysis (19.70% of participating churches).
- The average congregation size on BTCS was 99. This included an average of 18 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 21.69 %.

In the Congregational Federation:

- 53 churches (23.56%) participated in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 1 church submitted feedback containing the statistical data which has been used in this analysis (1.89% of participating churches).
- The average congregation size on BTCS was 85. This included an average of 35 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 70.00 %.

In the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion:

- 3 churches (14.29%) participated in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 2 church submitted feedback containing the statistical data which has been used in this analysis (66.67% of participating churches).
- The average congregation size on BTCS was 76. This included an average of 0 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 0.00 %.

In Elim Pentecostal Church:

- 65 churches (20.38%) participated in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 11 churches submitted feedback (16.92% of participating churches).

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- The average congregation size on BTCS was 114. This included an average of 16 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 16.50 %.

In the Methodist Church:

- 347 churches (5.78%) participated in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 75 churches submitted feedback containing the statistical data which has been used in this analysis (21.61% of participating churches).
- The average congregation size on BTCS was 88. This included an average of 14 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 18.42 %.

In the Salvation Army:

- 122 churches (22.18%) participated in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 42 churches submitted feedback, (34.43% of participating churches).
- The average congregation size on BTCS was 82. This included an average of 7 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 9.75 %.

In the United Reformed Church:

- 66 churches (4.49%) participated in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 7 churches submitted feedback containing the statistical data which has been used in this analysis (10.61% of participating churches).
- The average congregation size on BTCS was 81. This included an average of 13 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 19.71 %.

In Scotland:

- 175 churches participated in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 23 churches submitted feedback, 17 of which contained the statistical data which has been used in this analysis (9.71% of participating churches).
- The average congregation size on BTCS was 85. This included an average of 13 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 17.45%.

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In Ireland:

- 99 churches participated in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 22 churches submitted feedback, 20 of which contained the statistical data which has been used in this analysis (20.23% of participating churches).
- The average congregation size on BTCS was 107. This included an average of 24 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 28.49 %.

In Wales:

- 261 churches participated in BTCS (based on the number of traceable Essential Packs ordered).
- 23 churches submitted feedback, 22 of which contained the statistical data which has been used in this analysis (8.43% of participating churches).
- The average congregation size on BTCS was 76. This included an average of 17 extra people, who were invited specifically for BTCS.
- The average percentage increase in attendance on BTCS was 27.76%.

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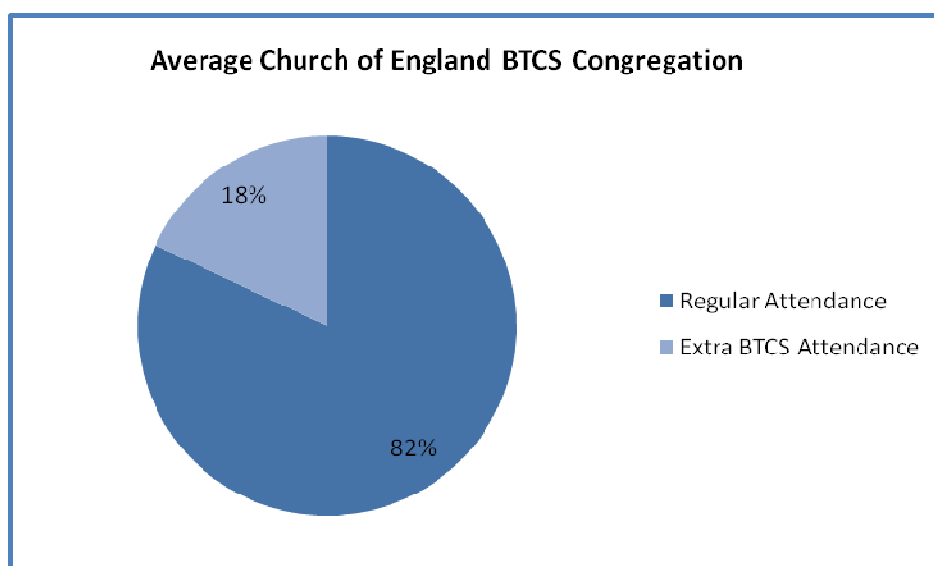
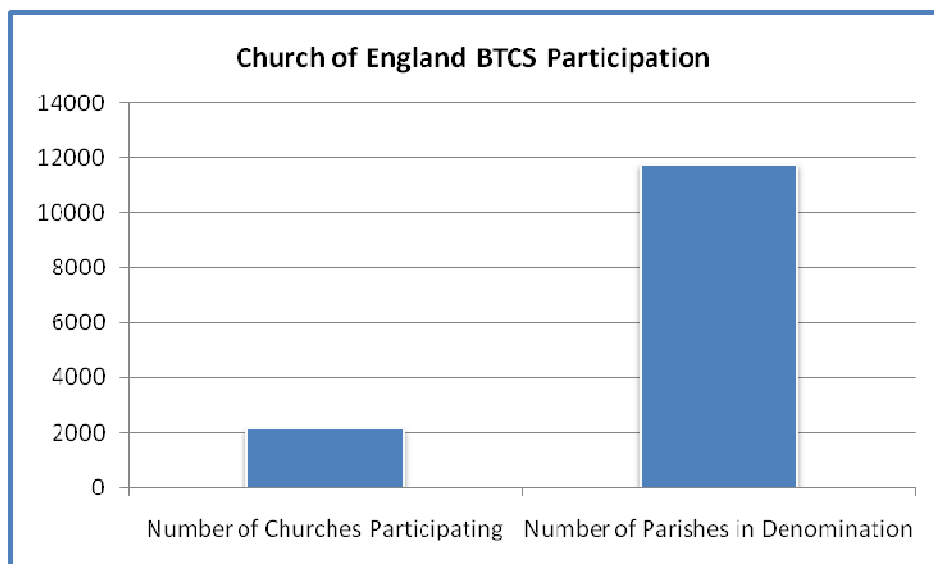
Church of England

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Church of England

421 participating churches submitted feedback.



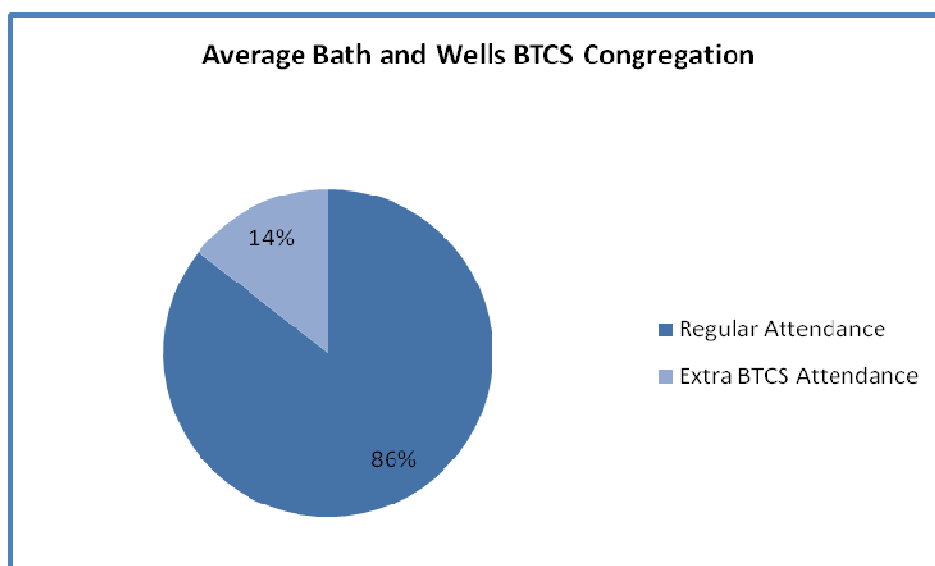
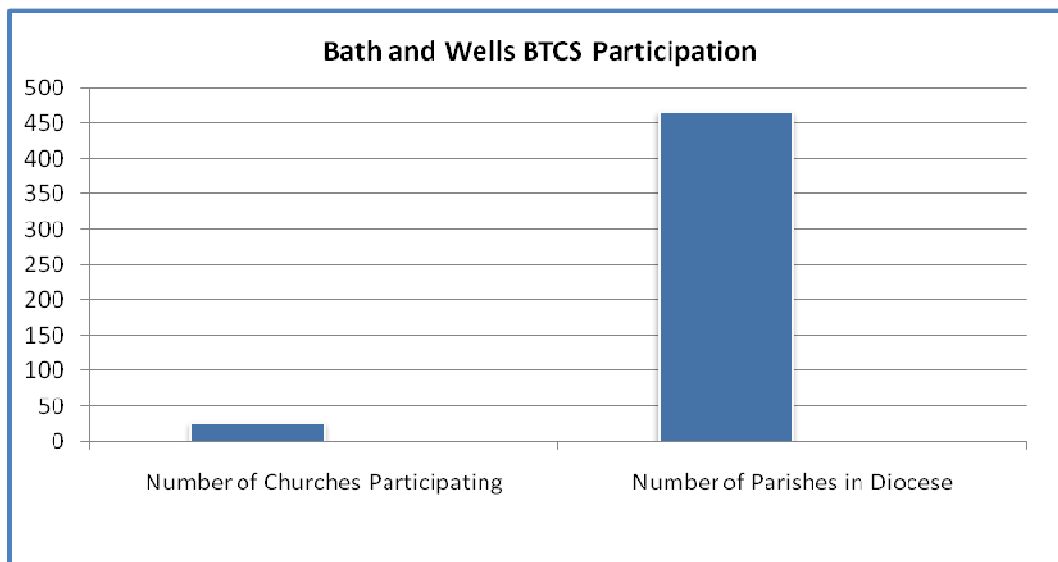
Churches Participating	Churches in Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
2137	11745	20%	81	99	18	21.7%

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Diocese of Bath & Wells

8 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
27	467	6%	93	109	16	16.9%

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Good News Stories:

- The warmth of the welcome that everyone received before, during and after the Sunday morning service.
- The BTCS was combined with our Harvest Thanksgiving services and this year we also added a Harvest Lunch in church after the main service. This encouraged 80 plus to stay in church and to enjoy the fellowship and friendship that was in abundance! This also clearly showed to many that the church building can be a 'fun' place with a lot to offer and also enables new friends to be made.
- None as yet - we are hoping to gather feedback from those whose guests came in the near future.
- Our vicar wrote a new 'Family Communion Service' which was used ... a lovely service with the little children doing the prayers (with adult help) and some singing with guitar during the administration.
- One new mother and child attended for the first time and were the first into worship the following week. They attended both services on their second Sunday and became fully involved in other activities during the day.
- We changed the church into a coffee shop feel and the comments were this is very welcoming and open. The new families took part in the service because it was the harvest service.
- Some of the new attendees said they'd be back.
- People enjoyed the Harvest festival and stayed for wine or tea and coffee afterwards so we were able to chat.
- At least some will come again. The church has been spurred to have several other "invitation" services each year, rather than wait a whole year for the next one.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Website and resources were very helpful and it was also challenging to receive your regular "prompts" that spur us on to new initiatives and activities.
- The weekly "thoughts" with the pictures and words for printing were of great help and ensured that we kept prompting people with new pictures, new ideas and new prayers. One of these 'thoughts' was reduced to A5 size and used as a handout to help people two weeks before BTCS.
- The paper you used for the notices cards was not good as it would not absorb computer ink and we had to use stick-on paper with times and dates etc.
- Having to register and create a user name and password to gain access to areas of the site made it inaccessible for everyone else. Not a good way to encourage people to get involved. Failing to remember yet another set of login details meant I couldn't access some of the resources I needed and I didn't have the time to plough through old emails to find it so we did without. We've managed without this system up until last year and I think this had an impact on the number of churches involved in our Diocese this year.
- The resources were good and useful for a larger congregation but in our small church they were expensive for the use we made from them. Next year we will make our own publicity.
- After the visit of the Pope during the previous week when people had a chance to question their beliefs why wasn't more publicity given to this event? ... an opportunity missed.
- The invitations were suitable, the prayer cards an added bonus but the postcards to give to visitors were not used in our instance as the sermon resource material was not used on this occasion as it was deemed by the preacher of the day to not be suitable.

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- We did find the resource pack to be rather expensive and very Tearfund orientated. It appeared to be rather a "money making scheme", with the idea of a follow up coffee morning even directing towards the use of Fair trade products.
- Too many reminders but resources were good.
- Ordering needs to be better. It should be possible to go back and order additional resources once the first order has been made. Also once I had ordered, I could not later log in to get other resources. Name and password were not accepted, and there was no way to reclaim them, as in other sites.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Everyone loved the colour scheme used for the promotional papers etc. Very striking and very distinctive.
- A more accessible web site and more downloadable resources such as photos and stories of past BTCS events. The rolling selection of photos on the site was great and it would be good to be able to download these to display in church.
- It should be called 'COME to Church Sunday' which would be easier to explain.
- Perhaps have a nationally chosen theme but leave each Church to develop its own invitations and posters.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	3
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Wanted to be part of a nationwide event.
- A desire to win people for the Lord.
- Needed to re-establish contacts in our benefice.
- My son was invited back to church last year, in reading, and still goes.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

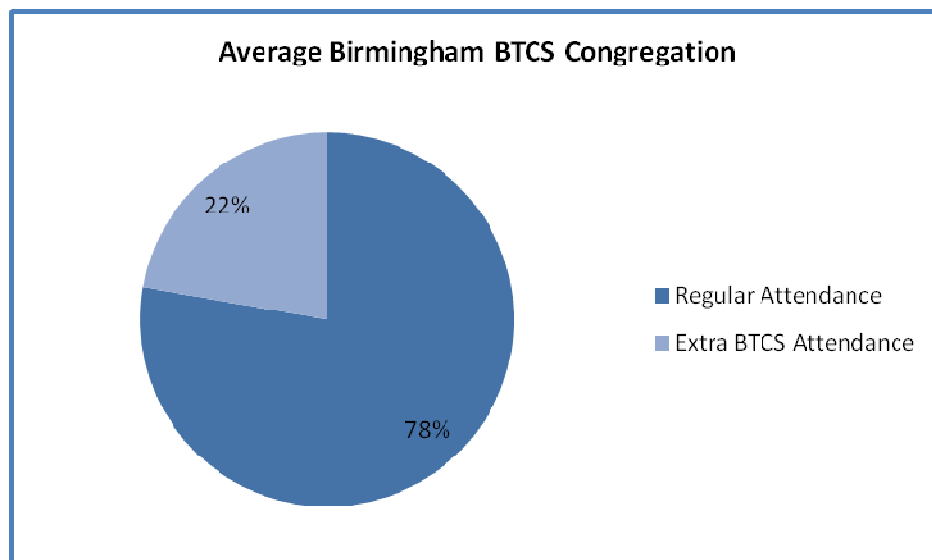
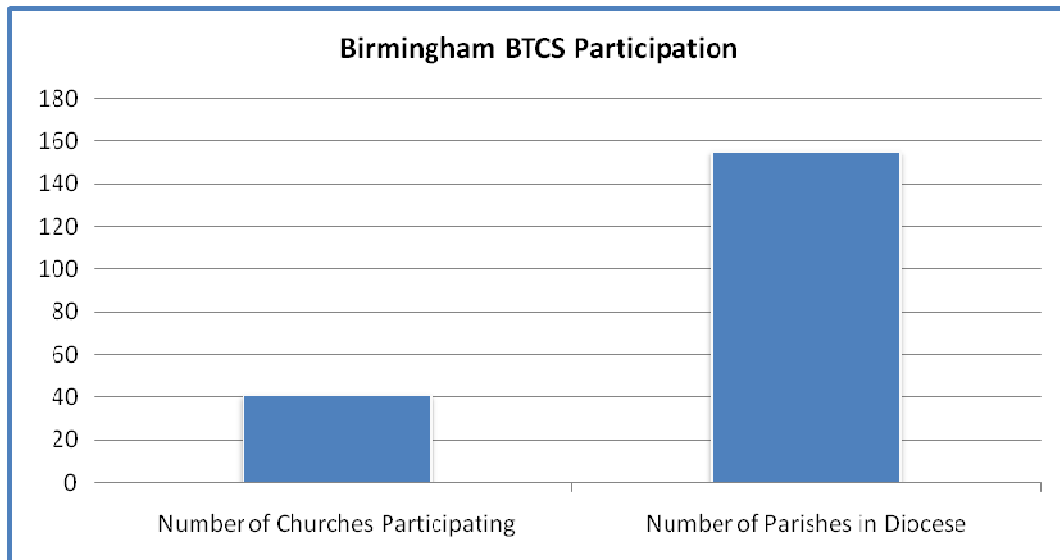
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	2
2004	
2005	
2006	1
2007	2
2008	3
2009	5
I Don't Know	1

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Diocese of Birmingham

9 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
41	155	26	85	109	24	28.6

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Good News Stories:

- It is good to encourage people to invite friends, even if they don't come!
- This year we actually had no genuine new attendees. However we did have a number of people return after a few months away and the buoyant feel of the service was an encouragement to the rest of us that the worship we offer is welcoming to all and pleasing to God!
- One boy of 11 came on his own - his mother was working - and really enjoyed the service and the fellowship afterwards.
- One lady said she had come to St Hilda's many years ago and had been on six successive Sundays where no-one spoke to her! She went away but came back to give us a second chance - and she said we had passed with flying colours. In fact, she came back on the Sunday evening for a quiet Iona communion service.
- A teenager who came with her mum said she wanted to be confirmed.
- Two baptism families returned to church after having had their sons christened earlier in the year.
- Some members of the congregation mentioned that they had heard the radio advert and thought that it was very good. And all were pleased to see a good number of visitors. One family even said that they will start coming back - we will see!
- It gave people a reason to join us, and then come back the next week.
- Last year, we invited a friend who used to come to church when her son was in the choir. She now comes regularly and has brought back her daughter. They both now help on the money counting rota!
- Interestingly though we sent over 50 invitations out to baptised, married, "lapsed", etc, these yielded 1 family. However we did have more of those who we already know (but don't usually attend EVERY Sunday). It was therefore really good to worship "in numbers"
- As we had an Alpha lunch on Back to Church Sunday of which we had had 30 adults and five children, our Back to church Sunday was the following Sunday, and we combined Parade service Harvest and back to church
- We had a scarecrow competition on the Saturday before and gave out prizes on the Sunday with an Auction of harvest gifts for Troop Aid one of the Parish schools, local Ley Hill school won the Scarecrow competition, and the Auction with Raffle and donations raised £289.80 for Troop Aid.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Great resources.
- The 2009 give away card had a much more interesting and fun picture.
- This year's suggested theme and reading did not appeal. We were celebrating Harvest anyway so used material for that with a back to church theme woven in.
- Generally speaking, the resources were again very helpful. In particular, this year the postcard New Day was very appropriate and provided plenty of food for thought for reflection, sermon and prayer. So thank you!
- One comment, could the symbols for the different phases of the service be updated a little? Not sure about the sad and smiley face for confession and forgiveness, for example.
- Video from the multi ethnic church was great and we used it to advertise the day and encourage church members to invite friends and family. Thank you also for having printed material that could be used in a multi ethnic context (2 years ago we couldn't use your material as it was so 'White'!)

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- We didn't use your order of service - not suitable for our use. Did however use the Power Point backgrounds.
- We found that there was insufficient uptake on the invitation cards.
- Regarding the posters, I could not specify landscape or portrait: I received landscape, but portrait would have been more suitable for our doors.
- We made good use of your suggestions for the service and the gospel reading, although we did not use the newspaper, radio or other resources. People are becoming familiar with the concept.
- All of this year's resources were excellent.
- A resource to add photographs.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- There were a number of new people in church, but most were probably not due to BTCS. It was more successful last year than this. I think there is a dilemma about whether to invite the same people again even if they have not attended in between, or just to focus on different people.
- Push the fact that for churches like mine which are essentially middle of the road Anglican, BTCS can be part of the whole push to changing the minds of a congregation, simply by creating a culture of invitation.
- We welcomed people with fresh real coffee, tea and juice and doughnuts and that was very well received. We purposely kept the service 'light' and appropriate to 'all age'.
- Welcome T shirts were worn by a team of welcomers and clergy who were in place half an hour before the service was due to start.
- We avoided the use of a creed so as not to ask visitors to declare something they may be uncertain/uncomfortable with.
- It is all in the planning! But you will know that. The timing of the first email from you was about right, but could have come earlier, because our vicar was so busy he handed the organisation straight back to the BTCS team.
- Could a post card be produced: on one side space for an address and the other side the invitation with space for the place of worship, time, etc?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	3
Found it successful in the past	6
New church leader	0
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Tried it two years ago and found it not very effective, decided to give it another go this year and put a lot more focus on congregation inviting families and friends and benefits obvious

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Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

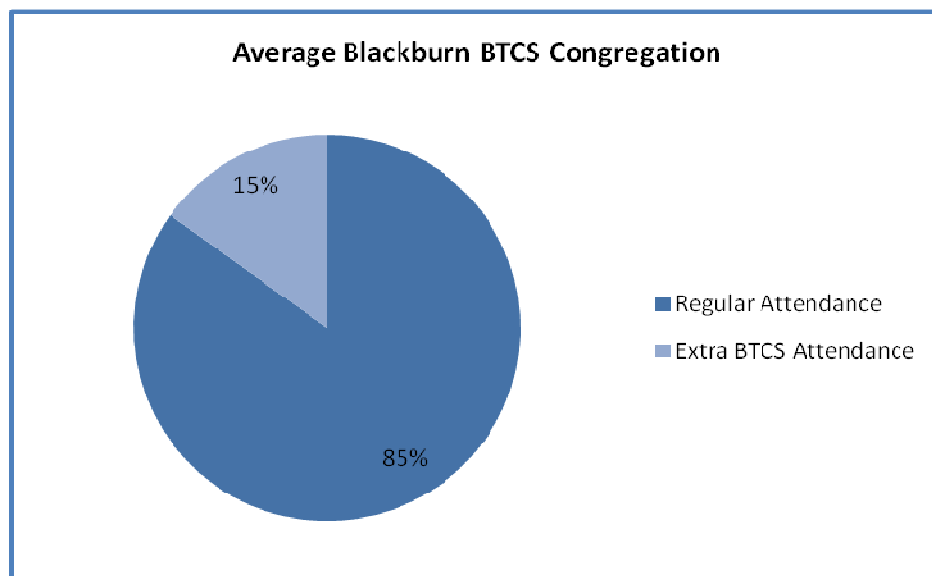
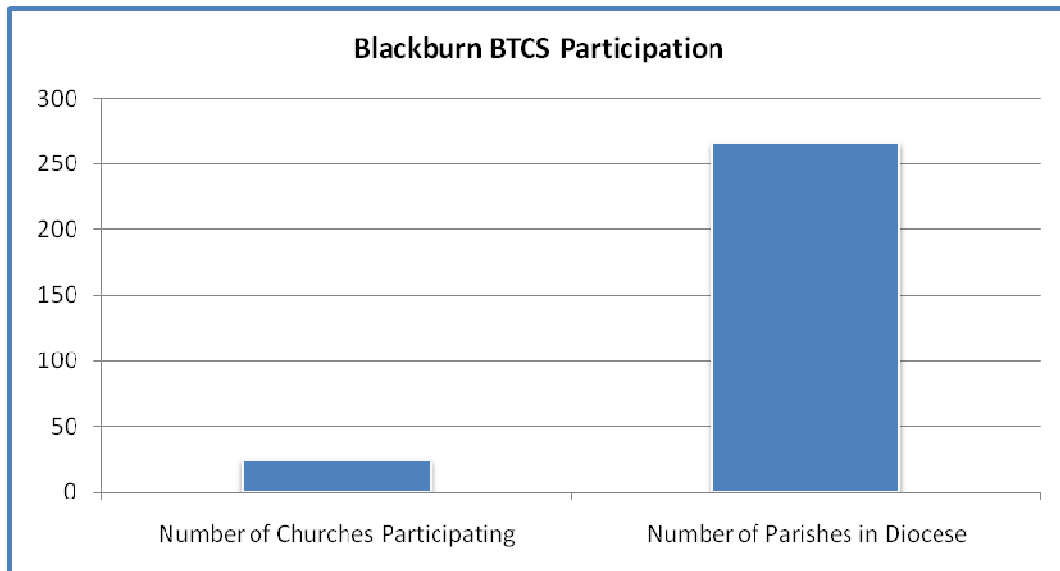
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	1
2008	5
2009	7
I Don't Know	0

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Diocese of Blackburn

9 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
24	266	9%	142	160	18	12.4

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Good News Stories:

- I have just moved to the parish and planning was too hurried and so I feel we did not do justice to the event, but will be working towards it for next year.
- Very positive comments from new people, many say they are returning - and some even came to the Costa Church on the same night!
- One man came who said that he'd never been to church in his life before, which was great. He said he'd enjoyed the service and would come again.
- Back to Church Sunday coincided with our new Messy Church which was launched on the 21st. A family, who have lived in Lancaster for 7 years, came to Messy Church, the first time they had been to St Thomas's, and were invited back on Sunday, came and really enjoyed it and are going to start coming regularly.
- It is difficult to put an exact number on how many came as we always have visitors. However one ex member came back after 15 years absence.
- It also proved a good social and bonding time for our new walking group who spent a very wet Monday putting invitations through every home in the parish, some 3,500.
- General appreciation of a special service with a fellowship meal afterwards
- Three of the new attendees were former church members who for whatever reason seemed to have lapsed. Thanks to "Back to Church Sunday" we were able to bring them back. Seeing that we are in an interregnum, we succeeded beyond our wildest expectations.
- Yes - one couple returned the following Sunday!

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- All useful - keep the link videos coming!
- A few more suggestions regarding service and sermon ideas and tying in with the card could have been useful.
- We felt the advertising was poor. We felt that the "Back to Church Sunday" should have been far more prominent as "Come as you are" did not say anything to the casual passerby, particularly as the colours were so similar. The day and date should have been far more prominent; they seemed to take almost background roles to the "Come as you are".
- Hymns/Songs on the Theme passage.
- More ideas/outlines on the sermon.
- Ideas on a special activity that could include the children.
- Getting hold of "Essential Resources" was not particularly easy. Better information and organisation would be greatly appreciated. Why not centralise where to get resources, or get Dioceses involved?
- Strangely, despite a practical demonstration of how to tear the invite down the perforation and use one half for prayer, some people still gave both halves to their invitee!

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- See previous answer re advertising. We also did not notice any national initiative although we may have missed something.
- Explanation that 'Back to Church' is for everyone, not just the lapsed
- It would be appreciated if parishes are given more adequate time to prepare. Late September is Harvest season!

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Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	4
Found it successful in the past	3
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	0
Recommended through another church	1

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

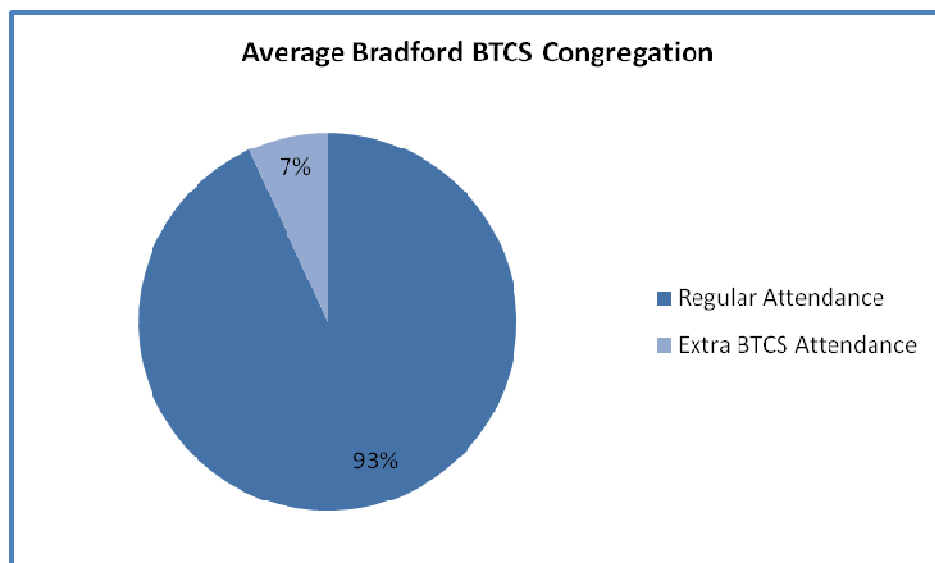
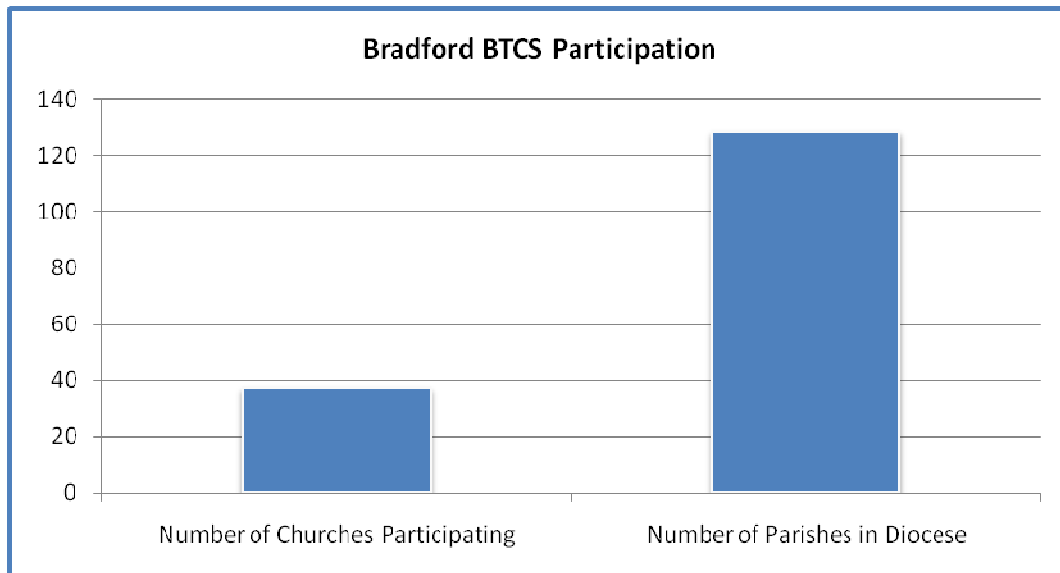
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	4
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	1
2008	2
2009	4
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Bradford

2 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
37	128	29%	145	156	11	7.3%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- There was a general sense in the regular congregation that BTCS enabled an easy 'in' to inviting friends and neighbours. The message was taken on board that success was measured by whether or not the invite was offered and not whether the invite was accepted.
- Two ladies who came said they had very much enjoyed it, and would be coming again sometime.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Good resources and website – thanks.
- The DVD's were useful for preparation purposes, especially the ones showing the local churches and the response afterwards....

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Is it possible to consider renaming it - some of our regulars felt that they would only be able to invite people who they knew once attended but had stopped. They felt that for those who had never been before inviting them back was a misnomer.
- If 'success' is 'inviting' (rather than whether they come) and we are trying to help the church become more invitational, then the feedback should include 'How many people in your church invited someone?' I think that question will show up what is really going on...this is where the whole exercise needs strengthening.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

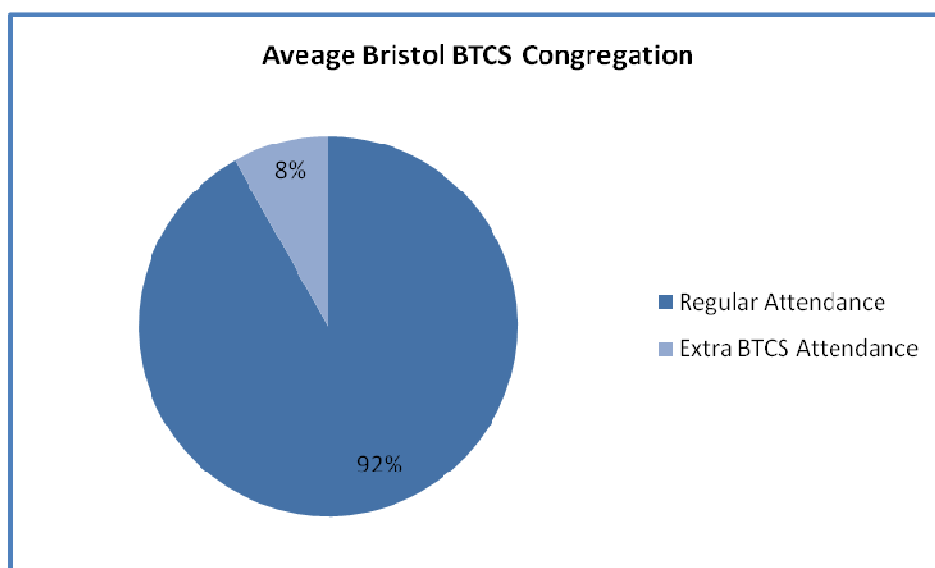
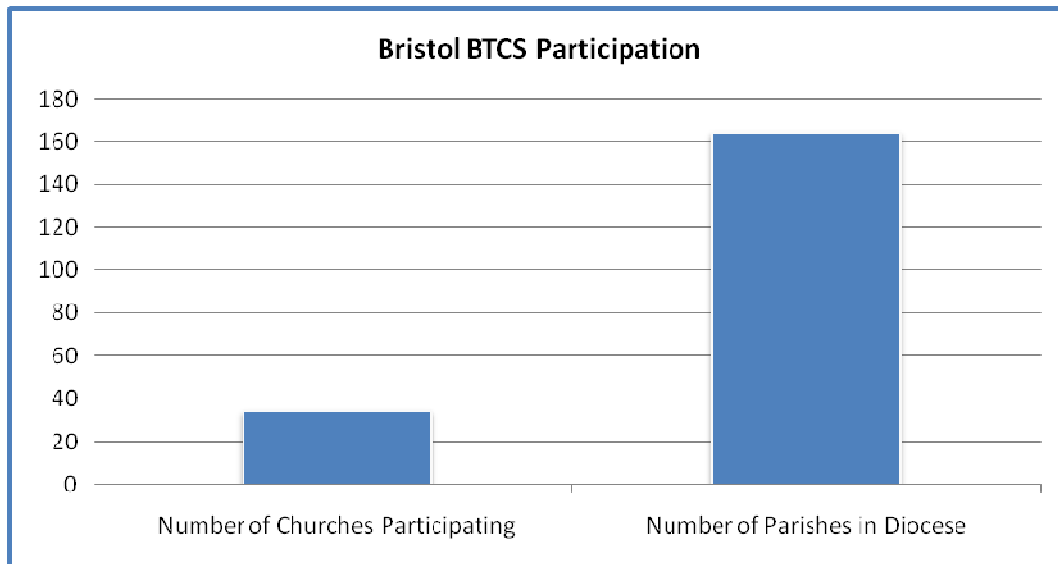
Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	1
2009	2
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Bristol

4 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
34	164	21%	85	93	8	8.9%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- People liked the picture and the postcard. I made a poster of the picture and put it onto a flip chart stand, so we could all say what we thought it represented. It seemed to appeal to all ages.
- The 10 is a bit of a guess, and it is difficult to know how many of the extra people were because of Back to Church Sunday - we always have quite a number of visitors/newcomers. I think the overall response was very positive.
- One visitor thought our church was vibrant and alive - and that was just the feeling!
- We sent personal letters to couples who had been married in the church over the last year as well as those whose banns were read, because they lived in our parish, but were married elsewhere.
- One couple attended the back to church Sunday and were also there last week at our Harvest Service. We hope that they will continue to attend.
- We had seven children, two adults and a baby.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- I ordered far too many invitations, and will probably use the same design again next year, rather than order new ones, so it was good that the date was not already printed on them.
- It would also have been nice to give people a bit of background to the initiative, perhaps on the invitation itself, so that we could have given that out too.
- They are good
- It is always a problem with resources, as like most churches, finance is always an issue and I personally feel that several large posters advertising the service would be enough and not print invitations.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- The only thing that we wondered was whether it should be called Come to Church Sunday, as the current name implies that you have to have been an attendee in the past.
- One of the things I like about it is that it is 'low energy'. That probably sounds odd, but it comes early in the autumn and apart from preparing publicity and thinking a bit about the service and the welcome, it does not demand any more of people than the suggestion that they invite friends to come with them to church.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	2
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	0
Heard about it from a church member	0
Recommended through another church	0

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

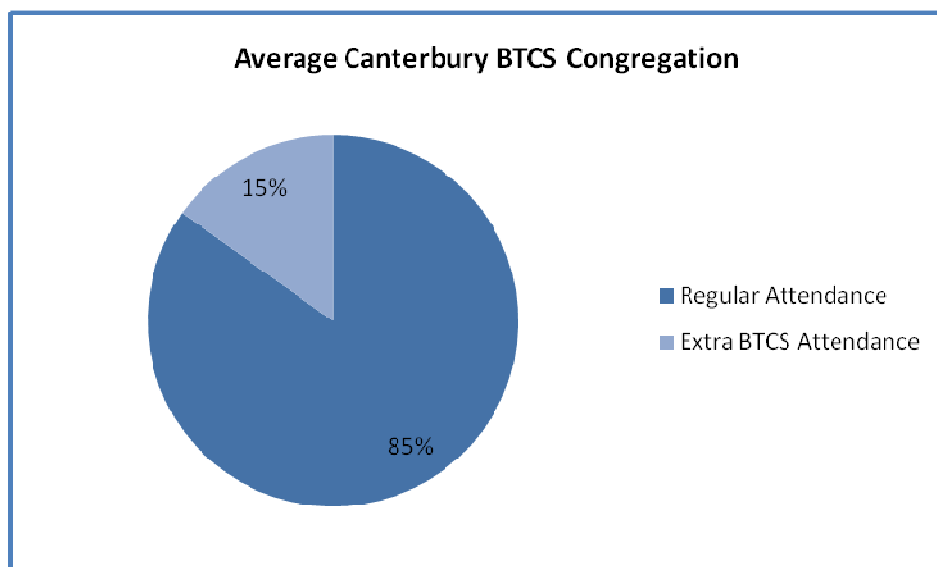
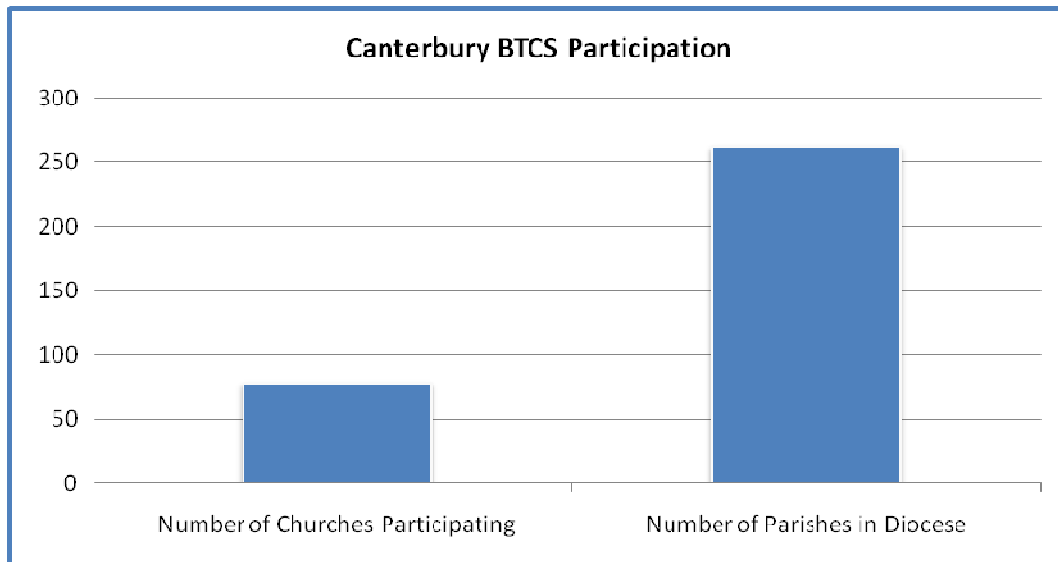
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	1
2009	3
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Canterbury

15 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
78	262	30%	90	106	16	17.8

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Very pleased to be there.
- Positive service and pleased with atmosphere. Stories to follow, as this was reported to me.
- Emily(8) and Alice (6) Jepson both invited a friend or two from their class at school they came to church on Sunday morning and brought their parents too.
- Fantastic that children can be involved and are very enthusiastic to be part of this campaign.
- We ran our evening service alongside a guest service so with an invited Christian musician Anna Lamplough the whole event helped people to be able to invite people back to church.
- Well the whole congregation was inspired to welcome many people were invited ranging from homeless people to band members of a congregational member. They may not have come or been able to attend that Sunday, but they know they are welcome!
- We had 100 bacon butties after the service and we tripled the number of people staying for coffee (and this time bacon butties) and many people spoke to others for the first time... So result was brilliant! Thank you very much.
- A couple who came back last year celebrated 12 months of coming back, another lady couldn't wait for Back to Church Sunday and came back three weeks ago.
- The last Sunday in September is traditionally harvest festival for us, so both last year and this we have combined the two and followed the service with a (free) ploughman's lunch in the Village Hall. We have therefore invited our guests to both events.
- Mike, who 'came back to church' last year with his wife, and has come every Sunday since, was our greatest ambassador this year. Colin, who Mike invited this year, said, "I always wondered what went on in there, but I never thought it was for people like me, but then Mike invited me and I thought, why not? I must admit I was a bit nervous when I first got in there, but then after a bit I thought, this is OK! We're all in the one family aren't we? Everyone was so friendly and lots of people came and talked to me. I'll certainly be back!"
- M, an elderly widow, also came back and was very moved by the experience. She rang today, and told me that she went home feeling warm and loved, and asking about the possibility of a lift to church on Sundays.
- We have not done this previously - tiny village, attendance under 20 normally, but 48 came. We made it non-threatening by not having the usual Communion. We dressed the church for harvest and had a Songs of Praise with visitors asking in advance for a hymn, and being asked to introduce it in church. Then a bring and share lunch in the Village Hall (40 came, food to spare). Folk asked for more informal Songs of Praise occasions.
- We also launched a new contemporary worship service on B2CS which attracted some new people who would otherwise probably not attend our regular services. Although around 20 extra people attended church on B2CS most of them were very occasional attendees and I would say that the response to B2CS was poor (but remembering that 'success is one).
- One person came who I thought would never come inside the church, EVER. I had declined to do his daughter's wedding in church some years ago (before the new qualifying connections). He has since moved back into the village and every time we have met since, there have been icy cold stares! I asked him once fairly recently if he had forgiven me - he said NO AND I NEVER WILL! It was with great joy in my heart that he felt able to come to church, at last there was forgiveness - and more than that, he said he would come again.
- Someone who comes occasionally said that BTCS was a good reminder to come back to church.

BackToChurchSunday



- As soon as people started coming into church there was a wonderful 'buzz' - our prayers were answered.
- One lady invited a friend and waited faithfully at the back of church for him to come. He didn't. However, he did turn up the next day and chatted to her about God. She is planning to bring him to a service this Sunday.
- A family who attended their vow renewal classes nearly seven years ago where in church on this special Sunday and after we told them of life at church daughter joined youth group this week.
- Pleased that some of the 'returnees' were younger families rather than older folk.
- Regulars said that they felt uplifted by the experience of the day.
- New attendees said that they enjoyed the experience and were going to return.
- Four people came back to Harvest Service the next week.
- It's always hard to know whether people came because they were invited or because they come roughly one every four or five months anyway, but I guess we probably had about five folk coming specifically because they were invited.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- It took me a while to 'get' the New Day card. Perhaps more explanation.
- Would have liked DVD to encourage members to be involved.
- I do feel you need to have a DVD made of suitable visual clips and advertising stuff in order to promote it and use in the back to church Sunday programme. The Video stuff really was a difficult job to download file convert and then run in PowerPoint. Whilst real it was not of high quality.
- In the Salvation Army the T shirts may not need to be in the pack.
- The card for people on the way out, in our opinion, could be improved. The back could have had something to pray or reflect upon. The main text 'come and see' did not reflect the picture on the reverse which seemed more, to say Look the Lamb of God. While the text itself was smaller than the web site address!
- Good cards, posters but an A1 size would have been a useful addition to the pack
- Easier access, some people couldn't get hold of all the information that the website had.
- Never quite sure what to do with the postcards. This year we gave them out with the service sheet etc when people arrived.
- The invite etc I think works well - though this year we found some people brought them with them and handed them in to the sidemen, as a sort of ticket.
- Very helpful, able to blend it with Harvest.
- We were broadly happy with the resources available (invite cards, posters etc) and did not use any of the 'sticks of rock' resources. It's difficult to know what other resources might help. However, I wonder if the posters can have an image that 'speaks' of going to church or has a more challenging 'strap line'?
- Last year we did a very informal service (a 'Songs of Praise'). The PCC were disappointed by this and so we used the service template and this was very well received and I had good positive feedback.
- The posters and invitations were excellent. I used the sermon outline and the picture card - both good and went down well.
- It would be good if it was easier to produce a banner based on the logo. The need to have one approved and the low resolution of the downloadable graphics made it difficult.
- All good - adapted theme for own advertising - incorporated a picture of some of the regulars just to show we are as mad as everyone else.

BackToChurchSunday



- Posters good and eye catching - although I heard of one 6-year-old black girl who said "Is it only for white people then?"
- Found the service resources rather poor and lacking creative options, and the service outline leaflet not easy to re-arrange.
- Also the give-away cards were more suitable for urban situations than rural.
- First time we've used these resources - all positive responses.
- 'Welcome' tee shirts much admired by all (as it happened both lesson readers were wearing the tee shirts - so even more exposure!)
- Postcards given to all attendees as a memento of the day - much admired and appreciated.
- Videos were OK. Instructions on downloading them to show any time would be helpful. More stories, short (under 3 minutes) would be good.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Keep it simple as you do, that's good.
- The invite is powerful however we do realise that Christians have their friends mostly in the church and so for some the challenge is difficult. Training package in how to make friends or how to invite would be good and perhaps more in the publicity to focus on some peoples link with the church already e.g. Baptism, Dedication, Wedding in Church etc.
- Product recognition was good with the silhouettes, local and national can we use it next year too?
- Some mutterings among some of our smaller parishes (we are 8 rural parishes in the benefice) that the initiative will feel rather stale if we just do the same thing on the same Sunday every year - and invite the same people (because in a tiny village there isn't a lot of choice!) And if you have a monthly pattern of services, and Back to Church Sunday always falls on the fourth Sunday, the diet will be the same each year. For us that is Family Service in the morning and BCP Choral Evensong in the evening. We would quite like to be able to invite people to a parish Eucharist Sunday, when a larger proportion of the whole church family worships together. Might it be worth considering varying the Sunday in future years?
- Keep on keeping on - I think God's blessing is in this and you should be encouraged that you are doing a good job.
- Offer better service resources, selection of readings to choose from, collects and post communion prayers, perhaps one or two sets of creative intercessions that involve people more than just words.
- We are in an interregnum and all our lay volunteers really welcomed using purpose made material - it gave us some much needed structure and focus. By all means build on what you are offering - but keep the basics there will always be groups like us who need them.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	8
Found it successful in the past	7
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

BackToChurchSunday



Other Responses:

- From friend in Australia!

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

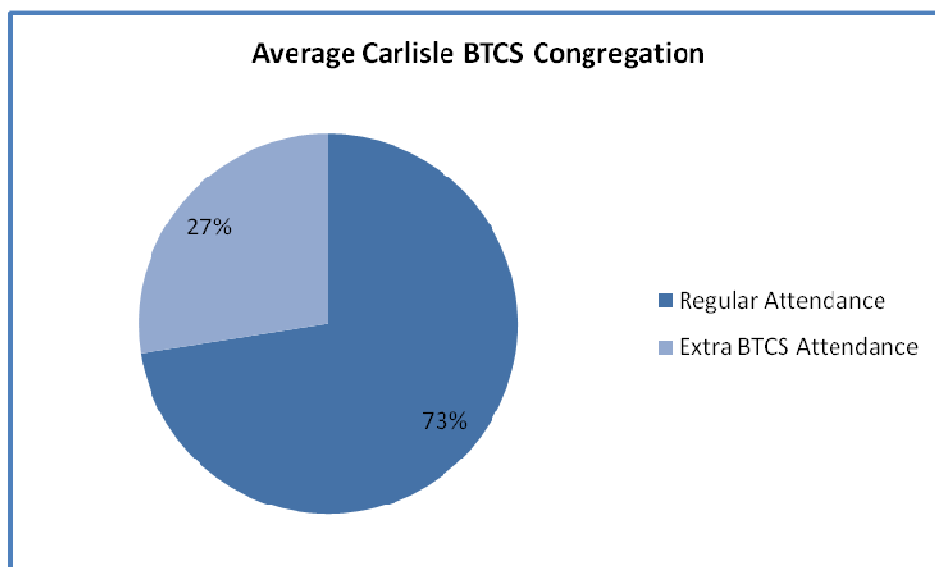
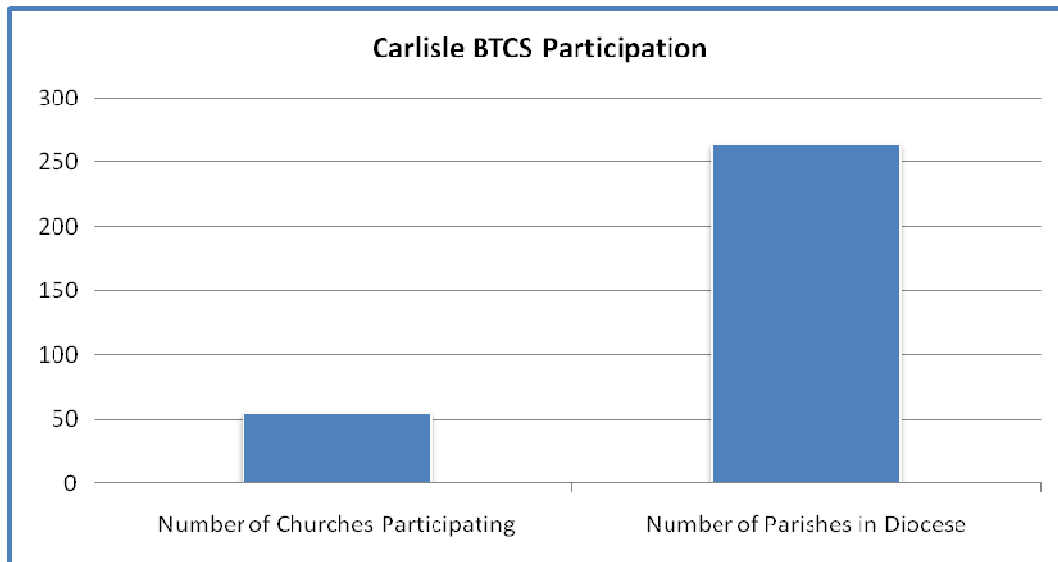
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	4
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	10
I Don't Know	1

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Carlisle

9 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
55	264	21%	68	94	26	37.8%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- 'you feel better after going to church' 'it was good to go to an old fashioned service, I think that suits me better' (both these after BCP Holy Communion in the evening!)
- 'I didn't expect church to be like this' from someone who came to the morning service which was much jollier!
- We had double our usual Sunday congregation and everyone enjoyed the service very much. We were celebrating 75 years in the present church building and put on a memorabilia display and refreshments.
- People stayed for over 40 minutes after the service to chat etc.
- Two Roman Catholics who have commented on the wonderful service.
- One lady asked if she could be confirmed and said she would attend church more regularly.
- The choir sang for 15 minutes before the service and really enjoyed that.
- A new attendee said she felt very moved by the sincerity of the liturgy and music.
- One lady said she had forgotten how much she got from coming to church.
- Four parishes in the Benefice - 5 services held - included 2 Baptisms in one parish as part of the main service there and a Special Songs of Praise. All are VERY rural Churches. This is an amazing turnout that we pray we can build on. Certainly the Songs of Praise has already been asked to be repeated. We continue with Back to Church Sunday this week too.
- Family felt welcome and the other person was pleased to have been invited. An additional person wanted to come, was pleased to be invited but was unfortunately away on the day
- Members of the congregation enjoyed the service. No one returned the following Sunday, but this Sunday is harvest festival so they may come back then.
- "I felt very welcomed - the informality, the range of ages and the warmth & joy - it was great. I can't ever remember 'church' being like this."

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- I e-mailed the person who was designated as our 'champion' for this area and had no reply.
- Very good. We did have our own invitation cards which went down well.
- Please can you produce publicity material in portrait format? Landscape may look stylish, but unless we buy new notice boards specifically for BTCS we have to limit posters etc. to half the available size.
- I used home produced paperwork etc for the parish that was tailored to our parish needs.
- Video excellent. Could we have some download publicity for church magazines?
- I e-mailed the person designated as the champion for this area & had no reply.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- We called our version Come to Church Sunday as we particularly wanted to target younger people who probably had never had much connection with the church. We leafleted most of the village & put a lot of invitation cards through doors. One retired clergyman who is part of our ministry team wrote to all the people whose babies he had baptised in the last few years. Whether the new people become regular members of the church family or not, I think the village knows that even though we have no vicar at the moment the church is alive & well.
- Personal invitation continues to be a good mission tool.
- It would be good if a set of posters etc were available without the date printed on as every year (this is our 4th) we have had it a week away from the formal date to fit in with our harvest.

BackToChurchSunday



- We decided to call it Come to Church Sunday hoping that would attract those who have never really been church-goers

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	5
Found it successful in the past	3
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Think it's important despite poor response from regular congregation.
- We tried, in a half hearted way to take part last year with our previous vicar who seemed to expect it just to happen without much explanation or preparation, so now we are in an inter regnum the ministry team decided to go for it and at least show our village that the Church is alive & well.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

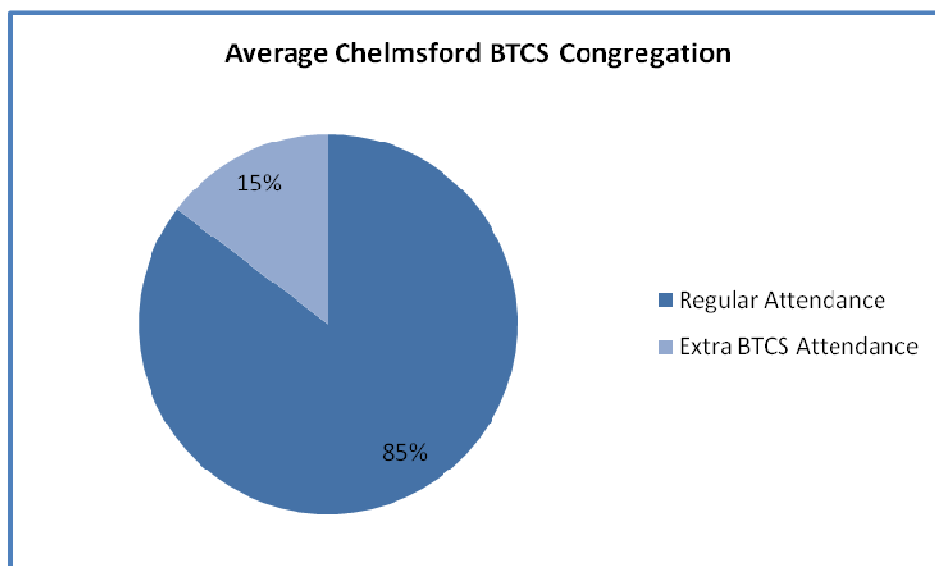
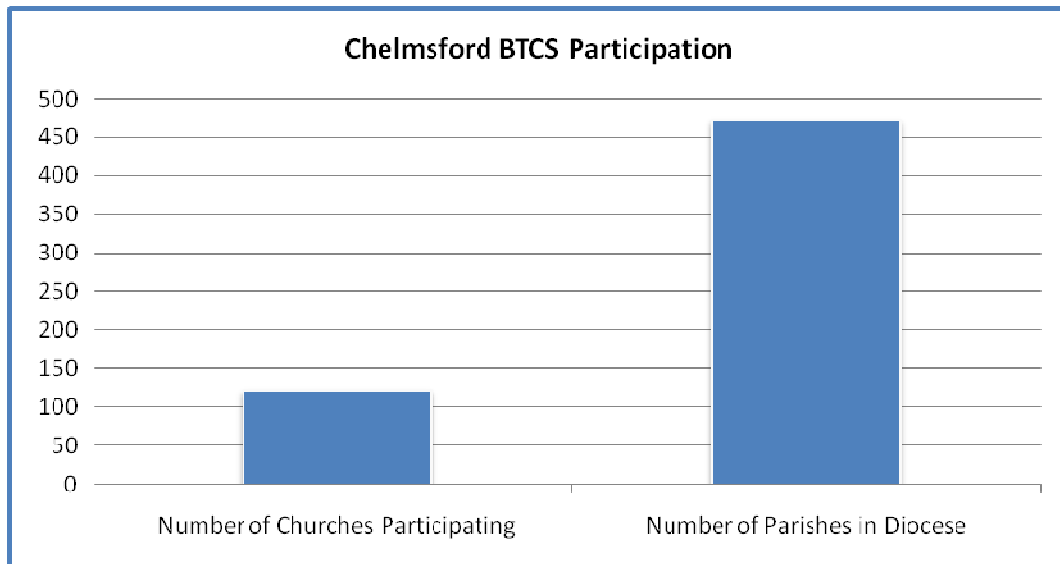
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	2
2004	
2005	
2006	1
2007	3
2008	4
2009	6
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Chelmsford

21 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
122	471	26%	73	86	13	17.2%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- One person came back after 20 years away. Says she will come again and bring her husband back next week. Apparently he used to be church treasurer here in the 70's. The other two were family members of a regular.
- 'I like church' at the end of the service from a 2 year old.
- A good number of children came - from 1 to 14, and all enjoyed it.
- The shared bread was much enjoyed by all.
- Existing and new attendees liked the vibe of the service.
- "Church was fun", "I will try to come back", "Thanks we enjoyed the service".
- Someone came back after 40 years and discovered that a lot changed during this period. "I am glad I came back to church. I will come again."
- This was our first attempt, which was very encouraging. Two people came back after a long break due to bereavement. Another former PCC and choir member also returned.
- It was good to see just a small number attend, especially the head teacher of the local school.
- New attendees have committed to join our mid week bible study.
- Everyone enjoyed it. Several who had received invitations thanked us for them, even if they didn't come.
- A young mum came with her mother, because her husband couldn't make it.
- People surprised by how much they enjoyed worship and how much the church had moved on.
- People were positive about the service and have said that they will be coming back. One couple has already returned last week.
- "Pleasant service."
- Good to combine with harvest.
- A young couple from overseas only recently arrived in London came to us on B2CS having never been in a church in this country before. They found a friendly welcome and have since been regular members of our congregation.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Resources - Not very helpful and I think we wouldn't buy these again. The posters were the most useful part of it. We could make our own invitations and the little postcards we still have as we felt the meaning was obscure and there seemed little point in them. We designed our own customised exit leaflet.
We used a few items from the website but we decided to do the feeding of the 5,000 with shared bread made in church, and we used one of our usual family service sheets, with communion, in order offer continuity.
- Most notice boards are set up for portrait not landscape posters
- Useful, we used the readings as in the lectionary and it worked.
- The resources were very helpful and well used. Positive comments about the postcards with the "New Day" picture.
- I did not find the resources at all helpful. We produced our own leaflets and posters as 'churches together' and downloaded the 'logo'.
Lack of liturgical resources for mainstream Anglican use.
Was unable to register and log onto the website
- Because our church is very small, the resource pack was too large. Half the invites and half the price please.

BackToChurchSunday



- I think it was about right. I would not have wanted any more email prompts or reminders. Templates were useful.
Didn't like the scripture reading. We used Luke 15, the Prodigal and stressed God reaching out to touch us, no matter how far we have drifted.
- Resources: 'portrait' posters would have been better for us (and most notice boards?) than 'landscape'. Also logo simply doesn't work when you reproduce it on a black and white copier/duplicator. The words 'to' and 'Sunday' are totally invisible, and the coloured background is a problem. In future years please could you supply a B&W version as well as colour.
- Not really sure of the purpose of the white card that was supplied
- Videos were very useful as a "taster" to get people excited in the weeks beforehand. Several talk outlines in different styles might have been better: the one provided didn't seem very exciting.
- Sermon & reading etc great, more i.e. intercessions etc would help.
- The resources and website is very useful and helpful.
- The resources are assuming one specific churchmanship, which is not what we do, so I didn't buy into the resources this year, and produced our own.
- The resources were excellent. Perhaps there could have been more writing on the souvenir card - a bible verse or something.
- The invitation cards were dire. Next year we will not order anything, we'll do our own.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- A variety of themes would be helpful so there is a choice for gearing the service to local needs. The pack was quite expensive for what it was, and as said above we did not use the postcards. However we liked the design of the posters with 'come as you are', the figures, colour, and the descriptions 'lonely, busy, bored' etc. We could have done with more of these. I did use the logo's on some of our own publicity and the meditations on the website we used each week beforehand and found excellent.
- Thanks for all the materials - keep going
- The how to double your church evening was helpful and we used it to inspire people.
- The advert on the radio backed us.
- Suggestions for intercessions for worship would have been welcomed.
Provide more material which can be downloaded and adapted for local use.
Provide simple black and white logos which can be inexpensively reproduced on invitations and service sheets.
The standard invitations do not work as we have two churches and three Sunday services each week, and have also highlighted mid-week services, social events etc. on our own invitation.
- Will pray that it grows for the sake of the Kingdom.
No too many follow up emails please. Busy vicar.
- It's a great idea – so incredibly simple, and it has always produced some results for us, even if modest.
- Possibly think about the date as many retired go away & our numbers could have been even better. Perhaps to 2/3/4th Sunday in October.
- We need advice on how to get people back into church as we were not very successful this year.
- For those of us churches who have been doing this for the past few years, how do you suggest we develop this? Because for many it really isn't an invitation back, it's how to make the church accessible.

BackToChurchSunday



- Would a different time of year be better? No matter how we tried it was inevitable that we did Harvest on the same day. Which made it difficult to do justice to both.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	7
Found it successful in the past	10
New church leader	3
Heard about it from a church member	0
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Thought we would try for the first time to see what sort of response came out of it.
- Encourage the congregation to share the faith.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

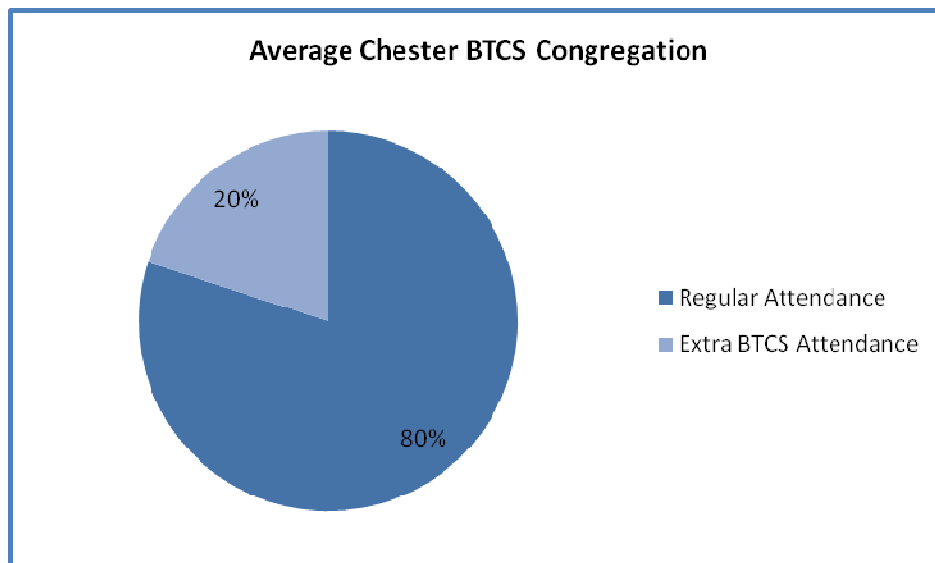
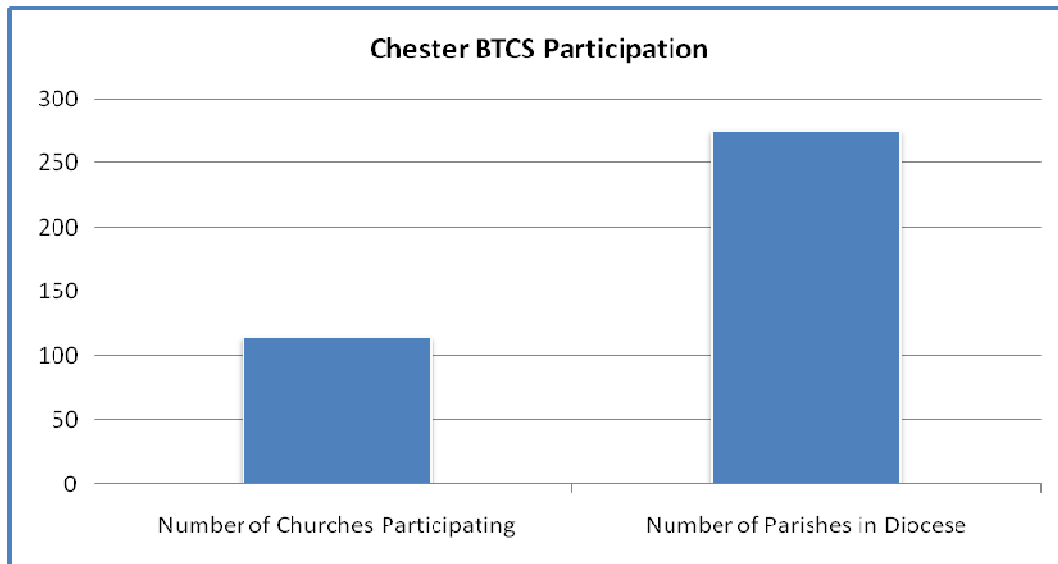
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	5
2004	
2005	
2006	1
2007	6
2008	5
2009	13
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Chester

15 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
114	275	41%	95	119	24	24.9%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Our Sunday Club for children made Back to Church Sunday what they called "Bring a Friend Day". So apart from the adults who came back, we had 7 young "friends" who were brought along by regular Sunday Club children, as well as 2 children brought along by returning parents.
- We downloaded material from the website to create our own invitation which we sent to baptism families with whom we retain contact & couples making wedding enquiries. Some of these people came.
- A young man who came took a leaflet about doing the Alpha Course; said he's interested in doing the course.
- An older man came back to church for the first time in decades; he stayed for lunch and says he was really made to feel welcome and wants to come again.
- Nine children were present, the highest number we have ever had in church for years.
- Worship was full of back to church stories which people clearly found moving.
- One or two 'new folk' commented on how their perception of church was totally wrong, - not stuffy or overly formal; dignified, yes, but welcoming too. They also commented that combining B2CS with our Harvest All Age Eucharist worked well.
- (From 2009), One lady in her 60s came, stayed and worshipped regularly, attended Alpha and found was healed of a back problem and past hurts also. Her testimony was the biggest encouragement for people to invite others this year.
- A very elderly widower was encouraged back with an invitation, and was at pains to say how glad he was that he did.
- New attendees felt the friendliness and warmth of our welcome and will come back. Others who have not been since last Back to Church Sunday still felt able to come this time! Very positive comments from all about the service which we combined with Harvest thanksgiving to good effect.
- We have an attractive church in an attractive setting which attracts wedding couples. We are being much encouraged by one couple who are attending very regularly despite their wedding not taking place until 2012. It was even more encouraging to see that they had brought someone with them for Back to Church Sunday. We are regularly frustrated that we marry couples and then don't see them for dust. To see this happening is of real encouragement to our relatively small (but not tiny) congregation.
- One attendee approached the ministry team after the service with an interest in meeting separately to discuss their faith.
- "Didn't realise church was like this - might come again."
- Several people came who had not been for YEARS - in the past, we've had people come back who had not been for a while - not only B2CS that brought them through the doors, though.
- We served bacon butties before the service. It worked so well that people have asked us to do it regularly! So we're planning to do it!
- Great service encouraging all ages to take part, and to experience church. In a small village community we had pensioners, baptism families, and others who had stopped going.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- All resources useful. We made our own goody-bags to give out to each returnee (church magazine, welcome info-card, Christian booklet, postcard, fair-trade chocolate, mint). We had no balloons in the pack this year, so we bought our own (colour-themed!).
- We found the postcard very helpful & liked the picture.

BackToChurchSunday



- I used the Order of Service; the PowerPoint resources and the postcard image and copied the sermon for the preacher.
- I struggled to download the videos before the event as part of our pre-event publicity - can we have these resources on a DVD available to order when we book our invitations? Much handier for busy vicars!
- Resources fine - prayer card and picture card excellent. "Come and See" was an excellent theme.
- Particularly appreciated material to challenge, inform and inspire (and amuse) leading up to B2CS.
- I used the sermon notes again with the New Day picture and this worked very well.
- A number of people commented on the fact that the posters did not have Back to Church Sunday more visibly on them.
- The cards to be given out are awful - they are neither theological, relevant, interesting nor meaningful.
- I thought the standard of design of the posters to be very poor this year.
- I liked the clear layout and timeline.
- We decided - after using many of your resources in previous years - NOT to call it 'Back to church Sunday' because of the negative/unhelpful connotation that has for many people. Instead, we combined it with our Harvest Sunday celebrations (on 3rd Oct) - we made our own invites, and posters and many people came through our doors as a result. We feel this was much more successful than 'B2CS' has been in previous years. While we did use your 'welcome' t-shirts, we did not use any of the rest of your material.
- Art work was great. Downloadable stuff was really useful. BUT... the picture "morning-meet" was too enigmatic. It wasn't easy for people to talk about except to say that they couldn't see what it was about!
- Resources were very good, pack with T-shirts and meditations enabled us to get some momentum a month from the service and encouraged the regulars to take time to invite people they knew.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Keep up the good work!
- We would prefer "Come to Church Sunday" - less guilt & includes those who have never been & therefore cannot come back!
- We created an activity sheet to be coloured in on one side & with a word search on the other for children to complete.
- Diocesan and National publicity is very important - or it can just seem to be a local event. Seemed to be a lack (in comparison with previous years) both at National and diocesan level. Maybe press just don't see it as new/different - how many more years can we keep doing this?
- A CHANGE OF NAME! I suggest that you make the materials much easier to access - e.g. more downloadable & adjustable material via the website - e.g. a variety of styles to choose from in the t-shirts and posters.
- The title "Back to Church" is somewhat limiting when working with the wider community most of whom haven't been so can't come back! Just a thought - "Come and See" Sunday - such a title removes the negative.

BackToChurchSunday



Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	12
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- It has taken a few years for the congregation to get the idea. They are beginning to grasp it now and it is becoming successful.
- Tried it in the past - not vastly successful, but worth a try.
- The concept is brilliant.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

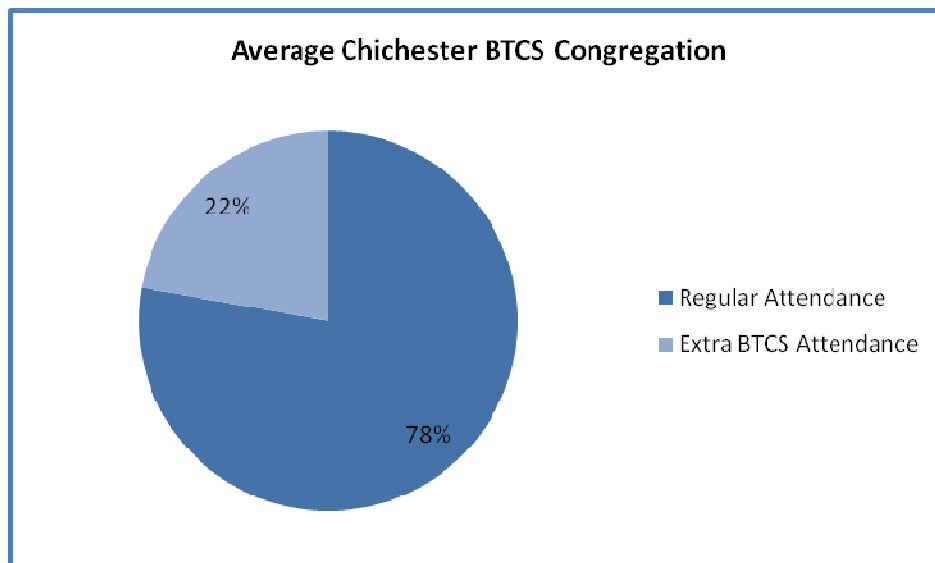
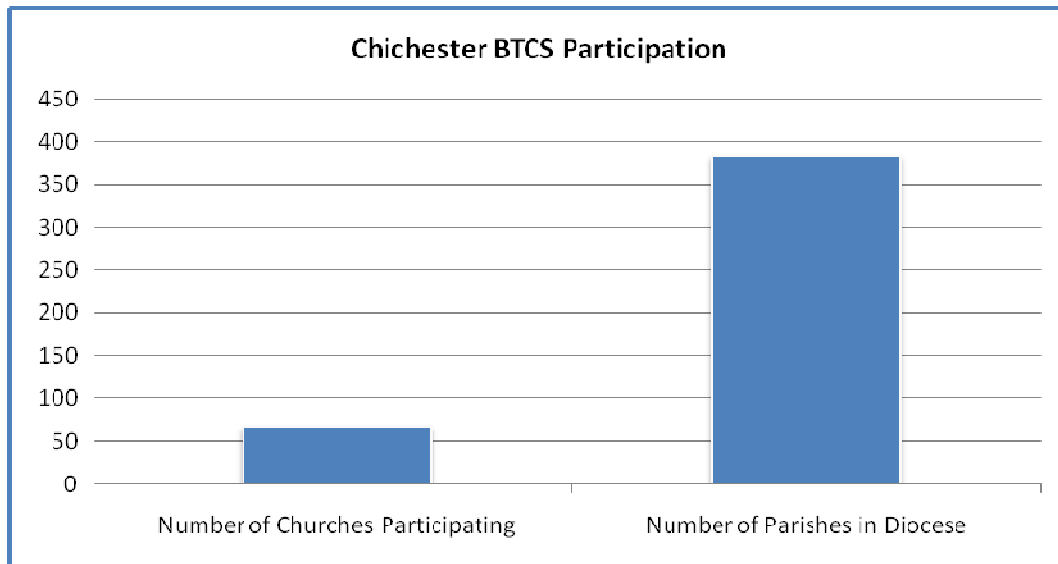
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	
2004	
2005	1
2006	2
2007	9
2008	11
2009	15
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Chichester

12 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
67	383	18%	90	116	26	28.4%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- One visitor remarked that she enjoyed the service (All age Eucharist) and asked when the next service would be. She was encouraged to come next week to our Harvest Festival.
- People invited friends and a small group for the local school came along with their children - we had at least twenty children on the day.
- One of our teenagers felt it was the right time for her to 'declare her faith' so she used the opening of the creed which was then acknowledged with applause! And then the congregation of course repeated the creed as their declaration. It was a truly moving moment, to share in the youngster's life.
- Someone I have been trying to get back to church all year has come back, with her husband. Quite a few people who come irregularly came and a good number of new people came too, some saying that they will definitely be back. I have a list of names so I can follow them up.
- As a big supporter of B2CS I arrived in the parish last year with keen expectations, only to be told "We don't do that sort of thing here and won't." So I said, "You do now!" and went to a lot of trouble to explain what it was all about in the weeks leading up to September 26th. I also told the church school all about it and invited any of them to come on the day too.
- I started hearing comments of excitement from regulars who were inviting friends to come along, along the lines of "Oh it's not that difficult is it?!"
- We were overjoyed to see so many people coming back - and many stayed for a bring and share lunch we held afterwards.
- Incidentally we did this in our area as a Churches Together project, with several churches in the area taking part to a lesser or greater extent. I ordered the packs and was the central 'keeper' and people came to me to ask for more details or take as many items as they wanted.
- One man said he'd been intending to try out St John's for ages. He found the service 'very uplifting' and will come again.
- One lady couldn't believe how many people came to church - she loved the music and singing. She normally attends church in another town, but would love to visit us again. One very elderly lady was thrilled to come back to church after many years of not managing it.
- The atmosphere in church really did have 'sparkle' this Sunday - the whole congregation seemed so much more alive and communicative! Something we must try to hang on to!
- Returning church members commented on how good it felt to be back in church again, there were a number of positive comments on the happy & uplifting atmosphere.
- Villagers believe the new vicar is great!

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Cards to give away after the service could usefully be available in a "two up" format as these could then be overprinted on the reverse with further information and then guillotined.
- The posters, invitations and cards all had a very glossy surface. I tried in vain to print on them but the ink would not dry before becoming blotchy. I tried to write on the invitations, but I had to put them all out individually for half an hour to dry, otherwise they smudged. Also the posters were the wrong size for us to use- all our notice boards take A4.
- We did not like the 'A new day' cards - and did not use them. We didn't use the ones last year either. The invitation cards were good - although we in fact had 500 'vista' cards printed with our services on them and our Pastoral Visitors were encouraged to take them to the folk in their area.

BackToChurchSunday



- I would love to see a decent set of service resources, e.g. Sentences, prayers, readings, invitation to confession, responsive confession, etc for each bit of a Eucharist where you can add your own elements, and also more ideas about how one might create a service, including hymn ideas. It would also be interesting if they could be linked to Harvest. I know that the idea is to do what you normally do, but even week by week services sometimes have a variety of options.
- I thought the website was not very user-friendly. It seemed to promise much but deliver little - I kept going round in circles (but I am computer literate!).
- To my mind, much of the material provided wasn't available until too late - ideally, preparations need to begin at least 6 months before the event. When I first began looking for information and material, all I could find was 2009 data, which was frustrating. I was looking for ideas to help me prepare short articles, to raise awareness of the event initially, and to give information about origins, aims, ways of preparing for and then ways of running the event. These articles were to appear in Sunday pew sheets from mid-July to the event itself, so that B2CS would become a familiar notion and people would become thoroughly immersed in its ideals, so that they themselves would feel an integral part of the event.
- Some of your resources - e.g. the short film clips, the historical background to the event and the feedback data from previous years - were useful in giving me material I could use. But so much which seemed promising (as a 'click here' heading) turned out to be very disappointing and unusable in its present format. In particular, the 'Several Roads to Mission with B2CS' are more like someone's jottings in a notepad than anything immediately usable.
- 'Theological Reflections' promised much but lacked real substance - a few somewhat simplistic thoughts which contained little of insight or content. The 'Tips' offered didn't really read as a list of tips at all, but rather as a summary of someone's talk about B2CS or the results of a survey.
- The outline service sheet was a mess, totally in the wrong order, which was less than helpful. I was also frequently frustrated by the poor standard of writing - grammar, spelling, punctuation and sentence construction all left much to be desired - which made this resource appear very unprofessional. At the very least the material should have been proof-read. Unfortunately, it all had the hallmarks of being thrown together in a hurry, without being properly prepared or thought through, let alone being presented in a user-friendly format.
- The Service Sheet was not as good as previously & we did not use it. The picture on the postcard provoked a number of negative comments from people who could not understand it or grasp its relevance.
- The posters were the best yet. The mediations were excellent - more for next year please. Children's resources such as simple colouring pages would be a bonus.
- Absolutely awful. Some churches need to have material provided for them, but many can create their own -- and some need to create material you don't provide (A2 posters, perhaps, or portrait-style posters). I've already suggested following the Macmillan model, where resources are provided to allow participators to create their own materials. The rules about how you use their materials are detailed; but you can do what you like.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Competes with Harvest Sunday publicity.
- What I found helpful was the process of going through my prayer list of everyone who comes to church plus many on the fringe and making a list of those whom we could invite back.

BackToChurchSunday



- My Sunday evening tick list of members of the church who had attended has lapsed and I must renew it and the practice of checking who was in church so that I can be more aware. So thank you for the discipline of going over the congregation's names.
- Only a few people took courage into their hands to deliver an invitation and I must prepare my list earlier and issue the invitations earlier, especially as the occasion occurs so soon after the school holidays.
- I would suggest that more time is given to planning a package of resources well in advance of the event, and that material and ideas are thought through and developed more thoroughly, so as to be of optimum usefulness. Maybe a series of B2CS topics to help us raise awareness of B2CS and prepare for it would be useful. Helpful subjects might be: B2CS - its origins and purpose: Preparing the Congregation - how should we view those outside the church? how can we genuinely welcome newcomers? what are our own experiences of being an outsider? Giving the Invitation - who will it be? how do we prepare? Preparing the Church - practical considerations for staging the event. Meditation - based on the postcard illustration/painting. The B2CS service - what will happen? Keeping in touch - maintaining contact after the event. There would be many more topics which would help people engage with the project and come to identify personally with it to make it succeed. Despite the difficulties, my experience of planning and organising this year's B2CS in our church was a positive one, and the outcome was also positive and rewarding.
- With a bit more attention to detail, especially correcting obvious errors, I think the website and resources you provide could be improved immediately. With a bit more forethought and coherent planning, I think the depth and quality of the resources provided could be greatly improved. As with most things in life, the success of any event is dependent upon the thoroughness of preparation. I wish you well for 2011!
- Allow churches to be a participatory network. Don't be so prescriptive. Provide or suggest resources which can be used with the standard lectionary readings; don't base everything on something out-of-the-ordinary.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	4
Found it successful in the past	8
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- It had never been done with any serious intent in our church in the past. We wanted to make it a priority this year.

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

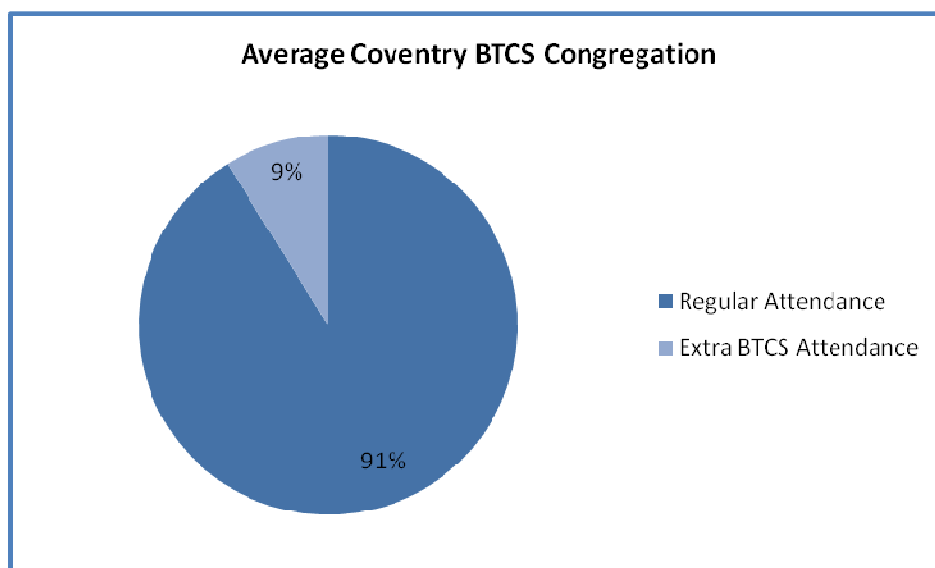
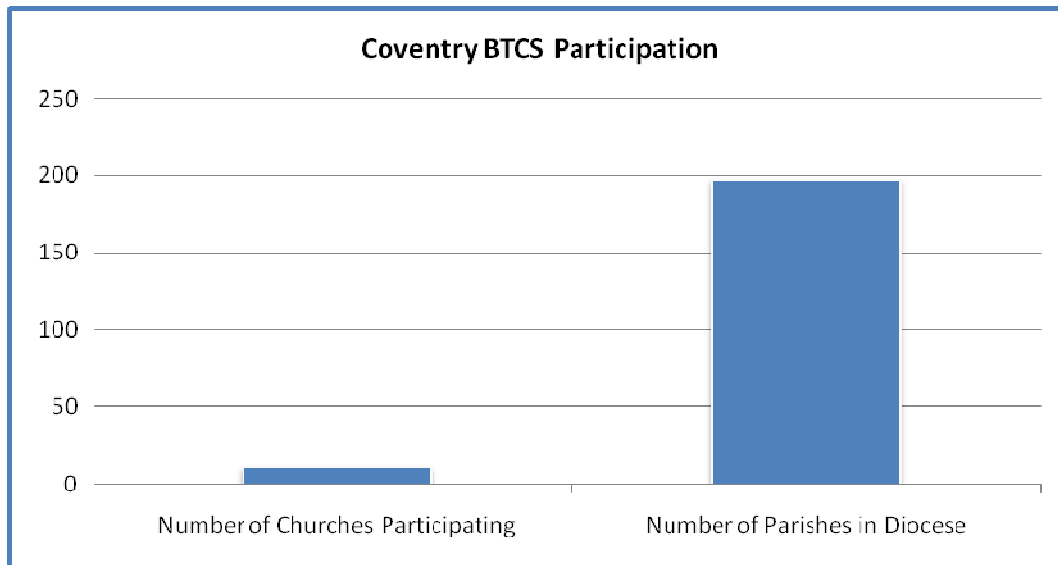
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	4
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	1
2008	4
2009	7
I Don't Know	1

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Coventry

2 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
11	197	6%	57	63	6	9.7%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- It was good to think and pray about who to invite; it made us think carefully about what our church offers. We are a small church, and enjoyed welcoming new folk to our service.
- This was the first time that we had encouraged our members to invite friends and neighbours to church. Those who did manage to bring someone new to church were so excited! It was very good to see their enthusiasm.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- We appreciated all the materials available, but thought the 'Come as you are' poster needed all the text to be black so that it would stand out. The postcards were very much appreciated.
- Perhaps an A2 poster would be useful.
- The advertising could have been more colourful, and more positive. 'Come back to church. We've missed you!' We ended up only using the Invitation Cards.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	1
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

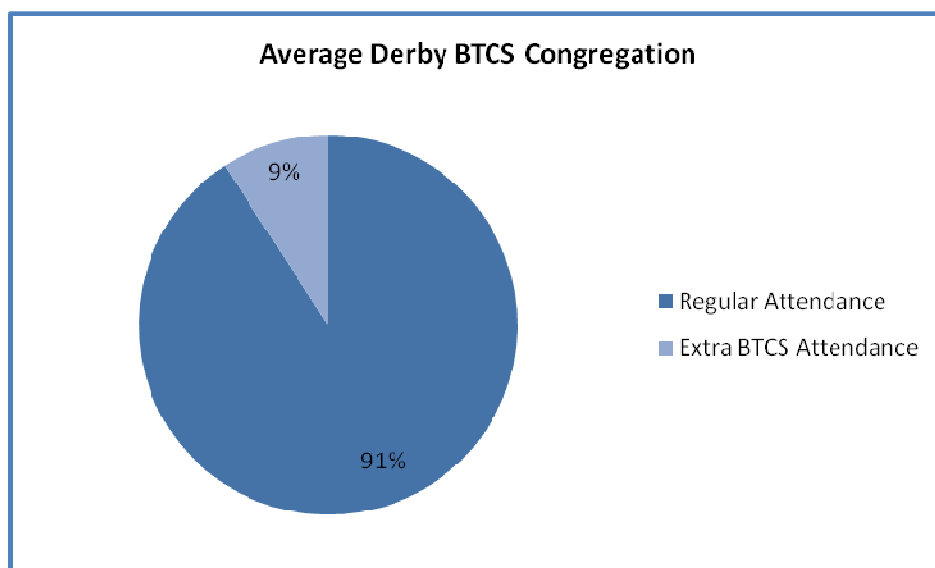
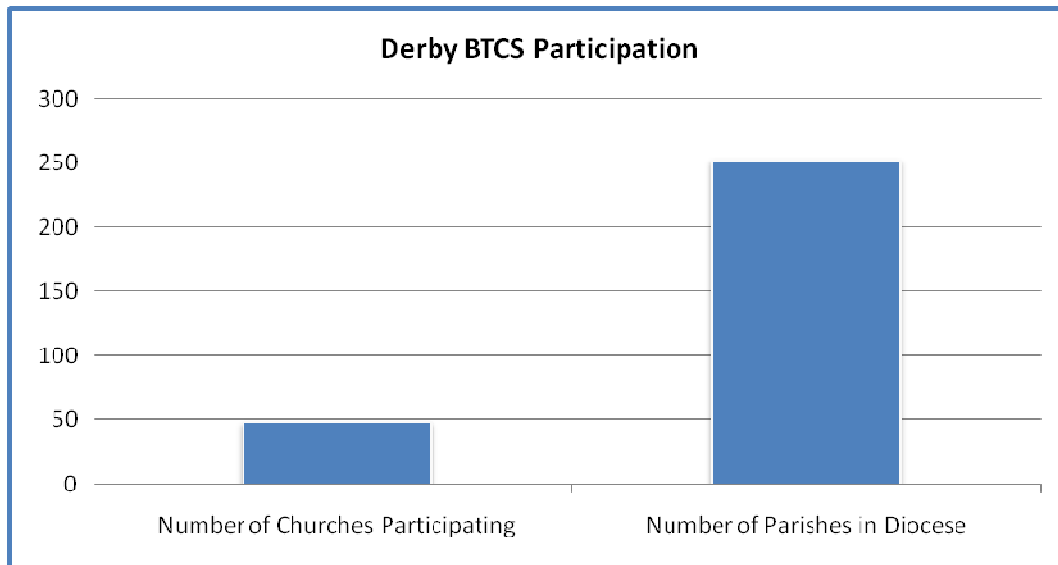
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	2
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Derby

4 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
48	252	19%	85	94	9	10.1%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Not specific. A lot of husbands of wives who already attend the church came, which we took to be a great encouragement as well as some new faces.
- One new attendee who had recently moved into the locality and may well attend again.
- One new attendee said 'it's given me something to think about'.
- One aspect of BTCS was the invitation to a previously long standing member, although they did not come to church, we have begun to re-connect with them. Previously this had not been easy due to previous hurts.
- BTCS gave the push for us to reach out in an unlikely direction.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Personally I found the resources good, and the website easy to navigate.
- We would rather have not had the prayer cards attached to the invitation cards, but would rather have had a sheet of templates that we could have put through our own copier with the service details on it to save anyone having to write a card themselves.
- We felt that people wouldn't understand the concept and hand over the whole thing to their guests. As it was we printed labels and stuck them onto the invitation cards. Only a few of the prayer cards were taken, but quite a few invitations were used.
- More large size posters and A3 portrait style would be useful as they cannot be copied for extra notice boards. Plus A0 posters for outside church.
- I found the web site and resources good and helpful

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Try as I might (and I tried very hard - even at PCC level), it seems that it did not "light any fires" for our church. I have been trying to raise the "mission awareness" in our congregation, to generate a desire to reach out to those outside the church. I felt Back to Church Sunday was an easy "first step", but I was wrong. Perhaps there are other churches like this one, who need even more help to create the desire to reach out to others.
- Make sure that the basic simply idea is not lost in the expansion of the initiative.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	1

Other Responses:

Thought about it in 2009 but were too late to do it properly

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

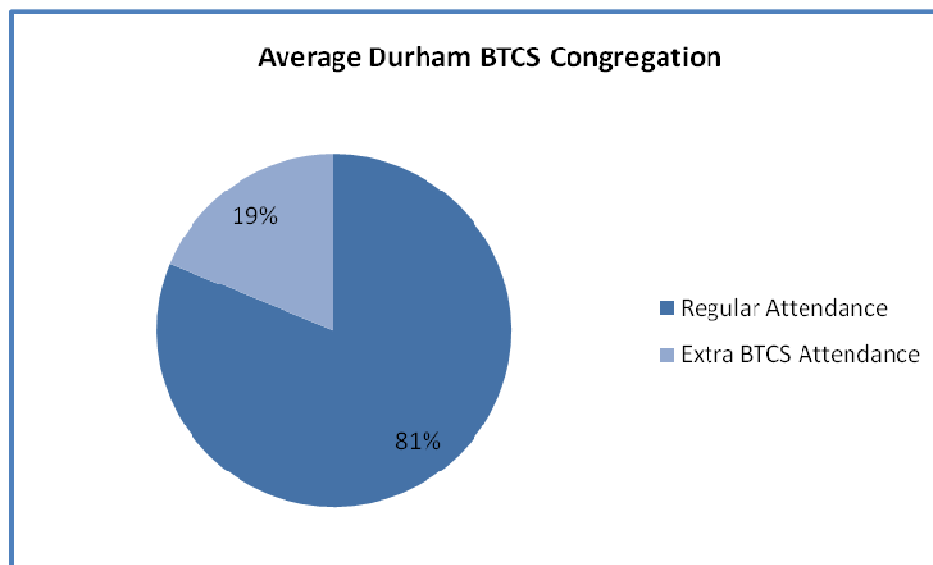
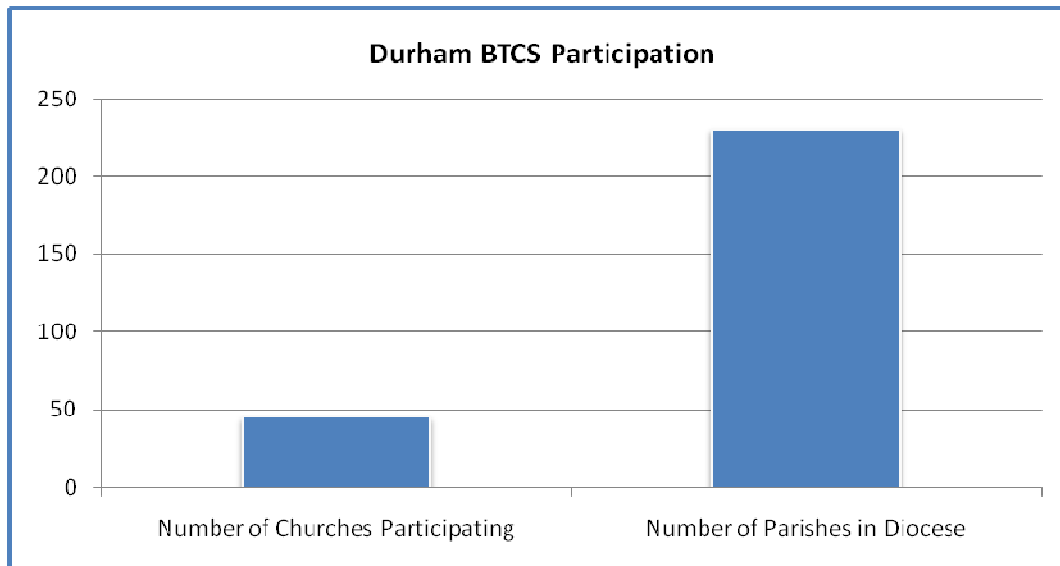
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	2
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	1
2008	
2009	2
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Durham

9 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
45	230	20%	64	79	15	23.2%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Several guest adults said they would be returning next Sunday for our harvest service.
- "Didn't think 'Church' could be like this" (we did 'cafe style' with bacon sandwiches).
- "Church is not like it used to be"
- One lady who used to attend our church, and had not done so for a lot of years, following on from Sunday said she would come again another Sunday.
- First year this event was held in the parish, good foundations laid for next year-very positive comments from existing church members.
- We had some very positive comments and a few said they would come again.
- Two people came who'd had a family funeral there earlier in the year and had wanted to return but found it difficult. I sent an invitation to all who'd had a funeral, so they felt they could respond to that. They have been back and are looking forward to continuing to be part of our life.
- One child aged 10 has attended from time to time with Grandma, but never continuously. He came to Back to Church Sunday and received communion. The following week he came again and took part in the prayers. At the end, he took communion. This child is not baptised, however after discussing with him why he'd taken communion and how it felt, he said it felt very special and he wanted to continue to be part of that. He has now asked to be baptised and become part of the communicant life of the church.
- We found particular success with a 'messy church' service we held in the afternoon which brought a good number of children plus parents and grandparents.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Invitations and T shirts were great.
- Thought the cards were a bit 'naff'.
- Think they were very good.
- Resources were very good-did think that the sermon outline could have been better.
- The downloads were not very helpful to me. To be able to use the logos to make our own posters and material would have been very helpful - a black & white service sheet cover (landscape A5) and other black & white icons to make printing easier.
- This year there didn't appear to be any resources for intercessions as there were last year - I know our intercessors appreciated them very much last year.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- For churches that like to work with the lectionary, this Sunday's readings were less than helpful.
- You suggest a Gospel reading to use, which is different from the RCL readings. It would be helpful if you could suggest readings to go with the Gospel reading.
- It would be good if there was an opportunity to share material, e.g. I produced a nice set of intercessions, which I shared within the diocese.

BackToChurchSunday



Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	3
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Continuity
- Recently become incumbent of this church, where it had been tried but had not gained much interest or response. Wanted to try it again as I'd been part of it elsewhere in the past.
- Good mission opportunity
- Used it before last year and thought it worth trying again.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

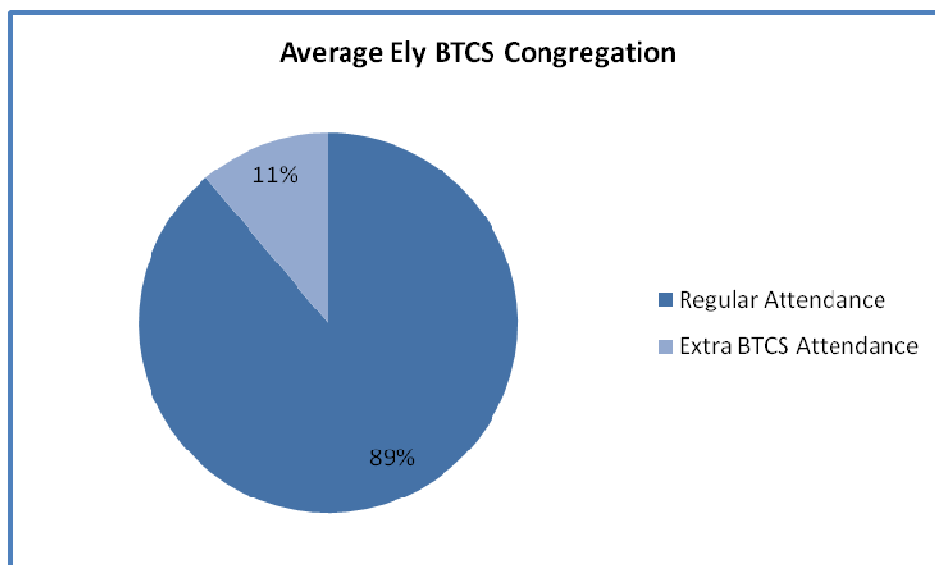
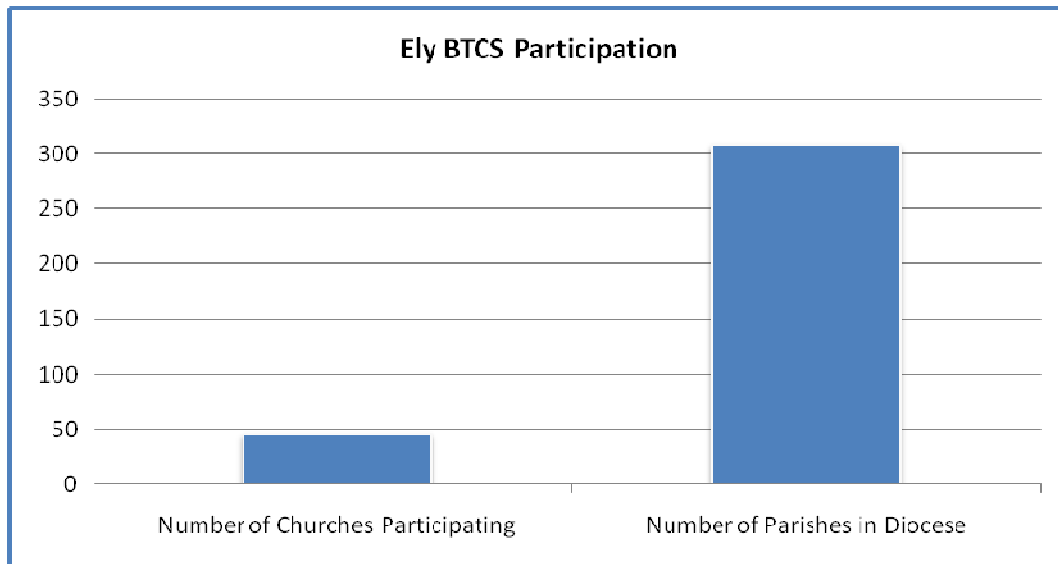
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	3
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	6
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Ely

9 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
45	308	15%	95	107	12	12.5%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- One older couple came for the first time in years.
- Last year Matthew, 5 years old, invited his friend Holly to come to Back to Church Sunday. She came with her older sister and her Mother, and has continued to come to our monthly service for young children. Holly and her sister were recently baptised as a result!
- Two one-time regular attendees came back & seem to be willing to make a commitment to attend regularly once more.
- Two ladies came together- one was visiting the other and had seen the notice and thought 'I must go to church tomorrow', so she brought her friend who is a 'local' with her. They seem really to have enjoyed it.
- We combined it with Harvest Festival and an all-age service, which people seemed to enjoy.
- There was a good atmosphere, and quite a lot came through for coffee.
- A child came out of Sunday school saying 'Can I come back next week'. Another child (6) who told of a friend who couldn't come BTCS week but would come next and whose sister (4) immediately told of the friend she is going to invite.
- 'I was surprised by the welcome'
- 'Enjoyed the simplicity of the service'
- 'Have lived in the two for 12 months, we decided to come today not knowing it was Back to Church Sunday - but how appropriate for us - see you next time'
- The artwork by Nigel Done provided a brilliant tool to preach from with the image either in people's hands or on plasma screens, many people appreciated the medium for communicating simple gospel truths.
- There was a very happy atmosphere in church, and the congregation were enthusiastic about what a good service it had been.
- For the second year this service has been on a Sunday when our early congregation which has more older folk in it has been about the lowest attended service. In spite of this we had approx five people who are not usually in church but one of those came by Back to Church invitation.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- The resources are very helpful, thank you. This year I would have loved some ideas for an all age service.
- We weren't quite sure what the picture postcard was supposed to be used for - but in talking to the congregation about BtCS our trainee-reader used the picture on the card as a starting point about invitation.
- We welcomed the advice about not giving squash to children, and have made a policy change for the future (for every Sunday).
- We used the video in our PCC and in an 'informal service' prior to BtCS, and I think it set us on the right path.
- The card to give - i.e. the New Day card was very helpful.
- The invitation card was less helpful as a welcome to 'our' church. In the parish the emphasis is that it is already 'your' church.
- Website was very useful.
- We really enjoyed using the service which works with regulars and visitors alike.
- Did not find the website particularly easy or necessary once we had the Done image.

BackToChurchSunday



Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- We did our own service, but it would have been good to have access to logo and images to use on our custom-made service sheets.
- It might be helpful to keep the website link for buying e.g. T shirts open later, for disorganised people like me, or people who have to get permission from the church council to make the outlay.
- It is very helpful to have something with a national profile so that the people of the church know they are part of something bigger, tried and trustworthy.
- It is also a great help in trying to develop a culture of invitation at any time.
- Keep up the good work.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	7
Found it successful in the past	3
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Found it a useful focus for encouraging the church to invite their friends.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	4
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	2
2009	4
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Europe

0 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.

Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
7	295	2%				

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

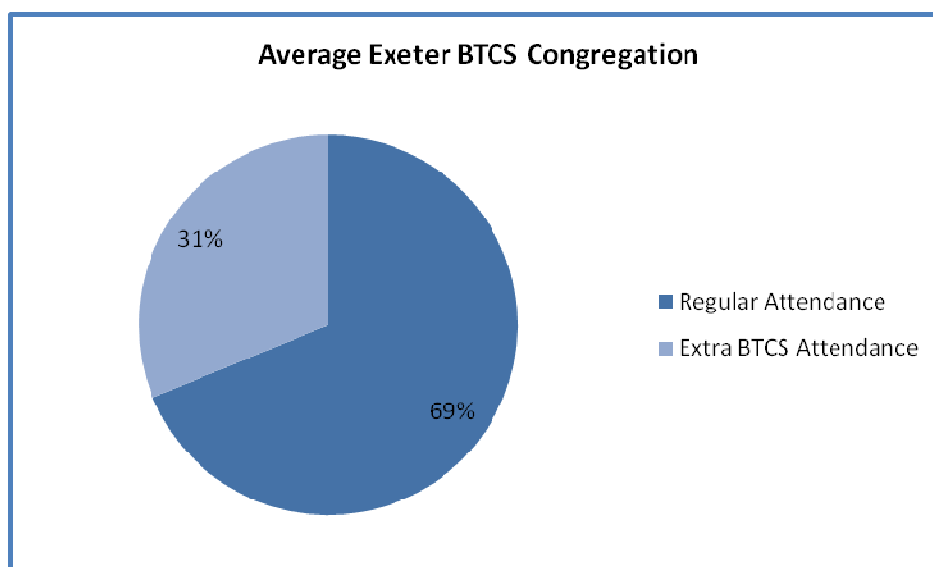
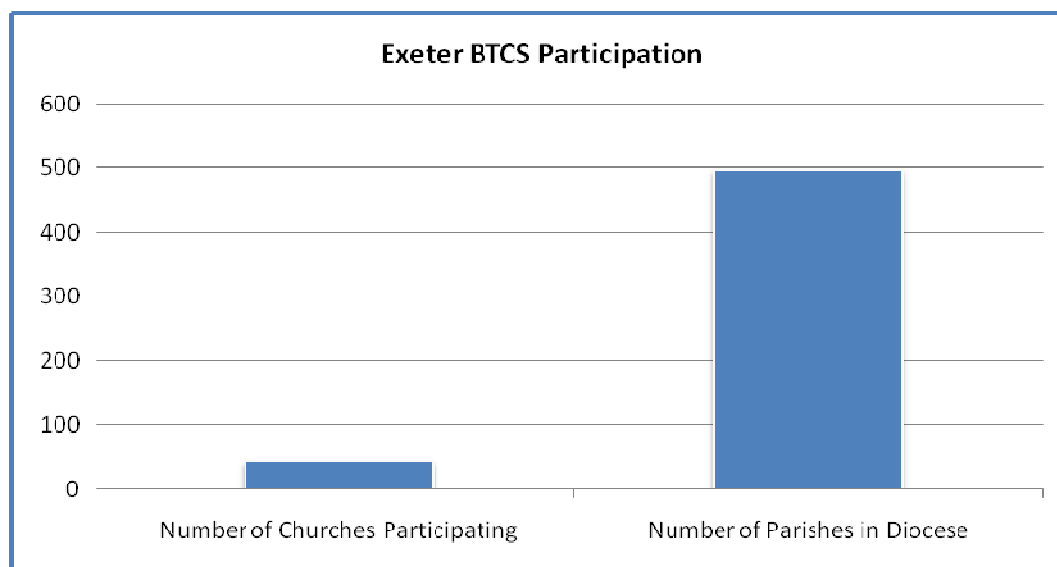
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Exeter

5 participating churches submitted feedback.



BackToChurchSunday



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
43	496	9%	85	124	39	45.4%

Good News Stories:

- There was a really good atmosphere. One family group and two individuals have said that they will definitely be back again. It was brilliant to see people respond in a church where many had been wounded and demoralised in the past. I am certain that we shall look to the future with a new sense of purpose.
- "What a friendly church", "we used to come - today has made us realise how much we've missed it", "can I arrange a baptism", "lovely to see new faces".
- Those who tried found it easier than expected to ask friends. Most invited had previous experience of church but had 'lapsed' for various reasons. One couple who came on 26th immediately committed to coming for Harvest the following week and even bought tickets for the lunch. Others who hadn't been able to come on 26th came for harvest on 3rd Oct instead so, in effect, Back to Church ran for 2 weeks.
- This Sunday coincided with a believer's baptism by immersion in a pool in the church car-park. Some of the newcomers came as family and supporters. We could not easily therefore identify the people who came in response to invitations.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- Thank you for what you provided and the talk by Michael at the Church of the Ascension, Plymouth - it was inspirational.
- Very good.
- The film clips were very good indeed and we desperately wanted to use several. However, even with really expert help it proved impossible to download and to use them. This was a great disappointment as well as a frustration. It would seem that the agency that was handling these for you has a very user-unfriendly structure.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- It was interesting that people within the congregation who did respond to the encouragement to invite people were not the most obvious suspects. It may be helpful to stress just slightly that some of the more successful 'inviters' are not the obvious evangelists/talkers of the faith. It was also interesting that as a generalisation, I felt that older members of the congregation were the more successful inviters.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	3
Found it successful in the past	1
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	1

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

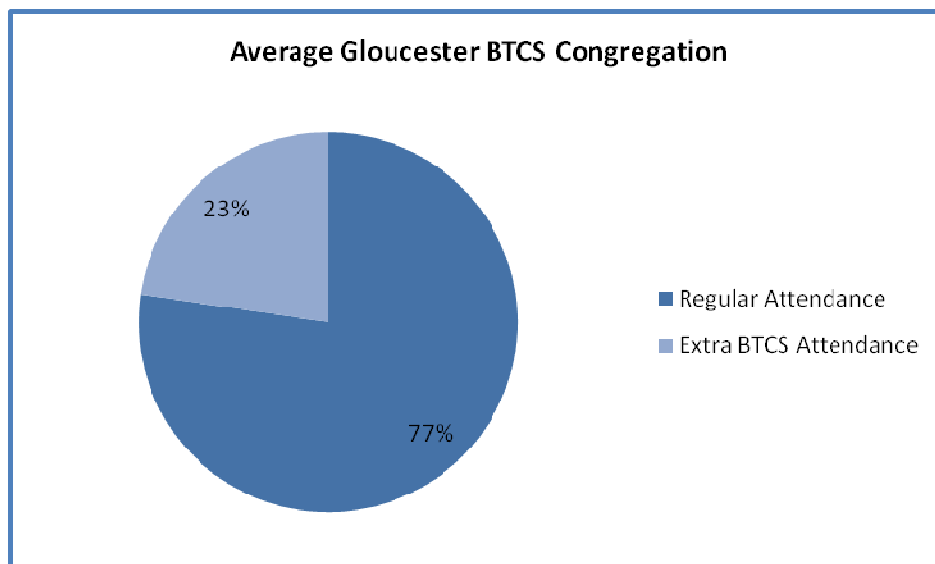
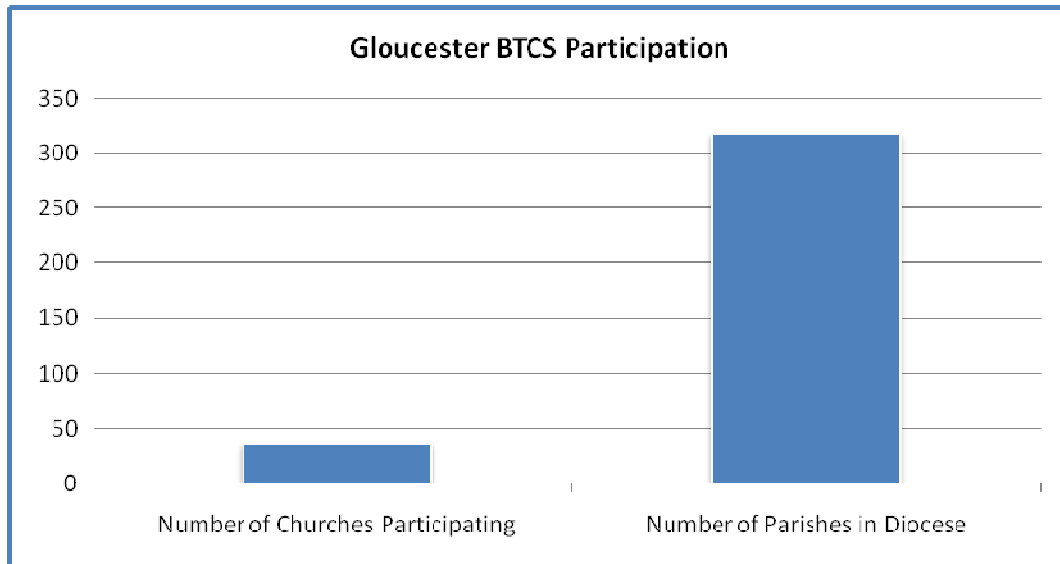
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	4
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	1

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Gloucester

3 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
36	317	11%	63	81	18	29.3%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Not much of a response really! Our 'village' is very bad at supporting anything. However, the Good News is that one mother came with her 2 little girls as they had seen it promoted (at my suggestion) in the local school's weekly newsletter which goes to 250 children! It was lovely to meet her and the children and we think they will come again.
- A married couple also came who had recently been staying with a lady in Bulgaria who works for a Christian charity. The wife is particularly keen to learn more about the Christian faith as she wants to be a Christian. We were able to answer her questions and offer her help, support and prayer. She will definitely be coming again! It was good to have time to talk to these people and surprisingly, just these 2 responses made it all feel worthwhile.
I should add that it was also Harvest Festival. We lay on loads of activities for the children, so it was a bit disappointing that not many were there. The adults enjoyed singing the song though and decorating the Fruits of the Spirit tree after the Service!
- We actually held two Back to Church Sundays both linked with Harvest Festival in our two parish churches (26th Sept and 3 Oct). People in the congregation took the invitation seriously and we had two wonderful services. Afterwards people stayed for refreshments and there was genuine hospitality. Two people even asked if they could prepare for baptism and confirmation next year - that is very exciting!

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- We made our own posters as it was Harvest Festival and we wanted to promote that as well. Again I was too late to be able to buy the ready-made posters.
- The meditations were helpful. I also found the presentation in our Diocese very helpful.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- I think it's a really good idea to have a Sunday when lots of people are invited to come to Church. I had to explain to people that the invitation wasn't only for people who used to come to Church and have lapsed, but for all our friends and neighbours who would like to come. One suggestion is to make it 'Come to Church Sunday'.
- Any good ideas appreciated!

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Thought it would be a good idea

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

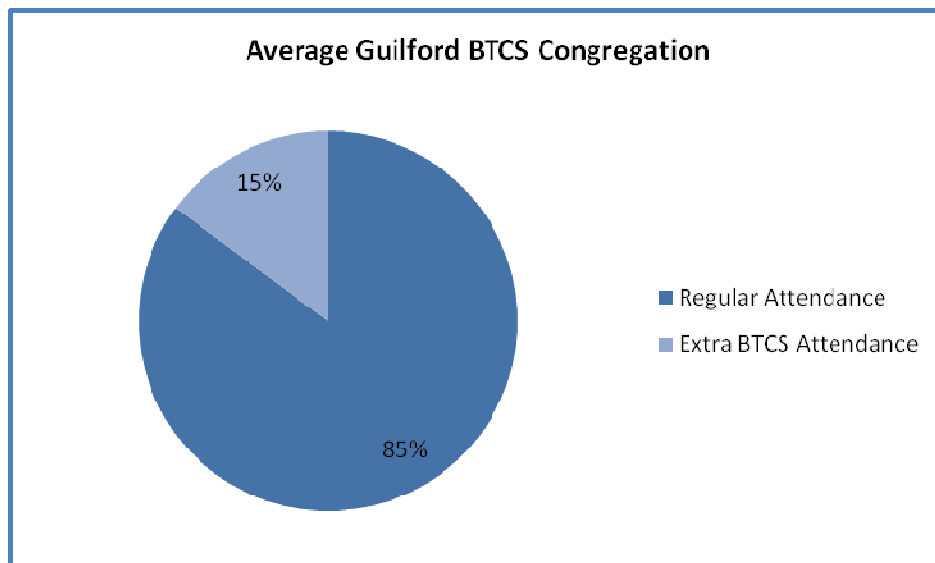
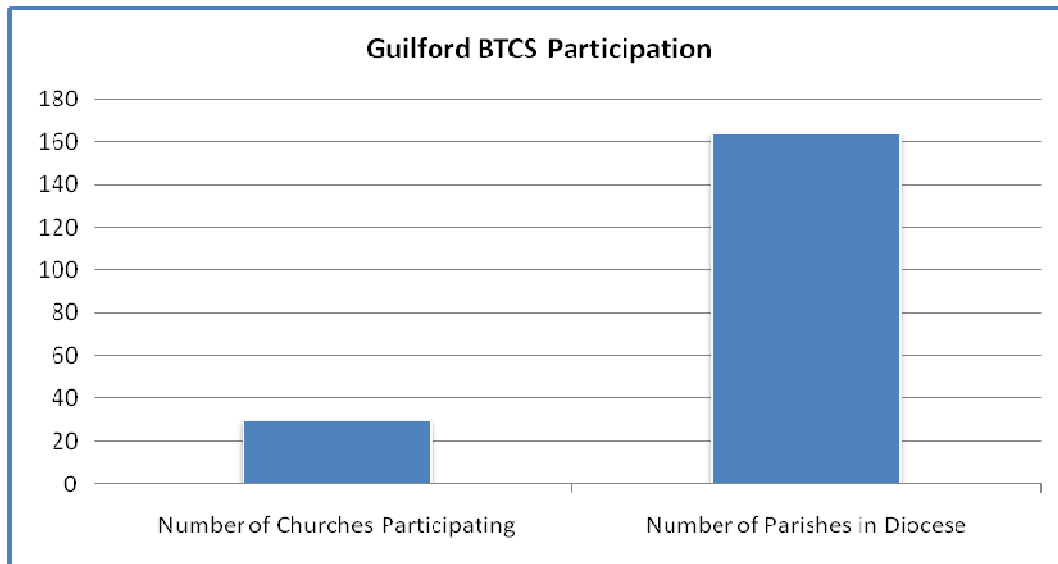
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	2
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Guildford

5 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
30	164	18%	55	65	10	17.4%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- We hold our Back to Church Sunday service in a marquee on the village green - the aim is to make the service itself an invitation to passers by as well as an informal but faithful time of worship. One person who had been regular but had got out of the habit since her new baby was born said she had been feeling that it was time to get back to Church and this Sunday offered her the obvious occasion.
- A number of other families of the scouts who had put up the marquee came along and joined in well. The battery powered keyboard made some interesting noises towards the end and then died on us but people carried on singing with enthusiasm unaccompanied.
- One particular lady was really touched to be invited back. She hasn't been for probably a year, and came because we invited her, and was thrilled to see everyone.
- I was encouraged as we are currently in an interregnum, but wanted to still go ahead with B2Cs.
- All said they appreciated the experience of coming to Church. Four came to our 'follow up' coffee morning two weeks later and we intend to keep them informed of future events.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- It would be appreciated if you didn't send so many duplicate messages! Once is enough for each!
- We have not found your publicity resources terribly helpful in the past and tend to create our own but the "Come as you are" theme was very helpful.
- It would have been useful to have easier access to the logos. You kindly sent the PDF files through when I asked but if you could attach them to an email early on next year it would be really useful. We put together fliers for our parish magazine in July, ready for the Aug/Sept edition.
- Used all the material in the pack we ordered.
- The factual information about people coming into Church through the front door but quietly leaving were very positive aids to our approach as a clergy team.
- As we are a small rural village the 'big' approach of t-shirts etc was felt to be inappropriate as it would not have appealed but the success stories are encouraging.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Just keep it trendy!
- Not at present but we will need to enthuse our regular congregation too take part in a more active way. Many did not attend that Sunday. However we did have a Big Day the following weekend when Bishop Ian dedicated our new Church Room and this involved most of our regulars in catering etc.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Wanted to take part in the national event again this year.

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

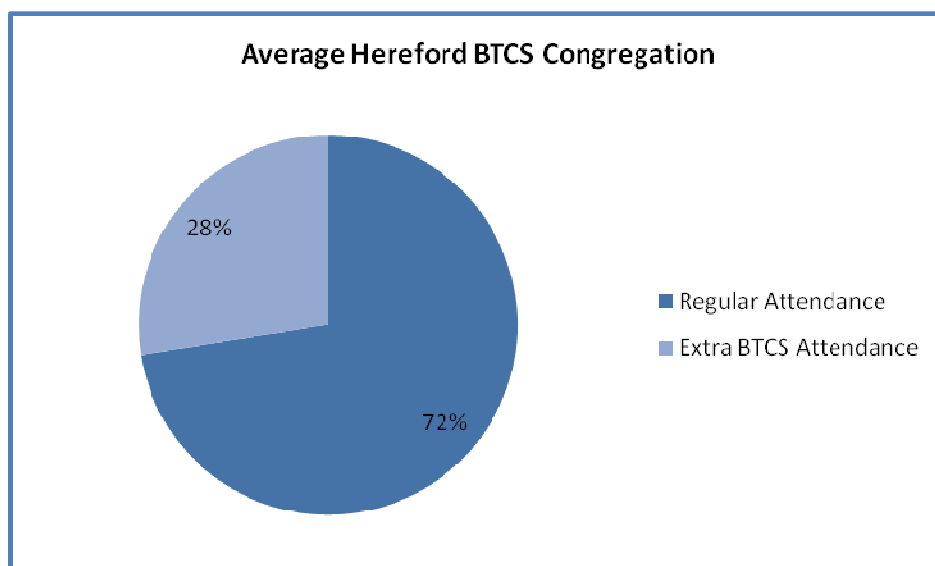
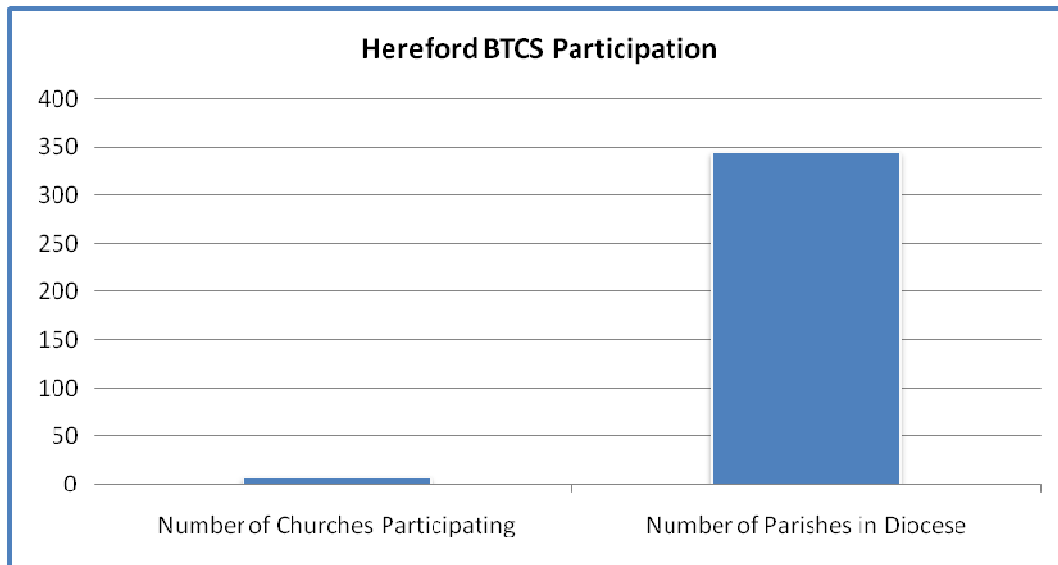
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	1
2007	1
2008	1
2009	4
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Hereford

3 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
7	344	2%	50	69	19	38%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Two neighbours who used to sing in the choir and have not been for years came. They were overwhelmed with the welcome and kindness of the congregation.
- Many regulars brought family or close friends.
It was a very happy occasion - helped by serving breakfast first with bacon butties and croissants!
- Of the ten new comers who made up 20% of the congregation on the day 2 have already come back again, a further 2 have said they will come back again when they return from holiday
- We are hoping they will return for our Harvest Thanksgiving 9th October.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- Would have liked a downloadable Visitors card for people to fill in.
- Also we could not download the promotional video and were not sure why.
- Invitation cards were very useful.
- Liked the invitation card.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Keep it up!

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	3
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

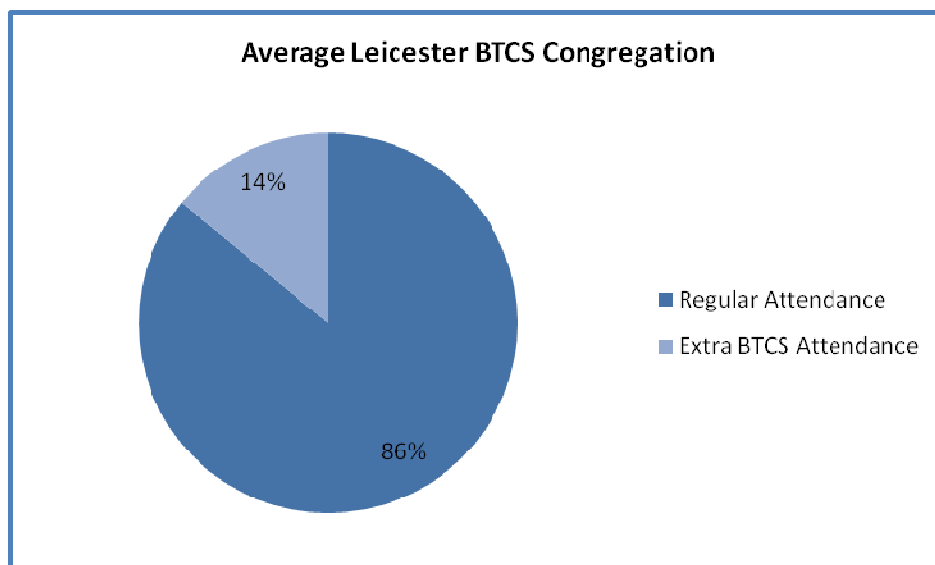
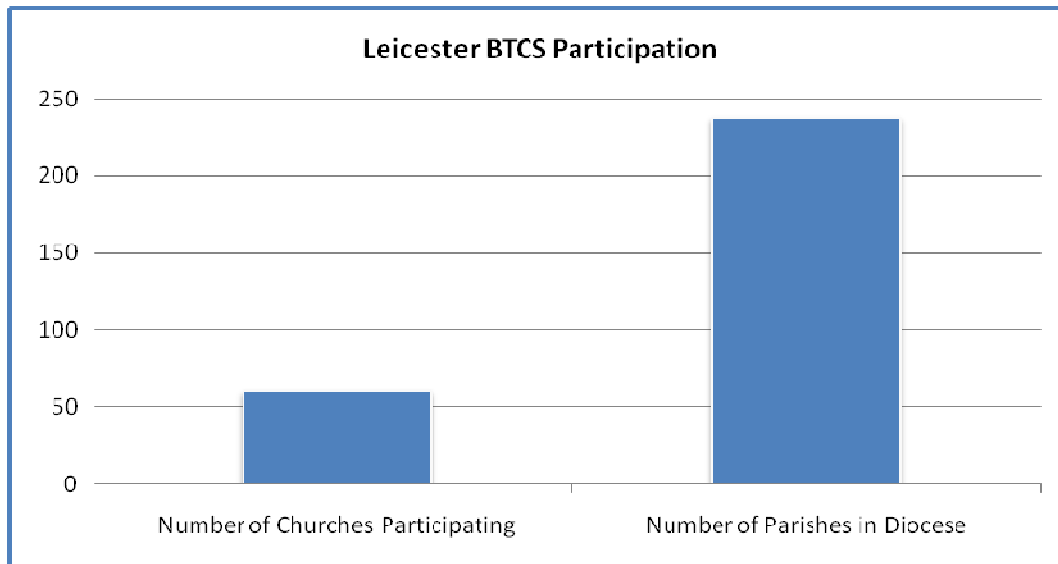
Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	3
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Leicester

21 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
60	237	25%	101	117	16	16.3%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- 'It went well' 'It gave the regular congregation a boost.' 'I haven't been to church since moving in to the area and it gave me a reason to come.' 'We really enjoyed the service' -a young couple who came back having first come for a child's baptism. 'I enjoyed that', a recent widow.
- We are only a very small congregation (7 - 12) and September is always holiday month. We had over 30 the week before at our Harvest Supper so we don't think we are doing too badly!
- Some of our guests happened to be visiting congregation members this weekend and live elsewhere in the country - one couple (in their 60s probably) commented that they wished churches near theirs were as fun as ours!
- We set out our traditional church 'cafe' style with tables and chairs and began the service with croissants, Danish pastries, muffins and coffee/tea/juice. Church members welcomed the many new comers and made them comfortable. The theme of the service was 'The Father's love' and we had DVD clips on our screens whilst this was in progress. Rock Solid, our young people's group handed out the refreshments. We used accessible hymns by both band and organ. The whole service lasted for an hour and a quarter including refreshment time. Every table had invitations to a forthcoming Alpha course. The comments were all very favourable. One of our regular members said it was the best service he had ever been to! What have we learned? That the 'cafe' style is worth repeating on our third Sunday in the month which is designed to be less structured and a 'Word' service. Nobody, as far as we know, made any new commitment.
- Not at this stage but one visitor is being tracked by local radio station with a before and after report (see BBC Leicester - John Florance).
- Everyone felt really welcome. Two couples with babies had moved into the village in the last few months felt that the invitation had given them that 'push' to come and try church. A former churchwarden who hadn't attended here since he stood down in 2006 came back with his wife. Said just the hug he got at the door was worth coming back for.
- Gave out 'Celebrations' at the end of the service, which were well received. Hardly anyone left at the end - they all stayed for coffee! Lots of children came too with parents.
- One man who regularly attends church, but who hasn't made a commitment, said that the service had really affected him.
- Positive views all round.
- Heather came to a service having been wanting to come for some time. She enjoyed it so much that she now intends to come on our Christianity Explored course to find out more
- In my parish slowly back to church Sunday is taking off. Each year more people invite people to join them and with back to church Sunday being reported through the media more people are actually coming to church. Back to church Sunday is slowly becoming part of the nation's life. One day it might appear on people's calendars in a similar way to Remembrance Sunday! Let's hope and pray.
- Last year and this, the service had a good feel.
- We have thought a lot more about welcome in recent months as a result of a Deanery Synod meeting on the subject and a series of follow-up questions given to representatives which we used at our PCC.
- One day this year we had extra people but fewer overall than normal - we don't know why yet!
- We invited people who used to go to two churches with the parish that have now been closed. Many who came now go to other churches but there were two who do not and they have expressed a desire to come again so we are arranging lifts to help.
- Praise for our welcome and type of service aimed at visitors as well as regulars. One comment - 'best Sunday I've had in ages'.

BackToChurchSunday



We combined it with our Harvest Thanksgiving and had tea afterward. It all came together very well.

- New children who attended our Family Service really enjoyed themselves and have asked their parents if they can come again.
- Adults really appreciated being given the card as they left on BTCS.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Prayer cards & invitation cards were good.
- The resources were fine.
- I thought the film resources were good. I used the comedy sketches (which were brilliant) as an example of how not to do it - and the one about the effect of back to church Sunday in a country church.
- The little cards with the picture turned out to be more useful and more appreciated than I thought they would. I thought it was an obscure picture but actually they went down well and the picture helped the sermon.
- I thought the pink poster /invitation could have been a bit snappier, it was a bit pink and not easy to grasp quickly
- Looked for some prayers on the BTC website but there weren't any? Happy to write my own but thought there might be pointers to assist.
- Thought the design of the publicity was so much better this year than previous years - contemporary, cheerful, eye-catching etc - was pleased to have it to use. Thought there was a good range of resources - the invites, prayer cards, postcards, online preaching resources etc.
- I didn't really understand all the stuff about having a tea/coffee morning so ignored it!
- I thought that the resources were excellent but that the web site was very difficult to navigate. I would like to have been able to download the resources much earlier.
- The packs were excellent but the ordering options seemed too rigid. Churches ordering early should be able to vary their orders by units of ten for cards and units of five for posters so as to meet individual requirements.
- I thought that the downloadable DVD clips were excellent. Stories of people who have been impacted this year will give most encouragement for church people to invite their friend. I would like to see them less than four minutes in length as people's attention span is short at the end of a service.
- Good, helpful and clear but had to be imaginative to use the logos, branding on our existing publicity.
- Posters and invitations could have been brighter colours to make them more attractive and eye catching.
- Resources were limited in quality-the posters were hardly self explanatory and the size, colour and type face made them virtually unusable as advertising.
- We "adopted" the resources to make them our own with specific service details etc. Greater flexibility of resources would be a great help in this.
- A number of comments about the fact that the publicity didn't mention the fringes of our society i.e. homeless, drug addict.
- Invitation cards are great as are the posters. I don't think we need much more than that.
- An A2 size poster (as in 2009) would have been useful.
- The theme of John 1.35-43 worked well.

BackToChurchSunday



- Barry Hill (Mission Enabler in the Diocese) produced a prayer card to use much earlier in thinking about our circle of friends and family, seeing which names God put on our hearts, to pray for and then invite when the invitations were available.
- Excellent.
- A children's postcard to give away on the day would have been helpful. Some of the meditations were a bit heavy and detailed. Some simpler resources for use with young families would be useful.
- We developed an A5 flyer to hand out on the three previous weeks. The BTCS logo was not easy to adapt/use in black and white.
- Strap lines on meditations were excellent and we used them on our notice sheet every week in September.
- It was very difficult to see exactly what the resources looked like in detail. The early deadline for ordering packs was unhelpful, so that we ended up ordering twice as much as we needed, because we had to order before we were fully clear about how we would use the invitations. Being able to produce our own literature, using the logos would have been for us more practical and cost effective.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Keep it simple.
- Suggest an alternative lectionary for the day - optional of course but useful. We changed the gospel reading to John 1 v 35 etc but it would have been good to have clear guidelines about that unless I didn't find them and also a framework for the intercessions.
- Don't think Back to Church is a very good title and could be seen a barrier. Anne Easter on Radio 2 suggested Come to Church Sunday which sounds far more inclusive to me.
- I think that the initiative is excellent and I liked the artwork that supported it. I liked the use of the sub theme of 'Come as you are' as we need to appeal to those who are not 'returnees'. Maybe I have been in the wrong place but I have not been aware of advertising in the media that I thought would accompany the initiative. Please continue your good work.
- More publicity nationwide – media.
- We felt that it was too close to Harvest date and wondered if the dates could either be combined or have Back to Church in a different month.
- Help on how to train people in inviting others would be great.
- Just keep doing it on the same Sunday each year.
- Produce a card, etc to give to children.
- Some regulars seemed to stay away - were they scared off? Many new people didn't seem to be with congregation members!
- We are a big church with new members constantly coming through our doors each week, (2009/2010 more than 60 who came and stayed), so it can be difficult to gauge who is coming as a result of a BTCS invite. Back to Church Sunday seems to work best for us every few years and is probably far more useful in a church where the members are not used to welcoming new people on a regular basis

BackToChurchSunday



Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	10
Found it successful in the past	6
New church leader	1
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Aware of it in the past.
- Tried it two years ago, but didn't put such a lot of effort into in then as we did this year.
- Liked the publicity this year.
- We have done back to church Sunday for the last few years.
- The local Anglican churches decided to support this together

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

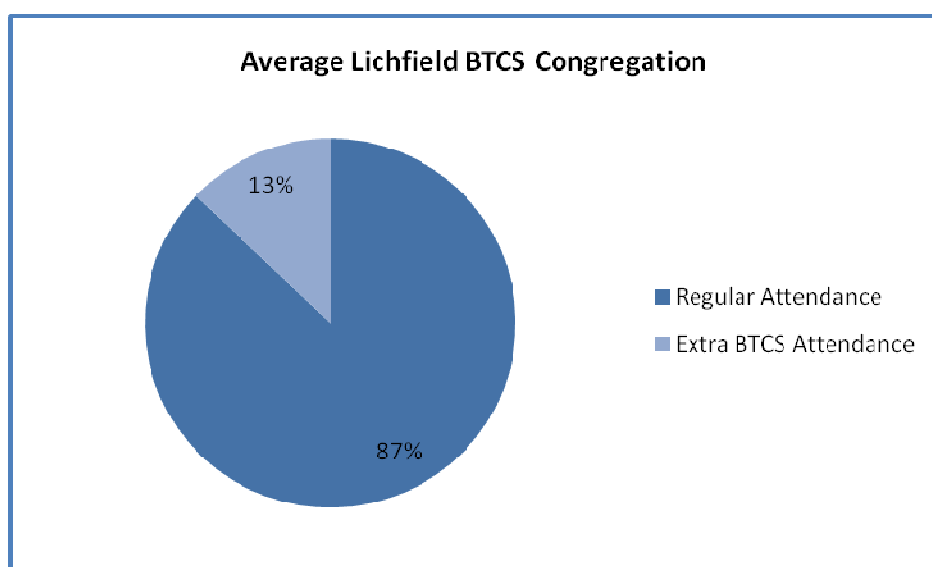
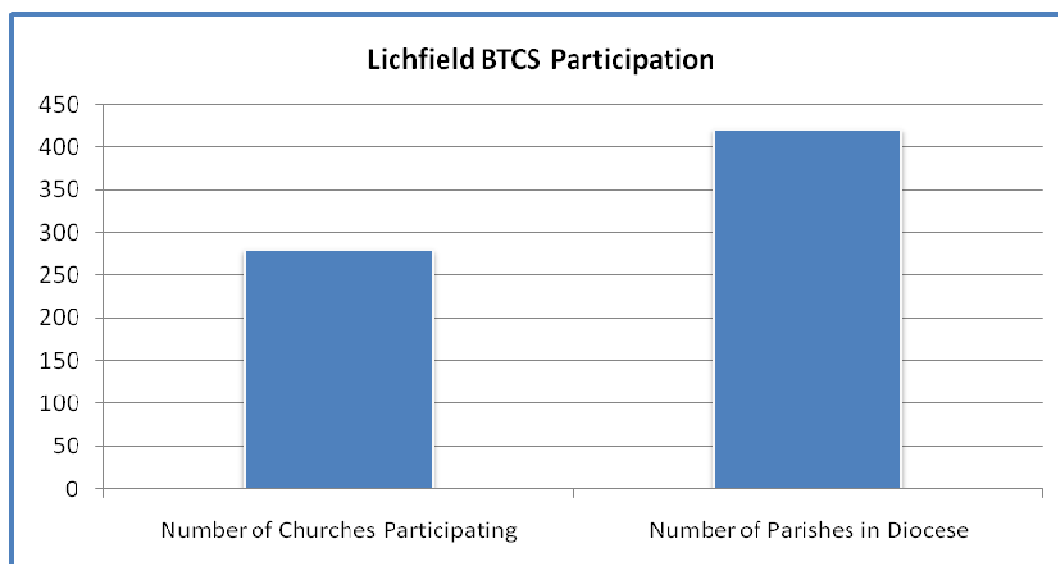
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	5
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	1
2008	8
2009	8
I Don't Know	4

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Lichfield

97 participating churches submitted feedback from Lichfield Diocese. 11 churches submitted feedback online and a further 86 pieces of feedback were collated by the diocese. However only 70 pieces of feedback provided suitable numerical figures to contribute to the statistic. All qualitative data has been included.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
280	421	17%	81	93	12	15.1%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- One couple saw a mention of BtCS in Porlock and thought that it must also apply to our church in Staffordshire. They had been meaning to come for some months but seeing the invitations elsewhere gave them the impetus they needed. They have signed-up for our forthcoming Christianity Explored course.
- The new attendees all made similar comments about how refreshing our service was and how the church had evolved and progressed since they last came.
- Several people enjoyed coming back and will come next week to Harvest too.
- It was just good to see people take the trouble to invite others.
- Most of the new attendees were brought by one family who themselves only joined us a few months ago, and are preparing for baptism/confirmation.
- Last year we had a couple come to the church, who at that time was asking if their daughter could be married at All Saints, which did eventually happen two months ago, and the parents come to church every now and then.
- I cooked the books slightly by arranging a baptism for the same Sunday. On this Sunday we almost doubled from 80ish to 150. But even allowing for the baptism party there were unaccounted extras.
- Quote from a worshipper who lives in another part of the country "There's a good feel about things here - Good to see so many young people"
- Lots of congregation members invited friends, who came and appreciated the service. A number of people have attended church in the following weeks.
- For the last year we have been refurbishing our bells and training a team of bell ringers for Sunday mornings. We delayed their start so that the first Sunday morning they rang coincided with Back to Church Sunday, which created a front page article in the local paper and led to some positive comments as well.
- We also produced a leaflet advertising the church which was delivered to most of the houses in the parish. This has definitely help raise the profile of the church and attracted a number of people to Back to Church Sunday, in addition to those personally invited.
- Sun 26th Sept was a very special anniversary for us celebrating 25 years of the current building. We had sent over 100 invitations to the celebrations which were spread over the whole weekend. Sunday morning saw approximately 25 visitors, of which probably 10 were still living locally and had had previous association with the church. There were two visitors who had been invited who had no past association, who had simply been invited to church by friends/neighbours. The evening service (designated our main Thanksgiving service) saw over 40 visitors. Though this was not an ordinary Sunday for us - we hope and pray that some of those visitors who live locally may still have felt welcome and may yet come again.
- Well; there was a good atmosphere, congregation members were keen to introduce people they had brought along; there were a number of people who were returners
- All returnees were adults, and all couples who had been married in church over the summer. They had received written invitations (not the printed cards) sent by our Curate, Catherine McBride. The "odd" person at 9am was the husband of one of our members whose son had been married in church.
- "Good service."
- We tried to be our usual friendly welcoming selves, so that if they turn up next week, they should get more of the same.
- Many lovely comments re the service
- Went very well.

BackToChurchSunday



- The event was part of a weeklong flower festival.
- Day went very well. People seemed to enjoy it.
- We have advertised an enquirers evening for those who want to find out more.
- The 10.00 main services went very well – cheerful feel and the congregation seemed to gel fairly well. Two more turned up at the 6.30 service. More visitors/returnees than we had expected
- We had a testimony from someone about how she found church helped her.
- It went well. One person came who had been invited last year – she remembered this and came this year.
- We wanted the service to be as normal a Sunday service as possible, but instead of lectionary readings used the suggested Back 2 Church Sunday readings. We had a newly made church banner outside the building which helped visitors find the church & looked welcoming.
- We had one adult visitor and one child visitor. It was a good service with a warm feel to the day.
- Great fun with a small skit in the communion service and our usual child friendly atmosphere.
- We invited everyone that came to stay behind for a ‘Sunday Lunch’ (meat and two veg with ice cream and puddings) for free with a basket for donations.
- We lightened the main service and I preached on BTCS. Services well received.
- We started at 10 as usual, with usual 30-something present. By 10.30 this had increased to 50! Latecomers included several from St John’s Apostolic Church, a Zimbabwe congregation who use our church hall, and made a special effort to join us.
- Happy atmosphere. Crèche doubled in size!
- We invited people with invitations and word of mouth and posters plus we had newspaper articles in the Chronicle and the Post. I know one of the returnee came as a result of one of those articles and I suspect a second did too. We kept to a normal family communion service but we chose readings especially to talk about God’s love and forgiveness and we also used the communion invitation that talks about those who have not been to a communion for a long time are welcome.
- Back to Church Sunday was fruitful at St Peter’s.
- It went Very well. A good service and five booked into Alpha; two are already Christians but the others are really good news.
- Well. A good service, with some faces we had not seen for a while, whether by chance or invitation.
- Talked about why we feel we have to “dress up” to go to church and how God loves us as we are. Our lay reader illustrated this by taking off his robes! (He was persuaded to stop there)!
- Was a middling service. Psychologically can be difficult to switch from being in public ministry mode to needing to speak to your own people!
- The day went well with a very relaxed feel to it - everyone seemed quite happy.
- Really good service and well received by visitors
- Will continue to invite baptism and wedding families to special events such as children's crib service and craft workshops.
- Held B T C Sunday at the same time as their harvest service followed by Harvest Lunch. There were 55 people crammed into Church that morning (instead of usual 15) however no new people so far have returned to church as a result. I think they only came for the slap up lunch! However one person who comes every week only on the first Sunday of the month, did come last Sunday (2nd Sunday) too. I'll see if he's there next Sunday in which case – result!
- A special welcome and focused sermon.
- Wonderful! A fantastic time with a really welcoming atmosphere, plenty of the congregation got involved with inviting folk to come along.

BackToChurchSunday



- One lady accepted an invitation and had plucked up courage to come, but only got as far as the car park, worried about coming in, she was “stuck” in her car, until a regular asked her if she was waiting for someone. “Yes” she said”, but then the regular pressed her, would you like to come in with us. She did and really enjoyed the service and has said she’s coming back this week as well as planning to go the ladies group mid week.
- Followed up with harvest this week, followed by shared meal. Hopefully in touch in one way or another with those who returned. We have just started Alpha and it would be easy for any who wished to join it to do so.
- We had an adult baptism with testimony, which everyone found very moving. Emphasis on ‘Come as you are’ – we distributed the postcards with the message ‘Come and see’.
- The day went well, even with it being a Harvest Festival/Holy Communion Service
- The Special part of the day was ensuring that we invited those who were not confirmed to come up to the alter rail to have a blessing. One couple brought their new born baby, which was very moving
- The day went as any normal Sunday. It was an enthusiastic act of worship & most people stayed around afterwards for refreshments
- Despite hiccups in the service, it went well, newcomers & regulars stayed for coffee. At least 4 newcomers intend to return next week, along with 3 who couldn't make the 26th.
- Had more than average number of children in Sunday school
- Everyone present was given a B2CS postcard as a memento of the day.
- Visitors gave good feedback. There was a very good atmosphere to our worship on the day, with decent numbers (higher than our current averages) and a relaxed feel, with humor and joy in the air.
- It was only the one service, but definitely a larger congregation than usual.
- It was our Harvest Festival Morning Service, so we had decided to hold BTCS on the same day.
- Quite successful – more people than last year.
- A good attendance-but it was also our Harvest Festival & lunch.
- Went very well - we provided tea, coffee, cakes and soft drinks after a shortened service.
- We had our usual ‘Worship for All’ Service and refreshments afterwards.
- Two people who had not come to church for years are attending the Harvest Thanksgiving Service next week and have accepted invitations to the Harvest lunch. Considering our average congregation is only 35, two new people is a good percentage (about 18%)
- The new ones that came said they enjoyed it.
- Well – the people were greeted warmly and seemed to appreciate the service.
- We had a BTCS Songs of Praise which generally was well supported by congregation.
- A positive experience with 27 guests over the 8 team churches. Invitations delivered around Parishes, with a lot of door-knocking by herself. Deliberately targeted outlying areas not usually ‘covered’ by the churches.
- It was an excellent turnout. We had 80 adults last week with an additional 20 this week. We had a team ready to meet people and welcome them, showing the where to sit. We kept the service exactly the same but omitted some complicated bits. People were constantly told where we were in the service. We kept things the same so everyone would feel welcome the following week. We then used the postcard about the day to give to everyone as a gift on their way out. We printed labels saying “With love from the priests and people of St Francis’, Friar Park” and put them on each postcard.
- We had about 12 extra people who responded to our invite, most were ‘under 35s’ who were baptism families. Overall we had an extra 20 people from our usual attendance

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- On the day we had three visiting families at our main 10:30am service that came as a result of being invited to back to church Sunday. Of those who came to B2CS we will follow up and hope they stick.
- We reckon that there were about 10 new people of all ages in church that Sunday - three of them were children (two of whom were brought to our 8.00 am service and the small Sunday Club operation attached to it by friends from school). Of the adults who came two are coming to Christianity Explored when it starts on Sunday next and I am due to visit a third one this afternoon.
- We had four adults and two children visiting on the day. We are still in touch with one family.
- We had four adults with two children who responded to B2CS invitations.
- We did have four visitors (three adults and a child) and a couple of returnees during the day. We are managing to welcome new people into the congregation.
- The next Sunday was our Harvest Festival and we did have quite a few extra visitors during the day (including children) - the school choir came and took part in the morning service and the Sunday school did a harvest breakfast.
- We had four non-regulars. One lady came and has stayed - had initial contact through Golden Wedding celebration 2 years ago and now she has decided to come back as a regular. The three others were husbands who came to please their wives!
- We had two people come who had dropped off church earlier this year. We definitely took the opportunity to ask people which I take as a step forward.
- It was harvest so was slightly harder to judge but went well.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- We used the invitation cards and posters - they are sufficient for our needs.
- We created our own invitations as we were combining Back to Church Sunday with another event, but they worked very well and had a personal touch.
- Posters were a little dark and not so easy to photocopy onto.
- I thought the resources were very good, and I used the pictures for the meditations 4 weeks in advance, as well as some of the service material, as we integrated BtCS with Harvest Sunday.
- Easier access to large size posters, please.
- All useful stuff - keep it coming.
- The logos, etc were good and helpful. The invitation cards were very good.
- Unfortunately, the packs of extra invitation cards ran out a few weeks early which was a shame.
- When we didn't receive the posters, invite cards, etc., we simply created our own version from info and images available on the national B2CS website, but obviously it would be nice to have the 'real McCoy' for next time round!
- We advertised in our magazine, with posters and by word of mouth. The congregation were encouraged to invite others.
- We used the supplied invitation cards with individuals, and advertised in our magazine and newsletter.
- The material was very good and fitted well into the services. This certainly motivated some to invite people.
- Used posters outside church, and personal invitations.
- Folk took invites and prayer cards and we put up a poster in the church centre.
- Used A1 Posters, A4 fliers, notices, power point etc.
- Invitation Card should have room for individual or family names, also church contact person
- It would be useful if the posters could be made available to download with the ability to put the date and time on them as adding these in pen make them look amateurish.

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- Invitations sent via schools, community groups and previous contacts with the church, e.g. children's activities, baptisms, posters displayed in shops, library and doctors' surgery.
- We advertised the event with posters at Church - in the schools and doctors surgery - People were invited by the congregation taking the invitations out. This year, because of the Parish Mission they were far more positive about this.
- Get the information material out sooner and organize a training event for co-coordinators and others who may be interested
- Used invitations supplied, weekly notice sheet, gave out invitations at a Fellowship lunch, and invited baptism families back.
- Was a bit disappointed in the resources, downloaded the service outline booklet pages and was unable to make them fit together as a booklet – ended up physically cutting and pasting!
- Balloons, perhaps, to be ordered by churches who want them?
- Most invitation cards were give out during the 2 Sundays Services before BTC Sunday and people could help themselves from the window sill inside the Church Porch. We laminated flyers (yours) and put them on posts in the Churchyard 3 weeks prior to the event
- Resources were good. Perhaps a larger poster for outside notice-boards for passers-by to see?
- I think the information and material supplied by you was more than adequate.
- We started a new series of services "Taste & See" and this attracted 2 or 3 less regulars as a follow up.
- Ray of light is that we had a Harvest Family Workshop on Sat and there were 2 new families (3 children 4 adults) at that!
- We gave the invitation cards to members of the congregation and to hand on. We also handed invitations to all those who had attended a special evensong for relations buried in the churchyard, and personally invited others.
- We issued the cards and also had a notice of service on the notice board and in the church magazine.
- We welcomed visitors by specifically, by asking their names and welcoming them.
- We created an A4 flyer and this was put in the book bag of every child attending the village school.
- We wrote to all parents of children baptized in last 3 years.
- We found the post cards produced did not meet our requirements we prefer to use a flyer.
- Found the information really helpful and encouraging.
- Good resources, but perhaps less inundation with e-mails and resources.
- Services at St Catherine's were advertised as part of the leaflet that was distributed round the parish. This attracted one of the couples. As part of the MAP the Vicar and Curate visited the majority of houses in the hamlet of Eyton (total: 13) and invited people to church on 26th.
- Two door stewards, minister and organist were wearing Traidcraft 'Welcome' B2CS t-shirts. Each worshipper was given an order of service (based on the template from the website) and postcard.
- Personal invites given out and prayed over. Promoted in monthly magazine that is circulated more widely than just church members.
- Not happy with the colour of the posters and would have preferred a greater contrast; wanted to be brighter and more eye-catching. Also would have preferred A2 or A1 size.
- One comment made to me on the pictorial publicity material is just that although it featured one older person with a stick, it did not feature anyone disabled, and seems mostly to be aiming at younger sectors of the population.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

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- Keep up the good work - it is creating a culture of invitation and welcome which is so helpful.
- We have had some encouraging growth in the last year, but it seems to bypass B2CS!
- In the publicity it is good to emphasise that B2CS is a useful tool, but might be good to recognise that it doesn't work in all situation and or there are seasons in a particular Church where it works and other times when it doesn't.
- Congregation members reported hearing the media advertising. I didn't. I'm glad about this, because you are aiming for ordinary Stoke on Trent people.
- Advice on press releases, etc for the local media would be helpful.
- People were invited to a Welcome Evening – which includes food and a chance to get to know some of the clergy and members of the congregation. People were also invited to the Harvest Festival which was the week after
- My own feeling is that, certainly for us, it seems not the best time of year. Advertising over the summer months seems to be to different people each week as folk go away on holiday, and then there are some who are there every week who are fed up of hearing about it.
- Is there any mileage in exploring another date in the year? E.g. Advent Sunday. How can we get regular attendees to see beyond their comfort zone, and actually invite family / neighbours / friends? I'm posing more questions than answers which probably reflect my frustration, that we overload our Church Programmes to such an extent that the well intentioned 'BTCS' becomes just another event!
- Try something different- in a village it is not so easy to find new people to ask back each year. Try special invitations for other occasions too- I've just sent out quite a number to infrequent attendees for the forthcoming Harvest Praise on Thursday evening.
- Try to run one at a different time of the year. Every year we have a number of people who go on holiday after the summer holidays at this time. I suspect this is replicated in non-church goers and is likely to be a group of people who might be more likely to "come back to church"!
- In the evening service (normal attendance about 30), we had a congregation of 70 – many of whom were not regular attendees.
- We combined Back to Church with an invitation to come and give thanks for Health Care received. We have been praying for a new doctors' surgery in the village and this has recently come to pass, so we invited people to give thanks for answered prayer.
- We have an established follow up process in which people send notes of encouragement or visit.
- Still not sure about 'Back to'. Some may never have been members of a church.
- Don't make it any more complicated than it already is. We like to have access to the logos/pictures/graphics used in the B2CS adverts so that we can personalise things – still have to scan them. It would be easier not to have to do this. I find personal contact also best from your end is good, same as personal invitation best.
- Call it 'Come to Church Sunday'? 'Back' can invoke a negative impression.
- It's well worthwhile to continue doing this, thank-you.
- Around 8 members of the normal congregation stayed away.
- None other than keep the ideas and material coming so that the lazy amongst us can easily access the resources without having to search around.
- I'm afraid it seems counter-productive here - I know some people avoid the day as they have not persuaded anyone to come. We will probably not do BTCS again. Four to six stayed away including two lay readers.
- We used personal invitations from members of the congregation and a billboard outside church.
- Not sure we will do it again, but we try and make every service special and welcoming.

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- Is 'Back to Church Sunday' is the best name? I wonder if a more appropriate name might be 'Come to Church Sunday' which could encourage returners and enable approaches new people.
- Think about timing of the event and how it might relate to the harvest season.
- The title "Back to Church" is felt by some to be a little patronising and slightly retrogressive. We preferred to use the "Come as you are" sub-title for this year.
- For us at St James' the first two times we did we had big response, but now for last two years very little response. One new person comes to B2CS in 2 years and yet around 20 regular worshippers have joined over last 2 years.
- Possibly around five to ten of the regular congregation stayed away.
- Not as great a response as in previous years, felt it went better when held on Harvest Thanksgiving.
- Keep going with it!
- Disappointing response but not sure how motivated the congregation were as it is the first year we have tried it.
- Our experience is that it's giving congregation members confidence to invite folks back, each year more people feel a bit more confident to do it. Thank you for all the hard work and encouragement.
- The only advice we would give to Mission Office is that we learnt a lot from The Rev'd George Fisher when he made a visit to our Church and talked in great detail on things we can do to make BTC Sunday a success. We feel that all Churches should invite him.
- Please call it Come to church Sunday, it always sounds like we're telling people off and looking backwards.
- Don't hype it up – if we're inviting people back to what we normally do we need to do what we normally do. Possibly B2CS needs a rest and we need encouraging to get into the habit of seeing every act of worship as something we can comfortably and confidently invite others to.
- Couple of comments – and one I also heard on Radio – is that maybe the "Back" label is not ideal as many people un-churched – suggestions of "Come to Church" or even "Welcome to Church".
- Small churches like ours with a scattered farming community can be skeptical about projects like BTCS and it is more difficult to attract large numbers than in a town with a higher, denser population, so the Mission Office could be aware of this but not discouraged from continuing. It is after all the smaller congregations which need the bigger support to be able to continue, so anything which sets this message across is useful.
- If there are special services prior to B2C Sunday e.g. baptism, it is a good idea to invite those who are there. One person who came back had previously been here for a baptism service.
- I think they do a good job, however the strategy for BTC in rural areas has to be very different to that in urban areas. I think a service of Holy Communion, for instance, would have made people feel excluded. There is therefore a case for conducting a special non HC service against advice.
- I feel the whole event needs even more national publicity.
- Provide more background to the picture used in connection with the service.
- My only advice would be to have two sets of statistics. It is good to gather numbers of people who came to the day but it would be more valuable to know from the Mission Office the numbers of people who still attended the churches 3 to 4 weeks after the event and again if any of those who attended came back over Christmas. This would show how positive the event had worked in reality and secondly the Christmas figures would show us if we have begun to reach individuals through this work stimulating a further desire to know more about God and his church.
- My concern is that this initiative is passing its "sell-by" date now, and I am unsure whether we shall participate next year or have a year "off". I would hope that people feel that they can invite people to come to church on any Sunday, not wait for one specific Sunday, because Mission needs to be a

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52 weeks a year initiative built into the DNA of a church. I am concerned that B2CS can feel like another “Come along and join us in what we already do” thing, which is actually very exclusive and feels like being invited to join a club, rather than a genuine engagement with people because we want to share with them something of the love of God and we celebrate their company.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	8
New church leader	
Heard about if from a church member	1
Recommended through another church	2

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

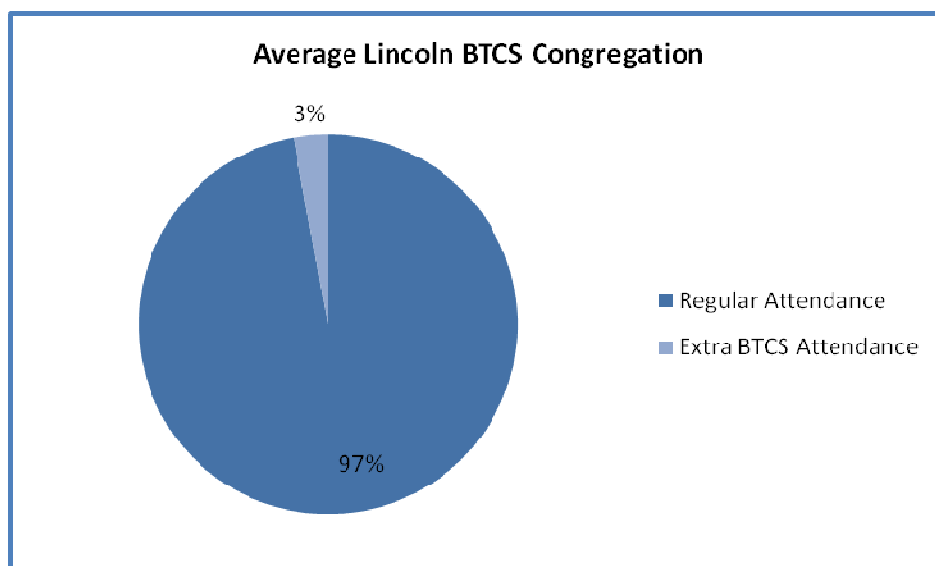
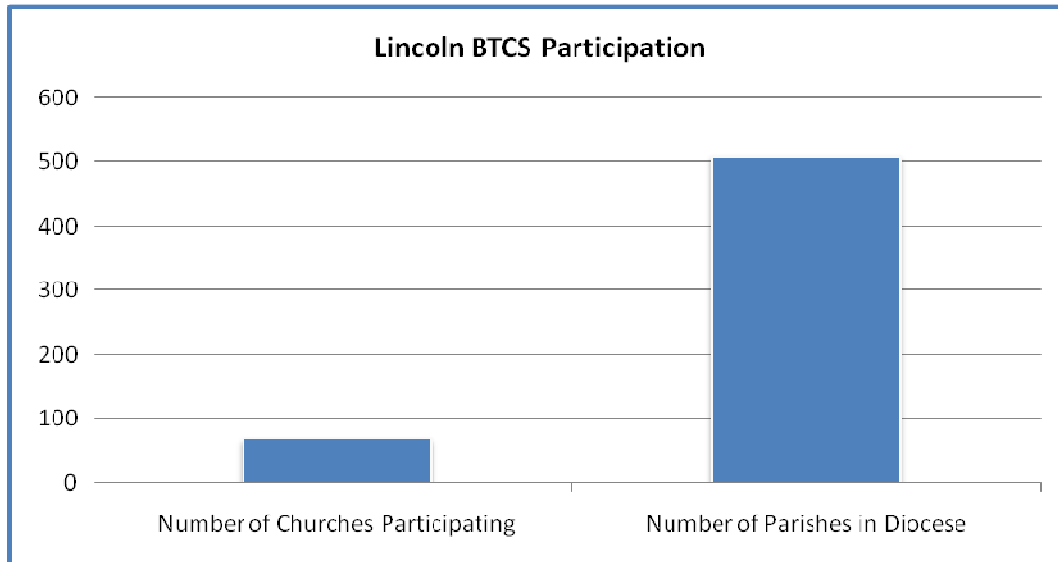
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	4
2008	5
2009	6
I Don't Know	3

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Lincoln

2 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
68	507	13%	50	52	2	3%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- We have always been unsure about the function of the postcards. We have oodles of them left.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- As previously, a date in September is unrealistic in an agricultural community where Harvest takes up so much of peoples' imagination. There was a very poor uptake this year in this deanery because of the inappropriate date. In previous years there has been a confusion of Harvest and B2C Sunday which has not been very helpful. If the date can be changed to sometime in the early summer then it would help enormously. Several churches have decided to run a B2C Sunday themselves at another time of the year. I hope this is helpful - it is not meant to be critical of what is a very good initiative.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	2
I Don't Know	

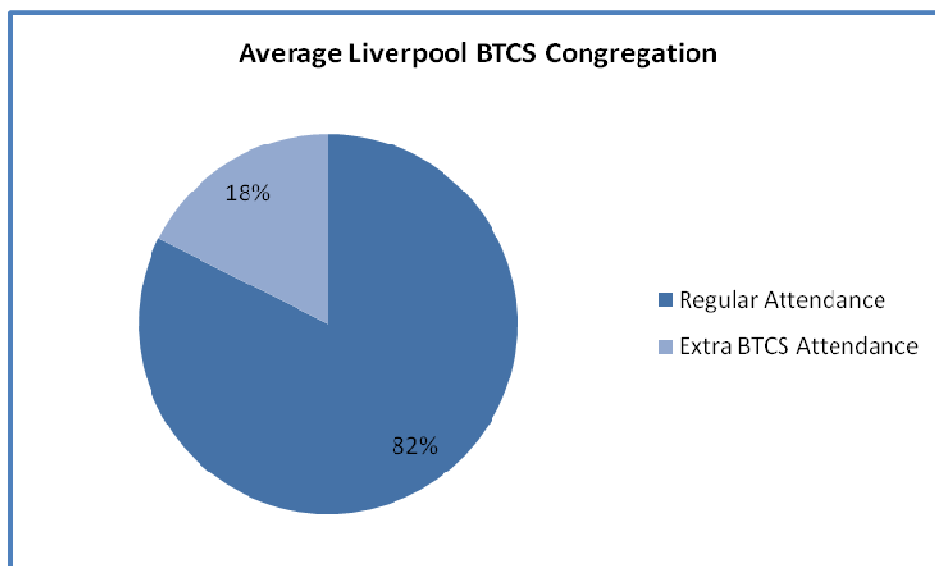
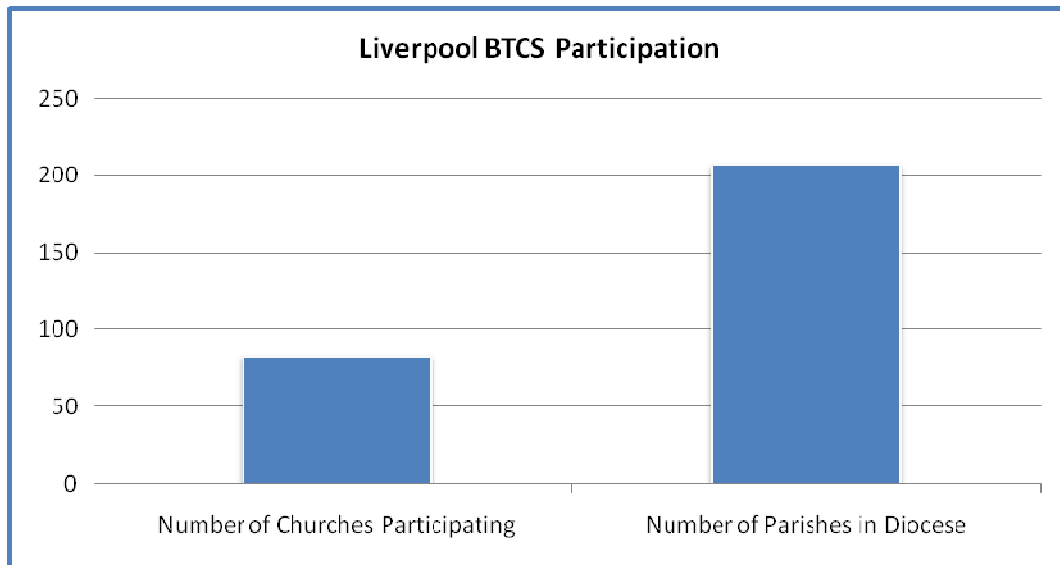
BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Liverpool

29 participating churches submitted feedback.

An additional 78 churches reported a further 716 people came back to church in Liverpool diocese. However these numbers could not be included in the statistical analysis as they could not be correlated with pack orders.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
83	207	40%	79	96	17	21.4%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- One lady who hasn't been for many years, enjoyed the B2CS service and welcome and has said she will definitely come again.
- We have a new girl in our choir and on B2CS she came with the rest of her family, so we can hopefully encourage them to come again.
- 9 of the 11 were from our Luncheon Club, which we have been running for 5 years now. Over 56% of those who attend the Luncheon Club do not attend any church. We have seen 3 start coming to the church from the Luncheon Club over the 5 years. So it was great to welcome another 9 to yesterday's Back to Church Sunday. They felt very much at home and were made very welcome and were able to chat to church members afterwards at the finger buffet which we had after the service.
- We had some people come back before BTCS as they saw the adverts, so we really had 16 return.
- We based the theme around cake, and did some baking in church as part of the talk to encourage them to stay for a chat afterwards, and it worked. We looked at what makes the church, and looked at the MIXTURE of people it takes to make a church. I received positive feedback for this approach. It was fun too.
- Surprise at the change in service and welcome received
- 'Really enjoyed it, I've wanted to come back for a while', 'Really enjoyed the service', 'Lovely to catch up with friends, and see familiar faces again'
- A woman who lives opposite the church said "I have always wanted to be invited to come to Linacre mission!" she loved the service and was moved to tears
- We were interviewed live on BBC Radio Merseyside for Daybreak show. Great opportunity to share the gospel. We have had some great times of prayer in preparation and a real buzz of excitement.
- It mobilised us to prepare a nice welcome pack for visitors which we have been talking about for years and hadn't got round to!
- People were surprised that they enjoyed church!
- Two families came who enjoyed being with us. I pray we can walk with them and encourage them to stay.
- Those who came on the day, already come very occasionally.
- We had a good family service with puppets and as well as personal invitations we invited our toddler group families and baptism families, some of whom came and some of whom came for the free lunch we put on as well.
- One new arrival had been asked to come by one of our regulars, a 12 year old boy: she came with her young baby and said she would come again next week.
- Comments from all those who came to the service were very positive and all said that they would come again. One lady said she would bring her grandchildren with her next week.
- We have one couple who have been in church every week since last year. This year several who had not been before and children from one of the youth organizations.
- Perhaps this is something that in some parishes can't be done every year.
- It was good to see familiar faces back again. The children's activities were good, and the refreshments were lovely.
- One woman who used to belong but now very rarely attends came because she had seen the Back to Church Sunday publicity. At the door she talked about having 'something missing' in her life and responded warmly to an invitation to start Alpha.
- All the services had an added dimension to them last Sunday. At the 8.30a.m. there was energy, liveliness and a real fire about the preaching. The 11.00a.m service was really busy, lots of kids, families and it turned out to be quite emotional. Some people returned who had left years ago.

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What was especially lovely was a couple who had had difficulties and had left, and they came back, holding hands. There were people who had left a couple of years ago who had returned. There was a sense of fellowship throughout. This was helped along by our 'Bike to Church' event. When the cyclists arrived back there was a spontaneous and long round of applause for them. There was a real sense of family and togetherness.

- The 6.30p.m service had a couple more people than normal, but what was special was the atmosphere of fellowship amongst this regular congregation. It was a great day throughout, and very special. Maybe it was that this day came after our week of prayer that made it so special - we had people praying quietly in the chapel after the service - a time of peace, and to give thanks. Very moving and inspiring to watch.
- I believe things are moving at our church, and this was just the encouragement that we need.
- Very pleased with some re-established networks. But the big thing we've found is that we've re-established many other contacts that are now on a continuing mailing and personal invitation list to other events social, services (like Harvest) and our Just Looking course.
- A number of people who had been disaffected by church chose to come back again. One man said, "This is the first time I've been happy to come to church in 20 years."
- Half of those who came back were under eighteen.
- We have had a number of our regular members who have been missing due to ill health and we were all encouraged to see new members or people we have had some contact with, come to our Sunday service.
- Some of the people who responded to the invitation to attend had been members quite recently and returned because of the personal touch. One person had left because they had been hurt and issues were able to be talked through, though she has not attended since.
- We used a Baptism Service as part of our approach to Back to Church Sunday.
- A family of mum, dad & toddler, related to others in our church, had a baptism here a few months ago. They were invited back to church & came, & mum & toddler have been several times since.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- I think that the suggested reading was, to me at least, not an obvious choice for B2Cs, because it speaks of telling people about Jesus and newcomers and returnees would be unlikely to be in a position to do so. This is more a message for our regulars. Perhaps you could offer more than one option.
- On the website I had some trouble early on in finding out what the theme was, the Bible passage for the speaker and suggested layout for the service.
- Liked the posters, only the theme 'come as you are' did not stand out enough. We didn't see any adverts in bus shelters etc, but did hear about it on the radio.
- Please can we have the posters in portrait format not landscape.
- The cards to be sent out were great. The personal invitation cards were not well worded, and so take up on those was quite low.
- Some space to write the person's name, and the name of the Church would have been better.
- Wasn't quite sure how you expected the New Day cards to be used, I used them for prayers of intercession and asked people to think of areas in their lives which they wanted God to come into or people they knew who needed to feel God's presence and asked them to write something down and we made them into a prayer.

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- Resources good. Unsure about the picture on the card that was given out to people yesterday. Not sure people got a lot from it. May be an idea to have a passage of scripture for people to reflect on as well as a picture.
- The Invitations cards were just what we needed and I pray we can continue to encourage the church family to invite people, but not just one day a year.
- Resources are good, especially the invitation cards, we need to learn to use them!!
- It would have been good to have included some cards on which details of names and addresses, telephone numbers etc. of the new arrivals could have been recorded. In the end, we put out a piece of paper on which people could do this.
- It would have been helpful to have something on the lectionary readings.
- I found the service resources poor and didn't use the service sheet. I expected to use some of the resources but ended up creating my own entirely.
- Disappointed with the service resources and service sheet, did not use them.
- At least one of the services in the benefice needs to be Communion. Suggestions for material to include in Eucharistic worship would be useful.
- Easy to use - thanks - but couldn't find the BCTS prayer we had last year!
- I liked the sermon resource but found the liturgy a bit weird to be honest (but I speak as a low churchman I think!) - It would have been nice to have the liturgy in simpler language.
- The PowerPoint template wasn't easy to use. If you had more than one slide, I couldn't copy the background image over.
- The resources were useful. A PowerPoint to go with the Bible passage would have been useful.
- Resources were fine.
- Would have liked some ideas for follow up events to invite people to.
- Thought it was all very poor - little help. Sermon notes virtually useless. Card picture unintelligible. Meditations did not attract much interest. All the results were through own efforts of congregation.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- It's a good initiative, but I find September not the best time to get organised for it. Everything is starting back and you find yourself under pressure to pick everything up. You haven't been able to meet with people to sort out Back to Church because everyone away.
- Perhaps the publicity could be a bit more obvious - adverts on buses and so on.
- More adverts in press, radio, TV, local billboards may be useful, although it would be expensive.
- Service resources available earlier with more options to choose from.
- Better worship materials which should be available earlier
- Allow interactive feedback on your website from those who attended (as is possible with The Wedding Project). Anonymous feedback about the experience would be invaluable to churches in discovering what we do well and where we are getting it wrong.
- It's brilliant!
- Flexibility about the date--perhaps one date in October, or in the autumn. It won't really matter about the publicity materials you provide.
- More help with a Communion service would be appreciated.
- Some churches have said that they will not create a special Sunday for the initiative each year. I don't know why?
- Don't just talk it up - give us real resources!

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Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	9
Found it successful in the past	12
New church leader	6
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	2

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

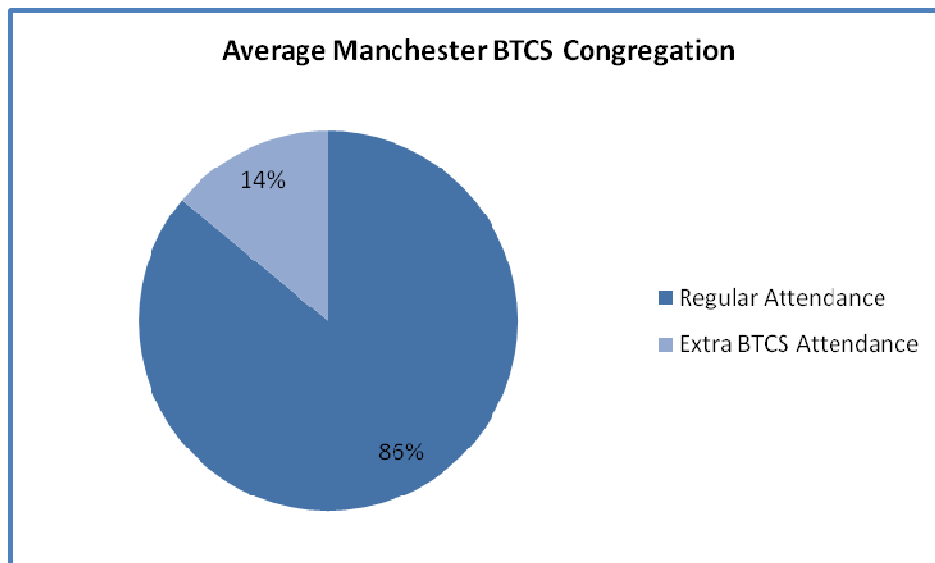
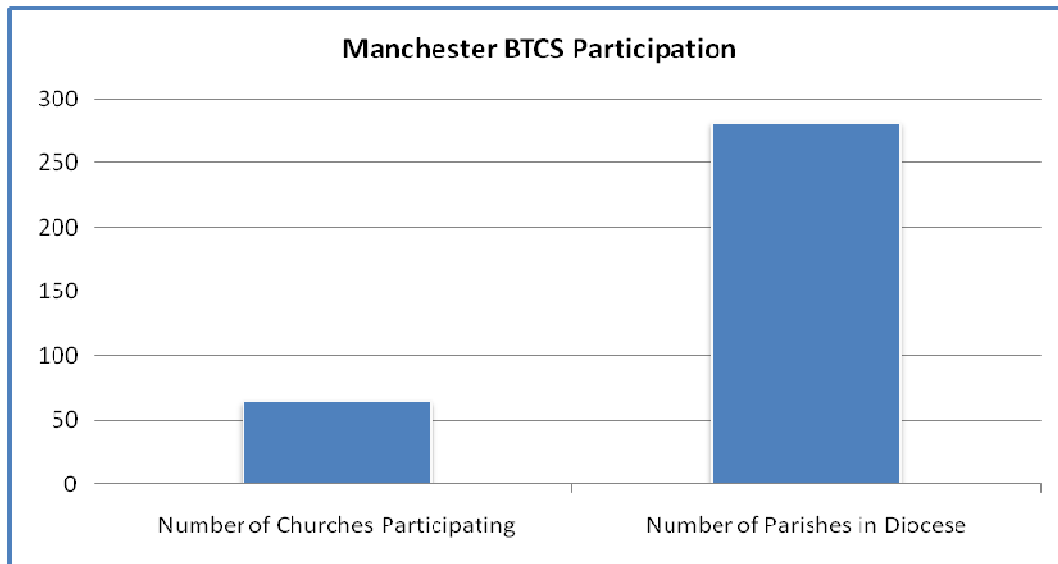
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	7
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	2
2008	16
2009	15
I Don't Know	1

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Manchester

15 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
64	281	23%	84	98	14	16.3%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- All members of the small congregation had taken the whole concept on board and really tried hard. There would have been about five or six more people if everyone who had been invited had turned up.
- One lady came back after having left a while ago, she had wanted to return but was apprehensive, she told me after the service that she had really enjoyed it and would be coming again! We had a shared "Brunch" of bacon baps after the service.
- I invited all those for whom I have done baptisms or weddings in the past 12 months. One couple, whose child is brought every Sunday by grandparents, both negotiated the day off work in order to respond to this invitation.
- Too soon to evaluate ongoing attendance but those I spoke to said that they intended to come back. Whatever the outcome in terms of new attendance very positive in terms of congregational involvement.
- Don't know yet. However, the congregation and I were encouraged to see 11 new people at our service, with 6 of those being non-relatives and being the most likely to return. Bit early to give positive long term report.
- There were three families, a dad and son, one couple. The fathers & son told me that they had enjoyed the service and even more because I befriended them. He also enjoyed my singing!
- One lady said that she would definitely continue to come to church. Last year we had two people, invited as neighbours of a church member, who continued to come and have just completed the year with us.
- Those that had invited people to come and their guest has attended had such smiley faces! There was a real sense of Back to Church working better than it has before, simply because a greater number of the congregation took on board the commitment to invite. There were promises of to come back again from several who came.
- Two regular attendees brought their adult daughter and partner. The daughter is involved in church life, running our Church brigade, but is not a worshipper. It looks like she might be now!
- Good welcome from the usual congregation, appreciated and enjoyed the service, still have one lady with us who attended back to church two years ago.
- Congregation's delight at one long-missing returnee.
- There were one or two individuals who had taken to heart the need to offer a personal invitation and it was through them that we saw old and new faces.
- Too early to tell but one family were in church the following Sunday as well.
- Some of the 'back to churches' said they enjoyed the Service and promised to return.
- Many baptism families came back.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- I wasn't too keen on the design of the invitation, or the wording.
- I liked the postcards to give to people to take home. I appreciated having an order of service to work with. For me the one resource that didn't work was the posters. The only thing that stood out on them was the white figures. I was asked why we had a picture of a cyclist on the notice board! Something more eye-catching that communicated a little more of what this was about would have been good.
- The words 'Come as you are' 'Back to church Sunday' and the date were legible only from close up. From a distance of more than a couple of yards, the posters didn't communicate anything. I found the resources, site & e-mail reminders helpful - much better than when I last used it (2005/6 I think)

BackToChurchSunday



- I would use the official invite next year.
- The resources to give away a welcome back to church book, prayer cards, were better in years gone by, we used to give a mission book too and a BtCS carrier bag to put all the goodies in.
- I tried the method of inviting my congregation to invite someone and it went down poorly. In one of the churches, only five people took an invite off me and I think out of kindness. The rest boldly declared they had no one to invite! The other church we gave the invites out freely and this one had the best result on the day!
- I also emailed my entire church congregation I have emails for asking them to let me know if they could invite someone BtC for planning purposes etc. Nil response!
- The T-shirts were really good, especially at the price. The design also means that we will be able to wear them on future occasions with the welcome logo to the front
- Well produced resources. Was there an explanation of the "New Day" artwork? If so, I didn't find it; and if not, it would have been good.
- Material hard to order on the website, my 1st order did not go through (yes I did everything correctly!) I needed to speak to someone on the phone and the order was still wrong. Need for more attention to detail, it was still wrong after speaking with someone.
- A3 poster would have been helpful, and more posters in relation to the number of invitation cards. The publicity felt rather too sophisticated.
- Not too impressed with the material - too obscure and not enough emphasis on the theme - 'back to church' - There should be more space for the name of the church.
- Do not think it is necessary to have the 'prayer' section on the invitation.
- Having said all that I do think the material is helpful in reminding and encouraging.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Keep it simple.
- I would never stop doing it, 13 came back for Heavens sake, you can't knock that. I think I might have to look at other ways of inviting people back for next year, other than through the congregation. I asked my local evening paper to run an article, they didn't.
- To extol the virtues of Jesus is never easy and when you are competing with Ryan Giggs and Co it is even harder as they will sadly always come first and the Trafford Centre second etc!
- You see I put Jesus first place, why because I want to! How do you bottle that up and share it around?
- Don't let it become all web-based!
- Smaller packs, choice of size and shape of poster would help.
- PCCs need to be enthused.
- In a team setting where resources are limited it is difficult to run all the churches together on one Sunday. Next year for one church we would put together Back to Church and Harvest.
- Face to face personal invitations inviting those that have been married and had children baptised.
- We have tried BCS now on a number of occasions and however hard we try we seem to have very little response from those who are personally invited - we get a better response by encouraging back those who have been baptised over the previous year.

BackToChurchSunday



Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	3
Found it successful in the past	9
New church leader	4
Heard about it from a church member	1
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Michael Harvey's training day was inspirational and persuaded our vicar to try again. He had been on the point of letting it lapse this year as we had so many special Sundays in the offing.
- Just tried again

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	3
2004	1
2005	3
2006	3
2007	3
2008	8
2009	11
I Don't Know	1

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Newcastle

0 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.

Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
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BackToChurchSunday



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Good News Stories:

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

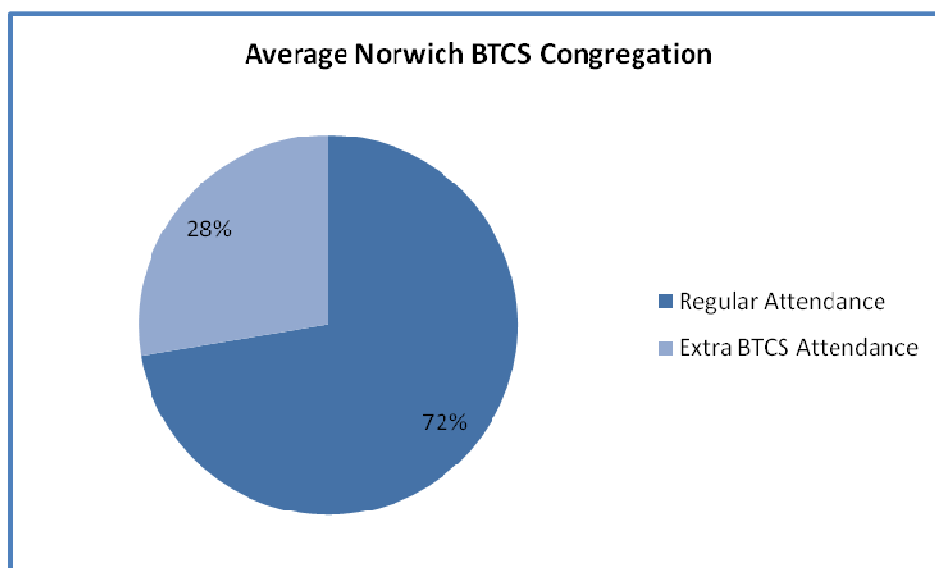
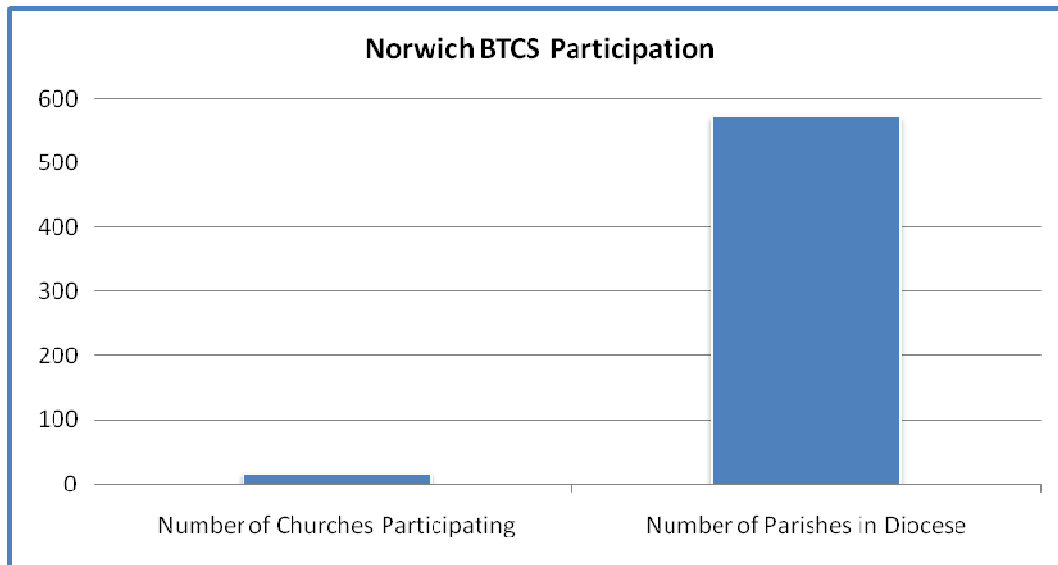
Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Norwich

3 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
17	570	3%	63	87	24	38.1%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- The members of this last year's Emmaus course organised the BTCS and it was excellent.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	
Found it successful in the past	1
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

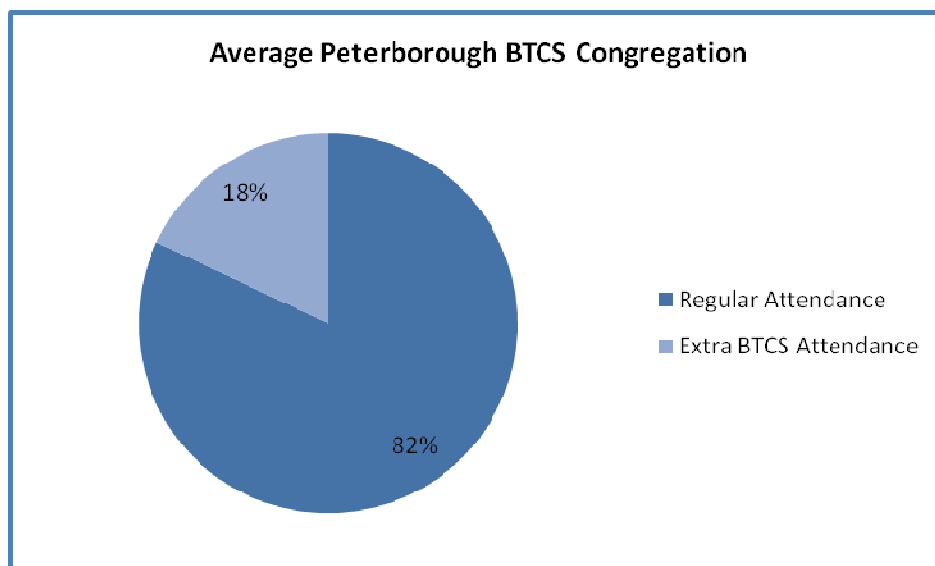
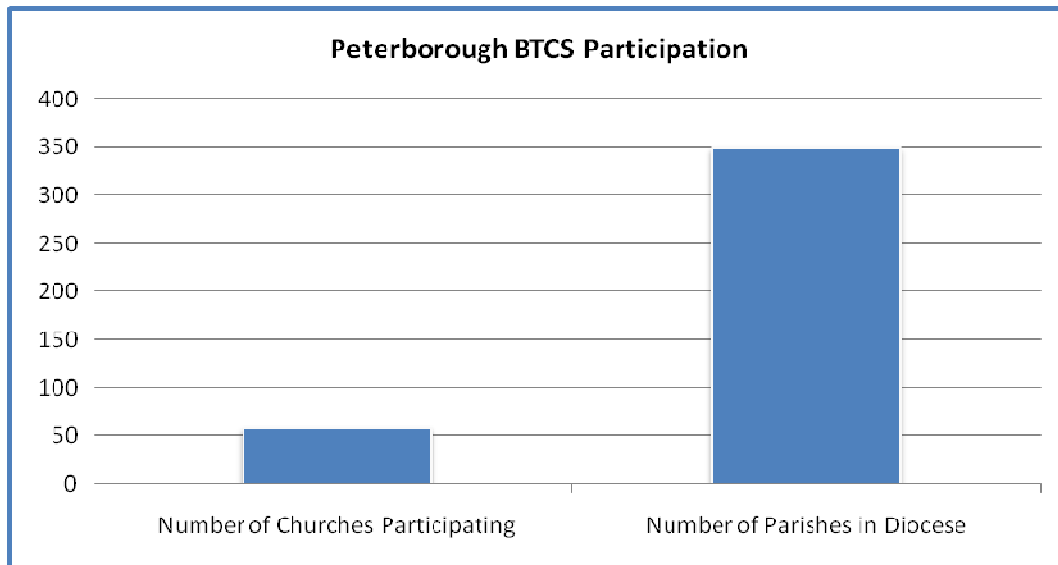
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	1
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Peterborough

5 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
58	348	17%	70	85	15	21.9%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- We are a small rural parish in Rutland. The village has a population of about 250. Most Sundays we get between 14 and 22 for our services in our old church. We combined Back to Church Sunday with Harvest and welcomed almost 60 people to Church for a harvest family communion and then 33 of us sat down to harvest lunch after the service in the nave of the church with ages ranging from 2 - 82!! The Church was at the heart of the village again and the village was able to join together for harvest and to worship God
- All returnees were people for whom we have been praying for a long time. No casual drop ins (maybe because we had not done any general publicity but had relied on personal invitations).
- Visitors integrated well in groups and joined in with all the activities. Lots of laughter and also appreciation of meditation slot.
- One family of young mother, partner and two small children came 30 miles to attend and rang this morning to see that they had enjoyed themselves so much that the young mum is bringing her mother in a month's time! She would like to be married in 'such a friendly church' (her description!) and have her children baptized.
- We leafleted the parish to let people know about BCTS and one lady turned up as a result without having a personal invitation.
- We invited the Guides and involved them in the service. They performed the dramatised story of Zacchaeus which was really well received. Some parents also came with the girls which was encouraging. After the service the Guides organised a cake stall, which was supported by many members of the church.
- For the 'sermon spot' two members of the ministry team did a dialogue about being a Christian, and this seemed to be appreciated by many of the congregation. We also involved two fairly new members of the church with the intercessions. It was good to try something different - certainly there was a good atmosphere during and after the service.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- We did not use it too much directly but it was useful for ideas and planning.
- Found some of the materials and the card very esoteric. Not suited to an ecumenical mixed nationality cafe church in an area of significant deprivation.
- I preferred last year's postcards to this year's.
- We only used the invitation cards and other basic resources which were very good.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- It should be more flexible combining the back to church element with other festivals like harvest or other events.
- Perhaps more informal resources - given that the people we are targeting have maybe given up on church a new approach might seem more welcoming.
- Make your advertisements less 'cheesy.' I heard the one on Classic FM and was not happy. Very touchy - feely, middle class.

BackToChurchSunday



Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	2
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	1
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

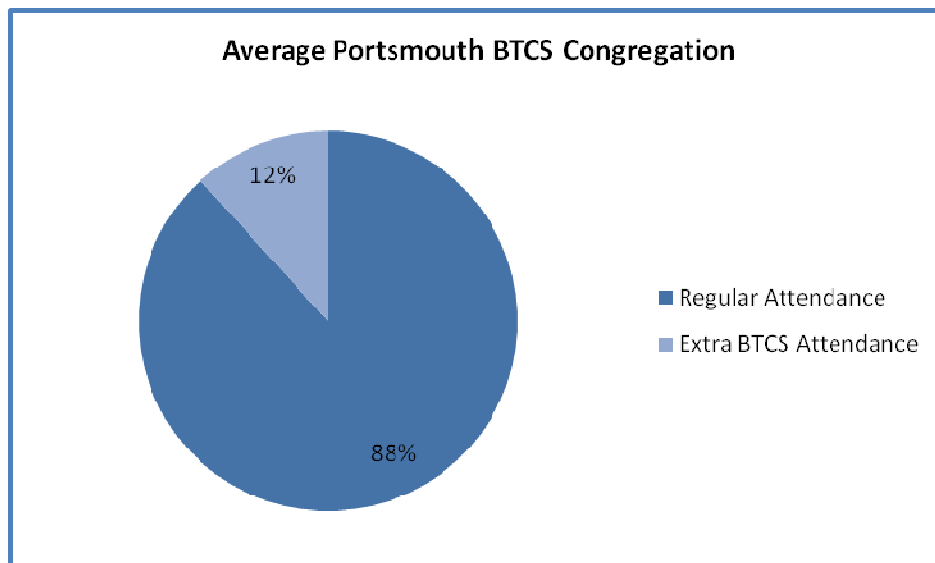
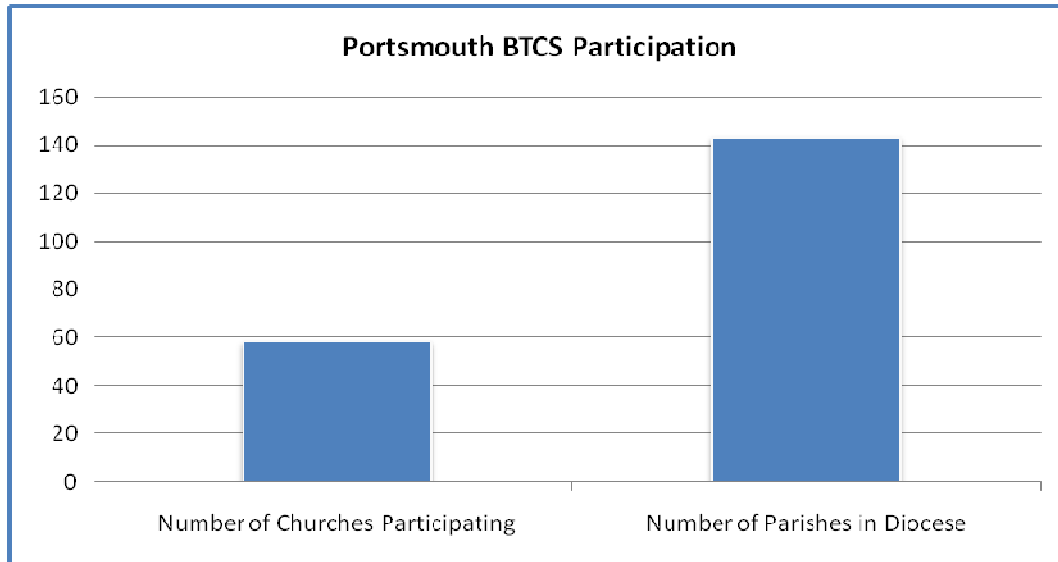
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	2
2008	2
2009	2
I Don't Know	1

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Portsmouth

16 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
58	143	41	104	118	14	13.4%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- I was licensed by the Bishop of Portsmouth on Saturday 25th as a Reader in a service in Portsmouth Cathedral. The Back to Church Sunday service yesterday therefore marked the start of my ministry, and with the help of your website, I had designed a special service which I led and at which I preached. The service involved five other members of the congregation some of whom gave mini testimonials on the subject of 'What Church Means to me' with others choosing the hymns and explaining why they were important to them. I have had glowing comments both from regular churchgoers and from those who attended yesterday because they were invited. I feel God at work, not just among newcomers, but in strengthening the faith of those who attend more often, who I pray will start to think about what church means to them. Next year I am determined that we will do even better! Thanks you for your materials and for inspiring me with ideas for the service.
- Printed special service leaflets to include a wedding blessing as part of the service and bells rang at beginning and end of the service, plus bucks fizz as well as coffee afterwards. Great atmosphere and many positive comments.
- Many of the personal invitations were accepted.
- One person who came last year is still with us.
- At least eight people were invited to church, and two came. Both were made welcome, and hope to continue coming.
- Visitors to our family service where pleasantly surprised - it was better than they had expected. Over lunch, a mum said, 'I really enjoyed it today. It was great being there with you. It was really lovely.'
- My Church Warden wasn't sure about inviting a particular young family because she didn't know if they'd come. I encouraged her to invite them saying that it was her job to invite not to answer for them. On the day the family, mum, dad, and 2 children came along with a family friend. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and asked if it was OK to come next week (our harvest). We said, of course it is, and additionally invited them to our Harvest Supper on the Sat night (as unpaying guests). 4 adults came to that (1 extra man) and both children. Sunday morning all 4 adults and both children came, during coffee one of the women stated that she played 4 instruments and was encouraged to have a play on the Church Keyboard. The two ladies expressed an interest in our Thursday Home Group and as they left they said, "Thank you for having us!"
- This is only our 2nd year and I went for it in a big way..! We had approx 90 extra people on the day (260ish rather than our usual 170ish with well over 50 children there compared to a normal number of about 30). So a great success all round! Our story might be interesting because firstly we did it a bit differently – we swapped dates so we did Back to Church Sunday on 3 October rather than the official date so that it would coincide with our Family Service and Harvest Festival. The Service was also Eucharistic and I put together a special order of service including material from BTCS website, Common Worship and an invitation to confession borrowed from the Greenbelt Festival Eucharist this year! We might be a good example of how it is possible to adapt the material to suit local needs and styles? We used real bread for the Eucharist – with leftovers being eaten up by everyone (especially the children) over coffee afterwards.
- We invited people to bring homemade produce, cakes, jams, etc which we all shared out amongst ourselves afterwards giving small donations to the church in return for any item taken home. A lot of food was also collected for the Salvation Army to distribute.
- My own invited person was a young lady called Donna who had walked into our parish office a couple of months ago after having moved to Petersfield from Portsmouth. She and her husband Neil had a registry office wedding and regretted it in many ways, wishing they had married in church. Donna had been brought up to go to church as a child but hadn't been for many years and also

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discovered from her Mum that she had never been baptized! So, after some discussions and agreement I invited her and Neil to come back to church on 3 October and I baptized her in the middle of the service with all the 50+ children thronging around her. After the service I blessed their wedding rings for them as well!

- We had a number of people indicating that they would return again and we are very hopeful that this has been a real act of renewal for us regulars also!
- With all the children around in the church I focused in my 'teaching slot' on our new Bishop, Christopher Foster's licensing and the young girl who reminded him then that we are all called to be children of God first. I had them all sat down in the middle of the church to remind us all as I talked. Children also served, read the lesson and led the prayers during the service!
- One person came on BTCS and has come several weeks since. Good news!
- Two of the people who came were aware that it was BTCS but had not been invited by a congregation member, the other four were church members who were visiting with a view to changing church - two have since joined us.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- They were excellent - unfortunately we scheduled this into our church diary for early in September, too early after the start of the new term to capitalise on 'Back to church' Sunday. Next year we will ensure it is scheduled for the end of Sept and give better preparation and warning to it.
- Because of the particular circumstances of the service, it was difficult to use all the resources but the invitations and posters were excellent.
- I think that 'Back to Church Sunday' and the date should be larger on the publicity posters.
- I did not like the picture on the card at all. Its message was too obscure and I did not give them out.
- Maybe a larger poster would be useful.
- The pictures on the postcards are too small for older people and the image was complex and not very obviously connected with the Bible passage.
- It's not the best site for easily navigating in order to find what you want. The resources should include a proper preface (short and extended), an invitation to confession, an introduction to the peace, a collect, and a post communion prayer, and an outline intercession to be really helpful.
- Good resources, we used them.
- The post card wasn't as helpful this year as last.
- I think the resources should be selectable as separate items rather than bundled together.
- There should be resources to give to children and young people.
- We did not like the card very much.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- If you can develop more service ideas, I'm sure it will help people.
- We had already planned for the Harvest Service to be on 26.9.10 and although you advise not to use a special service, I think it added an extra attraction
- Perhaps this response form might have room for failures and grumbles as well as success stories - this would be a better balance!
- Allow subsections of resource for other denominations to put denomination specific material on. This would increase presentation of a united effort.
- Our harvest festival is set by the school diary in reality (Really daft otherwise to do harvest in school one week and then harvest in church another, when it is a church school and we are an inner city parish) and so it was harvest for us - and I know others have similar issues.

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- There seems to be no provision for children's ministry happening separately from the main church service. Could they not be encouraged to have a 'bring a friend day'?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	8
Found it successful in the past	6
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- We need more members
- Did it last year and wanted to try again. We had one person come back last year!
- It's a great idea.
- Second try.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

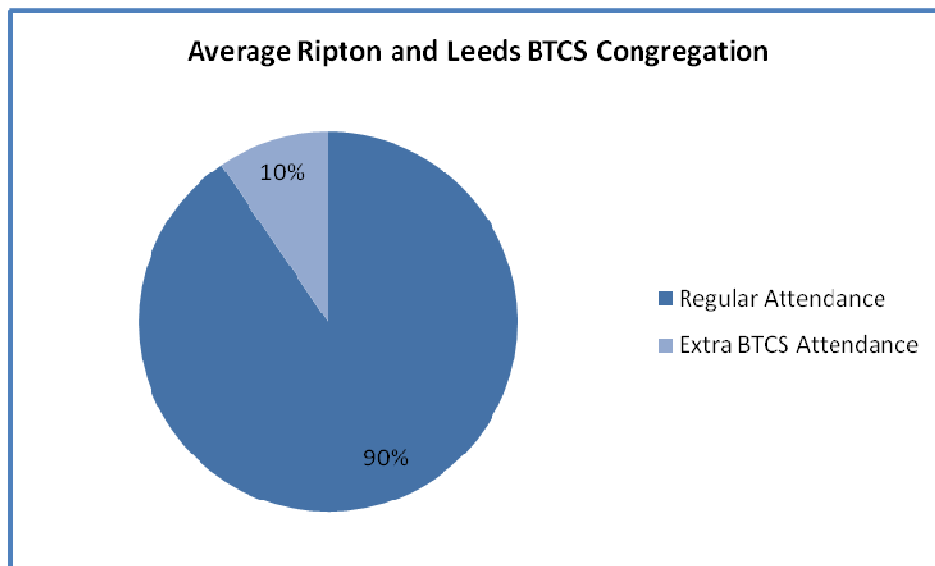
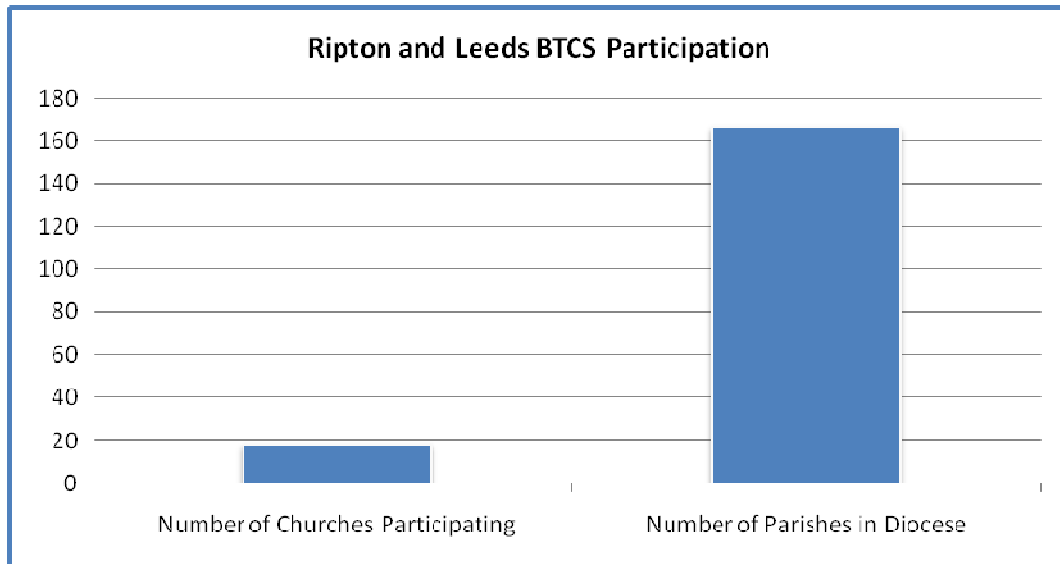
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	3
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	1
2008	2
2009	11
I Don't Know	2

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Ripon & Leeds

3 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
18	166	11%	146	15	161	10.5%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- In the run up, people's genuine willingness to invite improved: e.g. an elderly widow who comes to 8 am brought two neighbours to the 10 am and another small group to the 6.30 pm, even though these are services that she normally would not attend.
- On the same theme, a group of young women from the congregation who run a lunch club in the Parish Centre, on their own initiative formally invited those who come to the lunch club "back to church" using the invitation slips and were there to greet them at the door on the day.
- Laura and Phil, a young couple in our congregation who head up our Friday "First Praise" children's worship, and who themselves experienced how hard it was to cross the threshold when they were on a journey of faith themselves a few years ago, intentionally invited some friends, but above all (and maybe much harder) Laura invited her own parents
- Although we had very good experiences on the day, the best outcome was that folk felt empowered to invite and we are planning two other specific Sundays in the coming year as invitation Sundays.
- The success of the event cannot be judged alone by the actual numbers attending on 26th September as we are aware of a small number of people who said that, for whatever reason, they were unable to attend on that particular day but would welcome the opportunity to join us on a future date. Time will tell!

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- Basically we used the invite and prayer cards, which worked really well for us.
- Its okay - keep it simple.
- Invitation card and Follow-up card useful size and design.
- A few more posters would have been helpful.A4 size
- Am glad you have cut out the t-shirts and balloons etc!

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Quite a few people wrote their names on the cards and handed them in, but there was no space for contact details. We missed a trick here and next year will include our own "Welcome to Christ Church" cards on the day.
- Not specifically for you, but I/we did not get any information through earlier in the year. I think it came from the Diocese but 'got lost' somewhere with the clergy, and then I found it difficult to get info and was told by the Diocese that it was too late to order the Pack.
I eventually got onto the website and sent an email, and received a very helpful reply giving me details of the pack (she even sent me some samples) and how to order via Traidcraft. I am most grateful to that member of your team.
- I would welcome advice as to how to actually involve more people beforehand in preparing the invites etc. - always seems to be the same one or two even though I have approached people individually.
- The Diocese had a good training session which I went to by default as it was for clergy and church wardens. However it was only a week beforehand and rather too late in some respects but did help to inspire the vicar to give it a good push the next service the next day.
- There may be another session about following up people, but the follow-up needs to be done fairly quickly after BtCS and not several months later.

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Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	1
New church leader	
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Went to Michael's seminar just three weeks before the day!
- Feel we should be getting church members to be inviting friends etc on a regular basis but they need nudging/pushing/given incentive and encouragement to do this.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

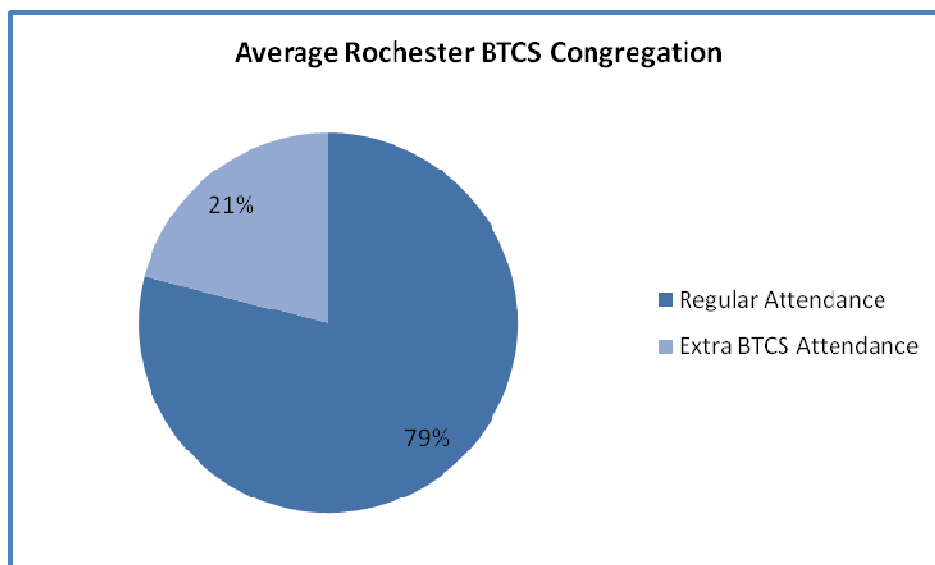
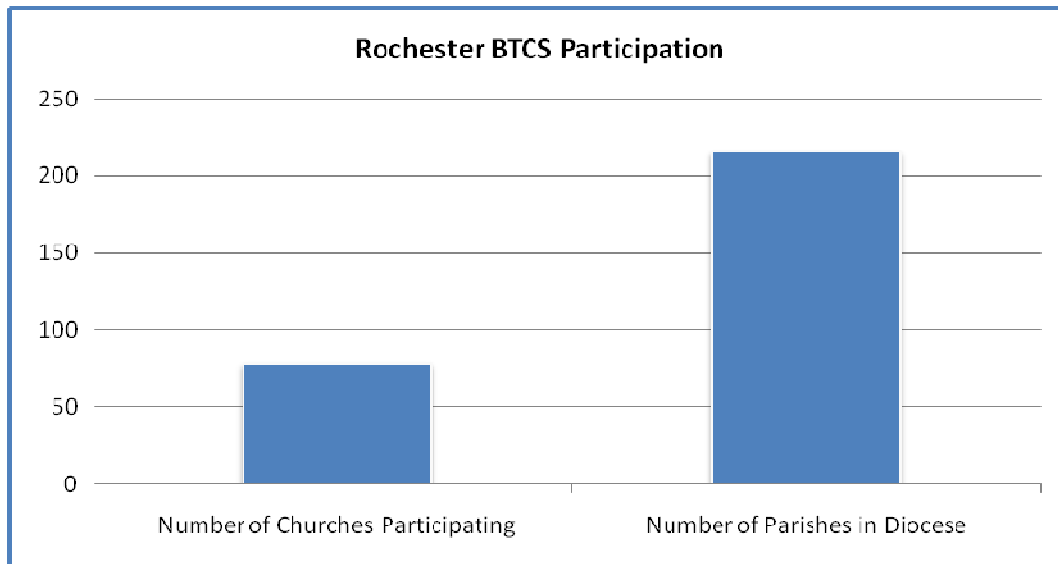
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	1
2008	1
2009	2
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Rochester

19 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
78	215	36%	63	80	17	26.7%

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Good News Stories:

- Several of the new attendees said how much they liked the service would definitely come again.
- "Friendly welcome."
- A distinct improvement on last year. I think I'd learned a few lessons about giving the regulars more notice etc.
- The congregation took their responsibility seriously and invited their friends and neighbours. We started the day with breakfast and that was very successful because once we got into the service, everyone seemed ready to engage.
- A small group of our local Cubs and Beavers attended with their leaders following personal invitations. Although we have had contacts with the uniformed organisations in past years, these have become rather intermittent owing to a change in overall leadership. However, this opportunity to renew pastoral contact will, we hope, prove fruitful in the future, with the Cubs and Beavers attending church more often.
- We have one lady who came last year and is now being confirmed in November. We had 2 children come for the first time and they say they are going to come once a month to our children's group.
- We launched a new 4 O'clock Service on the day.
- It is too soon to see whether any people "stick" but each year in the past some people have stuck. This year we made a particular focus inviting our church school so the figure attending was inflated by them and their parents, but we had LOTS of very positive comments from them. Also, we had some interviews with 3 people who started coming to church last year, one of them on Back to Church Sunday. All 3 people have now done the Alpha course.
- Not included in the number above was a baptism family - some of whom are now going to begin to come regularly and three children are starting with the midweek Christian club we run.
- We have decided to do 4 invitation services a year to maintain the momentum. Each will be linked to a follow up group and each will target a different group in the village.
- Some of our additional congregation come as a result of the personal invitation but we also appear to reach out to others (some new to the parish) who pick up the general invitation we issue in our magazine deliver free to every house in the parish.
- We had a very good service Cafe style service, but have been doing it for a couple of year now for Family Services so it is not so new to folk who attend. Numbers were down on last year.
- Really good to have some marriage / baptism contacts come and join us for our morning service. Some who couldn't make 26th September came instead to our service on 3rd October.
- A family that accepted our invitation and who were going to have their baby baptised in the church a week later were "pleased to have been invited and pleasantly surprised at the welcome and 'fellowship' that existed". They have since 'committed' to attend church as when possible.
- A boy of 4 who came with his mum couldn't believe he was "in a proper church" and "would love to come again". His mother, mum of two, said she will now consider baptising not just her 2 children and a third she's expecting, but also get herself baptised after the day's experience.
- FYI - ON THE DAY at St P & P We had our usual Communion service with some contemporary songs, hymns Sunday School performance etc. Everyone had name badges on including our BTCS guests. Immediately after service we had a brilliant Parish BRUNCH- cooked English breakfast snacks etc seating arranged in one 'horseshoe' shape which allowed for great fellowship. Congregation members were delighted with the set up and idea and have requested more brunch to be done.



Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Good info and ideas. We used some of the logos.
- Very useful.
- We used the Order of service but adapted it for our own use.
- I still think the posters and cards should show the date more prominently!
- Some balloons with Back to Church Sunday would have been good.
- Thought the training and support e.g. e-mails leading up to BTCS were good and helpful.
- We used the T shirts and the invitations.
- Posters in pack could be more inspiring, and larger.
- Linking the prayer card with the invitation is not always helpful. Whilst it reinforces the idea of one-to-one invitations it constrains other uses of the material which may be more appropriate to individual churches.
- The invitations were fine - and the design much better than last year.
- This was our first year and we were not able to fully engage.
- We really liked the weekly meditations as they were printed and printed and put on church notice board and copied were distributed weekly to congregation leading up to the event.
- Another great feature access to logos etc online. The online stories, web links and resources are quite helpful.
- The opportunity to buy extra supplies, unbundled, would be good. The starter packs and extra invitation packs are a good beginning. But, for example, we could have used another 8-10 A4 posters, but wouldn't have needed more of anything else.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Too standardised for service sheets, it's all or nothing.
- I would like advice on how to reenergise the congregation to invite their friends.
- I (and my parish priest) are firmly convinced that it is vital for church members to be encouraged to take every opportunity to invite people to church, not just on one day per year
- Not at the moment but if we receive any other feedback we will let you know.
- We are grateful for all the work you put in on this initiative. It may be worth consulting those who produce the Alpha DVD's, to get a more professional/punchy promotion next year.
- We are moving our BTCS event to end October next year. We find that the clash with harvest is not a good thing here and so aim to distance it from that event.
- Our 'goody bags' given to each person in church whether new or regular are well received. We also make different bags for the children.
- I just think in our situation it is just necessary to keep plugging away and making contacts.
- To consider having various sizes of t-shirts or at least two choices - adult and children's' size so as to encourage the younger ones to take an active part in evangelism too.

BackToChurchSunday



Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	4
Found it successful in the past	14
New church leader	
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Known about it for years. Good way to introduce a church to the idea of a guest service.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

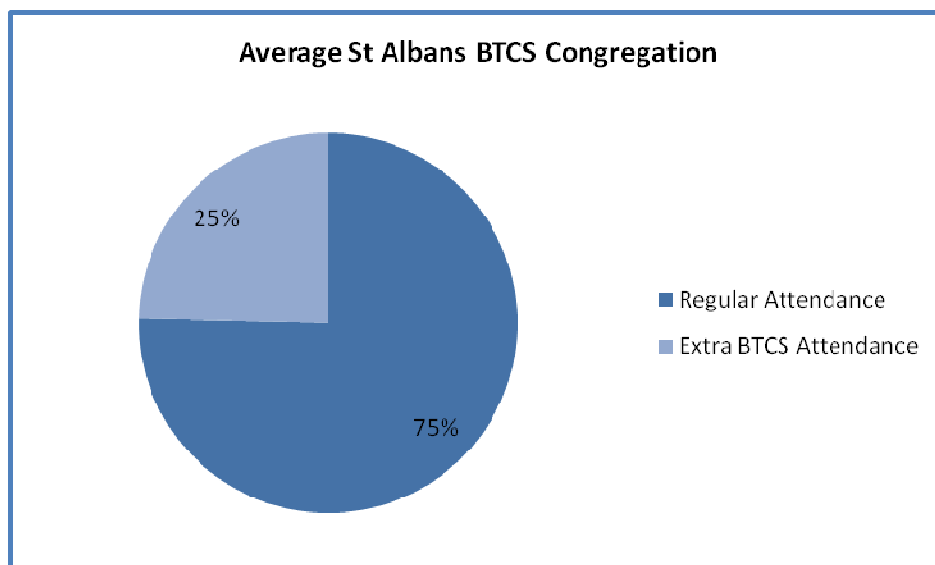
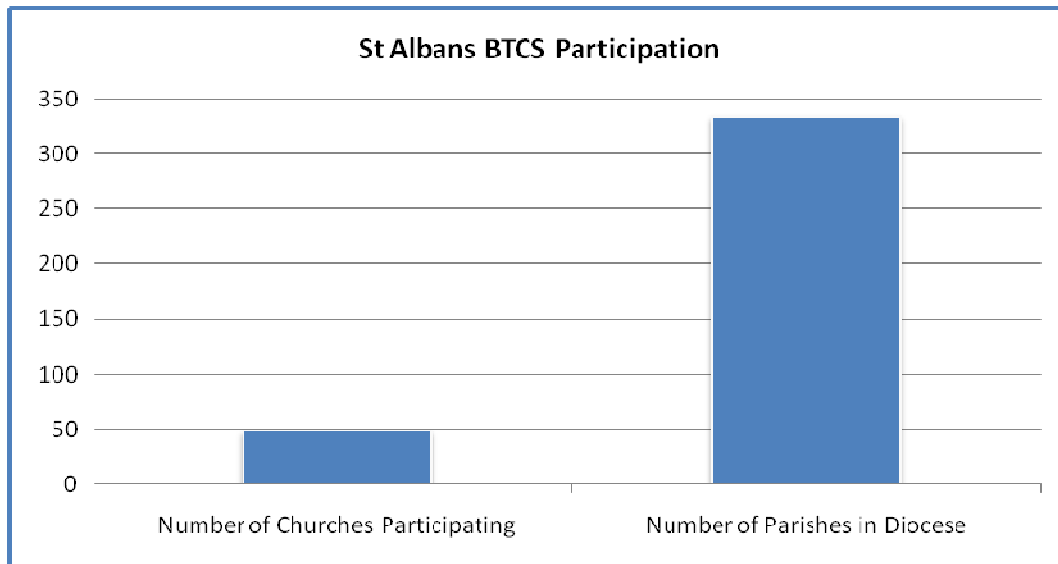
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	2
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	9
2008	14
2009	14
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of St Albans

11 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
48	333	14%	86	114	28	32.7%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Good conversation after with one. Time will tell.
- Last year we only had one extra person!
- One man moved to tears at the Gospel message that the service presented that JC meets us where we are and as we are.
- Lots of positive feedback from 'the regulars' too.
- Too early to say for individuals, but there was a very good buzz around the church.
- We invited all the families who had had a child baptised in the church recently. Some of them came and one family has signed up to come to our Harvest lunch next Sunday.
- Too soon to say if there will be permanent result.
- "Thank you for inviting us", "Lovely service", "see you next week!"
- We combined Back to Church with our Harvest Festival with a lunch afterwards. We have no particular good news stories as a direct result, but there was a really good atmosphere with everyone talking and making themselves known to 'newcomers'.
- We had many more young people than previously, probably because they had been involved in a two week 'puppet workshop' and on the Sunday they were able to 'perform' to parents/congregation.
- Visitors said they enjoyed the service and the buzz over coffee afterwards. We have several new families coming on an occasional basis - we are encouraged by this and Back to Church Sunday - also our Patronal Festival - is a good occasion to invite people to Church.
- To have faith with god and church family
- Difficult to fill in above as we are a Group of 4 parishes & 5 churches in rural Hertfordshire. In 1 church 1/4 of the congregation on B 2 C Sunday were returnees in another the congregation was more than double the "normal" and in a 3rd at Harvest Festival the congregation numbered almost 1/5 of the population of the parish. So very good news stories.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- We try to make every Sunday a 'back to church Sunday', and so find hyping one Sunday a year (with special T-shirts etc) is not 'us', and could make newcomers feel under a spotlight. We wanted a big portrait poster for the notice board at the front of church (so your brilliant 'panoramic' shaped picture, great for station notice boards was no use to us- and most churches' notice boards are portrait orientation). I would much prefer simple PDF files local churches could adapt for their own use than paying a shop set up to market BtCS. Having said that, I'd like to see the brilliant image used this year used again: it is recognisable, powerful and will save a lot of time and money in reinventing a new one for 2011.
- I've backtracked from page 2 of this survey. Phone number is not usually a required field, for very good reasons. I have reluctantly filled it in simply so as not to have the rest of my entry rejected.
- I believe the resources you provided were most satisfactory.
- Worked well for us. Invitations were good. Cards were great. Sermon resource was helpful too.
- More flexibility in materials, logo use etc.
- I would have liked invitation cards on matt paper that I could have over-printed with our service details.
- We are a very small church - Sunday attendance around 15. So the basic package is plenty for us. The posters within it needed to be larger to make an effect, and perhaps simpler/clearer regarding them being about Back to Church Sunday.

BackToChurchSunday



- A sample service sheet for rural churches (i.e. rather more traditional) would be useful, as would more traditional style invitation cards. A BtCS prayer would be useful too.
- We didn't use resources this year, although we used them last year. That is not because we didn't appreciate them, but we were immersed in different things due to the puppet workshop.
- I haven't made very much use of the resources - my fault.
- The resources were not of much use to our small rural congregations. This site will not let us fill in the things that apply as not all does.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Impress on churchgoers how important being in church at the advertised start time is. We are far from being the only church that sees a steady stream of people arriving from 5 minutes before till 20 minutes after the start time. This tells non-churchgoers that we are not eager about getting together for worship, either to meet each other or God. This is a very negative signal.
- Keep up the good work.
- Would you consider add some PowerPoint presentations to the sermon resources or service resources?
- There needs to be creative thinking. This is the third year we have done it and most of my congregation have run out of people to invite.
- Remember the traditional and rural churches.
- Some of the wording in the sample service sheet was too guilt-focussed and not welcome-back-we-missed-you focussed enough for us.
- Maybe widen it and call it Come to Church Sunday - so that we can invite the unchurched and those who aren't properly lapsed but come infrequently.
- We didn't find the postcards very attractive but the invitation/prayer cards were excellent. What about running a competition over the next few months for a new hymn/song to become a feature of Back to Church Sunday across the country?
- More rural based initiatives.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	5
Found it successful in the past	5
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Wanted to use the general publicity.
- Have seen it used in another parish.

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

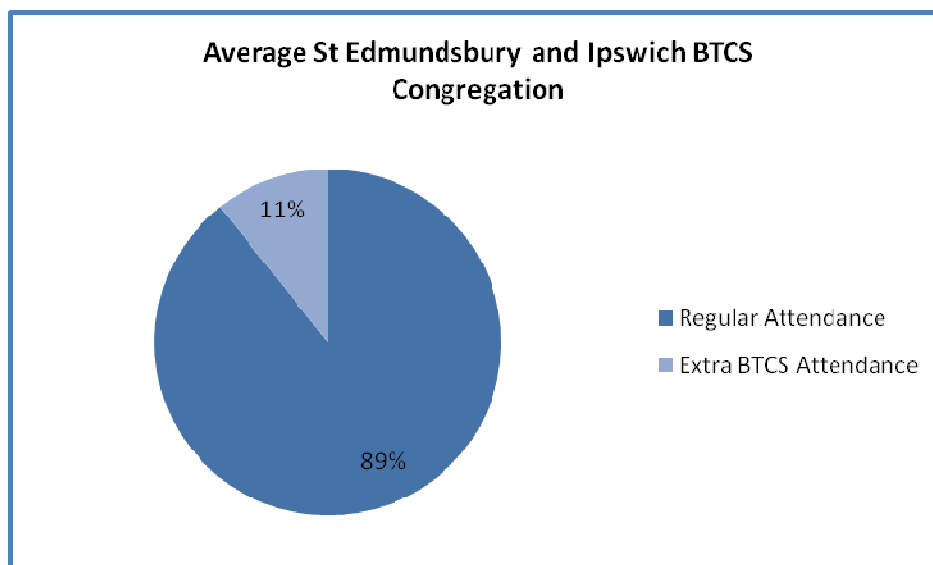
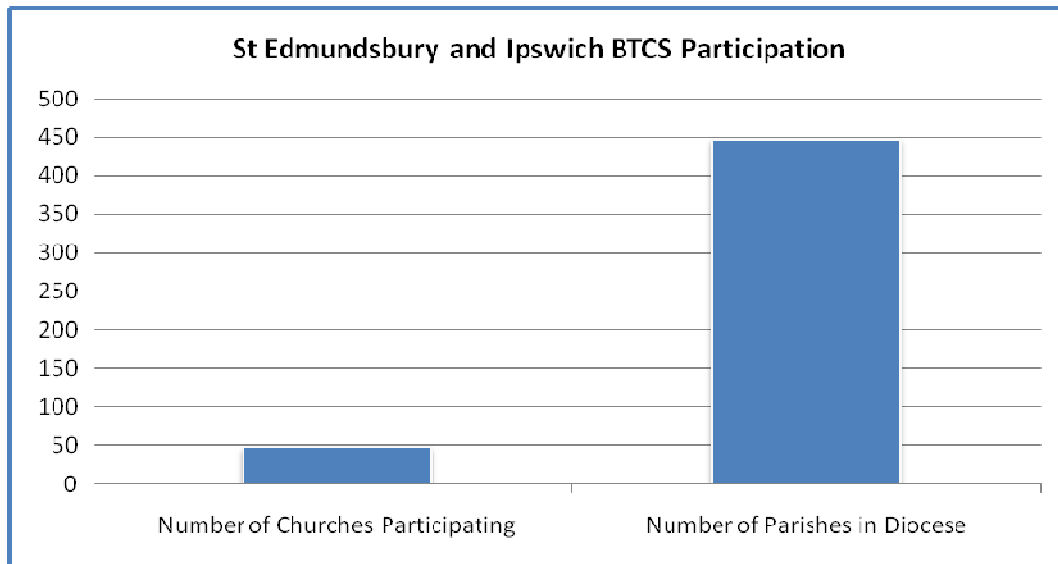
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	3
2004	
2005	
2006	1
2007	
2008	1
2009	7
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich

6 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
47	447	11%	100	112	12	12%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- When one of the people was asked if they would like to come, the response was "Yes that would be fun!" (This person had not been to church for >5.5 years) She came to another service within 24 hours.
- We are an Anglican church but had a contingent of Roman Catholics with us Sunday evening
- Two lovely testimonies one from a fairly new member one from a young lady of 12 about what God is doing in their life.
- One or two have gone on to take part in the 'Discover Course' which started last week. Another lady has returned and wants to go along to a monthly midweek 'Exploring Issues' group.
- A young man on our gap year course invited his mother, who came again the following week and brought a friend with her.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- It was all very good
- I think the resource packs were a bit thin this year.
- I don't think the problem was with your resources, it's finding the time and energy for special efforts of this kind in a busy multi-parish benefice. Going for the middle of the Harvest season has advantages if you can focus on Back to Church Sunday as well, but for rural parishes the normal Harvest outreach (planning, cooking, serving & washing up the Harvest lunch, decorating the church etc) mops up pretty much all of people's available time & energy.
- We liked the invites, posters, good reinforcement in the media, good timely reminders, felt part of a nationwide campaign. Wanted to use the radio ad but not enough support in other local churches.
- Not sure that there was a strong enough connection between the 'art card' and the event as a whole, so therefore didn't use it. Not sure the pens and other 'freebies' were worthwhile and feel BCS money could be better spent. We didn't use them. Armstrong and Miller clips were a matter of taste, some people 'got it' and some didn't.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- We promoted this vigorously and well in advance of the event. BtCS was an item on our agenda at Deanery Synod (I am rural dean) and I shared the content of the meeting I attended.
- It would be really helpful to have some snapshots of things that have worked in other small rural parishes. The diocesan presentation I went to was all about things parishes do badly. We know that, good news would have been much more motivating.
- More practical advice, publish others ideas at a local level. What did other people do? We had a bouncy castle - good visual publicity - "look the church is doing something" - but it rained so some disappointed children and cold and wet supervisors! What did people use indoors? Also we had Danish pastries for adults and chocolate biscuits for the children.
Looking for new weatherproof ideas for next year.

BackToChurchSunday



Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	3
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Felt important not to ignore a national event

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

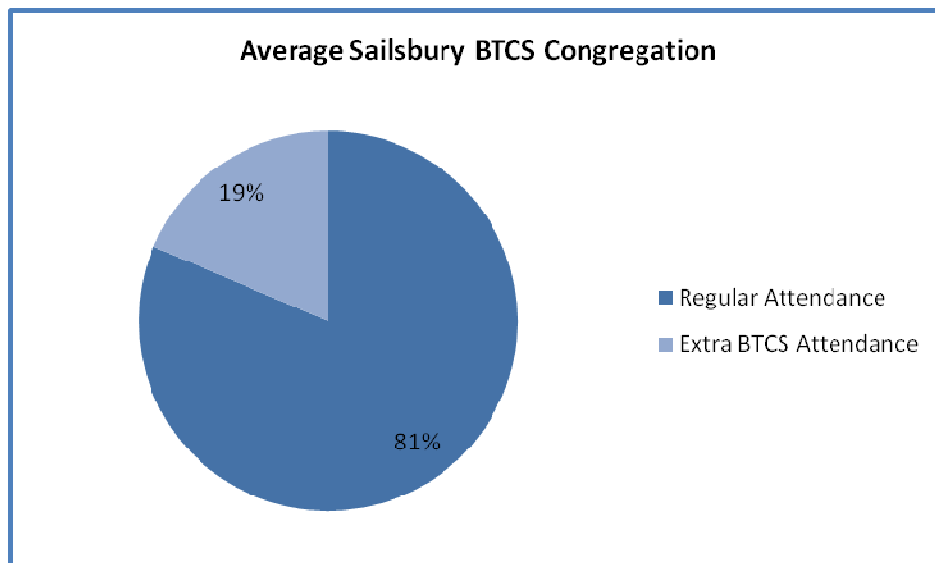
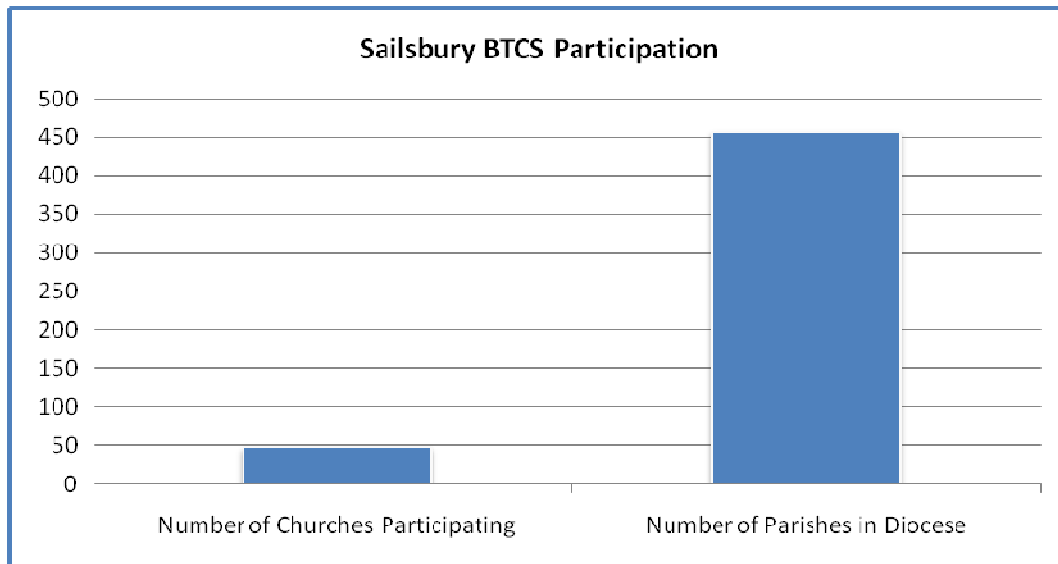
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	2
2009	5
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Salisbury

9 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
47	456	10%	73	90	17	22.8%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- One lady who was brought by a neighbour said that she hadn't realised "Church was friendly"
- We used the logo, wrote about it in the magazine, prepared invitations for people to give personally and encouraged young people.
- The couple who came used to attend a different church but hadn't been for some years. They were invited by a member of our congregation who knows them from work. They enjoyed the service and stayed for a long time chatting to people afterwards. We hope they'll come again!
- One lady in the congregation couldn't wait for 26 September and brought her two guests the week before!
- What's been encouraging is that congregation members are getting more confident to invite and its different people each time who bring a friend or a neighbour, not always the same ones. That's got to be a boost to our collective confidence

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- The meditations were useful to help build up in the month beforehand.
- We used the suggested gospel reading of "Come and see" from John 1. Perhaps there could be suggestions for the other 2 readings too.
- We printed labels of the church services to stick on the cards and this was well-received.
- We did not use any of the resources, but the trigger was the title. Last year we had no new people in church for BTCS.
- This year we billed "Red Carpet Sunday" in two of our churches and we bought carpet for the occasion, at one of our churches we also had clusters of red balloons. We encouraged regulars to invite folk and to invite them for lunch afterwards.
- Need graphics that can be used in black and white publications.
- Large poster A0 size would be useful (A3 much too small for external publicity)
- The invitation cards and the posters are the two most useful things. Wasn't sure about the purpose of the "A New Day" cards.
- Preferred design of publicity this year. Is it possible to have packs with a smaller number of invitation cards included?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Rather than "Back to Church" could it not be something more inclusive such as "Why not try church?"? These days there are so many who have never been to anything in church except a wedding, baptism, or funeral.
- Publicity is not the way; it's getting others quietly to encourage their peers.
- Better known by C of E but in ecumenical churches more difficult.
- Posters are better in portrait layout rather than landscape. Most notice boards are configured for portrait posters.

BackToChurchSunday



Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	4
Found it successful in the past	4
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

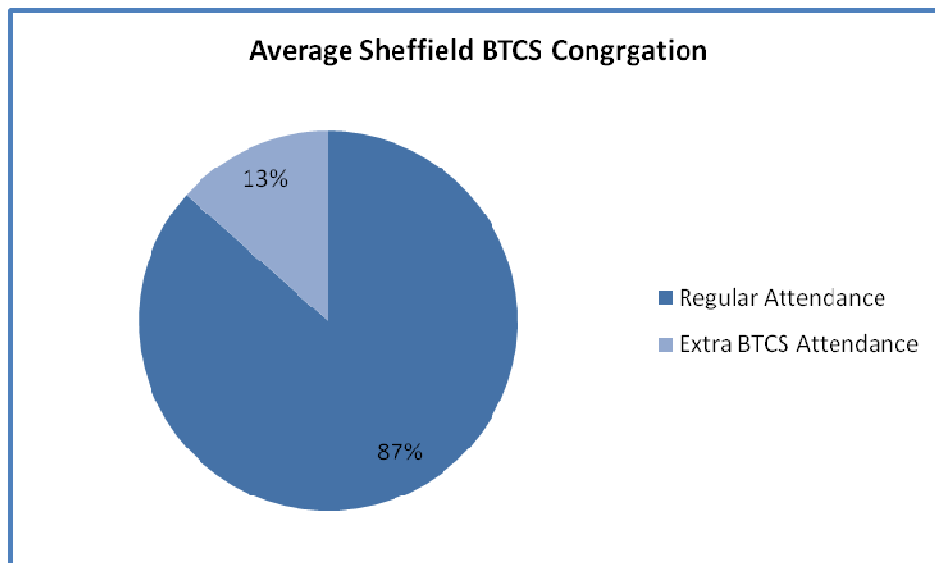
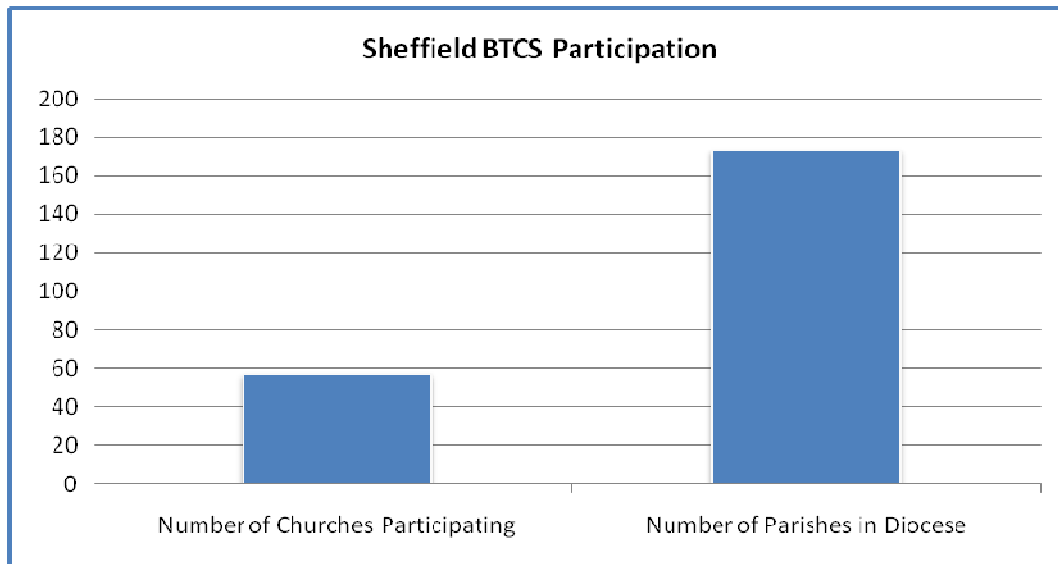
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	2
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	2
2009	7
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Sheffield

26 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
57	173	33%	69	11	80	15.5%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- The 2 visitors, who had been invited by a church member, appreciated the service and talked about coming again - but they do live a fair distance away.
- A whole range of people came back to church, including some who haven't been for a long time. Lots of positive comments were received about the service. Numbers were up by about 20%.
- It was our Harvest Thanksgiving service, which involved a collection of fresh produce for the benefit of local people. Visitors were pleased to take part in some of the traditional hymns (We plough the fields) alongside more modern songs. Many stayed for the filter coffee and special chocolate biscuits after the service.
- Our responses included people saying they were completely surprised (positively, that is!)
- We did however have a larger congregation than usual because many church members ensured they were present. The service appeared to go down well and we hope to do better next year.
- We had a very warm and welcoming service, as usual.
- All of these are people who have been on one or more occasions in the past. I'm not sure if all had come as direct consequence of it being Back to Church Sunday as one family (4 people) had a specific request to arrange a baptism for their youngest child and another (mother and child) had a request concerning school admission for the child at a local Church of England school.
- They really enjoyed coming to Church again. Some are keen to come next week for Harvest and one child aged 8 has asked to read a poem.
- We started our "New Enquirers" course on Thursday and they all came. One couple bought a friend who has said he is going to join from this week. More of the congregation invited friends, this year (it's our second year of getting involved with B2CS).
- B2CS coincides with Harvest, which we moved 3 years ago to the last Sunday in September. We feel that (like Christmas) non-Churchgoers feel less threatened by Harvest
- One lady had been thinking about coming back to church for a while and this gave her the incentive that she needed. Now intends to continue attending.
- Very small congregation just beginning to push 20 on a good Sunday. Strong support from 'regulars' and fringe took us to 28 and there were several people missing due to visiting the latest grandchild or ill health. So a very positive experience for the church faithful with a harvest supper (40 booked) and festival this weekend.
- Similar experience to sister church (St Albans Attercliffe) - aging congregation dwindling in numbers (dying off) but trying hard to serve local community. Again a good turn out from 'regulars' with several relatives included. Service really enjoyed by some of our newer people, but no first timers.
- A mum and her child came back. She was close to losing her child after serious accusations against her by her former partner. Ladies at church have never stopped calling on her and sending text messages.
- People said that they had enjoyed the service
- One lady who came back as a result of an invitation wants to begin preparation for Confirmation. This has prompted others in the congregation to offer themselves for Confirmation preparation - good news all round!
- We are in interregnum so we invited the Bishop of Doncaster to come and take our service; he has an easy presence and spoke at a level everyone could understand. All newcomers said how much they had enjoyed the morning; it remains to be seen whether they continue to attend!
- Three people said the prayer of commitment.
- People generally enjoyed the service.

BackToChurchSunday



- The service coincided with the first service after reordering the church interior - therefore there was a lot of emotional content to the service and the atmosphere. Everyone really enjoyed the service
- One of the people has come again.
- Although the single visitor doesn't look like success at first sight, the lady in question made it known that she would like to know more about the faith. We subsequently announced that we would be running an enquirer's course/Confirmation Course, with the result that we are now preparing 6 people for Confirmation (including the lady herself) on 21st November, two days before our new Vicar's institution. Success is indeed one!
- One of the most encouraging features has been support for the idea from the congregation. A small planning met to decide how the approach the day and quite a broad range of people issued personal invitations.
- Someone did come who used to attend here many years ago and had been worshipping elsewhere but could no longer get there. She hadn't been invited by any of us, but it was good that she arrived on that day, and maybe our prayers for the day helped. She has continued to attend.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Liked the invitation cards.
- Posters needed to be much bigger and have the date much bigger.
- Not sure about the colour scheme.
- Wasn't sure what to do with the cards with the picture - or what the picture meant - but I used them to talk about the difference meeting Jesus makes.
- I thought the resources were fine. I believe we have a significant task, evangelistically, on this.
- Perhaps slightly more eye-catching publicity material would have been good. But it is the personal invite that matters more than the invitation.
- I used the PowerPoint of the 'three men and a dog' painting, which was helpful in being thought provoking. I would have liked to hear just a little more of the artist's intentions behind the painting.
- The resources and website info were very helpful.
- We printed our own invitations and posters but using the national slogan and logo. We preferred to use the Revised Common Lectionary material appointed for the day and it would be helpful, in future, if suggestions for sermons and prayers etc. could be linked to the appointed readings. (If we set a precedent by using other readings on this day we could find ourselves doing the same on other Sundays, such as Christian Aid Week and Racial Justice Sunday etc. and end up undermining the whole point of the lectionary.)
- Resources were really good especially the invitations with prayer card.
- I'd like some downloadable clip art suitable for black and white photocopying on our service leaflet.
- The resources were good, not too complicated to use.
- I wondered if the invitation card could have a to the point message?
- Liturgy worked well and was easy to adapt to the local situation.
- I enjoyed adapting the liturgy and used the New Dawn Picture - to lead into the time of worship. Got the congregation to say what they saw. Then used the exchange of 'looks' as the basis for the talk.
- Not enough help with hymns - something new and something to help Anglican's who might be using the lectionary readings that Sunday.
- The postcard was really unhelpful - the image so small and unrelated to anything in our service. I used it but felt I was really stretching things to make it fit.
- The picture card (A New Day) was really good - great to use as a focus and for people to take away with them.

BackToChurchSunday



- The invitation/prayer card was good.
- The website and regular email updates were useful.
- I didn't use the series of meditations in the weeks prior to B2CS because of different other things that were happening in church over those weeks.
- The posters weren't very useful. Because of the shiny paper, I couldn't print our details on them, and writing it on with a permanent marker didn't look as good. I thought about printing the details on paper and sticking it in the space, but eventually didn't think it was worth it. Also a portrait format would have fitted into our notice board space better than a landscape format.
- Found the sermon notes very useful, thank you.
- I'm not good at websites, but was able to register our church and found it easy to follow. Maybe a bit of follow-up advice would have been good. We gave everyone a list of forthcoming special services and events up to Christmas to try and keep them informed.
- Felt that the resources were weak; that the publicity was very low key with very little on TV.
- The money spent on the packs was not worth it in that we had lots of invites, and a few posters, but nothing of any great interest.
- The date on the poster needs to be a larger size font, perhaps a bit more colour in the design.
- Excellent resources - thank you.
- Very useful sermon resources - some good points to build on.
- I did not think the design of the card this year was very helpful. Even you found it necessary to explain it, so it would not have been obvious at all to recipients.
- We didn't use many of the resources as their style wasn't really appropriate for a middle of the road largely working class northern congregation. Culturally I didn't have a personal problem with them but most people wouldn't have identified with them as 'our kind of thing' and would be less confident in Back to Church Sunday as a result.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- A suggestion was made that the title might be 'Come to church Sunday' to include those for whom it is not 'back'.
- I wonder if we could have 'Come to Church' Sunday as opposed to 'Back to Church' - given that most of our guests to the services were completely new to church rather than returnees. The previous contact with Church had been through weddings/baptisms.
- Some of our regular church attendees gave invitations but they were not taken up. This caused them a feeling of failure/disappointment. I'm not sure how to address this.
- I think this is something that could work at Christmas and Easter too so invitations for that would be helpful; 'Come back to Church for Christmas', 'Come back to Church for Easter.'
- Keep up the good work.
- I realize now that I need to do more preparatory work with the congregation on personal 1-1 evangelism.
- Perhaps resources could include some catchy video clips emphasising how important the personal invitation is. I think that it was a minority of people who invited others to church with a personal invitation. Some seemed to think it was enough to drop a card through their neighbour's letter box.
- Decide if there should be a response to the many people saying we need either a name change or parallel event that is not Come Back but Come To Church Sunday.
- There's been a lot of discussion (e.g. on Radio 2 on Sunday morning - Aled Jones' programme) about changing the name to 'Come to Church Sunday'. I think that has a better appeal.
- Does it cost anything to use local radio? This might reach a few more people.

BackToChurchSunday



- Not many people listen to the local radio stations and more needs to be done to publicise it on TV. Some of the money made on the sale of publicity packs to be spent on making good quality Christian Video to advertise the event more.
- From what I understand, Back to Church Sunday started with a clear, concise objective - to invite back people who used to attend. I remain unconvinced that broadening this to a general invitation is a good thing. Trying to pitch for returning attendees and unchurched new starters is at best difficult, at worst incompatible aims.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	10
Found it successful in the past	14
New church leader	1
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Heard about it at CRE.
- Hoped that the church would really get behind the idea but we struggled.
- We would like to be better at outreach, and were keen to try something that seems to work for others.
- Strongly encouraged to do so by the bishop.
- Have always done it though with other churches and in another diocese!
- Have been involved in different churches and a different diocese since 2005.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

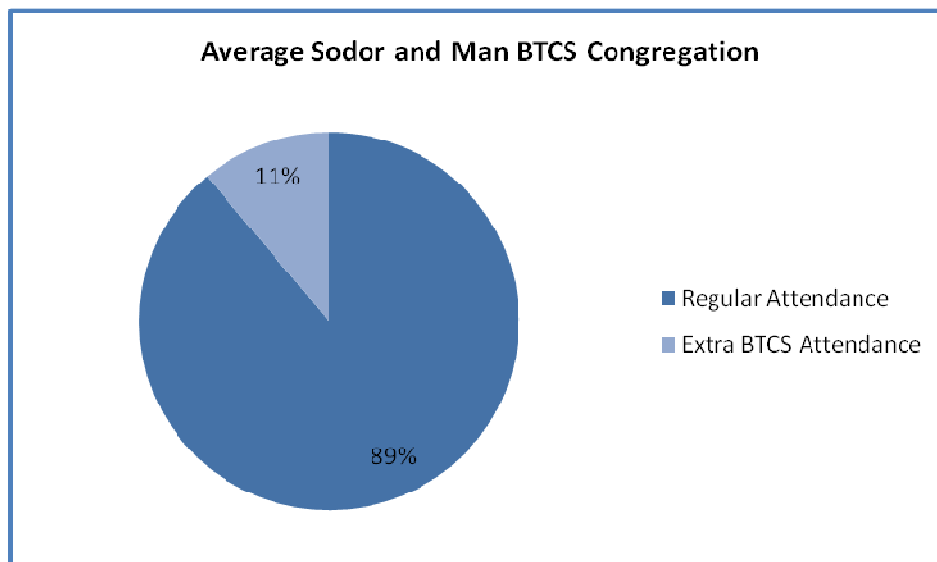
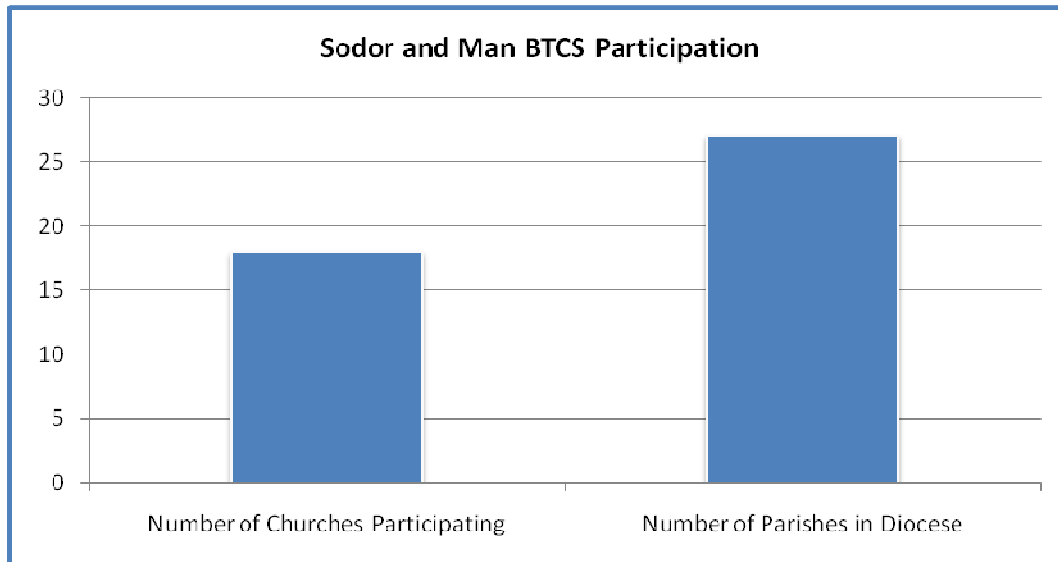
Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	4
2004	
2005	
2006	1
2007	3
2008	15
2009	17
I Don't Know	2

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Sodor & Man

2 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
18	27	67%	88	99	11	12.5%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- A couple said they stopped attending church years ago, and came because a neighbour invited them. They were pleased, and asked their neighbour if they can come back.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- Poor radio advert this year.
- OK.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	2
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	1

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

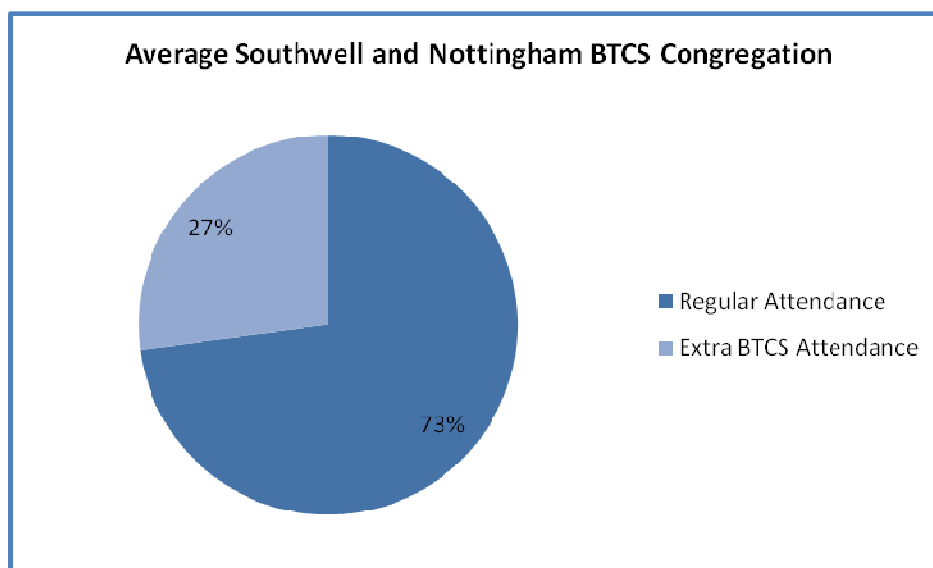
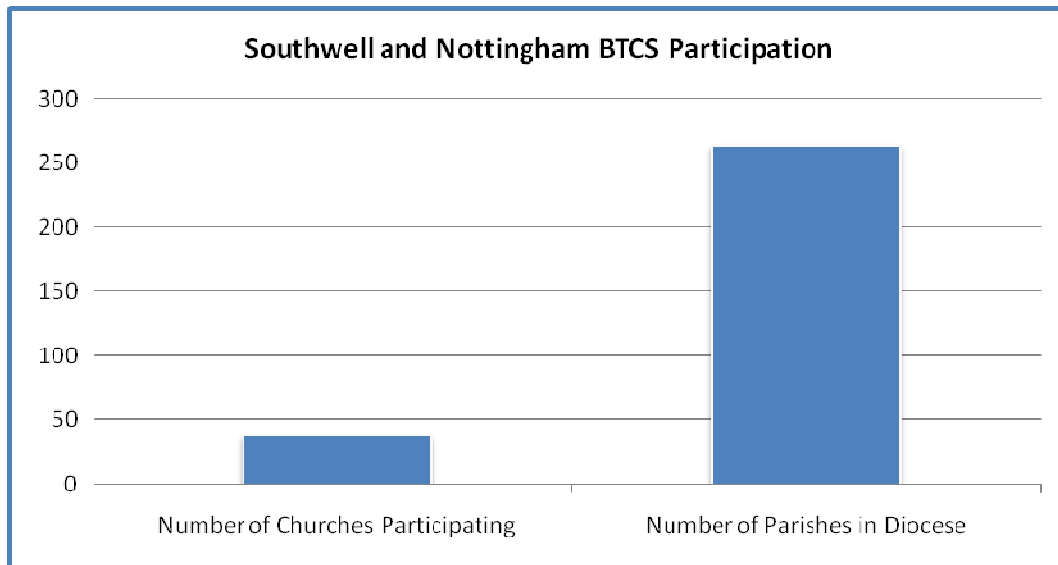
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	1
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

3 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
38	263	14%	63	86	23	37.2%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- We normally have around 12-15 people at this service but attracted 40 including 10 children which is very significant. We have just started a Sunday School and are hopeful. We even had one family who had only moved into their house 48 hours earlier and they were publicly welcomed and introduced.
- We have been pushing hard for the 3rd Sunday in the month to be a Village Service appealing to as many as possible and the Sunday School is part of that. We had designed leaflets produced publicising the first three such Services [BTC being the second] which were dropped through every household's letter boxes [110 in total] but also delivered 30 personalised letter to people whom we thought might respond positively.
We also prayed and we have a bible study home group that meets weekly in the village but you need action as well. By having this village service every month we are trying to keep all those who turned up doing so on a long term basis.
- One lady who attended for the first time as a result of an invitation from a friend enjoyed the service and said she would be coming again this coming Sunday.
- Our congregation varies from 8-16, so we prayed, distributed leaflets to all the houses and delivered 30 personal letters and has 40 turn up which was very pleasing. We made the third Sunday in the month 'Village Service' with next months being combined with harvest festival.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- It would have been useful to have some written [rather than video clips] testimonials as I preached that day and it would have been good to have quoted some.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Pool all the good ideas so that there is a resource available to churches to tap into as we try to boost our congregations.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	2
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

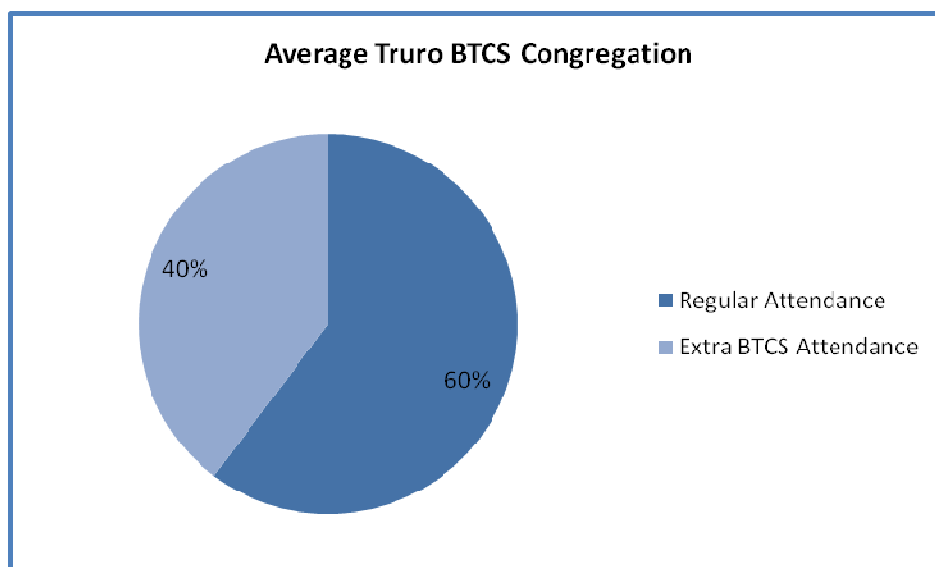
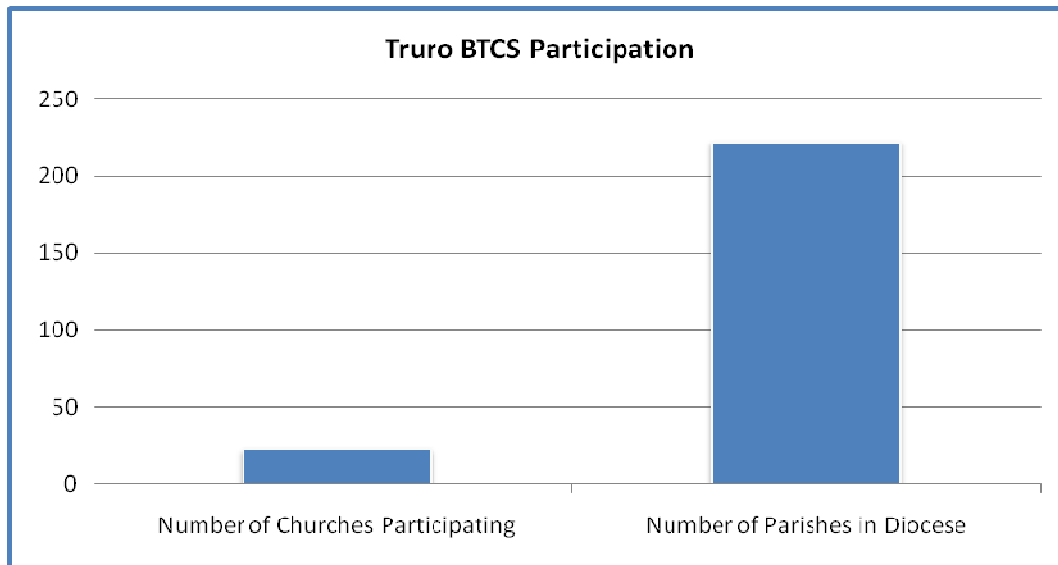
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	1
2008	11
2009	11
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Truro

7 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
23	222	10%	59	39	98	65.9%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- The whole event was well received with a very positive response from all.
- We had 190 people attend our Harvest Thanksgiving Service including 45 children. 18 of the local Brownies took part and sang a song. Our own monthly Little Fishers group baked bread and the theme was 'Jesus, the Bread of Life'. Members of the congregation invited friends along (but how many it's hard to say). Everyone had a glowing impression of a vibrant welcoming community and Church. We all signed handprints at the end of the Service for our MP to keep the UN Millennium Goals.
- We doubled our usual congregation - mainly because we invited the local school to come and sing for us. We have invited them before but this is the first time the invitation was taken up. We put a lot of prayer into the day and I am sure that made all the difference. It was a real joy to see the youngsters coming in and enjoying the service - they all seemed to enjoy it too.
- One lady has continued to attend and is enquiring about confirmation.
- At the end of the service the young people presented their reflections on what they saw in the BCS 'park bench' picture postcard. An entire family attended for the first time due to a connection with Greenbelt. The father of the family used to attend the Greenbelt Festival in its early days. A group from our church attended this year and one of them invited him to church. It was the father's birthday and we sang Happy Birthday to him.
- On 19th September one new person attended Morning Prayer at St Wyllow as a result of BtCS invitations. Also two children and one adult, all of whom had occasionally attended Tea Time Praise, attended Tea Time Praise as a result of a BtCS invitation.
- On 26th September, although the 11 a.m. congregation at St Wyllow was 50 which is about average, there were 5 people there as a result of BtC invitations including a couple whose 1st wedding anniversary it was [they had been married in the church but had not been since the wedding] and the lady who had come to Tea Time Praise the previous Sunday.
- On 3rd October the attendance at St Saviour Harvest Eucharist [11 a.m.] was only 46 [a little below average] but there were at least 16 people present as a result of a BtC Sunday invitation.
- At the Harvest Evening Prayer at St Wyllow at 6.30 p.m. 83 people attended which is well up on previous years; this number included several there as a result of a BtC Sunday invitation including the couple mentioned above. One regular member brought no fewer than 3 guests to this service!
- Although it is early days, one lady, who came as a result of a BtC Sunday invitation, seems to be coming to church regularly and the brother and sister mentioned above came to October Tea Time Praise.
- One lady who occasionally comes to tea time praise accepted an invitation to our morning service on Sunday. She enjoyed it so much that she came to harvest evening prayer and harvest supper in one of the other parishes in our group, and says she'll come next Sunday.
- My niece and nephew-in-law who were married in Lanteglos Parish Church on 26th September last year accepted my invitation and were also at the morning service.
- We had a great time with lots of children and some familiar faces too.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Could have used, during the planning stage, more material/ideas/ best practice shared by other churches.
- What really seemed to be missing were advertising resources. Posters, things to put in the local press etc. would have been really useful. Also some thoughts on what to do with/say about the postcard.

BackToChurchSunday



- We didn't call it 'Back' but 'Welcome To Church Sunday'. We used the invitations but not the rather dreary Prayer Cards. We would definitely want to be a part of B2CS next year.
- It would have been useful to have more than one suggested Bible readings for the day.
- The training we attended [Bodmin] was excellent!

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Has to be based on prayer, with careful planning + support and participation of large proportion of existing congregation. Needs to part of whole outreach not an add-on.
- Many thought it should be called Come to Church Sunday.
- Need great emphasis on planning well before, during and follow up, all including continuous prayer. We started planning in May and prayed after every service + in all intercessions. Also mentioned in almost in every service.
- Postcard for handing out was inappropriate and we designed our own (in God's hands) with future events on back.
- We created hit list of recent baptisms and weddings and electoral roll members we do not see as well as personal invites
- We called it Welcome to Church Sunday as we thought Back to Church sounded as if there was a great big register in the sky and someone was ticking it and noticed that we hadn't been to church for some time! Also it leaves no scope for the previously unchurched.
- PCC were not comfortable with the title ' Back to Church' we opted for 'Come to Church' as being more inclusive.
- Please make this form more flexible e.g. with overlapping numbers for the attendance such as 'up to 50'; '30-70', '60-80' or similar.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	5
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Decided to go all out for it this time.
- Heard about it in Church Times.
- Heard about it in the media last year

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

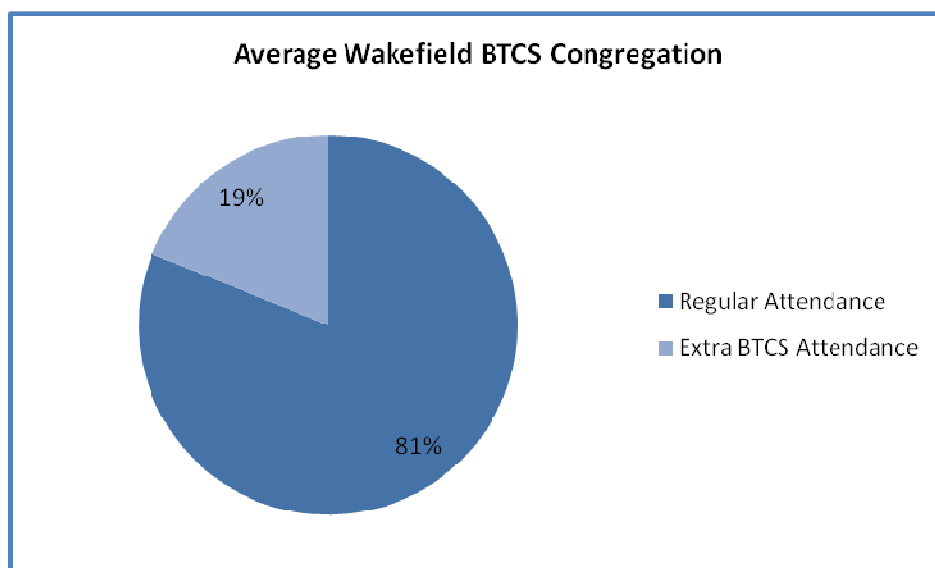
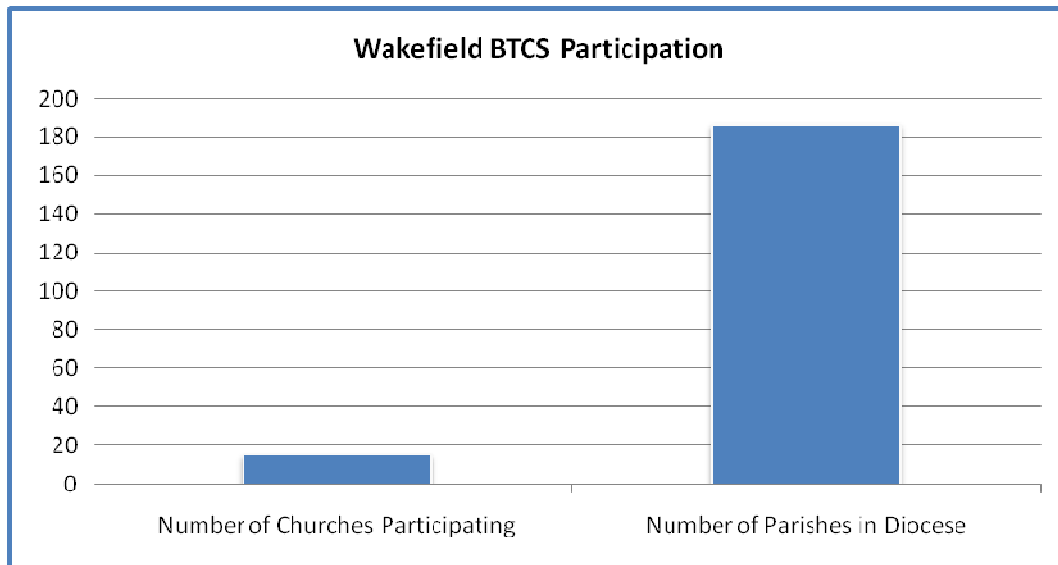
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	6
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	1
2009	
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Wakefield

3 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
15	186	8%	63	78	15	23.3%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- No major stories, but it is a good time for people to think again about how long it is since they last came.
- This was the first time we've done Back to Church Sunday, although I'd done it at a previous church, and I had several positive responses from church members which indicated that they had perhaps not expected it to 'work'. It was good to be able to encourage people that doing something quite small and simple, when done together, can have big results.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Smaller packs of invitations would be good
- A picture that can be used as a background on Song Pro.
- Good imaginative material.
- Website pretty good, but I found the resource pack a bit disappointing. It would be better if invitation cards and posters could be overprinted, for example. (Maybe they can, but in the absence of instructions I didn't dare risk it.) I would have preferred more invitations and posters, and leave out the postcards which we weren't really sure what to do with.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

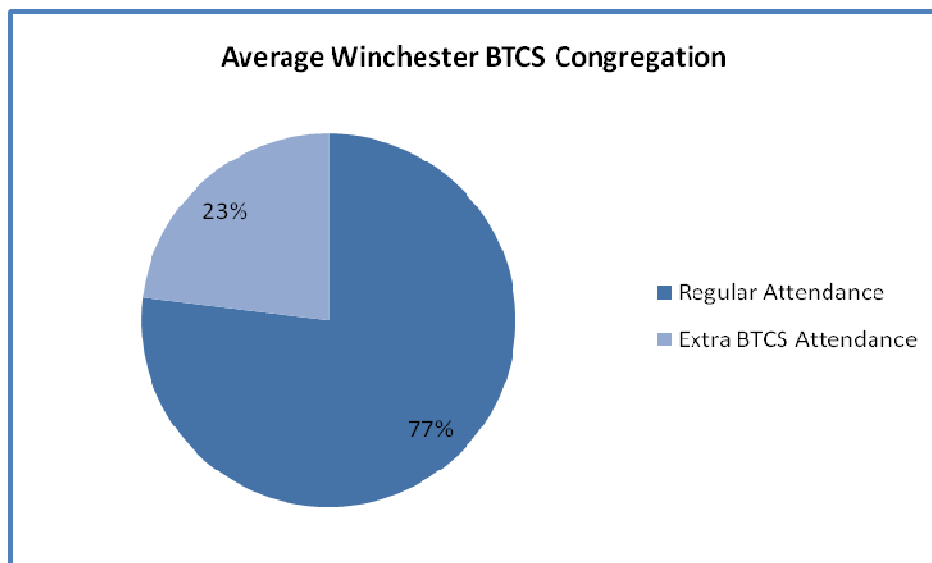
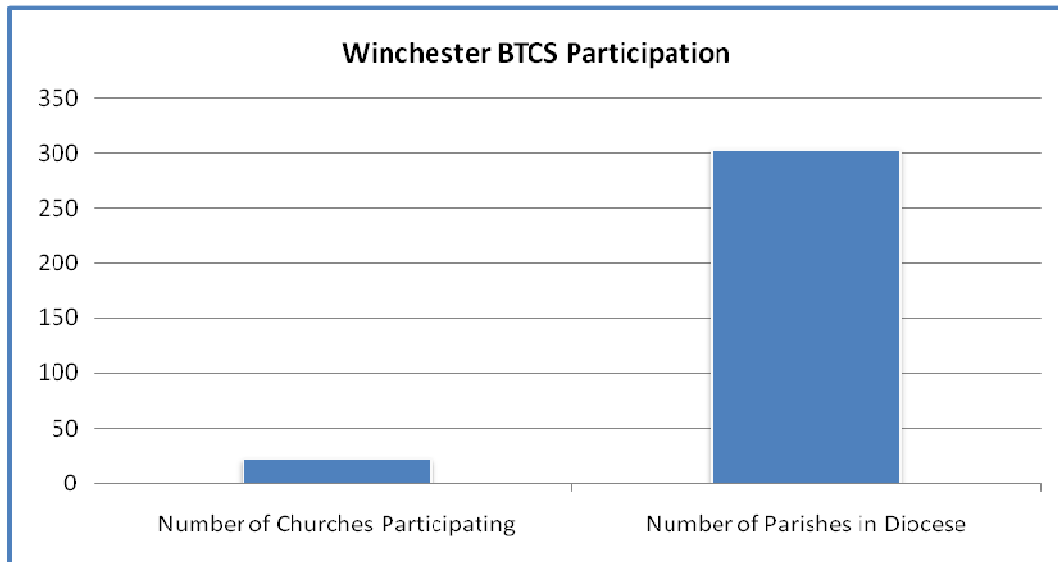
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	1
2007	1
2008	2
2009	2
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Winchester

8 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
22	303	7%	66	86	20	29.9%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- We had extra people in church!
- We were celebrating Harvest Festival and many visitors were attracted to that so although the good news was many, many visitors I didn't personally greet anyone present because it was BTCS.
- Mainly young families – great.
- “A good 'Back to Church' service” - from a member of the church.
- We tied BTCS in with Harvest Festival, so we don't know how many of the 60+ extra attended for what reason. But I have two testimonies of tearful reconciliation with the Church from invitees and our Sunday school invited friends to a taster session and have gathered several expressions of interest in future membership.
- One person invited back to church, brought a friend along with her.
- One church member was prompted to bring her 6 month god-daughter to church and plans to do this regularly; hoping that in time her god-daughters parents will also come along.
- One said they'd enjoyed it so much they are seriously thinking of coming on a regular basis.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- Too many e-mails!
- I thought the art work was a bit dull.
- I found it difficult to get the video player to work.
- I don't think "Come as you are" is especially helpful or meaningful as a slogan.
- Everything satisfactory except comments to the effect that the prayer for invitees was "a bit childish".
- Was unable to download the PowerPoint's in a format that could be imported into Easy Worship, so adapted by using the 2009 PowerPoint with different footwear as our welcome screen.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- As a Church we need to emphasise the need to come with / bring your friend as well as praying and inviting them.
- Better publicity, banners, posters and advice on how to run BTCS cooperatively with multiple churches. In our village the Baptists and Anglicans were trying to work together but it was hard work.
- Get it into diocesan CME programmes.
- I think it should be called COME to Church Sunday.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	5
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Press.

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

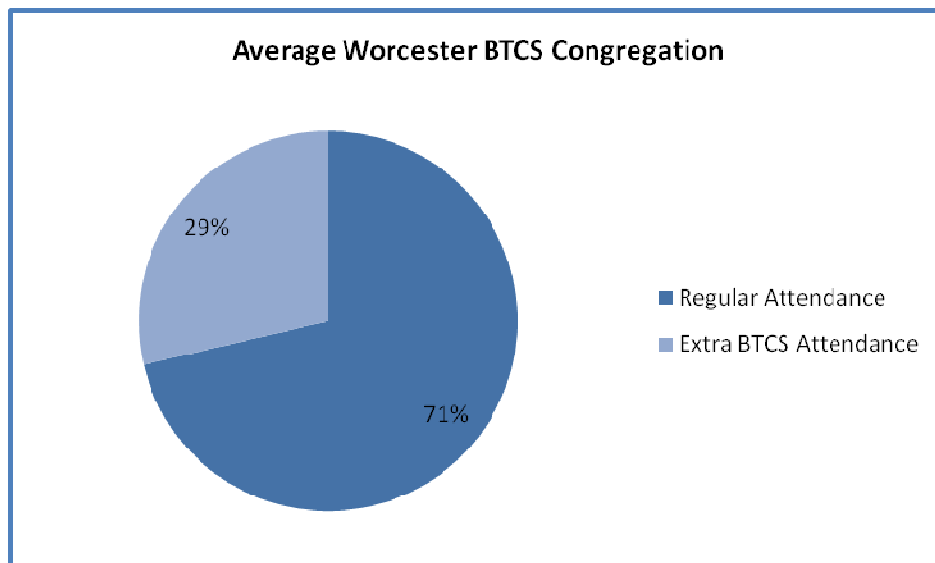
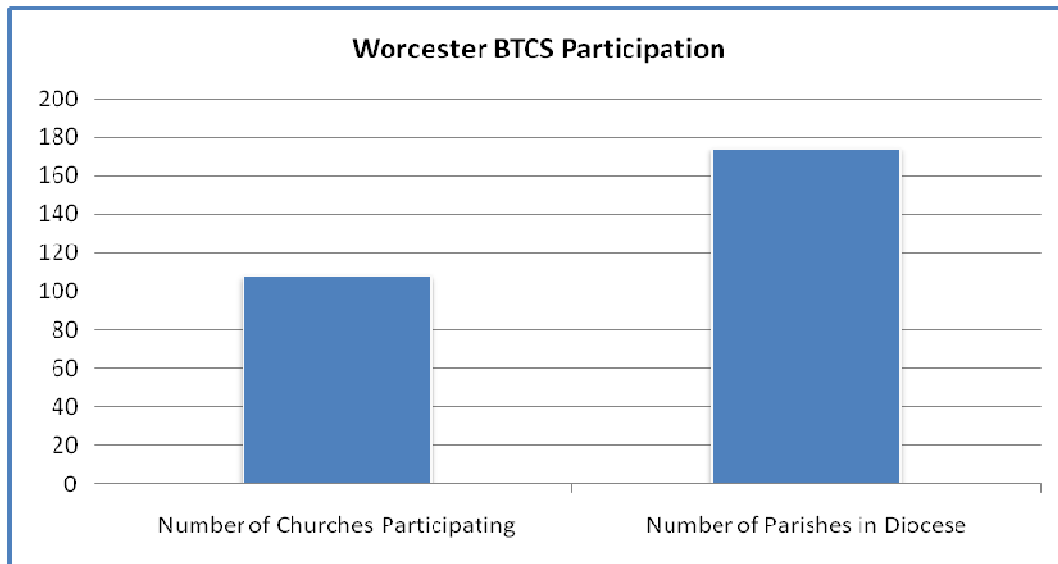
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	4
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	1
2009	4
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Worcester

14 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
108	174	62%	67	94	27	40.2%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the service. It was our Harvest Festival and the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides accepted our invitation to come along and sing for us (they haven't been to church for around three years). Some of our visitors were their parents, but around half of the regular congregation also brought along a friend. Many of these were people who used to come, but had fallen away.
- One nice touch was that the community cafe which uses the church premises (who have adults with learning difficulties as co-workers) baked a lovely cottage loaf. We used the top part for communion and the bottom was served with yummy butter afterwards over coffee. This was the first 'proper' Harvest Festival this church has celebrated for many years. There were lots of smiling faces. Our Junior Church (and an older church member into 'am-dram') presented the Liturgy of the Word, using the story narrated by 'Revd Hawker' as suggested in the CofE seasonal resources. It felt good to rediscover something of the fun and fellowship involved in pulling together to put on a special welcome.
- A few of our congregation brought friends or neighbours.
- We had 3 new attendees at Junior Church.
- Christian Training Course certificates were presented to children - some parents attended.
- Some new faces were there.
- Goody bags and sweet refreshments were given out.
- A member of the congregation had a local radio interview.
- One couple pleased to discover that they could light a candle and want to attend communion services again.
- New families were very impressed with our Sunday School and loved taking balloons home!
- We tried a continental breakfast before the service but no new people attended.
- General positive feedback.
- People who attended enjoyed the experience but have not indicated whether they will attend regularly.
- We offered a whole day (all free) which proved to be popular and good fun - a harvest service, coffee and games, lunch, a concert and afternoon tea. Guests promised to return although didn't do so the following week. The contacts made were very positive.
- It was more a case of occasional attendees (once/twice a year) being encouraged to attend. Very enjoyable service.
- Some people have said how much they enjoyed the experience, but results remain to be seen. As yet there has been no appreciative difference to the attendance figures. However we did give out a list of "special" services for the rest of the year. I am hoping that those might attract more people.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Like the invites and posters. Postcards are lovely, but as we chose to go with Harvest, they weren't tied in as much as they are intended to be. I discovered the video clips too late to use them with my congregation, but would in future use them very early on with PCC at least and probably in a Sunday sermon slot on hospitality. Please keep these as part of the resources!
- My only comment on the resources for the service is the fact that it uses a very similar format each year - especially with the use of a picture and a card to take away.
- Please, please and please again, will you produce next year's posters in portrait format? This year's were a disaster as far as we were concerned - they did not fit our notice boards without severe digital transformation!

BackToChurchSunday



- The Word document for the liturgy wasn't formatted properly for Mac, but other than that, the resources were good.
- Please can we have posters in portrait layout?
- The colour of the invites was not too popular - pink is not for everyone. Prayers in the lead up were very welcome.
- The order of service was used to good effect, though the picture was difficult to interpret. The posters and invitations cards were good. We also gave out the prayer cards. There were positive comments about the T-shirts.
- There were no resources for children.
- All good stuff.
- Good website kept us in the picture throughout the lead up period. Could not pass any adverse comments on it at all.
- I missed the balloons and pens this year and had to buy balloons to put outside. The postcards are not helpful and add to the expense, especially as we used different readings to those set. The invitations were good.
- Very useful. I did however feel that the cards themselves were a bit pointless. We did overprint a list of "special" services on them.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- My congregation don't seem to have seen or heard any publicity.... may be in an area like ours (urban, high levels of deprivation) there could be more in local rags and free newspapers? Buses?
- It would be good to have ideas for how to use BTCS with a Fresh Expression.
- More local & national advertisement about BTCS.
- Our principle challenge: to enable the majority to get around to inviting. Only a handful did, despite plenty of encouragement
- More publicity over a longer period possibly and a TV ad - I didn't see one.
- Why is it called BACK to Church and not COME to Church. BACK implies that people have been before - presumably it was mostly aimed at newcomers.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	7
Found it successful in the past	6
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Tried it before, had another go, think it's an excellent idea for encouraging relatively easy non-threatening mission.
- We wanted to take an initiative to increase attendance and spread the word.
- Thought it was to be a Diocesan-wide campaign.

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

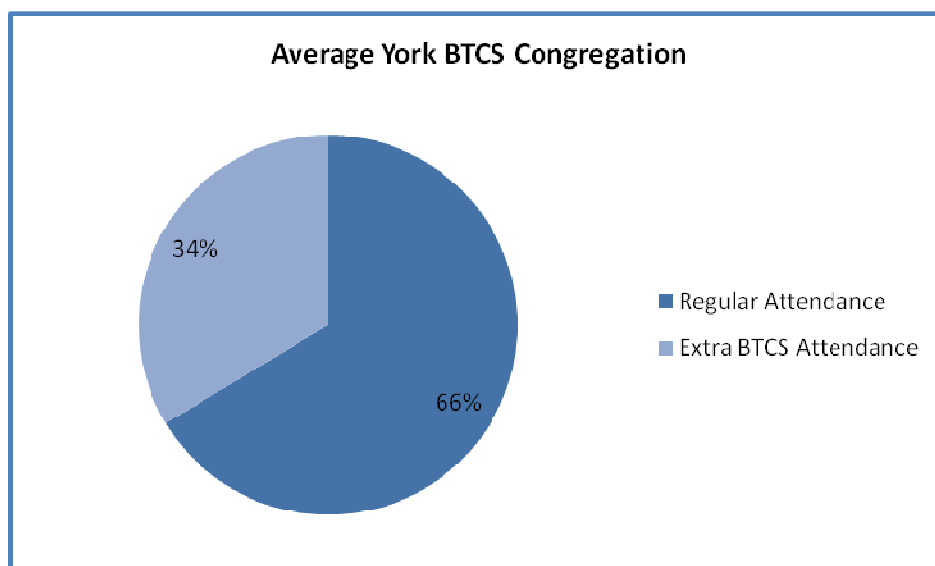
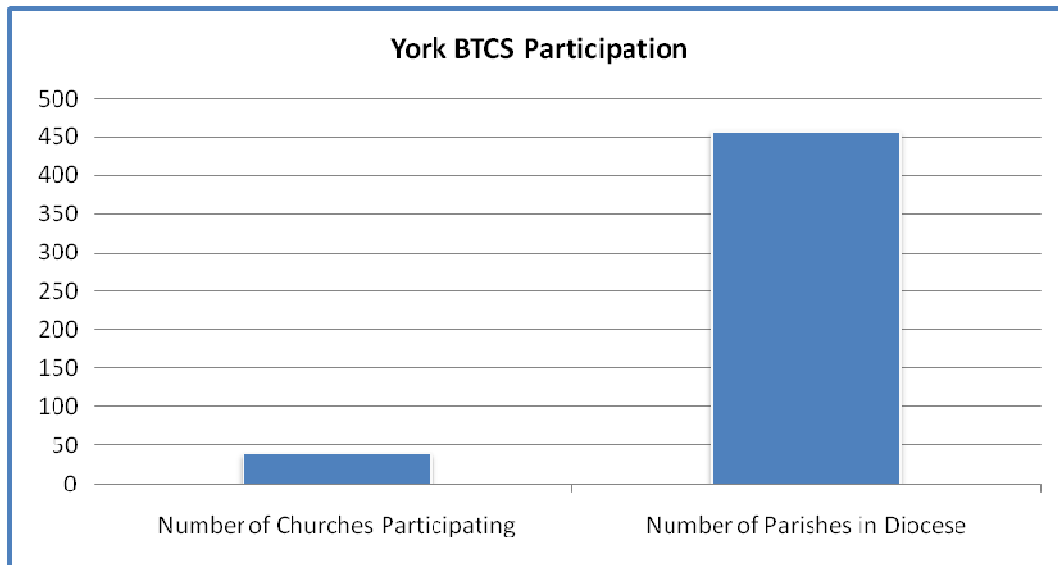
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	2
2004	
2005	1
2006	1
2007	
2008	6
2009	11
I Don't Know	1

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of York

6 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
39	457	9%	59	89	30	50.7%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- This year our congregation really got on board with inviting people back to church. This year was our most successful year yet!
- People enjoyed the service - not sure whether it was because of Back to Church Sunday - although the service was a bit less formal than usual.
- We had a united Benefice service with a Childrens' Workshop; this increased both numbers of adults and children attending.
- A family who had had their child baptised three months ago came back for the first time since then.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- I liked the posters and invitations. I found the website difficult to use as I could not access the downloads area for some reason.
- I was disappointed with the resources. The order of service and sermon notes both had mistakes in. I would have liked more help with interpreting the picture on the postcard.
- I found the website and resources very confusing - information seemed to come out in dribs and drabs. I was very disappointed that there was no 'how to do BTCS' booklet giving tips from start to finish about what others have learnt. We have no local champion, so the lack of information about how to make the most of BTCS was poor, in my view. The real reason I believe we had an extra 20 people was that simply that it gave me a prompt to say to my congregation, 'invite someone along on this Sunday.' This didn't require a national initiative, albeit it gave me the idea. I suggest:
 1. Get a planning booklet with tips and examples from good practitioners put together and available at least 4 months ahead, if not 6.
 2. Rename the day 'Come to Church Sunday'; 'Back to Church Sunday' does sound a bit like 'Prodigal Sunday' or 'Backsliders Sunday'. Most of our visitors have never been church members.
 3. Make the Website more navigable.
- Reading sheets with the gospel on them -we have the lectionary reading sheets but the passage for Back to Church Sunday that linked with the postcards was different
- The invitation and prayer cards were good. This year I found the picture card less helpful than previously.
- Please next year give us a logo we can make into a banner without it pixelating.
- We had a lot of criticism about the prayer card which no one understood or the painting which was poor. The poster colours did not stand out on notice boards.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- We rather enjoyed having balloons in previous years; could these be included in the pack next year?
- Give some examples of effective ways in which churches have followed up attendance at B2C Sunday.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	1
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	1

BackToChurchSunday



Other Responses:

- Don't want to miss out on something that is given publicity.
- Used it in the past but without great success. Still trying!
- As the vicar I am always away on the 'official' day but this year decided to move to an altogether different date.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	3
2009	4
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday   

Baptist Union of Great Britain

BackToChurchSunday



Baptist Union of Great Britain

21 participating churches submitted feedback.

Churches Participating	Churches in Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
0	2386	0	84	97	13	15.7%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- 'Not what we're used to but enjoyable.'
- People said that they enjoyed the service.
- Two of the invitees were particularly moved by the service - one said "God really spoke to me". They turned up next day to our Lunch Club
- One Man who came said he had visited many Churches over many years. He was thrilled with the welcome he received and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the fellowship lunch we had organised.
- We are a church of only a usual congregation of 15-18. On Back to Church Sunday there were only 12 of our people there due to holidays and sickness etc. However, because of the keenness of our folk to invite their friends and families, there were 17 adults and 3 children visitors. We have invited them to Harvest this coming week. A couple are coming to the Harvest Supper on Saturday, and we have made some good contacts. There are 1 or 2 who we feel will continue to come, though that remains to be seen. We will invite them all to other events.
- At least one person made a commitment, lots of new faces, the place was buzzing & the extra new people really gave the church a lift!
- We had a family who had previously had only attended mid week activities like Toddler Group and Messy Church.
- "Really enjoyed the service."
- Positive feedback so far - everyone was encouraged by the number of visitors.
- Two who attended definitely intend to come again next week
- Not really. One family who came two years ago to B2CS is now regularly going to our church plant. That is great.
- One is the husband of a member. We have been praying for him for a long while. The other is a widow who drifted away from the Anglican Church.
- This is the third year we have taken part in back to church Sunday, some people who came back 3 years ago are still coming. We actually had a come to church week, with the church open everyday, we put up bunting and posters. The community certainly knew something was happening.
- A CAP client (Christians Against Poverty) and her daughter came and really enjoyed it, and are very likely to come again.
- Some people came back the following week.
- Our Songs of Praise Service in the afternoon attracted some new people of whom four have indicated a willingness to come to another Songs of Praise Service.
- People really enjoyed the morning - we had a bird of prey display in the church grounds followed by a shorter family service and then refreshments. It was different and the birds were a real attraction; lots of people stopped to see what the crowd outside the church was all about. Some didn't come in to the family service but the vast majority did and it was at least a good connection point. We had new people attend and old faces that hadn't been to church for a long time.
- Some people from last year and the year previous still come regularly.
- The 3 were visitors who enjoyed the meeting and encouraged our small group.
- The Lord blessed the service. We think we should combine harvest with back - to Church Next year.
- One lady had not been to church for several years and had a difficult time with her mother who had been extremely ill and passed away last year. Through the BTCS invitation she felt God calling her back to church and she is now committed to coming regularly.

BackToChurchSunday



Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- Videos and meditations were good.
- Resources were fine, although I thought the sermon outline was weak - but that is probably personal preference.
- The first year we participated you provided some drama - which was really useful - why not repeat that?
- It might have been better if it was a different format to last year. More of a family "all age" type service might have worked better. The picture was excellent but to me did not have the impact of Zacchaeus.
- Used some ideas.
- The Art Cards are nice but seem unnecessary if you give the attendees church info. It becomes a deluge of paper.
- I think the resources were good and allowed flexibility. Service ideas were really helpful
- Please try and make the invite and the prayer card look different. This year it was easy to confuse the two. Why not make the prayer card more like a bookmark, and the invite too more like a crinkly edged invite?
- I thought the green colour of the posters did not stand out very well.
- Sorry, didn't use any; felt we had to do our own thing.
- Very large posters.
- Liked the resources.
- The resources were useful and stimulating, thanks.
- Cards were useful. Prayer bulletins very useful.
- Web site was great and very useful.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- More visual presentations for an all age family service would have been good.
- Have some better videos to promote the event.
- During the year church members need to have their confidence built up in order to make the ask! Help with this would be worth while although programmes do exist as those from Willow Creek
- More colour in the posters. Better ways to prepare for example Bible study material
- Certainly to encourage churches to take on new initiatives for the week.
- We have always done something different on BTC Sunday and had more of a party feel. The first hour there are various activities: a bouncy castle, face painting, and crafts for children and young people; refreshments and stalls for CAP, Traidcraft and other organisations we support; a Nooma film showing and a prayer corner. We then have a very short service with a 5 minute talk. This allows newcomers to look around and meet and talk to regular church goers, with a very informal feel.
- Can you change the name? It's just that "Back to Church" does imply people have been before...we dropped the name but kept all the concepts, we wanted new people to come too and not be mislead thinking it was only for people who'd been in the past.
- Please could this be advertised more?
- Not sure the Big Welcome title used by the B.U. was necessary as it was national interdenominational event.
- The idea of 3 videos is good but the content was poor; too way out and not particularly funny. We used one but gave up on the others

BackToChurchSunday



Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	4
Found it successful in the past	14
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	1
Recommended through another church	1

Other Responses:

- Publicity.
- Ideas for taking services during inter regnum.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	5
2004	
2005	
2006	1
2007	2
2008	10
2009	15
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday   

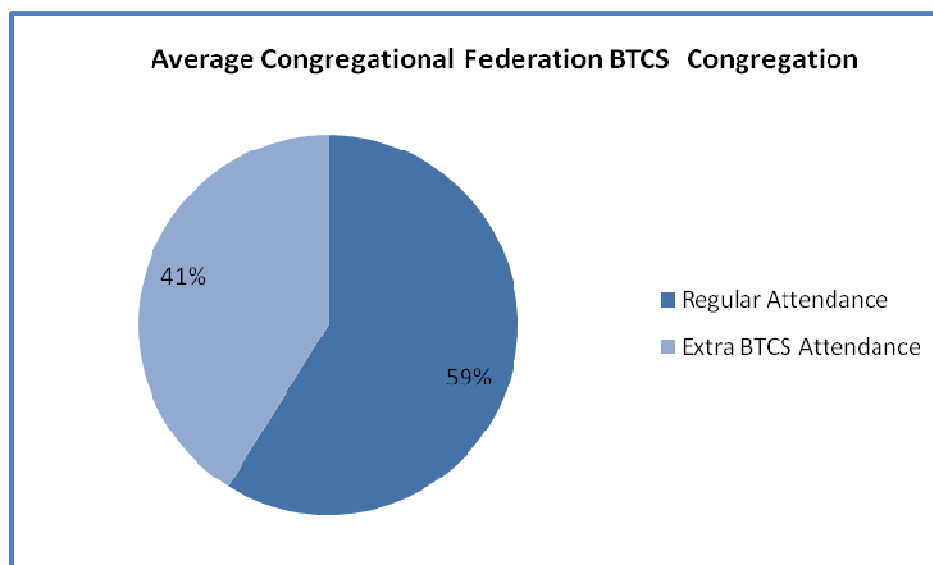
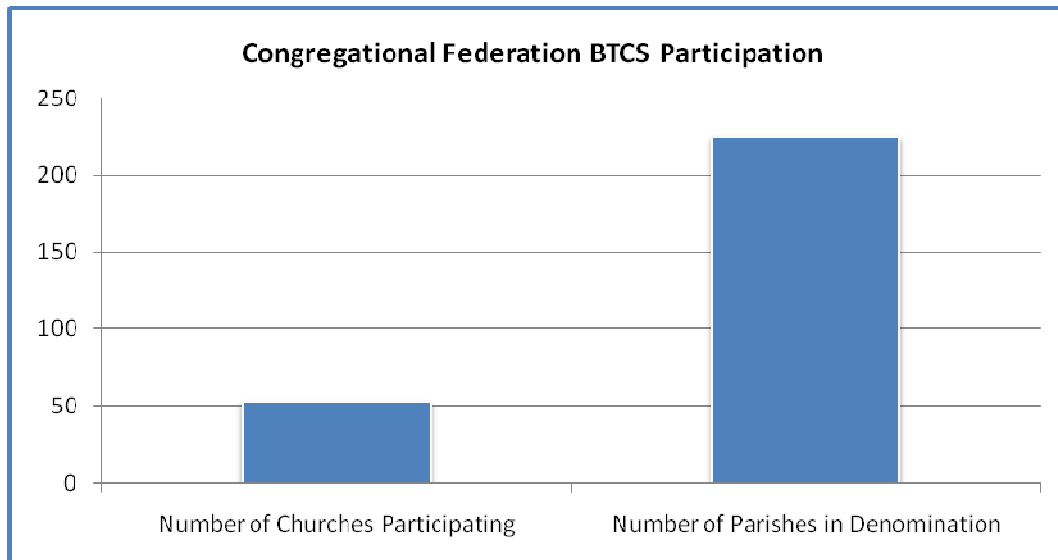
Congregational Federation

BackToChurchSunday



Congregational Federation

1 participating church submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
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BackToChurchSunday



53	225	24%	50	85	35	70.0%
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Good News Stories:

- People enjoyed the service.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- 'Back To' is a bit off putting, 'Welcome To' is better.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday   

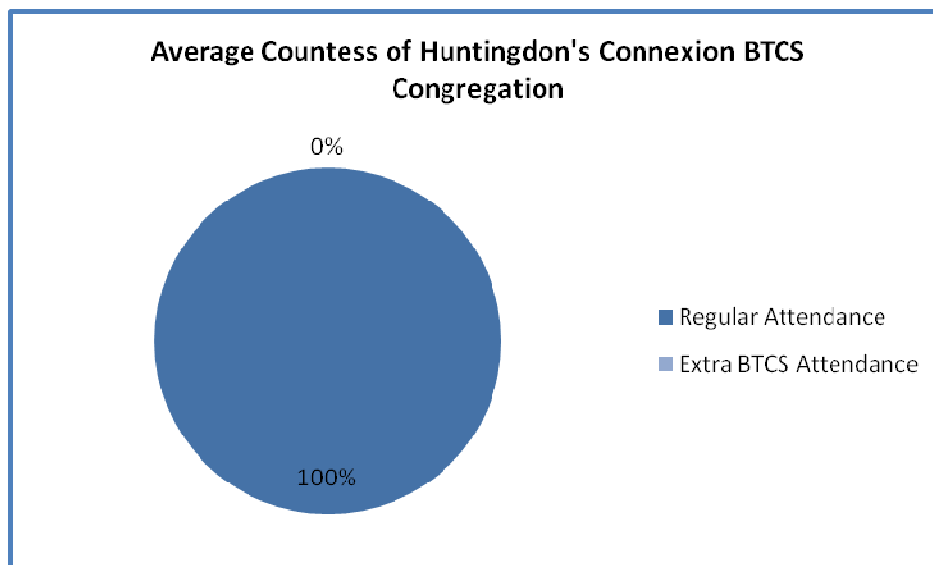
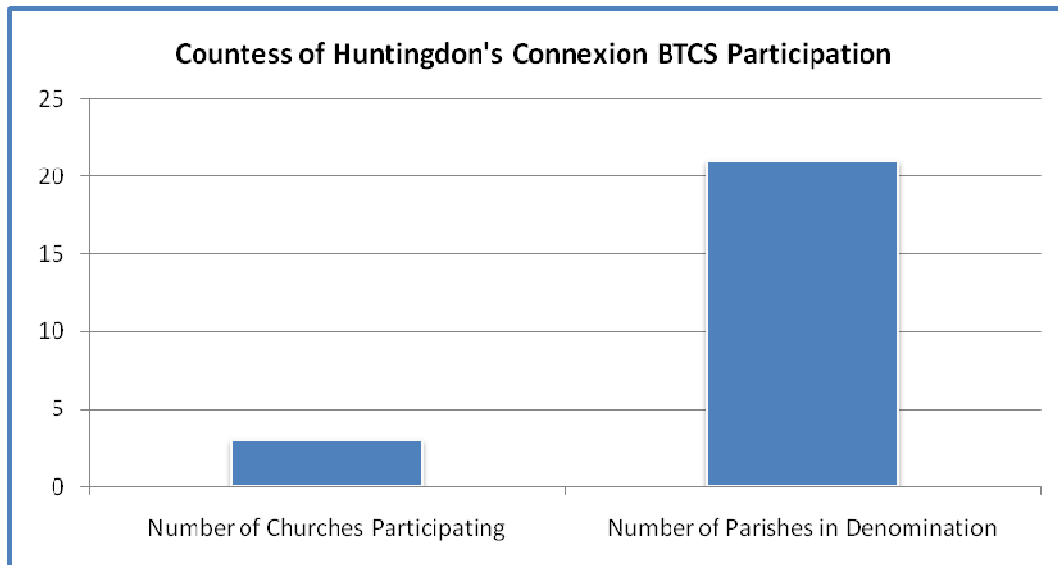
Countess of Huntington's Connexion

BackToChurchSunday



Countess of Huntington's Connexion

2 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
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BackToChurchSunday



3	21	14%	76	76	0	0%
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Good News Stories:

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Happy with resources.
- Lack of numbers not due to resources-they were good.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	1

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	2
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday   

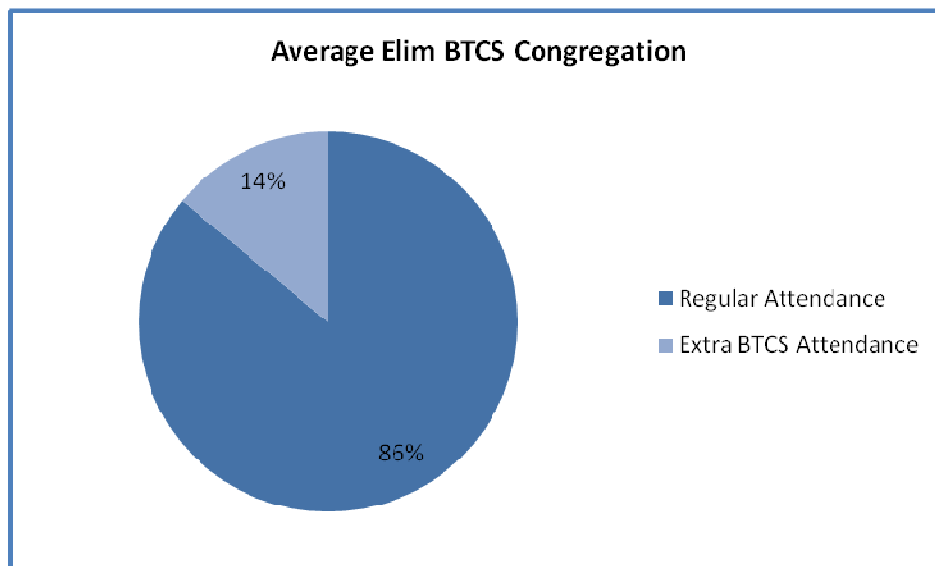
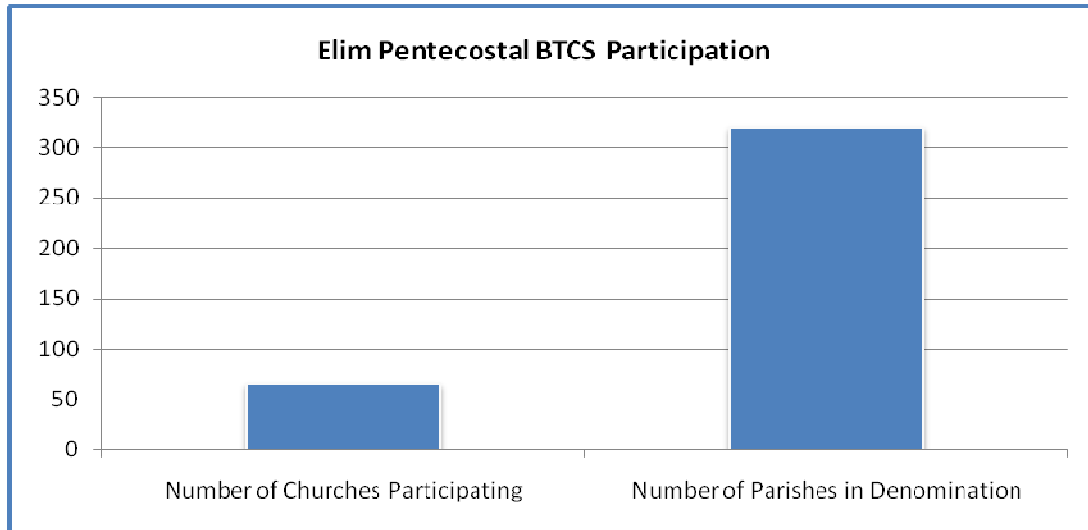
Elim Pentecostal

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Diocese of Elim Pentecostal

11 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Parishes in Diocese	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
64	319	20%	98	114	16	16.5%

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Good News Stories:

- A couple who had 'slipped out' of going to church were invited, and came.
- Two of the new folk have said they will come to Alpha course starting this week.
- It was a good chance to contact people who have not been for a while, or who are on the periphery of the church.
- One lady came back who hasn't been in church for a couple of years. It does allow the local church to participate in a national campaign.
- Some decision made to follow Jesus. We are running Alpha on the back of this that will hopefully continue the momentum.
- We had more visitors this year than last year & those who came enjoyed the services. Some of the young people did a drama & their parents came. For some it was their first time in our church & they liked the service & felt welcomed to church.
- Three people recommitted their lives to Christ.
- Everyone that came that I have heard about (approx 16) absolutely loved it! Some have asked to come again.
- Two came back the next Sunday and two more are looking to.
- One has joined the Church footy team
- The effect on the Church was really positive- people rolled their sleeves up and got involved.
- People are saying it's our best service ever!
- Many more invited guests and saw that as a success, even though they didn't come.
- The inviting hasn't stopped- people have continued to invite people to church on subsequent Sundays.
- New attendees, one was a back slider, who said it felt like coming back home.
- We had encouraged people to particularly invite those who have dropped of coming of the nine who came as a result 5 were adults who we had not seen for many months, one was a teenage daughter of one of these adults and her friend. 4 were grandchildren on a lady who herself is very new to the church and the other was a young daughter. So overall a great success and well worth the effort!

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- The media clips where not very good and were not used.
- Resources need to be more readily available.
- It is pretty hard printing onto the invitation cards details by computer/printer. No matter what setting you set on the printer, it is liable to smudge. Eventually found a setting which worked, but it did not look as professional as it could because of the nature of the card.
- Advertising that could be overprinted with your details....for example a poster that could be downloaded, printed & your details printed on it...we join back to church Sunday with our Harvest Celebrations & use a large AO poster to advertise...
- Resources were fine.
- Very helpful, although we couldn't find our details on the website- it seemed a very Church of England orientated site.
- The T-shirts were great!
- We feel that the invites could have had more info on about the national campaign- we put this in an accompanying letter- will email you a copy if you wish
- The training day with Michael Harvey was inspirational, plus the DVD was great too.
- The resources were brilliant.

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- To be honest in our context we didn't use any of the resource apart from the publicity but that fine by us!

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Most of the guests were there for a dedication we decided to add to the day, we still have a mountain to climb to get people to bring people!
- No over all, great tool to add to the tool box of evangelism, no brainer for any church seeking to reach out.
- Keep up the good work. It helps us to keep an outward focus & work towards something after summer outreach.
- We started with a pastry breakfast, which went down very well.
- How about mugs and pens and other "freebies" for next year?
- Keep it simple - just do what is says on the tin. Advertise the date and make the publicity cheap and accessible.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	7
Found it successful in the past	3
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	1

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	4
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	6
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday   

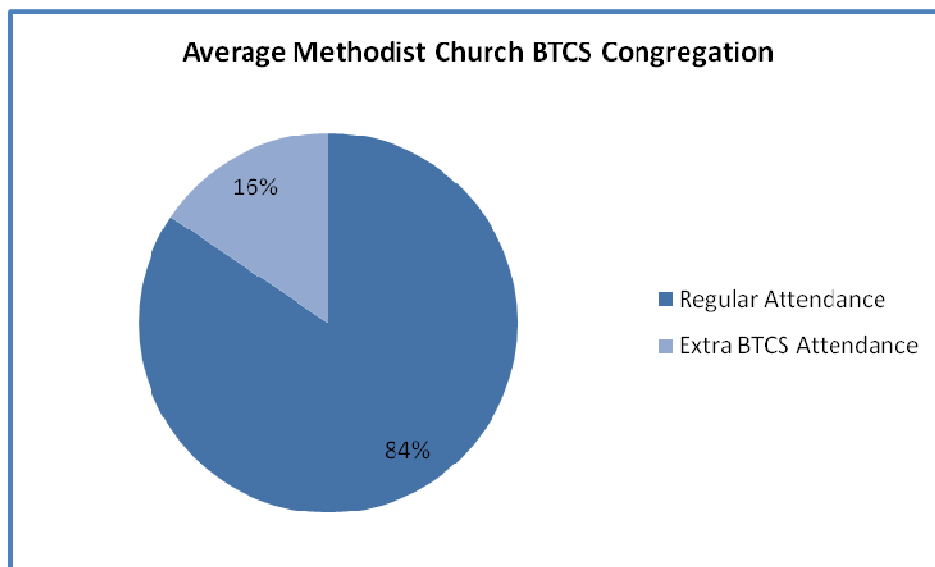
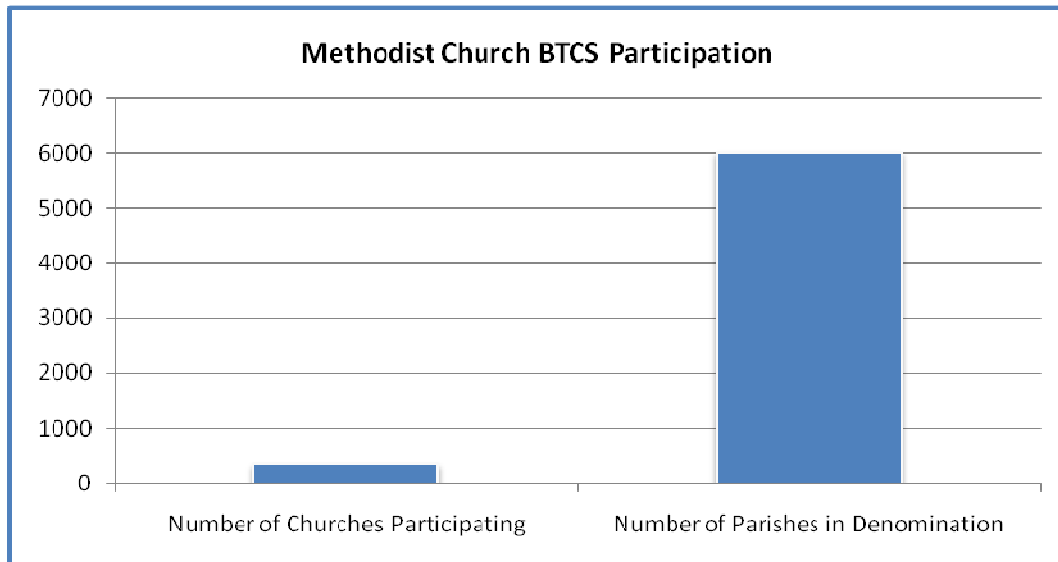
Methodist Church

BackToChurchSunday



Methodist Church

75 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Churches in Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
345	5999	6%	74	88	14	18.4%

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Good News Stories:

- One teenager who has not been to church since Sunday School days came up to me and said how much she had enjoyed the service. One of my delights was that because it was my first service I hardly knew who was regular and who was new or returning.
- 30 of that number were a baptismal party, who are not regular churchgoers, but the grandma & three older brothers of the two year old who was baptised have said they're coming back to church next week for our Harvest Festival.
- Two couples & another adult who are members of our church, but rarely attend, had been invited by friends/neighbours & said they'd be coming again.
- Four from the Church, plus ourselves, went door to door visitation (A first for this church for many years) Others gave personal invitations. That was, in itself, a success and will be followed up
- Nice to see some old friends.
- We also made this our harvest festival, they liked the approach and informal all age service.
- Enjoyed the lively service. Like the use of projector for hymns. Friendly welcome.
- The 'new' people who attended enjoyed the service and there was a good positive atmosphere. We will have to wait and see if they continue to come along.
- A couple about to buy a house in the town saw our welcome sign and came on Sunday Morning. We hope when they move in later in the year they will have felt welcomed and will join us.
- 2-3 people who said they'd come again and who I believe might become regulars, even at this point. Several family members turning out for the day but giving good feedback. A couple of people who'd come again if we changed the time of the service... worth thinking about.
- An enjoyable service but the wrong time to attract others.
- Nothing specific, I'm afraid. But those who were guests felt welcome and we hope to see them again soon.
- Many said how much they enjoyed the service
- The children loved helping to make an apple pie
- Some said they would come again.
- A considerable number of parents in our church family invited their grown up children, who hadn't been regularly to church since their early teens. Although no further pressure was put on them a large number returned. It was very heartening to see and the pleasure on the faces of their parents was immeasurable.
- A family who have been meaning to come to church since moving to area a year ago finally made the effort.
- On the 4th Sunday of each month our morning services, Contemporary (8.45) and Family Worship (10.30) usually have a worship together service. Sunday 26th also was our Harvest Celebration. We know traditionally that Back to Church Sunday is not always a success in larger Churches, and we did make great efforts using the publicity. Specifically using the invitation for our Church members we ordered 200 and probably 120 were used. We also overprinted the postcards and gave them out at coffee mornings and invited families who are on our cradle roll. Looking at our congregation on Sunday morning I would estimate we had around 25 additional people. In many ways we were delighted but obviously only a small percentage took up the invitation. Our evening service a more traditional act of worship also had around 15 additional people attending. Some success and we hope our welcome will encourage them to return, and maybe we have sown some seeds!
- Too soon to tell. All extras had some connection with the church, whether through relatives, previous attendance, baptism or coming to another group meeting on the premises. Hopefully some will come back again. We were encouraged by the response on the day.

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- Everyone enjoyed the Service which included a Harvest service.
- They seemed to enjoy the story. One person was returning after many years and found a warm welcome.
- This was the first time we had taken part. It was an energising experience for the whole church and everyone enjoyed the service. One new attendee was very impressed by the number of people who welcomed her.
- One person who we have been inviting to church for several months, finally took the plunge and came! One person who we've not seen for a couple of years returned and plans to come next week.
- It was out Harvest Festival and all age Worship so a lively worship time with many positive comments. A warm welcome too!
- Two people came who hadn't been for some time due to a "falling out". They were warmly welcomed and I had the opportunity to speak to the man (who I didn't personally know) so who knows - watch this space.
- Several regular congregation members have said they intend to continue inviting people to come to future events.
- The one couple in our village of twenty houses who decided to come were thrilled that someone from the church had visited them just because someone knocked the door and visited!
- By chance, we had a Scarecrow festival in the village over the weekend which brought close to a hundred people into the village and into the church where our scarecrow of John Wesley greeted them. I wish Back to Church Sunday was next weekend - there would have been so many contacts we could have invited back (we did anyway of course!) We did also have four 'irregular' attendees who came, but I haven't counted them in the statistics, but because they do come from time to time.
- Despite this being a week when many of our (elderly) congregation were away, we were all encouraged by those who came for the first time and those returning. We used harvest festival as an accessible and familiar service which worked well.....no unusual or difficult hymns, lots for children. We did not significantly change our style of worship so as not to give a false view of the church which is fairly traditional. We used the cards to invite everyone next week to our harvest lunch after the (normal) all age service.
- A very good response from all the visitors who also stayed for coffee after. The most important thing from my perspective as minister was the easy way in which my congregation engaged with this. I am fairly new and this church has had a very difficult few years so I was not sure how they would respond to the challenge. They were very pleased with themselves and are determined to do it again!
- People said they enjoyed the service despite someone taking ill half way through which rather disrupted things. Certainly the new people were made welcome by the present congregation and were invited to come again next week. Whether they take up the invitation remains to be seen.
- All the extra people were very positive about the service and welcome they received. Most said that they would like to attend again. All stayed at the end of the service for refreshments.
- A valuable aspect of the initiative was that our build-up to B2CS enabled and empowered existing members of the congregation personally to invite others.
- I have severe breathing difficulties and as such try to get away from gatherings of people to avoid further infections. However I know of two people who have made a firm commitment to attend church regularly from now on.
- A lady who had not attended any church for twenty years spoke after the service of how 'at home' she had felt and was invited through for coffee. A couple in their twenties, one of whose parents are

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church members, said that she had found the service full of life and relevant to her situation, this being partly because a Christian choir from Uganda participated in the worship and she had been involved in organising their trip to the area. She hopes to join a new 'Film and Faith' group planned in the church from Christmas.

- A 'seasoned' attendee complimented the Minister on Monday morning about the way in which newcomers had been sensitively acknowledged in the sermon, whilst being gently challenged (with the whole congregation) to respond to the invitation Jesus offers to us.
- "We were made to feel most welcome: we hope to come again", "It was good to renew acquaintances. I felt that I had never been away."
- A mixture of people came, some who had 'dropped out' recently for a variety of reasons, some who come to the building for other things, some who used to come years and years ago, and some who just saw the poster and thought they'd try coming.
- Two families were brought by their children who had involvement with Youth Groups. Other people brought friends and it was obviously an opportunity for some who had not been for a while to come back.
- Five stayed for coffee and were spoken to by several people. We pray God will call them back again. This was our first Back to church Sunday - we will do it again.
- "Good welcome."
- Made the service a Harvest Thanksgiving, with a theme "lord for the years..." as a celebration of all that God has done for us, both the youngest, 7 weeks old, and the oldest at 84. Using a PowerPoint presentation from MHA for our prayers, and people invited to make offering to MHA if they wished. Followed with a Bring and Share Lunch.
- Extras included a dad who has not come before, and two men who bought gifts along to the harvest celebration who would not normally come.
- Two people who joined us in 2009 still worship regularly
- One lady emailed to say that she had not attended church for a long time and had enjoyed the service and feels it is time she came again and hopes to be with us next Sunday.
- One family of four who had popped in to the church badminton club and received an invite came to the service on Sunday and enjoyed it and we hope they will come again.
- An elderly relative of one of our members who has not come to any of our services before even when invited to 'specials' came along on Sunday and I hope that this has given her a way back to church as a result.
- "I'm definitely coming again!" said someone who has never been before.
- One man, aged about 30 came last year on B2CS. He's been drafted onto the sound desk rota, to help operate the microphones and automatic organ. He also helps with the Scouts group (he did this before he came to B2CS). He's still a bit reluctant to be considered a church member, but comes once or twice a month.
- We are delighted with the mission response to Back to Church Sunday. It was delightful to see so many new faces. We advertised our Harvest service next Sunday so I hope the newcomers will return.
- Two of the seven who came as a result of Back to Church Sunday invites are coming to our harvest supper as a result of coming to the service, and at least one of the seven is coming to our Harvest Festival Service.
- All new attendees said they had enjoyed the service which was our Harvest Thanksgiving. We invited them for coffee and cakes and they stayed to chat. The congregation had fully taken part in the

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preparation - giving out invitations to friends and neighbours and using the prayer cards. They went out of their way to chat to people after the service.

- While the numbers show a great increase (previous week there were 35, at worship this week 65) - it was also our Harvest and it is difficult to judge if the people came because of B2CS or Harvest. We did find that a number of families came from other parts of the country on the invitation of a family member, and while we celebrate that they came to back to Church we recognise that this will not be our church (but one sows, another waters and another reaps).
- The good news is that some people came to church, who we would (in little faith) have not expected to respond - and enjoyed the experience!
- Most exciting for me was that my son came to church for the first time in 12 years (he is 26 now).
- Another couple came back, as a couple, who haven't been to church for well over 10 years. They used to occasionally come without each other. They said it was easier to come on a day when there would be plenty of new people, rather than be the only new ones and therefore stand out.
- People were more willing to respond more readily than we were to ask them.
- "I got a hand written invitation so I couldn't refuse could I!?"
- Great response - our congregation at least doubled!
- Two people who had not been to a Sunday service for several years came back, and one certainly plans to come again. Two people who have recently moved into the village came and enjoyed the service.
- Nine people who had received invitations because they had not attended church for a while came on our Back to Church Sunday (which we actually held on September 19th). We also had some visitors who were part of a baptismal party and I have received 2 cards from them saying how much their friends and family enjoyed the service and felt welcome and at home.
- Three joined us for a family fun evening the following Friday and four others attended Sunday morning worship the following Sunday too.
- It was lovely to see the delight on the faces of those who had brought someone new, good to see the amazement on the faces those who thought nothing would happen and a real joy to be part of BTCS leading worship and hearing comments on a positive experience enjoyed by all.
- Mother & daughter with small child (occasional members of congregation) said they had decided to make a conscious effort to come more regularly. Only one "new" person said they might come again.
- People took on the challenge of inviting and a number were delighted that they got a 'yes'. Even those who had got a 'no' felt they had done their 'bit'.
- Most new attendees were first-timers to a 'normal' service, including four teenagers. One returned has already said she will be coming every week and would like to become a member.
- The event provided a great opportunity to engage with people and to have an easy topic of conversation.
- One lady who had not been to church for a long time came to the service the following week and will hopefully continue to come as she met someone who lives near and they can share a taxi.
- This year the Church is celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the opening of the current building and we thought that a celebration weekend with 3 events over two days would be an appropriate addition to our celebrations.
- It was Harvest Festival on the same day as BTCS and some of the new attendees enjoyed that experience whilst others expressed an interest in attending again. Too soon to evaluate the effect. We made a weekend of celebration by also holding a Family Fun Day on the Saturday. This event attracted over 130 visitors and all seemed to enjoy their time here.

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- One couple particularly thanked us as they had got out of the habit of coming and we triggered them to come back.
- We had a ploughman's lunch afterwards which many of the congregation stayed for. The extras were mainly partners of members.
- Continued links with those who came last year. Good comments about this year's service.
- I wasn't involved last year, but do know that we have one lady who came back last year and still attends.
- One of the families who came yesterday had asked about services before - back to church Sunday gave me a good excuse to invite them and also gave them a good excuse to 'visit' and see if they liked it - all five of the visiting children (from two families) enjoyed themselves.
- This year we were the only church in our Methodist Circuit taking part - our Super-Intendant is hoping most of the churches will join in!
- One Member used the invites to encourage a friend who has been talking about coming for a while but has not arrived the invite got the friend to church and she found the experience very helpful.
- One 'old' member who had not been in church for 30 years following the break down of his marriage returned to worship. The congregation was made up of all ages, from babes through to teenagers and beyond, where normally we are an older adult only congregation. A great day and a huge encouragement. We look forward to Harvest Festival this week to see how many will return to worship again.
- The "Back to Church" Sunday gave us many opportunities to approach people who had been in our Church in the past.
- It was good to meet up with old acquaintances in their home, and give them an invitation. Not all came but there is always next year.
- We prayed for four weeks before the event and on the day were really blessed by an increase of about 75%.
- Three visitors came which was a 20%.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- Although I registered I was unable to access some of the services you offered. Two weeks before taking pastoral care of two small congregations I sent for one pack and then lay people distributed the invitation cards and encouraged the members to invite friends. Each church has a normal congregation of 12-15. The church where I preached for my first service had a congregation of 29. The reaction of the normal church members was wonderful to hear. In the evening at the other small church there were ten extra people there. It was Harvest but still the stewards were obviously affected to see old friends they has not seem for a long while. In both cases we made sure invitations to a coming service were given.
- Our worship planning group felt that the prayers were very good, but the sermon resource and other material was a bit sparse; the draft service sheet was useful, but it would have been good to have suggestions for intercessions, and hymns/songs, and some ideas for a children's talk or all-age material expanding on the gospel story as well. (e.g. the Christian Aid week or MRDF worship resources)
- We would have liked more information regarding the postcard given out on the day. What was the symbolism?
- Didn't like the postcards - the picture was too obscure, wasn't easy to see the point in the picture or the purpose of the cards. Invites and posters were ok.
- I didn't use the resources

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- All very good.
- All the material was good; the problem was getting people to be serious about asking people to come!
- There was a frequent reference to 'click the link below' and there was no link! I had to go through the main web page, no problem but not as easy as you implied. Different pages were accessed from different places e.g. info about the postcard artist in a different place from worship ideas/sermon thoughts - I'd have liked them to be in one place.
- It would help to be able to customise resources more.
- All very helpful - we intend to use more of the resources next year for BTCS. We used our harvest service as a user friendly means of welcoming folk back this year.
- It was very useful.
- Could you produce the publicity information on a CD/DVD for those of us who are less technically adept?
- Our visiting preacher couldn't find any suggestions for use of cards that came in the pack - so were unused.
- Invitation cards - a place to put names top and bottom would be useful
- The resources are very good, as is the website. If we had not overprinted the post cards I am not sure if we would have been able to use them. This year the main poster was much smaller than last years and was not as effective for use outside the Church building.
- More individual worship resources (not service sheet template) would have been useful e.g. prayers to tie in with the theme. The invitation cards were useful, and so were the postcards for the service. Also the sermon outline was helpful.
- I was very disappointed that the cards and invitations would not print on an ink-jet printer.
- I like the simplicity of the idea, didn't feel the need for any other resources.
- The invitations and poster are good. I found it hard to print on the activity card as the ink ran into the shiny surface so I had to print on to paper, cut out and stick it on the card. Perhaps a smooth surface would be better. Our minister used the theme and ideas but not the whole service.
- The standard pack was a bit big for a small church. Smaller packs would save wastage of card etc.
- The card which was provided to give out on the day had a large space on one side which I hoped to print some useful information on to give visitors. Unfortunately the card did not appear to take the printing ink and smudged so I had to print on labels and stick them on - involving extra expense.
- Good comments on the "A New Day" artwork -- but I needed it on PowerPoint slide, and not just as a background.
- I work in a circuit of small rural churches (congregations about ten people) and needed far more posters per pack.
- I had no posters in my pack! The website was good but I would have liked far more to use for publicity.
- I felt that the poster was good in its design apart from the fact that it did not seem too obvious to passers by on the road outside just what was being advertised. I felt that "Back to Church Sunday" and the date could have been displayed more boldly.
- Useful range of resources. Bigger posters (at least A2) with more distinct colouring would help the message on them to be seen further away. The website was very helpful and the regular e-mail updates kept the kettle boiling!
- I used some resources which were helpful: opening/closing words, gospel passage. We had other things to include on the morning, so didn't need too much by way of extra resources.
- We found it most helpful.

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- Not impressed with the invitations. Too much to fill in on each one. We printed some sticky labels with the relevant info and stuck them on each invite. Might as well have printed them from scratch.
- We used a range of the resources: Readings, Logo, T Shirts and take home cards.
- Have found it very useful and used numerous resources. Would have liked the meditations to have been available a little earlier.
- Please can we have the invitation side of the card blank, so we can print our own details without having to stick labels over the top?
- The format of the booklet makes it very difficult to cut and paste - PLEASE could you supply a A4 word document along side this?
- I did not handle the PowerPoint slides but I understand that they were not easy to adapt etc in preparing new slides using these as templates/backgrounds - so perhaps some attention to making these more user friendly may be helpful.
- A basic beliefs booklet, with pictures, to be given out after the service.
- As a busy minister, I'd have liked suggestions for other Bible readings, beyond the Gospel one, which I thought an excellent choice.
- The postcard with modern art and the prayer on the invitation were both excellent. Imagery on the prayer card was pretty good, but could be more inclusive of minority ethnicity.
- The website is really useful with the PowerPoint slides. We remain mystified about the picture postcard. We didn't use it last year or this. Save money and stop making it! Give away Fairtrade goods instead.
- Would have liked a larger poster, invitations were good.
- Is there material available for House Group or small group follow through?
- They were very useful.
- We thought the pack was expensive at £25 although what was in it was good quality. We couldn't really see the relevance of the postcard - so we wrote details of the Sunday on them and gave out to friends and neighbours.
- We were disappointed not to see billboards advertising the event and we didn't hear anything at all in the media - either radio or television. That may have been because we didn't listen to the right stations!
- I thought the material on John 1 not really suitable for the actual day, but used it 3 weeks before.
- The seminar I attended by Michael Harvey helped me to set the theme for the congregation. Also, promoting the day 5 weeks before hand with the regular meditations helped keep things in people's minds.
- I would have appreciated simple articles for church magazine and newspapers - or perhaps I missed them
- It would be good if there had been encouragement for churches to do this together in terms of publicity in the community.
- We used one of the four recommended speakers to address us in advance of the event. This was Beverly Hollings. She was very helpful.
- The literature could have been better produced. The colours on the poster and invitation cards needed greater contrast. 'Come as you are' on the Invitations and posters could not easily be read, particularly with people with eyesight problems - and that was probably an important message to them. The same applies to the posters, colour differences were unhelpful, the date was not large enough, and even 'Back to Church' was inadequately portrayed.
- The logo on the Methodist Church Website was not of sufficient pixel size to enlarge adequately, important for us to produce our own pre event publicity (not to replace what you send out.

BackToChurchSunday



- We should be given the permission to photocopy items.
- It would have been good to be able to overprint on the cards which we handed out to people at the end of the service. The type of card made it impossible to overprint with laser or inkjet printers without smudging. Our solution was to buy large sticky labels (6 per sheet) but they are very expensive.
- Also good would be a Back To Church Sunday post cards which we could leave in all the rows of seats for people to fill out if they wish and leave so that we can follow up later if they request it. Required is: Name, Address, postcode, email, phone, children, etc.; and tickboxes for "I would like: more information about Christianity, what's on in this church, a visit, a phone call, etc."
- We used the video clip - Back to Church Sunday Bingo which we translated into Methodist! The invitations were given out, but I confess I think another look at the design would be good.
- We also gave out lots of copies of the special edition of Inspire. The postcards were accepted readily at the end of the service.
- We didn't give out the cards - we didn't find the picture of 2 men and a dog and another man on a bench very inspiring. It didn't seem to convey the intended meaning.
- Slogan 'Come as you are' is 'non-threatening' and welcoming.
- I was disappointed with the official 'come as you are' invitations because they were too glossy to over print with an inkjet printer.
- I was too late to buy the resource pack!
- Liked the updates, reminders and the count down emails. The quality of the resources was good too. Perhaps 2 or 3 service outlines from the formal to more informal would have helped.
- We would like contact cards for people to write down names and addresses.
- Reasonably good, though posters weren't the most eye-catching.
- The 'Coffee morning to Sunday morning' material was very good and we had a small group who worked through it. It provided a lot to think about for the future and we will hope to build on it and continue to discuss the topics raised.
- Local media advertising seemed to pass us by.
- The starter pack is just right; however the A3 posters looked a little feeble by the roadside - what about supplying full size posters.
- What about supplying a banner that we could drape over the side of the church facing a major road?
- We asked our District Evangelistic manager to put on a training morning to which over 30 people came. Sadly it was poor and didn't address helping people to understand how to do this in the real world. I would like to see an outline process (say 3 meetings - one to say hello again, one to find out why they stopped coming, and one to invite.) It would help if from the successes you could come up with a transparent process and a training pack for us to carry inviters along and take away their misgivings
- Good and clear.
- We liked the postcard and used it as an aide memoir in the sermon, for people to write down their 'mustard seed moments' - it was our Harvest Festival as well.
- We never saw the adverts.
- I appreciated the website and resources sent by mail. We used Facebook to promote our back to church Sunday and also to promote our mid-week service. It would have been valuable to link up with the main back to church Facebook group when we sent our event invites out though.
- I was expecting more from the worship resources. The sermon material was good but I would have like some thoughts perhaps around working with Children, specifically all age worship or a children's address.

BackToChurchSunday



- The picture was very useful. Worship resources we adapted to suit.
- Our first Back to Church-We did not have enough "official" invitations. We could not purchase more unless we ordered a full pack.
- We felt that the cards to hand to those who came were unnecessary, so we used them as invitation cards, printing the invite on them.
- We bought a 3 metre banner, "Back to Church" weatherproof, strong material, re-enforced holes for rope to enable the banner to be fixed. The local Benefice also bought some. A local banner maker. £58.65 Inc vat. Strongly recommended.
- Was unable to download the meditations and the invitation package didn't arrive.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- We feel this is a good initiative, although the BTCS material seems to be aimed specifically at churches that aren't used to welcoming new visitors.
- The invitations were useful & although we did use the postcards, we felt the fee of £25 might discourage us from taking part next year.
- We have a few new visitors through the year, so tend to use BTCS to invite friends & neighbours & also existing members who haven't been to church for a while.
- Our Worship Planning group also questioned the timing of BTCS as it has clashed with Harvest in previous years. Having BTCS a week or two earlier might allow a greater focus on BTCS and visitors can then be invited to Harvest in the week(s) following.
- Change the name to Come to Church Sunday.
- Please think about calling it 'Come to Church Sunday.' Some people have never been regular attendees. Also, although I can see it is never easy to choose a date it did follow on hard on harvest when people had already invited friends. I did not want to make 'Back to Church Sunday' our Harvest Thanksgiving because we were saying it would be a 'normal' Sunday.
- As most of the Churches in the Circuit have elderly congregations, the attendance at Church in September is usually low, elderly folk tend to take holidays when children are back at school! Could we have an alternative date?!
- I was not aware of much publicity in the media.
- More good support and help please. The regular emails leading up to BTCS were great.
- Didn't give out the Text cards - thought they had no significance without a very clear message.
- I think churches need more flexibility with the ordering of materials, and as the closing date is very early yes on the one hand it ensures that Churches should be including this in their programmes, but I know of at least one Church who had not received information, and then were too late to order materials. Indeed I asked for extra postcards and was unable to get them.
- We have several hundred people we come through our Church premises each week for all kinds of activities. As well as the personal invitation which is obviously critical, we would have found it useful if there were materials which could be directed to those who might attend groups, meetings etc on the Church premises but would never consider attending Church. This we know is our mission field but just using the personal invitations in the way they are printed is not always appropriate.
- Could we get rid of the "back" in the title, which seems to exclude new worshippers?!
- It would be good to receive the packs with invitations and posters earlier in time for planning meetings in June/ July. I sent off in March and expected to receive the pack soon after Easter.

BackToChurchSunday



- Instruct the congregation to each invite at least three people: one will break a leg, one will have a previous engagement, but one will come! I personally invited 9 and 2 came-to an event last month, I invited 12 and 4 came.
- In this deeply rural area it makes more sense to use Harvest Festival as Back to Church Sunday - we actually had an awful lot more 'extra' people to that - as we do at Christmas and Easter.
- I think that in places like this where everyone knows each other and people still have a residual loyalty to the church or chapel that their parents attended that the dynamics of this venture are quite different to the urban model and raises a lot of challenges to small, basically very traditional, rural congregations.
- Please keep up the marvellous work. It would be useful for the evaluation to ask specifically for how churches organised their event and contacted people. This would then inform other groups who could benefit from such initiatives and ideas.
- Keep producing 'good news' stories which can be shown in the lead up to future BTCS' as an encouragement to participating churches.
- Continue to get the initiative mentioned nationally and through the Media. That is an area which churches find a step too far when planning their own days but it is wonderful re - enforcement that this not just a local one church idea.
- PLEASE remember that other denominations also value BTCS - it still has a very Anglican feel
- It has been a very worthwhile initiative and provided a context that has enabled people to invite others as well as given a way in for those who may be ready to come to church but feel apprehensive about so doing.
- Drop the title Back to Church and use Come to Church instead. We love the "Come as you are" motto and have given that a high profile.
- Put adverts about Come to Church Sunday in the Methodist Recorder and other ecclesiastical press during April/ May 2011.
- Good to hear adverts on Classic FM.
- We had an 'own arrangement' three weeks before the event so used this as a opportunity to promote the Back to Church Sunday. I used some of the material published for the actual day so that the congregation was fully aware of what it meant.
- I thought there were a lot of positives in the card "Come as you are". I did find people reluctant to use them, though. It may be that we need to offer a rather traditional congregation something which suggests something easier for them to handle stage by stage: thought, prayer, invitation to church with, perhaps a meal afterwards.
- Keep up the good work.
- It would be useful to be able to download official images to be able to use on church produced publicity, perhaps for a small charge.
- Think Anglican plus and offer alternative worship style suggestions.
- Advice for churches in how to follow up those new contacts.
- Our difficulty is in getting across to people that they can come any time, not just on B2CS! A good number came this year that came a year ago but haven't been in between times, as if they think they can only come when it's B2CS or when they have a special invitation.
- We noticed that on Radio 2 Ann Easter advertised using this for inviting people to Church. We are not sure from a marketing perspective whether this waters down the intent of finding out why people have stopped coming and persuading them back. In the event we soft pedalled on this but we know our members used the initiative both ways.
- Sadly, despite all our advertising we never saw any new people.

BackToChurchSunday



- As many churches have mid-week services, often for other types of congregation - would it be possible for the resources to have a 'back to church' and a space to add, another day e.g. back to church Tuesday.
- Keep up the good work, God's work. A fuller worship resource would be appreciated.
- An advice sheet for those in their first attempt.
 1. A draft letter to all Church members, to stir them into action.
 2. A draft flyer to the local community.
 3. Suggest that a directory is drawn up of all who could be approached with address and tel no. with the name of the person who is to approach them

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	20
Found it successful in the past	20
New church leader	7
Heard about it from a church member	6
Recommended through another church	12

Other Responses:

- Think the idea is good.
- The national publicity.
- Tried it last year without the information pack.
- Methodist Circuit Meeting.
- Talk at Synod.
- Our minister is keen to have initiatives that reach out to the community and to encourage members to be involved.
- Methodist web site.
- Worth a try to spread the gospel.
- Heard about it in the past and took idea to church council.
- Did it last year.
- Our Stewards made the decision to do it.
- Circuit policy.
- After several years of awareness we just went for it this year!
- Good news stories in magazines - Christianity & Inspire.
- Went to Methodist Conference presentation which was excellent.
- We have done it before but this time with more prayer and local advertising.
- A God instance

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	43
2004	
2005	
2006	1
2007	2
2008	6
2009	32
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday   

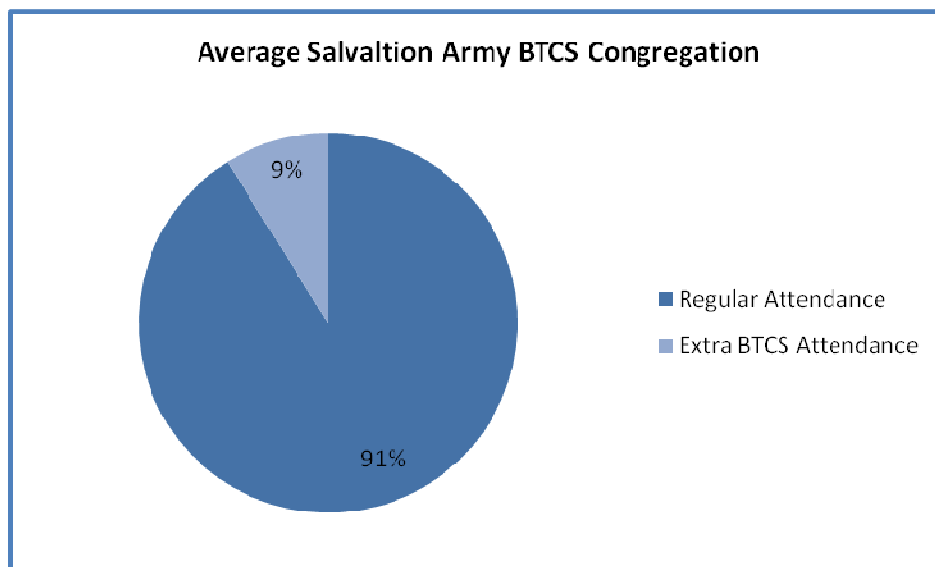
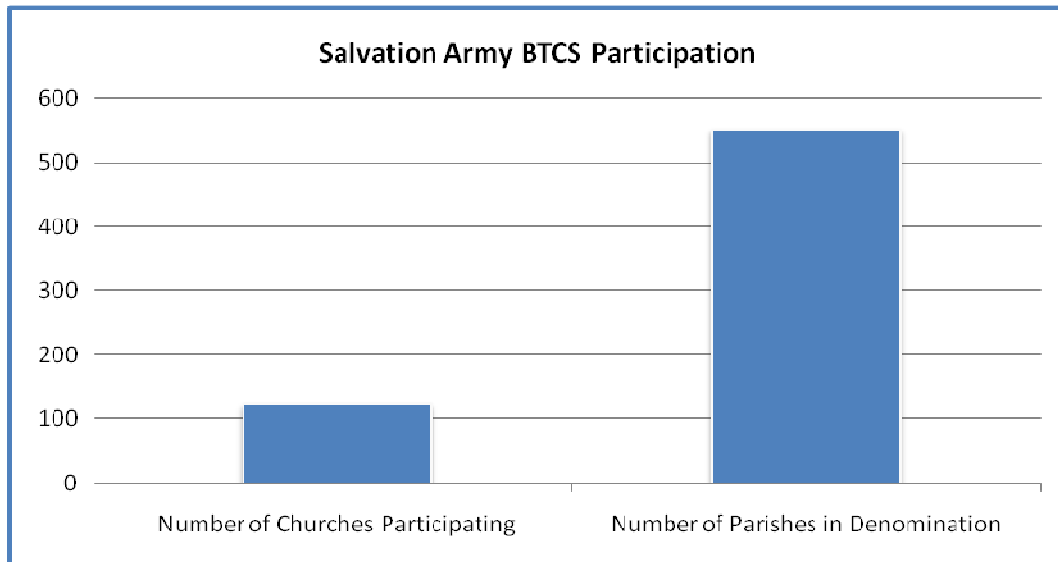
Salvation Army

BackToChurchSunday



Salvation Army

42 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Churches in Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
122	550	22%	75	82	7	9.7%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Two said they enjoyed the fellowship and were made to feel welcome.
- The people who came for the first time (eleven) all had a positive experience and some made a positive commitment to return.
- Since becoming the Officer at my present Corps in Nov 09, one particular family stopped coming when the previous Officer left. They weren't very happy about the change. They hadn't experienced change before so couldn't understand the Salvation Army's way of change of Officer. I had tried to contact them in the past, but to no avail. I decided to give it one more shot, and invite them to the 'Back to Church Sunday'. They arrived, parents and 2 young people. The Corps folk made them very welcome. On talking to them after the service, they agreed that God was leading them back. They had been attending a church, so their faith was still strong.
We praise God that for the first time we had Back to Church at the Corps, something positive came out of it.
- Our one extra attendee had previously worshipped at the corps some years ago.
- A mum and her daughter attended and signed their names on the list for next week's Harvest Lunch.
- Congregation enjoy the fact that this is a national Sunday that they are taking part in. They enjoy the specific opportunity it affords to invite people 'Back to Church'.
- One family who came last year are now adherents and are well integrated into church life.
- Congregation were pleased to be able to have a specific event to invite extended family back to church.
- A lady who attended with her father (who has links to the church) asked me over lunch whether I would consider dedicating her son.
- Multiple promises of that they will continue to attend. Many expressed their appreciation for the invitation and the warmth of the welcome.
- One young lad was brought along by his friend, and another Catholic lady came who had been invited by a friend also.
- We held a band concert on the Friday evening and a number of brand new people were in Church for the first time from the community through this. It was also emphasised through the Macmillan Cancer Care Big coffee morning earlier that day. We were thrilled to have had so many new people in Church over the two days which culminated in these 8 people attending Sunday morning worship on Back to Church Sunday.
- Mother and daughter came and have already added their name to our harvest service and fish and chip dinner for next week.
- "Pleased to have been invited and thoroughly enjoyed the worship activity."
- A lady who only attends very spasmodically decided to take up the invitation.
- Two people had their children and grand children attend.
- Two families who came 'back to church' last year continue to worship with us on a regular basis.
- Some said they would attend again - so time will tell.
- Of those invited one is definitely coming next Sunday instead.
- We had an increase in 30-35 over that of our normal attendance. Quite a number were family members who have had contact in the past or have been church members. There was a good spread of ages. What was most encouraging was that two new ladies on leaving commented that they would love to come again. One already has returned. One of our teenagers invited a friend who had previously attended the youth group and made it clear she wasn't interested in the 'God stuff'. She came and enjoyed it and attended the mid-week youth group and singing group. This week she took part in a dance the teenagers presented in the Sunday worship meeting.

BackToChurchSunday



- "I really enjoyed it today. I especially liked the story bit from the Bible. I've never heard something like that before. It really made sense." - Man in his 50s who was invited by a friend to come. 1st time attended church.
- This is the second year we have done this, but this year's result was not as successful. We linked it with our Harvest Festival and arranged a supper afterwards in the evening. We had no new attendees in the morning but 15 came in the evening. Last year all invitations were taken, but this year only about 20% were utilised.
- Those who came found the experience good. They were accepted and felt welcome
- Good to see people come although not as good a response as last year.
- A number came again last Sunday.
- Not this year sorry, although last year 1 lady came back and she has been an amazing evangelist since
- Coincided with Harvest Festival, so very difficult to distinguish who came to 'Back to Church' Sunday, as distinct from Harvest.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- We used the invitations, but none of the other resources.
- I would prefer 'paper' resources as I'm not that good with computer stuff.
- Resources for Young People would have been useful.
- Bit negative, I'm afraid - posters didn't say what it was about clearly enough. Invite cards and the 'New Day' cards were not easily over printable. Every member of the congregation should be a welcomer, not only those with a snazzy t-shirt on.
- Larger Posters would be good to have available. It would be good to have a space for names on the Invitation card (the piece you give to the person)
Dear..... You are invited to.....etc.
- Didn't find them very helpful or inspiring this year.
- Video clips not relevant, sermon helps useful, posters/cards eye-catching and flexible for use.
- A choice of poster sizes (e.g. A2, A1) would be useful. Also the possibility of providing posters overprinted with wording provided by the local church.
- People felt the invitation was too pink and felt not suitable to pass on to the male population.
- Resources on Website very good and very useful - thank you!
- The invitation cards were excellent with the excellent emphasis on prayer for the invitee.
- Do you have any banners 15' by 3' for 2011?
- The resources were very good, could have been improved with sermon ideas, and song ideas too. The video clips weren't really useful to use on the day, so something of that too.
- It would have been good to have had the facility to copy the Back to Church poster by enlarging this to our Poster Board outside but this would have needed to have been provided in an A4 portrait size. Would it be possible to have A4 portrait poster size for next year?
- The handouts are printed on the wrong paper (card) this is not inkjet printable paper! Although many of our congregation wrote their invites by hand those who wrote with a proper ink pen found the ink smudged on the shiny surface.
- We also had the same problem with the members of various groups and clubs that we invited through printing with a normal inkjet printer. The once smart flyers were smudge and dirty! Please change this paper (card) for something more suitable.

BackToChurchSunday



- We were pleased to use what was provided invitations, posters but were not sure that the post card with Zacchaeus [2009] was a good idea as the use of the term "sinner" within the Gospel record on the encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus may not be warmly received.
- We were pleased to send out the invites and also link them in with invites to next Sunday - Harvest Thanksgiving
- Resources were fine - perhaps some other prayers/readings/stories, etc. could have been included.
- Not sure that the postcards for the meeting itself were useful. Invites were good.
- Easier access to video clips would be useful.
- Possible generic press release for local papers.
- I am totally committed to BTC Sunday and think the material, generally, is excellent.
- Personally I would like the choice of larger posters for out side use. I do not like - at all the small postcards with modern artwork on. I am not sure what their purpose is? How they should be used? Sadly, I bin them every year. Everything else, full marks!
- I thought the resources were well prepared although the invitation was a little uninteresting once the pray section had been detached. I understand the mechanism with the perforation but felt that giving a card with a torn perforated edge diminished what was otherwise a very presentable piece.
- I think we made a mistake by giving the cards to former or lapsed members. The wording inviting people to come to our church seemed to alienate those who might consider themselves part of the church merely by having their name in a membership book but who never attend. If a resource for this type of invitation doesn't exist we would certainly consider creating one ourselves.
- The cards to give out on the day were not well received but the invitation cards were excellent.
- Was not sure what the small cards with the painting on were intended for?
- Not helpful to develop a good and interesting worship. I like the title and the picture
- Some more multimedia for the actual day would be useful. For those of us from a non-Anglican background, some of the resources were a little "Anglican" focussed.
- The resources seemed the same or similar to last years which could have diluted the impact. Using the same basic strap line 'Come as you are' made it seemed more of a repeat exercise than something new and exciting.
- Everything was useful.
- Loved the build up prayer ideas that were provided this year. Didn't use the 'A New Day'. We bought coasters from CPO to give away at the end of the meeting.
- Excellent
- Aimed at middle age group or older
- Resources were a little limited I feel.
- All very lovely, loved the meditations which we put into our prayer corner.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- I think Back to Church Sunday will only work via interdenominational cooperation in the area where I'm working - south Bristol.
- As per suggestion on Radio 2, Good Morning Sunday - should perhaps be called 'Come to church Sunday' as 'back' implies a previous and lapsed attendance at a particular venue.
- Had to go searching for further All age resources e.g. drama, prayers.
- Consider how this initiative might be developed into something that supports churches all year round.
- Don't call it back to church as implies you have to have been before.

BackToChurchSunday



- A little more wideness, of ideas, in the resources of service/sermon material would be helpful. This year's was good, and very usable, but more choice would have been welcomed.
- To encourage the congregation in the future are there any short DVD presentations that could be used in the build-up to the BTCS.
- Would you consider changing the Title of this event? Many of our congregation felt they couldn't invite new friends back to church as they have been to our church before. Next year we are consider creating our own material that will print easily and calling it 'Come to Church' Sunday. Surely Christ's message should be one of evangelism telling of God's Love to those who don't know it for themselves, including those who have never been to church before.
- Let us keep at it; in fact the suggestion locally has been what about a month of events to invite back to! We have linked this notion with invitations to Harvest Thanksgiving and have included refreshments at the "Back to Church" events.
- Material available earlier.
- Keep going. Possible six month reminder?
- A new theme next year other than "Come as you are" and a new look poster/invites.
- Could have done with an A4 poster the small ones where not really any good.
- I would like to have more resources for the worship (for example: some ideas for worship for all ages). The resources are more focus on the Anglican Churches with their fixed liturgy.
- I would like to see Canvas banners offered with Logo etc which we could hang on our Church wall. Maybe they are and we missed them. Also envelopes for the invitations would save effort etc in having to source them - yet another thing to think about.
- Sermon resources were a bit weak this year.
- Our first year - very good. We would like help in deciding how to action next year - rather than just repeating the exercise.
- Need something to inspire youth.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	17
Found it successful in the past	24
New church leader	4
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	5

Other Responses:

- First time we tried it was good, last time was not so successful, but thought we would try for a 3rd time.
- Part of church programme.

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	17
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	1
2008	5
2009	17
I Don't Know	3

BackToChurchSunday   

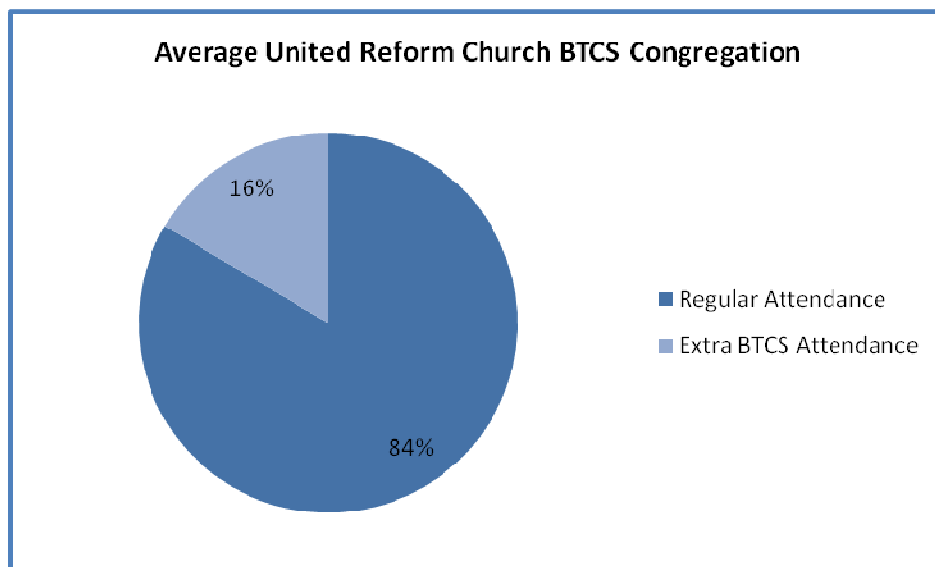
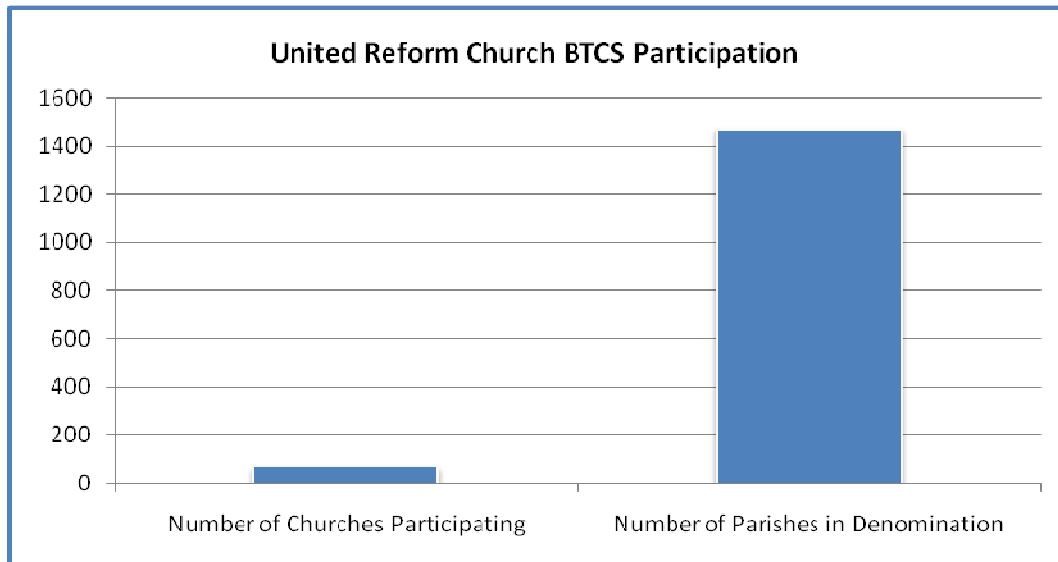
United Reformed Church

BackToChurchSunday



United Reformed Church

7 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Churches in Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
66	1470	4%	68	81	13	19.7%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- People who had not been in years, people who had never been before, all enjoyed our church service, and stayed and chatted afterwards. Comments ranged from: 'Don't know why I've left it so long.' 'Never been in a place like this before, but I'll come again.' to 'Can we come and have fun again?' (4 year old)
- Church member's comments: 'Wasn't it lovely to see the church with more people and children too.' 'I hope they come back, they're lovely!'
- We even had some from our local Nash College (for severely disabled young people) turn up the following week, and promising to come each week.
- At least two are considering attending again.
- A lot of positive comments from regular attendees. I think there was more purpose to the service, the singing was stronger and the atmosphere much more welcoming. One visitor who hadn't been for years commented on how much better the church felt to him.
- We linked BTCS to our Harvest Thanksgiving Service and had a good turnout of regular worshippers. Unfortunately of all the specially invited people only two actually came.
- Too early to say, but we are confident that at least a few of the 20 or so who 'came back' will continue to attend or attend more often
- One of the seven who came to church this year came with a lady who came to Back to Church Sunday last year who has also since introduced somebody else to the regular congregation during the year. The lady who responded to the invitation this year came to worship again last Sunday. The lady who originally came and is now bringing others is now a Church member and active in the fellowship.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Church members liked being able to give a card that gave the information - was less stressful than trying to invite and give information verbally. That was really appreciated.
- Some complained that they felt they couldn't invite people to a service with communion so perhaps we could invite people to a service without communion.
- Some said they felt unable to attend if they hadn't brought someone along!
- The resources were excellent, although it would have been useful to have been able to download the BTCS logo and to know what font was used.
- I felt the sermon was not geared for Back to Church Sunday and could have been a lot more helpful.
- Generally very useful. The impact, value and nature of the video clips was less effective than the other aspects. National media coverage was relatively poor, or at least very subdued.
- We were disappointed with the posters.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Keep on with the good work. Perhaps a clearer, common theme for the day would help.

BackToChurchSunday



Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	3
Found it successful in the past	3
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	1

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	4
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	1
2009	3
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday   

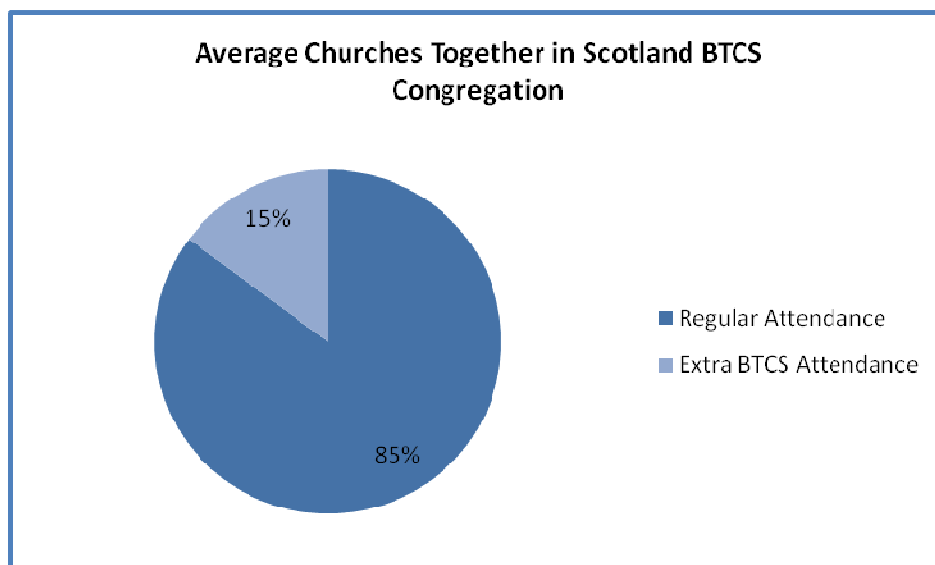
Churches Together in Scotland

BackToChurchSunday



Churches Together in Scotland

17 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
112			72	85	13	17.5%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- One couple came a week early and also came back on the actual day itself!
- Too early to say for this year but we did have more than 15 children which are 10 more than usual and they seemed to enjoy themselves. Adults who had not been to church for years were surprised with the happy relaxed atmosphere.
- Not a huge number but in this small rural area it is significant
- One who came last year and has been almost every week since brought someone else this year. Now there are three friends together there where two years ago there was one.
- The children did really well bringing extra friends.
- One woman just smiled the whole time - so happy to be back.
- One couple had been invited by a work colleague after a night shift and had come along to church. They had been really touched by the service and said that they would try their local church.
- At our evening service we saw four young people from our youth group attend a service for the first time.
- Whilst we were a little disappointed that none of the adults invited came along, we were really encouraged to see that some of the children had invited their friends along and they had come.
- Retrial collection for the Pakistan Flood Appeal and minister and deacon were showered with water by the other deacons.
- Fellowship and fun shown but also reminded of a different story in Pakistan.
- Most of our visitors were family members who came because they were invited.
- Sunday 3 October 2010 was the date we chose to celebrate Back to Church Sunday. The Back to Church Sunday is the West of Scotland's popular September weekend.
- Another couple (not the mother and daughter who are the 2 above) were also in church today having attended two or three times during the year, partly as a result of receiving a BTCS invitation last year although they did not actually come on the day.
- Guide Company made a little bookmark as a welcome gift. It had contact details for the Ministers and a little tag with the Methodist Church logo on attached.
- New attendees were warmly welcomed on an individual basis by regulars and invited back by them too.
- We have three people who were invited back last year and have made this their regular spiritual home.
- Two new people attended.
- It was good to see a new person who came through advert and prodigal return.
- This was a new venture for us and we found it an excellent opportunity to commence this service.
- Of the 8 attendees, 6 have said they will be coming back again! This includes two former elders who haven't been for eight years, and a Muslim lady who was enthralled by the claims of Jesus!
- An adherent was enrolled. She had started coming to the Corps because of an invitation from the songster leader whom she works with. She has now decided to make the Army her church for herself and her little daughter. One lady came through an invitation from a soldier out collecting for Annual Appeal.
- A member who dropped off attending last year came back with her new partner.
- We had two people this year that came back to church.



Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Liked the website and the resources made available. Did send an e-mail to get approval for a banner that we planned to have which was to use a logo. The website asked that we e-mail for permission but we received no reply to our e-mail.
- Still very English based. Service material not very helpful and it may be that through ACTS we have to produce some Scottish based material?
- The resources are helpful and you are good at keeping it high on the agenda.
- I found myself able to use hardly any of the resources. The meditations seemed very alien to our tradition. I did use the John 1:35-42, mainly because we had the postcards, but found the lack of additional readings frustrating. Surely most churches have more than one reading in the Sunday service. That's not what's alien to visitors.
- The sermon suggestions had nothing that I have not often said myself; there were no suggestions of children's resources/talks or other further ideas, e.g. dialogues, dramas, etc., the kind of things that are great in service resources. What I look for is things I could not so easily produce myself.
- Under resources it said 'more to follow' but they never came. I found it poor.
- It would be helpful to be able to buy the invitation cards, posters etc separately, rather than as part of a package.
- We liked the "Come just as you are" poster.
- Most of the resources are great - especially the prayer/invitation cards etc. Video clips also good. The areas that you really need to work on are the service resources and sermon outline. It would be helpful to have some all-age service resources with activities and talks etc. really arising out of the Bible Passage and theme for the service. The service outline as is not suitable for many denominations to use.
- Big posters or banners would have been useful.
- Good stuff.
- I liked the ideas and the colours of the poster but neither the Back to Church nor the "Come as you are" message stood out. As a poster to read as you pass on the street, it was not very clear.
- Some worship materials to help the congregation prepare for their role in BTCS would have been useful.
- Still need to recognise that the last weekend in September does not suit everywhere. I had to cut the date from some posters again.
- Thought resources were good.
- Very good.
- Follow-up resources or ideas would have been really helpful.
- Resources were fine.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Speak to the Church of Scotland to see if they would come on board and back this properly and encourage all congregations to take part. From what I can see the Church of Scotland congregations who did BTCS did so off their back.
- Again on a parochial basis the date's chosen in the last two years have clashed with local holidays - perhaps the dates could be left flexible and not printed on the posters but space left for over printing?
- We are not Anglican so some of the terminology is a bit alien.

BackToChurchSunday



- I also increasingly find the title frustrating and limiting. 'Back to Church' almost implies guilt at having been away. For some people it is a coming back after an absence, but for increasing numbers of people we'd like to invite, particularly among younger people, they have never gone to church.
- 'Come to Church Sunday' or 'Bring Someone to Church Sunday', as one of our children called it, might be a much better title. Is there any chance of a change before next year? The idea is good of having a particular day and the personal invitation side is great, but the material is too limited.
- The initiative is great and if there were a really good raft of service resources as indicated above, I think that more folk would come on board and really take up the opportunity to use Back to Church Sunday.
- The last Sunday in September is a Bank Holiday weekend in this part of Scotland. This impacts the effectiveness of BTCS locally and the availability of those we are inviting.
- National advertising in secular sources would help.
- We have initiated a Back2Church4Kids Sunday in October where Cradle Roll members and former Sunday school attendees are invited to a service largely based on Messy Church.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	8
Found it successful in the past	15
New church leader	2
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	1

Other Responses:

- Good outreach linking to a national campaign, made sense to try it.
- Tried it last year and decided to have another go.
- Part of church programme.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	3
2004	
2005	
2006	1
2007	2
2008	4
2009	15
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday   

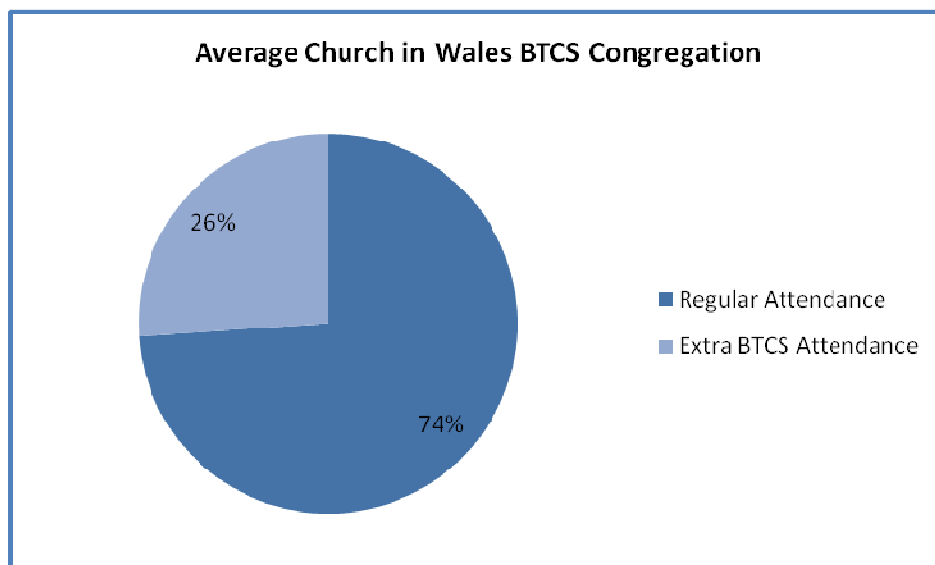
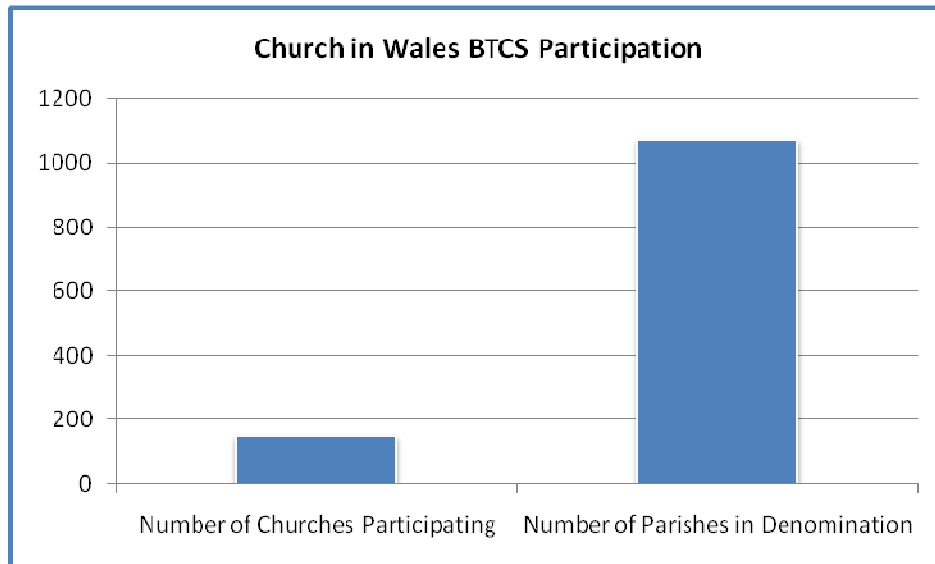
Church in Wales

BackToChurchSunday



Church in Wales

13 participating churches submitted feedback.



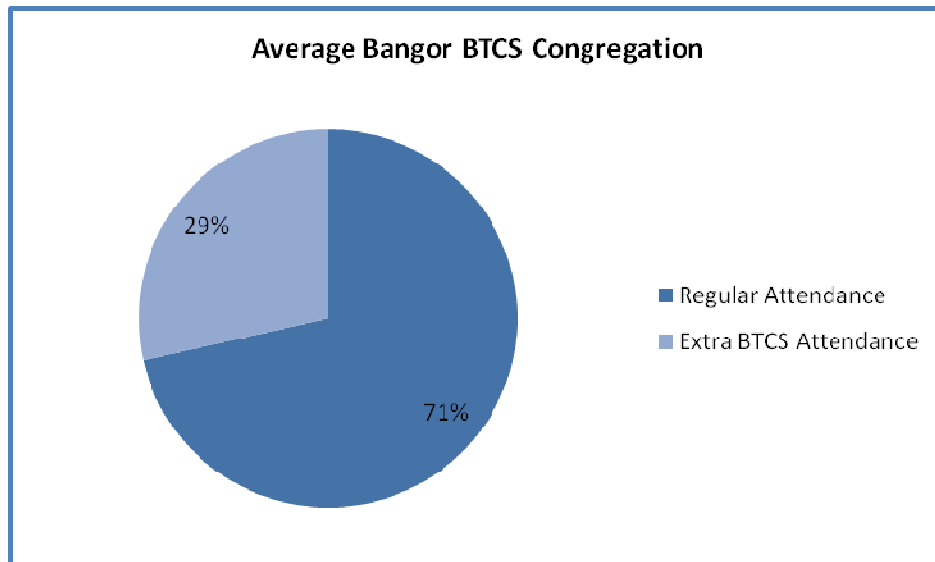
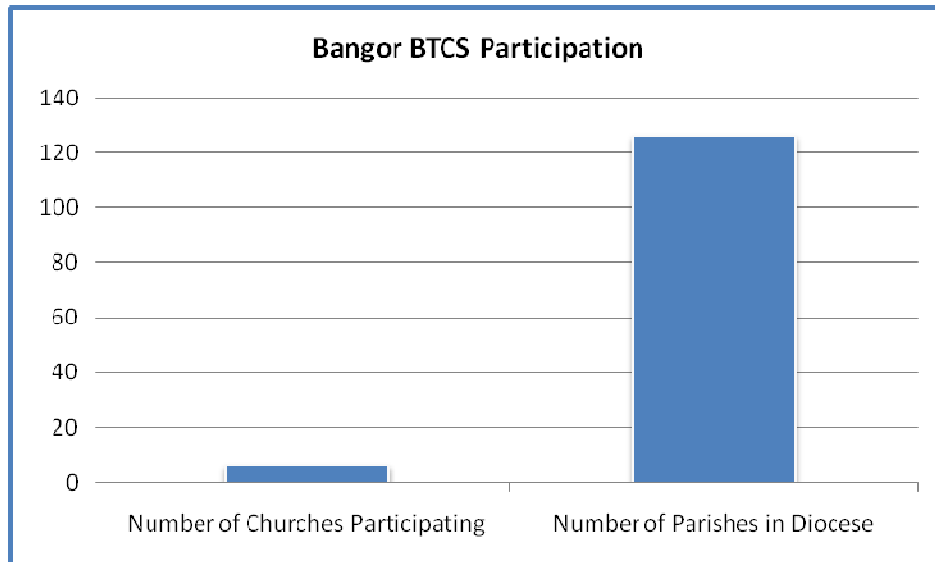
Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Regular Attendees	Average Attendance on BTCS	Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
150	1069	14%	60	81	21	35.3%

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Bangor

1 participating church submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Regular Attendees	Average Attendance on BTCS	Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
6	126	5%	50	70	20	40%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- All who attended seemed very happy, and were positive, the proof will be if they rerun next Sunday.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Resource could have been made available until early September; I was away until late August and found that materials had run out. It would be good to have packs of 25 rather than 100, both in Welsh and English.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Keep up the good work; the pictures on the cards are rather small and not as clear as they might be. I appreciated the material leading up to 'Back to church Sunday'.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	
Found it successful in the past	1
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

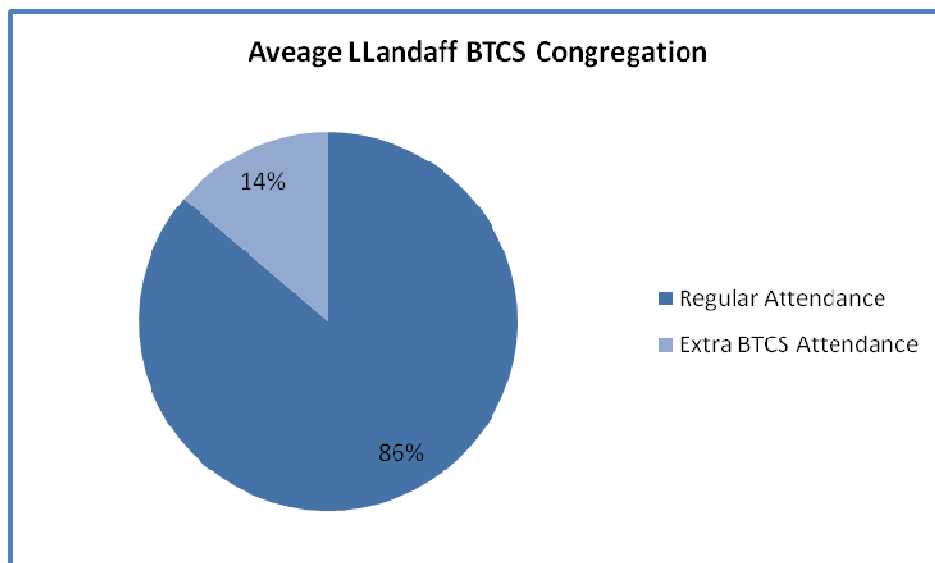
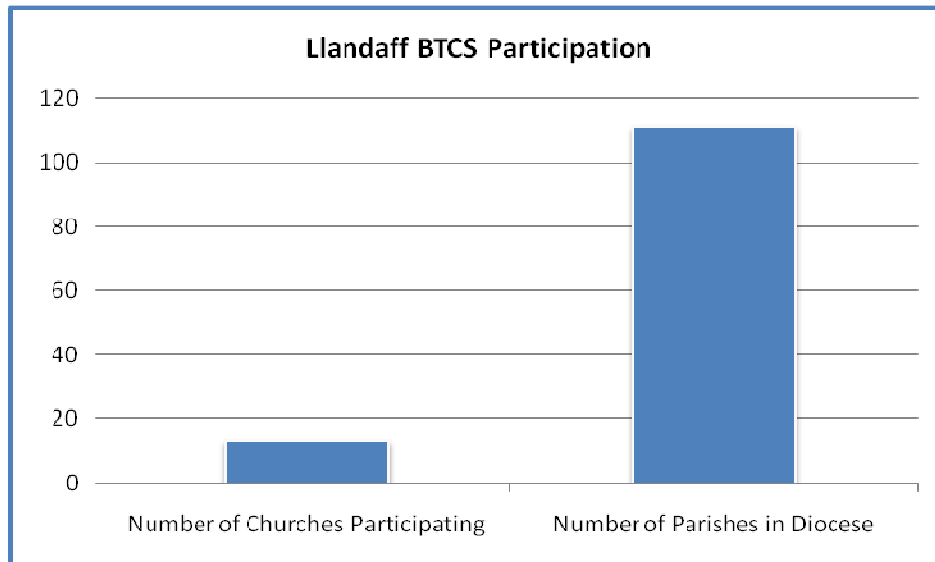
Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	1
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Llandaff

6 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Regular Attendees	Average Attendance on BTCS	Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
13	111	12%	65	75	10	15.9%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- It's too early to tell whether or not the one person who came this year will continue to attend. Her comment was "what a lovely peaceful service" even though it was a Family Eucharist! Good eh? The Simple Breakfast we served before the service was a great success with the regulars!
- Some people said that they will definitely come back.
- Coffee and chocolate biscuits were greatly enjoyed.
- People said they enjoyed the service and the welcome.
- Our regular congregation really enjoyed this event, we had refreshments in the church after Mass, and everyone stayed to enjoy the fellowship. Our old vicarage has recently been sold - the family who now live there brought photos to show us.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Some people used the invitation cards and I, personally, found the Prayer side very useful.
- The poster was the wrong style for our notice board - an A4 size suits it best!
- The reminders on the e-mail were a little too often for my liking - I stopped opening them in the end!
- We found the pink theme confusing, many people thought we were publicising a playgroup.
- The blank part of the poster was too small to include information in large print. The invitation cards were too shiny to accept ink from fountain pens and inkjet printers. I had problems downloading the video clips - I did not have the luxury of internet access in the church hall.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- We intend to rethink our ideas and we'll let you know the outcome - any ideas from you would be very gratefully received. We feel we cannot rely on the breakfast being a pull for another year (we've used it for 2 years now).
- Suggest that standard press releases are sent to every local newspaper and local radio station in England and Wales.
- They were OK, but need somewhat less for our group.
- Allow parishes to pick their own date to tie in with other church celebrations.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	4
New church leader	2
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

BackToChurchSunday



Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

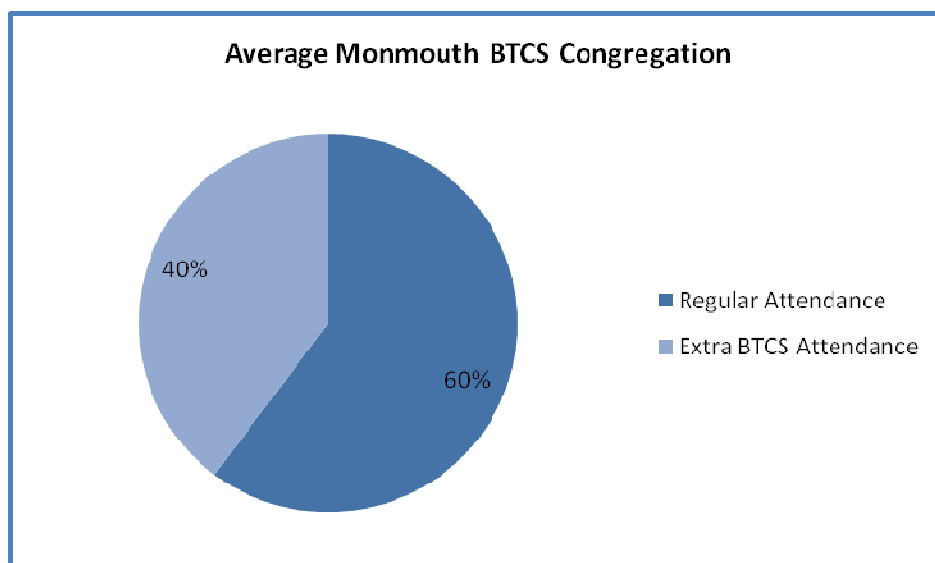
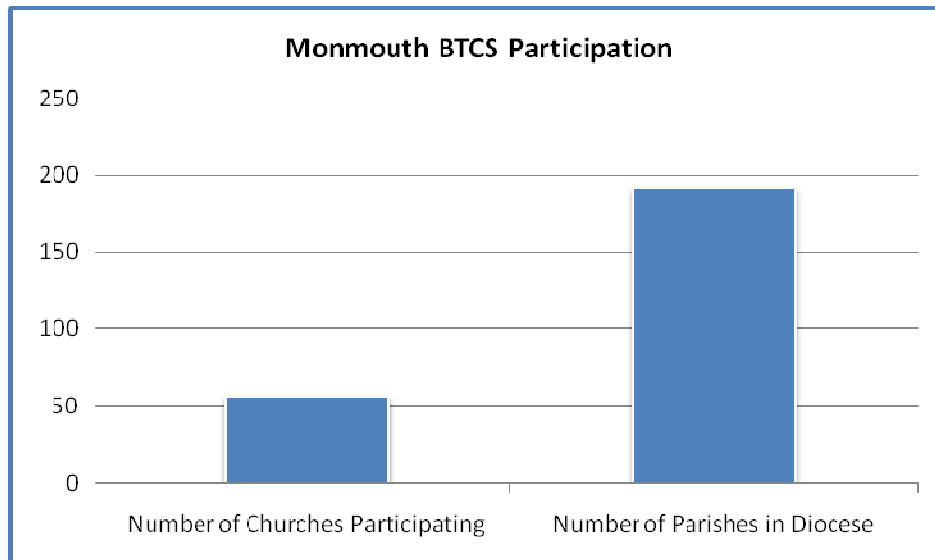
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	1
2008	3
2009	4
I Don't Know	1

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of Monmouth

1 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Regular Attendees	Average Attendance on BTCS	Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
56	191	29%	50	83	33	66.0%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- 'I can see why you come to church, it's so much fun', 'we've had a really good time.' more long-term good-news - too early to tell.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- We used the mediations for the four weeks beforehand and people then took them home. I used the videos - bingo, and Armstrong and Miller at cafe church so people could discuss the issues.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- We were ready for it this year

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

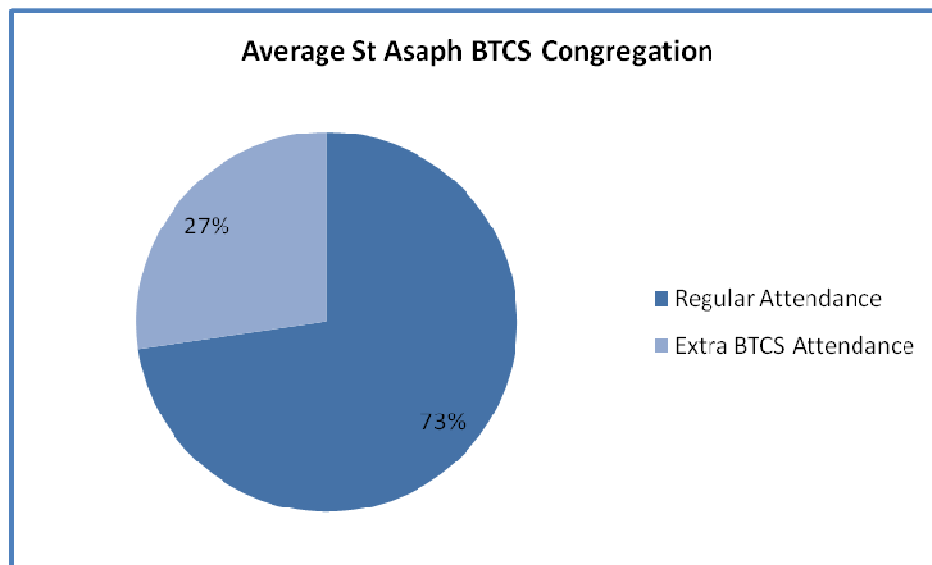
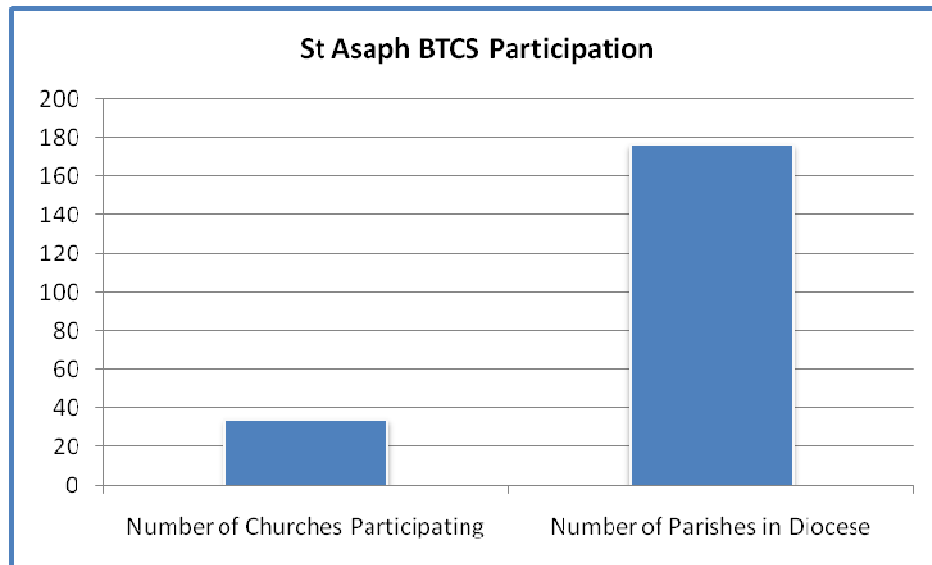
Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of St Asaph

1 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Regular Attendees	Average Attendance on BTCS	Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
34	176	19%	88	121	33	37.5%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Any help at all in working with a complacent primarily liberal congregation to encourage them to engage would absolutely wonderful - e.g. how about a visit.....
- The mission committee worked their sock off last year and it was pretty good - this year we wanted to empower the congregation and let them take the lead a bit - big mistake!

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	
Found it successful in the past	1
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

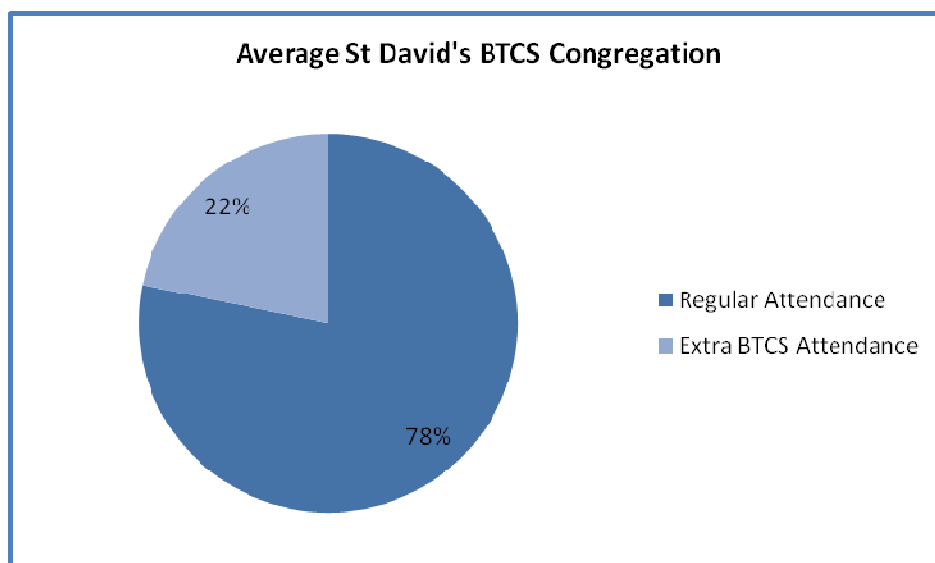
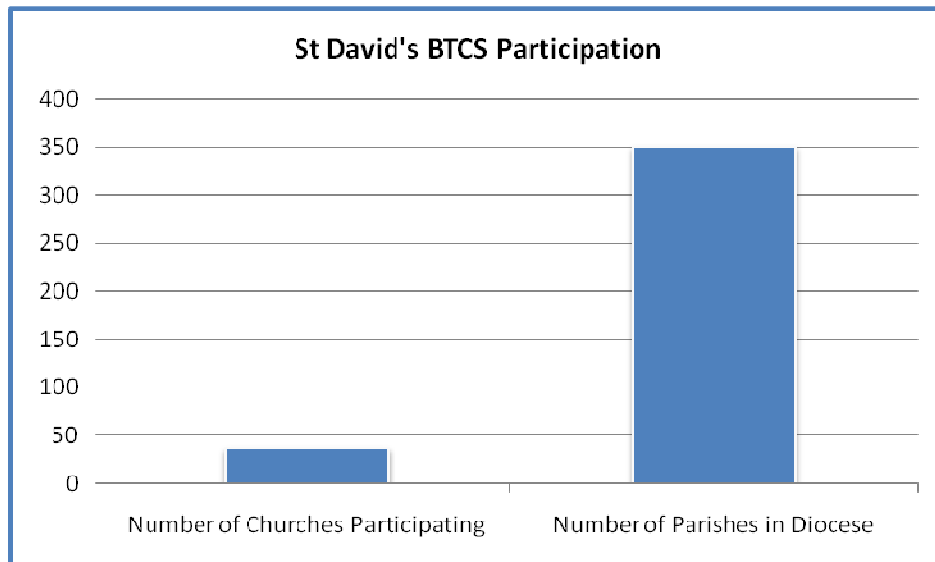
<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	1
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday



Diocese of St David's

3 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Regular Attendees	Average Attendance on BTCS	Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
37	350	11%	59	75	16	27.8%

Good News Stories:

BackToChurchSunday



- One person who had attended regularly as a young person brought her own child with her 15 years on and said that she had missed coming to church and will be attending regularly in future.
- Most seemed to enjoy the experience and the welcome. Some were quite emotional. Will they continue to attend? We will see.
- Too soon to say if attendance will continue. A couple of spouses came for the first time which was very encouraging. General feedback was good.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Resources were expensive, especially as we had to buy 2 sets - English and Welsh. Perhaps sets could be available, half English and half Welsh.
- The name has suggested to some that they should not be inviting people who have not been regular church goers in the past. Perhaps "Go to church Sunday" or "Come to church Sunday" rather than "Back to church Sunday"
- The suggested service was not easy to use.
- All fine. Used the DVD with PCC. Good response

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- More worship ideas would have been useful - a collect for the day, suggested intercessions/prayers, Old Testament and New Testament readings etc.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	2
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

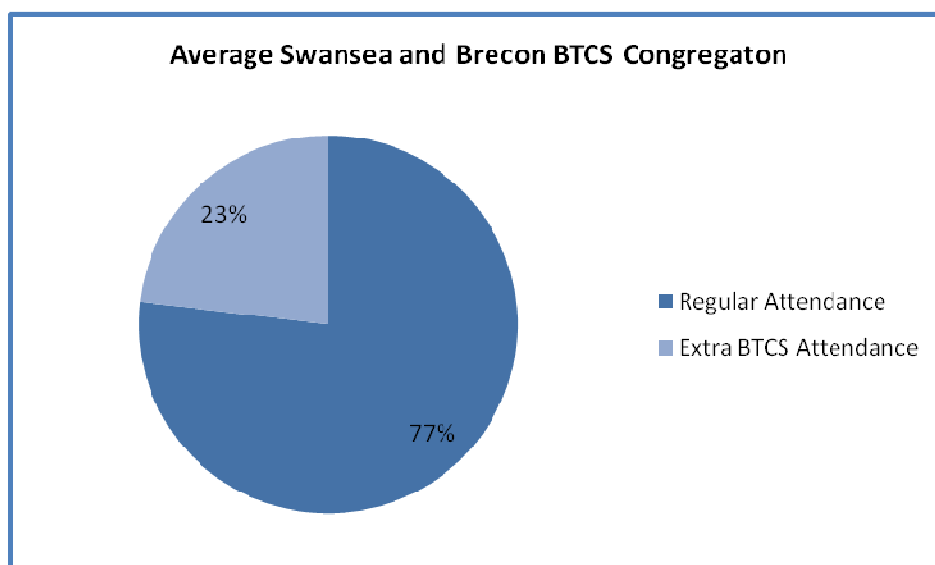
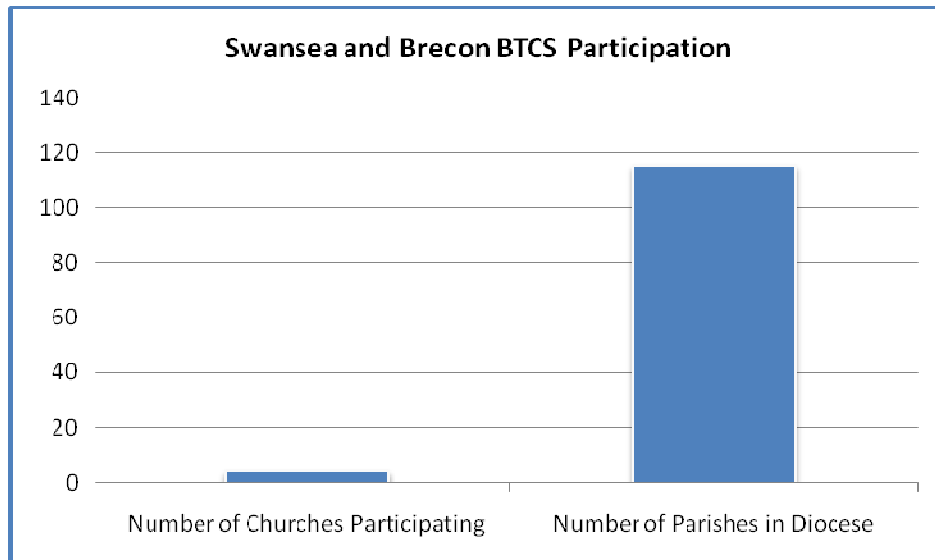
Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	3
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

Diocese of Swansea and Brecon

BackToChurchSunday



1 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Regular Attendees	Average Attendance on BTCS	Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
4	115	3%	50	65	15	30.0%

Good News Stories:

- Good to have some new faces.

BackToChurchSunday



Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	1

BackToChurchSunday   

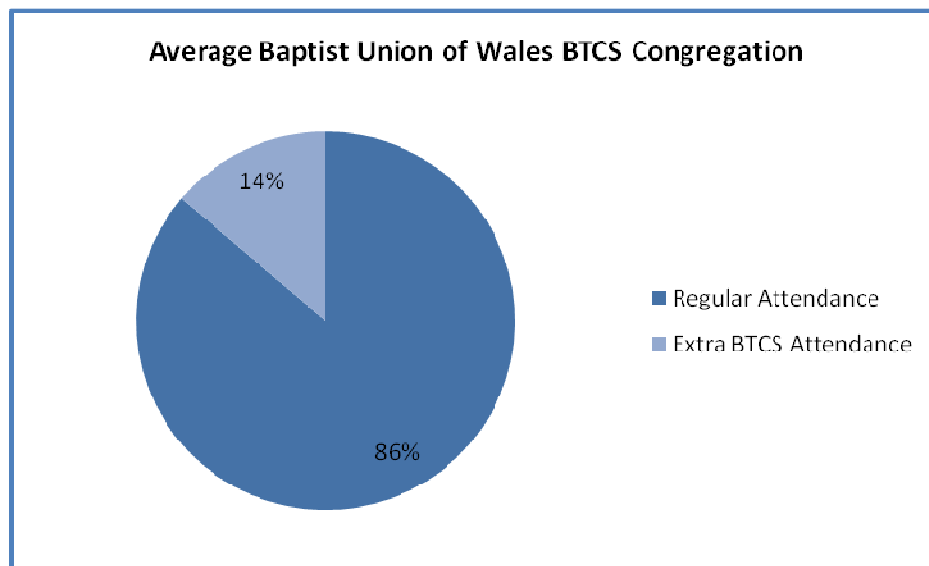
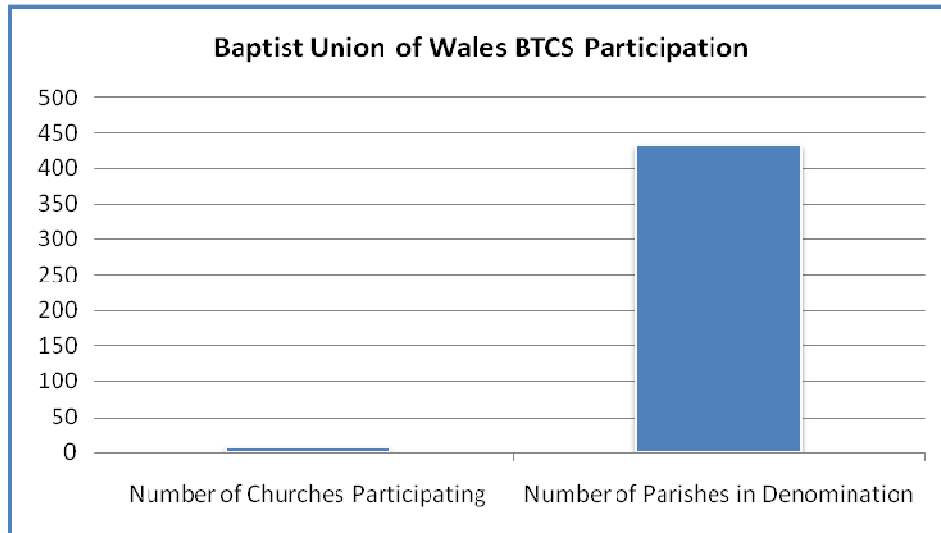
Baptist Union of Wales

BackToChurchSunday



Baptist Union of Wales

4 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Regular Attendees	Average Attendance on BTCS	Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
2	431	0%	63	73	10	15.9%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- One young family said they were looking for a church home and would definitely be coming back and one young woman was visibly touched throughout the entire service. She had been brought by her friend, a recently converted young woman.
- A 'Bring and Share' lunch took place in the vestry following the service and two new families stayed. A great time was had by all.
- One of those who attended was a 10 / 11 year old ex Sunday School scholar who heard about it as we had invited her family to come along. She wanted to come particularly. This is encouraging as we have had to close the Sunday School through lack of numbers.
- One became a Christian at our Harvest Supper Praise Celebration event.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Postcards were very stylish - preferred them to the invitation cards! It was all pretty good.
- The video was useful and the over-print welcome cards good. I'm not too keen on the posters could the picture you use be made available as a download so it could be used to create our own flyers etc.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- I realise that this is a Church of England initiative but maybe next year you could include ideas for other denomination churches, i.e. order of service.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	
Found it successful in the past	3
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- If at first you don't succeed, persevere.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	1
2009	4
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday   

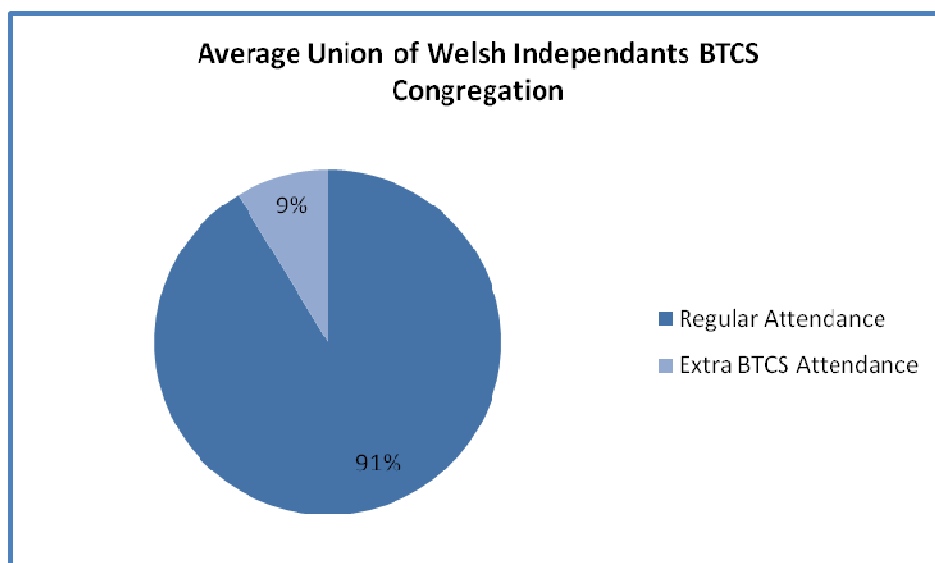
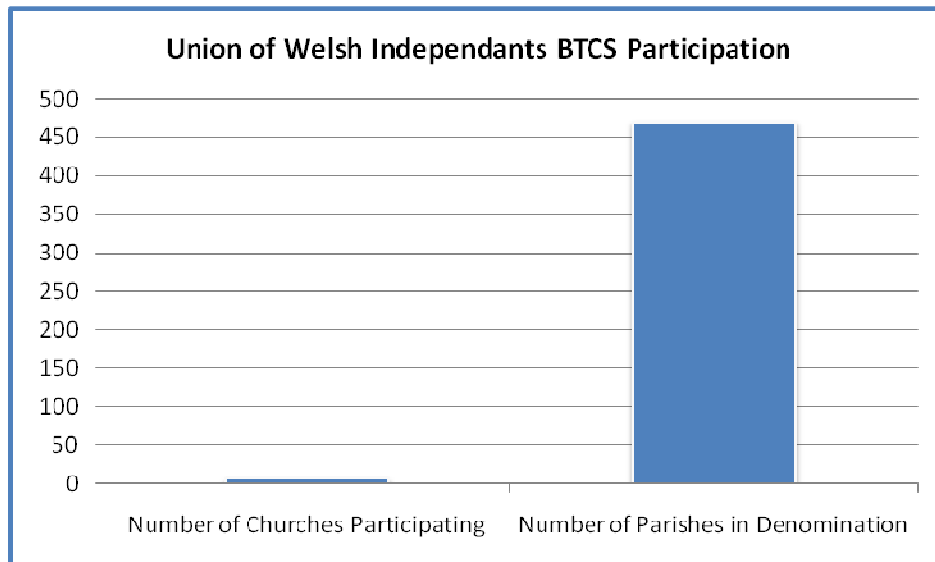
Union of Welsh Independents

BackToChurchSunday



Union of Welsh Independents

1 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Regular Attendees	Average Attendance on BTCS	Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
6	470	1%	63	69	6	9.5%

Good News Stories:

BackToChurchSunday



- Those who attended were pleased that they were invited back.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	1
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

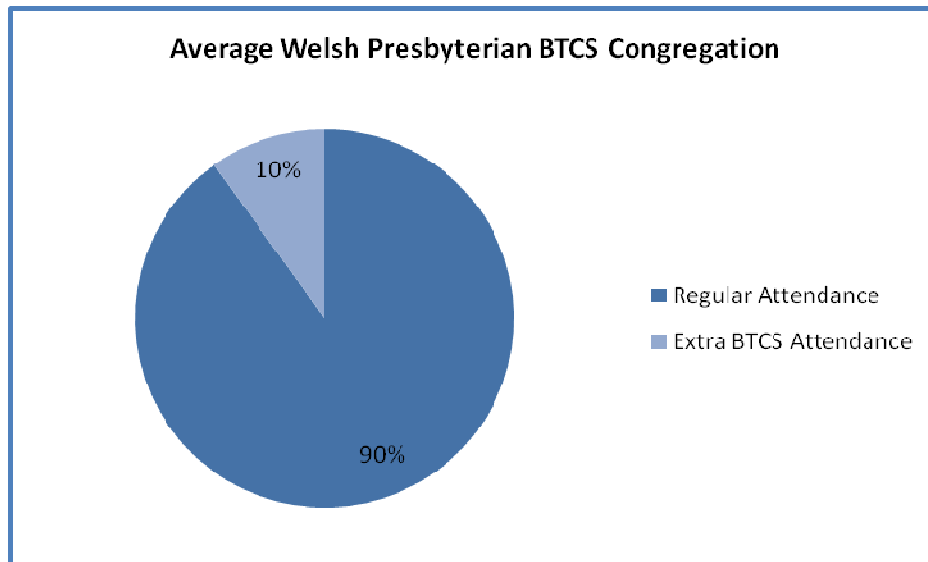
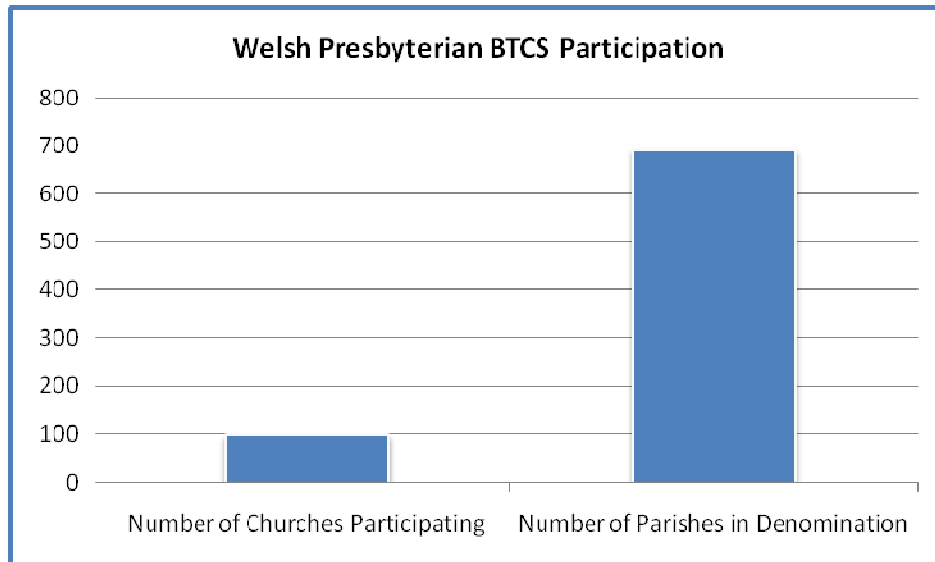
Welsh Presbyterian Church

BackToChurchSunday



Welsh Presbyterian Church

4 participating churches submitted feedback. Please note this is therefore not necessarily representative of the diocese as a whole.



Churches Participating	Churches in Diocese / Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Regular Attendees	Average Attendance on BTCS	Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
98	690	14%	50	56	6	11.0%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Not really - worth doing but not a tremendous success.
- One couple may join our regular congregation.
- It was a blessing for all to meet, worship and share a social occasion afterwards with the new attendees.
- The resources were very useful; allowed plenty of space for us to write a personal invitation.
- The invitation cards and information on our preparation were helpful.
- Because of local reasons we held our Back to Church Sunday last Sunday (5th September). We usually have about 24 worshippers but four more came. Two are definitely joining one church activity this coming Sunday and the other two have asked for a list of the services and times for the rest of the year.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- We have kept the picture cards to invite friends and neighbours to another service at the end of this month.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	2
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Sent literature.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	1
2009	3
I Don't Know	

BackToChurchSunday   

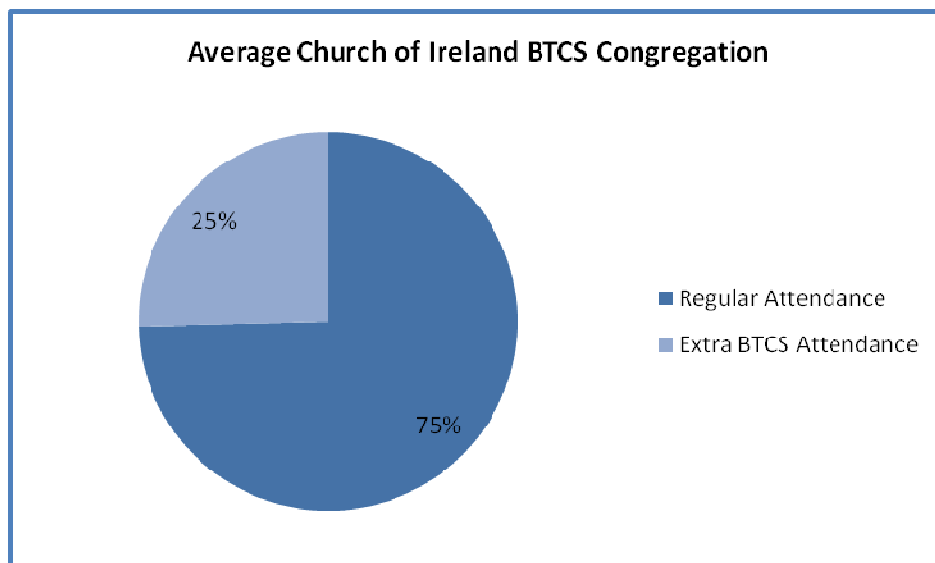
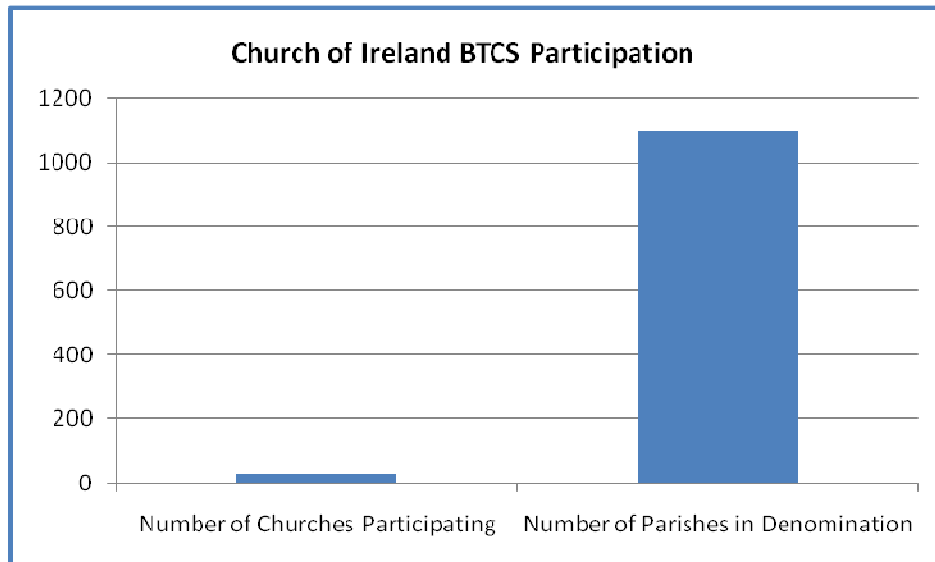
Church of Ireland

BackToChurchSunday



Church of Ireland

9 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Churches in Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
31	1100	3%	96	129	33	34.1%

BackToChurchSunday



Good News Stories:

- Uplifting, welcoming, relevant.
- Most extra people who came were known to us and were pleased to be asked back. One or two hadn't been in church for several years.
- Someone said, 'I love your enthusiasm', another said 'I realise what I have been missing, I am going to come back to Church'.
- The people who we invited enjoyed the worship. They felt welcomed and most of them stayed for refreshments after the service. For us, 'Back to Church Sunday' was a positive experience for both the familiar and new faces in church.
- A couple living close to the church for the last 9 months came to church for the first time on 'Back to Church Sunday', were here last Sunday, and are coming this Sunday to our harvest service.
- Others came who had not been for many months or in some cases, years. A good proportion of them came the following Sunday (last Sunday). All I talked to, who came on 'Back to Church Sunday', were very positive in their comments.
- Three attendees have continued to come back to St. Mary's each Sunday.
- "Enjoyed the simplicity of the service".
- Very pleased, congregation was up by about 25%.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- I found the sermon resource uninteresting!
- After the service I gave out the card that had the painting on it, but I was unsure about what it was for. Just a free gift?
- It was good to have the perforated cards to give to congregation members in previous weeks so that they had something to 'hand over' as they did the inviting.
- The poster material was limited. We had to scan in order to create A3 and over print. Invitations perhaps needed a bit more explanation on them.
- All the resources were good. We used posters, invitation/prayer cards and gift cards on the day. We really liked all the artwork.
- Some of the website was a bit confusing. I think the DVD's in some cases were not as gripping as they might have been, in particular the one what asked people what they thought about the literature. I also thought the 'funny' DVDs were not really hitting the mark. I also thought the postcard picture was a bit uninspiring for those not involved in Church.
- The logo was difficult to reproduce by photocopying.
- The postcards were fine, but only if you chose to use the story of the Prodigal Son.
- Would it be possible to see a register of churches that have signed up? It would have been good to do a local news story with all the churches participating locally.
- Invites were excellent quality. Utilised two DVD clips from the website to inform church members about BTCS - they were informative and encouraged people to ask their friends and family.
- Initially I thought the title was a bit condescending, but no-one who was invited did! I do not think it was advertised in N. Ireland in a significant way. People I invited a short time before the date had never heard of 'Back to Church' Sunday.
- The resources are too expensive but are very well marketed. Sometimes the personal approach is to be preferred.
- Personally I did not find the 'talk' material helpful and the reading was a bit difficult for the newcomers would be concerned. Consequently, rightly or wrongly, I used the parable of the lost coin with visual aids, hoping it would be helpful to non-church people.

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Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Might it be possible to use the lectionary reading (or one of them) for BTCS?
- Hard to know. There are limitations in terms of Parishes all being in different situations so one size doesn't fit all. We are rural Commuter so we are focusing on the 'drip drip' development of creating community. Back to Church gave a marvellous focus and the opportunity to invite people. We resourced our own publicity and it paid off in terms of people deciding that they wanted to respond.
- We found it useful to create almost a Patron festival celebration for the day, giving thanks for all that our Parish Church means to the whole area.
- It is an excellent initiative and great that it is nationwide. I think a few more upbeat resources would be great. Also a few more resources for service outlines.
- Please inform me next year about BTCS so we can utilise it again.
- Talk to people in the various regions in these Islands as regards enabling website connections to this 'Sunday' which allows it to more culturally significant and usable where they are.
- Now, two Sunday later none of those twenty have returned. Possibly it would have been easier if I had had a harvest service for 26th - and tea afterwards - and it would have been easier to chat to strangers. We are not inclined to have a cup of tea after the service unless it's a very special occasion.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	5
Found it successful in the past	2
New church leader	
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Did one of these myself in the past not knowing about the nationwide event.
- Recommended by CPAS.
- We experienced it last year at a visit to another church.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	7
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	1
I Don't Know	1

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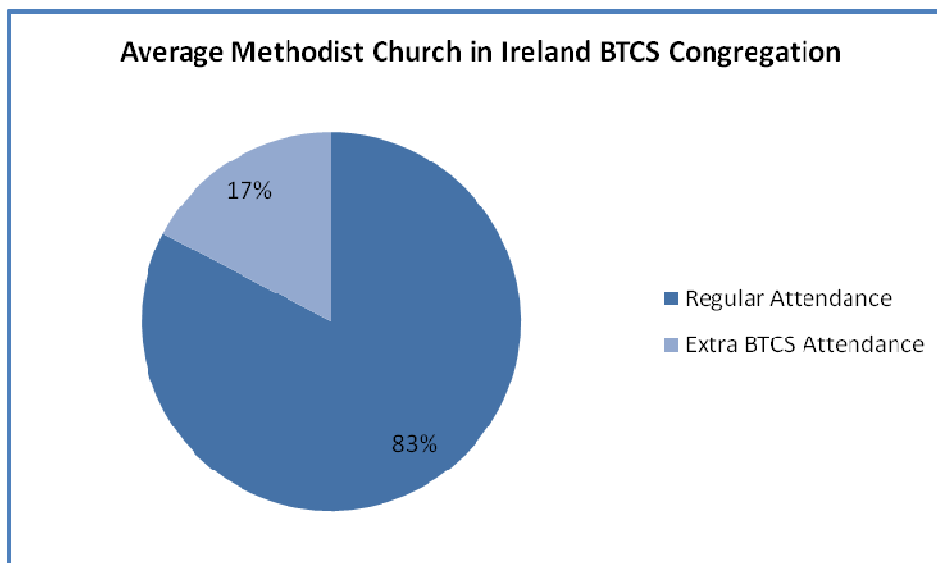
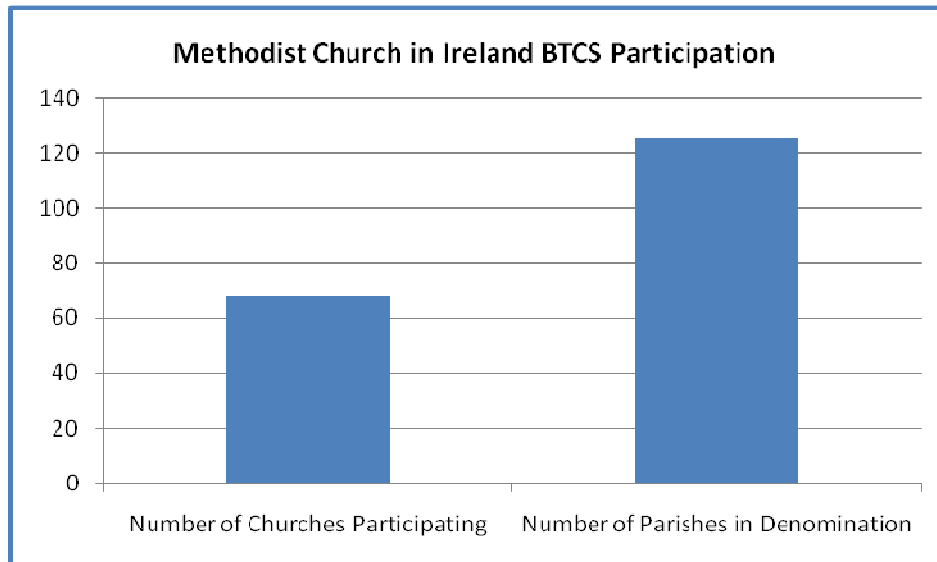
Methodist Church in Ireland

BackToChurchSunday



Methodist Church in Ireland

11 participating churches submitted feedback.



Churches Participating	Churches in Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
11	125	16%	71	86	15	20.9%

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Good News Stories:

- One family of three has promised to come regularly. The date was changed to suit local needs, but the experience was good and everyone enjoyed the service.
- We had a family service which went over well and some of our visitors were parents of Sunday School children who had taken the invitations home with them.
- Those who came (many didn't respond to invitations yet) were delighted by the welcome. These included a man who has suffered from depression and his family, a woman who one of our members met on the street, a young man who was baptised in the church but hasn't been here for a long time and two women who have come back to church after a long absence.
- Many in the congregation grasped the concept. One or two asked several people to come and although they didn't always respond, one invitee went back to her own church where she had not attended for some time. A number of parents took the opportunity to invite back teenage children who had drifted away. Overall, the church had a great atmosphere.
- It was just so good to see the Church full. We now look forward to welcoming some of our new friends back again.
- It was a good opportunity to invite members who had 'got out of the habit' of coming out on a Sunday. One or two of these came to B2CS.
- The good news is that someone who was dead against this did invite someone in the end!
- Not really... Visitors were all in connection with the fact that we had scheduled a Confirmation for that day! But all enjoyed being there. We had a 'Welcome' cake - for visitors AND the newly confirmed! I had to move on to another church service then, and left a nice 'buzz' behind me. People were - as they always are here - very welcoming.
- We had a hospitality and fellowship time both before and after the service. This enabled those who came early to have tea/coffee and biscuits/scones before the service and those who arrived right before the service began to enjoy that after the service. People really enjoyed this - especially the kids.
- Also, one new visitor came up, hugged me, and said "Thank you!" I had invited her along with her husband, son, daughter-in-law, and grand-daughter and they all came. I don't know exactly what she was thankful for, but the joy she experienced was truly visible on her face. I hope they will all return this next week.
- This is a traditional joint Protestant congregation in west of Ireland, meeting once a fortnight on Sundays but more effectively mid-week, when a number of African members are free. Numbers have been as low as 3 on Sundays. We no longer have a church building, due to a fire in March, so used the Catholic Church.
- This service, harvest, was well-attended, and everyone sang. Not sure if the invitations worked other than that I asked the children at our associated national primary school (which has a roll of 24, including several groups of siblings), to invite their parents. The children had prepared part of the service.
- People joined in the singing, which was led by two young women (Zimbabwean) and the excellent Catholic musician (Finnish). There is no tradition of Catholics singing in church, so this was a breakthrough.
- We feel that we should offer this service in future as a community event, in the Catholic Church, and perhaps do a Christingle in the same vein. But only 2 people in their 20's, one of them a lead singer, and 2 teenagers, one of them a lead singer, attended.
- We had an over capacity attendance so had to bring more chairs for the overflow. We look forwards to seeing if any with return.

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- **Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?**
- All were excellent.
- Folk generally liked the invitations and the cup of tea after the service.
- Generally excellent though the weekly reflections were a bit 'highbrow'
- The count-down meditations were good, and I liked the format of the invitations. A few A2 Posters would have been useful for church notice boards.
- All most helpful and of excellent quality.
- Didn't think the sermon material appropriate for this Sunday - thought it was like preaching to the converted and would have been more suitable for a Sunday leading up to this one.
- I used the prayers but not the sermon. I printed my own leaflet because the liturgy was different.
- I found it helpful to watch the videos, but I'm not a real techy! I couldn't figure out how to download the videos to show them to my Church Council. Could next year you send more instructions on how to do that?
- I also liked the Meditations that were offered. I copied the text and put them on the Announcement sheets so the folk could take them home with them and read it throughout their week.
- I appreciated all the service notes and liturgy. I used them in varying ways.
- Good ideas but culturally not particularly relevant for our minority situation here.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- It would help if at least two dates were given for those like me who have responsibility for two churches, to enable me to get to know ant new folk who come, without having to rush off to another service.
- The timing is not very suitable, as it clashes with Harvest Festivals, which last on this Circuit from the last Sunday in September until the third Sunday in October, as we have seven churches. It is difficult, if not impossible to distinguish those who have come to 'Back to Church' Sunday from those who have come for Harvest Thanksgiving.
- The idea of 'Back to Church' Sunday is good in challenging members to be active in inviting lapsed members, family members, friends and neighbours to attend church and to do so without being so conspicuous as if they were to venture in alone.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	10
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	1
Heard about if from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Methodist Newsletter.

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Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	11
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

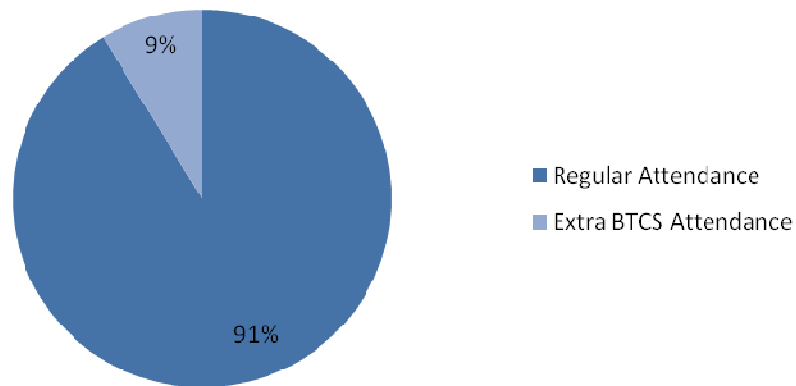
Non Participating Churches

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Non Participating Churches

Average Non Participating Churches BTCS Congregation



Churches Participating	Churches in Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Attendance on BTCS	Average Extra BTCS Attendees	Average % Increase
52			96	105	9	9.6%

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England

Good News Stories:

- Found our church members and the service very welcoming, enjoying old and new music and cakes afterwards.
- One lady in tears on Monday morning as she told of her daughter attending with her on Sunday (totally unexpectedly).
- The service really hit the spot and everyone was so friendly.
- "Made me think", "enjoyed it, will come again".
- Everyone was very positive about the content of the service. BTCS is our most successful outreach as members of the church send personal invites.
- A lady in her 70s born and bred in Basingstoke told me that she was a Methodist but had drifted away. She had never before been into London Street URC but because a neighbour had invited her she had come. She seemed to have enjoyed the experience.
- Another lady had been to London Street URC a few years ago decided to come again because of B T C Sunday and she filled in a card with her name and address so that we could keep in touch.
- Generally existing people were thrilled to see the hall full and with so many guests. A number of guests said they found the message very challenging, and the atmosphere welcoming and friendly.
- One young mum who had left our church 9 years ago while pretty mixed up, with a young baby, hasn't been anywhere since. She came back and the next day posted the following message(s) on Facebook "I took a big step today... I went back to LFM church, i am so glad i went, i was made to feel so welcome, not had that feeling in a very long time, THANKS, to my friends".
- Lady on holiday from Africa came along with her sister and enjoyed the service.
- I think most guests expressed openness about coming again.
- Positive comments and congregational expectation that we shall see our visitors again.
- This is a new venture for the church and even though the numbers were small the leadership really took it on board. I thought it was great and really hope to move it forward next year.
- Attendees said they felt welcome.
- Two of the new attendees had been attending coffee mornings and luncheon club but seem to be coming regularly now.
- Two of the new attendees had been attending coffee mornings and luncheon club but seem to be coming regularly now.
- Lovely service - very very welcoming' written a welcome card by a couple with an 18 month old child who had never been to our church before. The couple did not know it was Back to Church Sunday and were somewhat amazed to discover that they had 'come back to church' on the Sunday on this initiative - they had connections with another church some distance away where they had had their child baptised.
- A single man who was invited by their next door neighbour, said 'it was a lovely service - thank you very much for inviting me. I'd like to come again'. He delivered a bunch of flowers to the person who invited him.
- A single man in his 80s, who came to a Holiday at Home event in July for older people and who, as far as we know, is not a Christian, came to the service and asked for prayer for healing at the end of the service.
- A couple in their 30s who came said they enjoyed it very much.

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- We had 2 returnees who find it difficult to attend previously, 3 new residents from the care home, 3 people who previously attended a baptism the previous month. 4 friends of members of regular members.
- The Back to Church Sunday was promoted for the previous 6 weeks in our notices, leaflets, hand mail, posters. It was a theme through our intercessions, introduction and sermon. We have already in place a Welcome Team and sides persons who ensured new people were settled in and then joining us for fellowship with tea and coffee.
- We had 15 new adults and 15 new children arriving.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- Excellent resource that we used both for the service on printed paper and screens. Thank you very much.
- Resources were good, only thought after the event that maybe a further piece of card or perhaps included in the invitation card (i.e. divided into three sections) a card for names, addresses etc., that could have been gathered on the day, we will certainly be doing this next year.
- Would have liked a more varied choice of sermon plans.
- A more varied choice of sermon plans.
- Except for the invitation cards I did not find them particularly useful except that the emails reminded me that the day was approaching fast!
- I found the Back to church Sunday approach very frustrating. Being an independent church we are not and cannot be one of the supporting organisations. I accept that therefore we should have to pay for all resources, possibly at a premium price. However, to not be allowed to buy them at the same time as supporting organisations I felt was unwelcoming and uncharitable. In the end they were not available to us until the beginning of August. This meant they were not available until the holiday season when so many were away. This was most unhelpful in getting our church members engaged and on board. I have to be honest and say to that this comes across as a denominational rather than a kingdom mindset, which in my experience is just the sort of thing that drove some people away from church in the first place.
- It may have been useful to have a bigger poster for outside the church.
- Apart from the main "Come as you are" logo and personal invite/prayer cards, we did not find any of the other resources helpful to promote the day.
- We worked on personal invitations, reconnecting and being hospitable; the resources on the web, particularly the video resources, were very poor and almost reflected every reason why people left in the first place! Too embarrassing and poor quality to use.
- Local publicity/national publicity pretty much passed the event by.
- I thought all the material was excellent.
- Specific videos required, please on the build up, light hearted videos on 'how to invite someone' or 'how not to invite someone.' There's load on YouTube but its either church specific, American or for previous years.
- The date was too small on the posters.
- We used the Back to Church idea and logo on our projection. Otherwise we used our own materials.
- Web site needs to be 'wider' - i.e. less Anglican and substantially more other denominations, and also to have a greater evangelical emphasis.
- We needed more invitations at the last minute and could not get them as out of stock, but we managed to get some printed locally.

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- All the paper resources were excellent. The invitations are a good idea to hand to someone. Perhaps next year we could try a visual presentation and try enthused the congregation in a different way.
- The large poster would have been easier to display if it had been portrait rather than landscape. When the first batch arrived from Traidcraft, the posters were all bent, as they had been put in the same envelope as the cards. However, I rang Traidcraft and they sent me some more, properly packaged which arrived OK. We were not impressed with the follow up cards supplied, rather a strange picture!
- A4 posters were too small. Not enough posters in the pack. So, next time more posters and a mixture of A2 and A3 sizes.
- Invitation card was good in design in respect of artwork. We think it would be better to separate out the prayer card and the invitation card - that means the invitations card does not have a perforated edge which looks tatty and also for those who take multiple invitations there is no waste of surplus prayer cards.
- Helpful to have DVDs on website to download and use in services in the weeks preceding.
- Need downloadable logos for website & posters and need A1 posters
- Disappointed with the resources. The invitations look scruffy once the prayer cards have been torn off. It would be better to have material that can be easily over-printed.
- The website was useful we played the intro film to let people know 6 weeks before hand and I used information from the website for end of service notices. We adapted the leaflet for email and texting so maybe a ready made email or text template could have been provided. We ensured the congregation that there was flexibility to do this.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Keep up the good work.
- How about calling it come to church Sunday to appeal to a wider audience?
- I could only find the URC Southern Synod contact. We are in the Wessex Synod and wondered if any approach had been made to our Synod Office about promoting it.
- Make all resources available to any church at the same time as supporting denominations. By all means charge them a premium to help cover the organisation's costs, or a fee to "join up" in the first place. Have an approach which is less of a denominational mindset and more of a national umbrella project for all local churches that want to participate. I.e. come across as welcoming to other churches rather than how it feels at the moment which is that we are tolerated, and being done a favour to be allowed to take part.
- I think back to church Sunday is a good idea but needs to be more open and contemporary in how it projects its view of church.
- Better publicity nationally in the press, radio and TV, not just white, nice middle class, middle England
- Better internal publicity - video clips short, succinct, relevant please.
- We are looking how the experience can be applied top other events we run. How about a pack of resources to follow up the event. We will be producing invite/prayer cards etc to cater for our current church events and services.
- Make logos and copyright readily available.
- Persuade the Diocese of London to take part. As one church in the diocese we felt the wider national impact passed us by. We are happy to be involved in any approach to the Bishop of London or other diocesan gate-keepers about the value of this initiative.

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- Work on snappier videos e.g. 2-3 minutes with stories of people who've rejoined churches rather than just visited.
- Develop training materials to help congregations be more confident about inviting. In general Alpha is the benchmark so try to emulate their materials and ease of use.
- Email and texting format.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	2
Found it successful in the past	8
New church leader	4
Heard about if from a church member	1
Recommended through another church	4

Other Responses:

- Tried it last year unsuccessfully, but tried it again.
- To enable something we already want to do and to be a part of a bigger, national initiative.
- I was aware of it anyway and we decided that this year we would major on it
- Furtherance of our mission and way of envisioning members about developing an invitational culture.
- Heard of it on internet.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	10
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	2
2008	2
2009	11
I Don't Know	

Scotland

Good News Stories:

- "Felt surprised at the welcome".
- The congregation was encouraged.
- Four seems a tiny result but that represents 3 people who had the courage to invite partners, plus one new family (possibly unrelated to BCTS). A very positive experience for the Church
- There was a real buzz about the place. Our service theme was 'Come as you are' and we used the call of Matthew as our focus Scripture. As part of the service the children decorated table cloths and

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we set the tables before the final song 'A Place at the Table' by Shirley Eerna Murray and then shared a soup and sandwich lunch.

- Folk were pleased to receive invitations. One said 'I saw my whole family in there.'
- No repeat visits the following week, but at least 6 new faces on that subsequent Sunday.
- One mum and 4 year old has been back to our Pet Blessing service last week.

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- Very English, but the comedy video clips were useful.
- I liked the theme of "Come as you are."
- Very professional and well thought through.
- Most of it was helpful.
- Liked the meditations but did not like the invitations - we'd like to invite you to "our" church - sounds very possessive - it is God's church, everyone's church, not just "our" church. Would like suggestions for another reading (OT or Epistle) as well as gospel.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

- Look for more quality in the meditations etc.
- I'd like to see this having more impact in Scotland. I felt like a lone wolf: nothing much re. Scottish Baptists on your website. The fact that I have to put myself down as "other" instead of Baptist Union of Scotland bears this out. Do you need to liaise more with Scottish organisations such as ACTS, EA Scotland, and denominations like Church of Scotland and Baptist Union of Scotland? (BU of Scotland unlike BU of GB aren't in membership of Churches together)
- I think 'Back to church' is a far less appealing title than 'Come as you are' and other folks seem to agree. There was a very positive sense of folk feeling it didn't matter how long since they'd been, or if they've never been to church, whereas 'Back to church' can be heard judgementally.
- Keep it simple and grounded - don't let it turn into a slick formula like Alpha.

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	3
Found it successful in the past	1
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Baptist Times.
- Liked 'Come as you are' slogan and logo.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	3

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2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	1
2009	2
I Don't Know	1

Ireland

Good News Stories:

- We had a number of people who came back to church after having lapsed for a few years. Most seemed positive and glad that they had made the effort.
- For us, the encouraging aspect to Back to church Sunday was how it gave our own people an opportunity to invite others and in a way take ownership of it. They prayed much about the Sunday.
- Service enjoyed by newcomers.
- "Lovely hymns!"
- Tea/coffee before the service was a good idea.

Do you have any comments about the resources and website?

- We did not use the resources - we put together our own service.
- Excellent website, easy to navigate, contemporary and eye-catching.
- Videos very encouraging/humorous.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	1
Heard about it from a church member	
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

- Read about it in Christian magazine.

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

<i>Select from the options below:</i>	<i>Number of times selected.</i>
None	2
2004	
2005	

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2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

Wales

Good News Stories:

Do you have any comments about the recourses and website?

- It needs to be hugely improved! As an independent church it wasn't at all clear as to how or where we could get resources from.

Do you have any other advice for us as we work to develop this initiative in the future?

Why did you decided to take part in Back to Church Sunday 2010?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
Heard about it through diocese/denomination offices	
Found it successful in the past	
New church leader	
Heard about if from a church member	1
Recommended through another church	

Other Responses:

Which years has your church previously taken part in Back to Church Sunday?

Select from the options below:	Number of times selected.
None	1
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
I Don't Know	

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Appendices

Appendix I

Summary Statistics*

*Key:

Diocesan data highlighted grey indicates where the minimum requirement of 5 pieces of feedback per diocese was not met, and therefore these statistics are not statistically reliable.



English Statistics

Denomination	Diocese	Number of Churches Submitting Feedback	Number of Churches Participating	% of Churches Submitting Feedback	Number of Parishes in Diocese/Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Extra Attendance	Average BTCS Attendance	Average % Increase	Extra
Church of England	Bath and Wells Diocese	8	27	29.63%	467	5.78%	93	16	109	16.89%	125
Church of England	Birmingham Diocese	9	41	21.95%	155	26.45%	85	24	109	28.59%	219
Church of England	Blackburn Diocese	9	24	37.50%	266	9.02%	142	18	160	12.43%	159
Church of England	Bradford Diocese	2	37	5.41%	128	28.91%	145	11	156	7.27%	21
Church of England	Bristol Diocese	4	34	11.76%	164	20.73%	85	8	93	8.88%	30
Church of England	Canterbury Diocese	15	78	19.23%	262	29.77%	90	16	106	17.76%	239
Church of England	Carlisle Diocese	9	55	16.36%	264	20.83%	68	26	94	37.82%	233
Church of England	Chelmsford Diocese	21	122	17.21%	471	25.90%	73	13	86	17.17%	263
Church of England	Chester Diocese	15	114	13.16%	275	41.45%	95	24	119	24.93%	354
Church of England	Chichester Diocese	13	67	19.40%	382	17.54%	90	26	116	28.42%	332
Church of England	Coventry Diocese	2	11	18.18%	197	5.58%	57	6	63	9.73%	11
Church of England	Derby Diocese	4	48	8.33%	252	19.05%	85	9	94	10.06%	34
Church of England	Durham Diocese	9	45	20.00%	230	19.57%	64	15	79	23.22%	134
Church of England	Ely Diocese	9	45	20.00%	308	14.61%	95	12	107	12.51%	107
Church of England	Europe		7	0.00%	295	2.37%			0		
Church of England	Exeter Diocese	5	43	11.63%	496	8.67%	85	39	124	45.43%	194
Church of England	Gloucester Diocese	3	36	8.33%	317	11.36%	63	18	81	29.26%	55
Church of England	Guildford Diocese	5	30	16.67%	164	18.29%	55	10	65	17.39%	48

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Church of England	Hereford Diocese	3	7	42.86%	344	2.03%	50	19	69	38.00%	57
Church of England	Leicester Diocese	21	60	35.00%	237	25.32%	101	16	117	16.31%	346
Church of England	Lichfield Diocese	70	280	25.00%	421	66.51%	81	12	93	15.08%	856
Church of England	Lincoln Diocese	2	68	2.94%	507	13.41%	50	2	52	3.00%	3
Church of England	Liverpool Diocese	29	83	34.94%	207	40.10%	79	17	96	21.36%	491
Church of England	Manchester Diocese	15	64	23.44%	281	22.78%	84	14	98	16.26%	206
Church of England	Newcastle		22	0.00%	172	12.79%			0		
Church of England	Norwich Diocese	1	17	5.88%	570	2.98%	63	24	87	38.10%	24
Church of England	Peterborough Diocese	5	58	8.62%	348	16.67%	70	15	85	21.88%	77
Church of England	Portsmouth Diocese	16	58	27.59%	143	40.56%	104	14	118	13.28%	220
Church of England	Ripon and Leeds Diocese	3	18	16.67%	166	10.84%	146	15	161	10.50%	46
Church of England	Rochester Diocese	19	78	24.36%	215	36.28%	63	17	80	26.66%	318
Church of England	St Albans Diocese	11	48	22.92%	333	14.41%	86	28	114	32.70%	308
Church of England	St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese	6	47	12.77%	447	10.51%	100	12	112	11.98%	72
Church of England	Salisbury Diocese	9	47	19.15%	456	10.31%	73	17	90	22.78%	149
Church of England	Sheffield Diocese	26	57	45.61%	173	32.95%	69	11	80	15.48%	276
Church of England	Southwell and Nottingham Diocese	3	38	7.89%	263	14.45%	63	23	86	37.23%	70
Church of England	Sodor and Man	2	18	11.11%	27	66.67%	88	11	99	12.50%	22
Church of England	Truro Diocese	7	23	30.43%	222	10.36%	59	39	98	65.94%	273
Church of England	Wakefield Diocese	3	15	20.00%	186	8.06%	63	15	78	23.28%	44
Church of England	Winchester Diocese	8	22	36.36%	303	7.26%	66	20	86	29.92%	158
Church of England	Worcester Diocese	14	108	12.96%	174	62.07%	67	27	94	40.23%	379
Church of England	York Diocese	6	39	15.38%	457	8.53%	59	30	89	50.71%	178
Congregational Federation		1	53	1.89%	225	23.56%	50	35	85	70.00%	35
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion		2	3	66.67%	21	14.29%	76	0	76	0.00%	0
Elim Pentecostal		11	65	16.92%	319	20.38%	98	16	114	16.50%	178

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Methodist		75	345	21.74%	5999	5.75%	74	14	88	18.42%	1016
Salvation Army		42	122	34.43%	550	22.18%	75	7	82	9.75%	307
United Reform Church		7	66	10.61%	1470	4.49%	68	13	81	19.71%	94
Church of England Total		421	2139	19.68%	11745	18.21%	81	18	99	21.69%	7131
England Total		559	2793	20.01%	20329	13.74%	74	15	89	21.41%	8761

Scottish Statistics

Denomination	Diocese	Number of Churches Submitting Feedback	Number of Churches Participating	% of Churches Submitting Feedback	Number of Parishes in Diocese/Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Extra Attendance	Average BTCS Attendance	Average % Increase	Extra
Churches Together in Scotland		17	175	9.71%	n/a	n/a	72	13	85	17.45%	247



Welsh Statistics

Denomination	Diocese	Number of Churches Submitting Feedback	Number of Churches Participating	% of Churches Submitting Feedback	Number of Parishes in Diocese/Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Extra Attendance	Average BTCS Attendance	Average % Increase	Extra
Church in Wales	Bangor	1	6	16.67%	126	4.76%	50	20	70	40.00%	20
Church in Wales	Llandaff	6	13	46.15%	111	11.71%	65	10	75	15.94%	62
Church in Wales	Monmouth	1	56	1.79%	191	29.32%	50	33	83	66.00%	33
Church in Wales	St Asaph's	1	34	2.94%	176	19.32%	88	33	121	37.50%	4
Church in Wales	St David's	3	37	8.11%	350	10.57%	59	16	75	27.84%	49
Church in Wales	Swansea & Brecon	1	4	25.00%	115	3.48%	50	15	65	30.00%	15
Baptist Union of Wales		4	7	57.14%	431	1.62%	63	10	73	15.94%	40
Union of Welsh Independants		1	6	16.67%	470	1.28%	63	6	69	9.52%	6
Welsh Presbyterian Church		4	98	4.08%	690	14.20%	50	6	56	11.00%	22
Church in Wales Total		13	150	8.67%	1069	14.03%	60	21	81	35.32%	183
Wales Total		22	261	8.43%	2660	10.77%	59	11	70	27.76%	251



Irish Statistics

Denomination	Diocese	Number of Churches Submitting Feedback	Number of Churches Participating	% of Churches Submitting Feedback	Number of Parishes in Diocese/Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Extra Attendance	Average BTCS Attendance	Average % Increase	Extra
Church of Ireland		9	31	29.03%	1100	2.82%	96	33	129	34.07%	294
Methodist Church in Ireland		11	68	16.18%	125	54.40%	71	15	86	20.92%	163
Ireland Total		20	99	20.20%	1225	8.08%	83	24	107	28.49%	457

Non-Participating Statistics

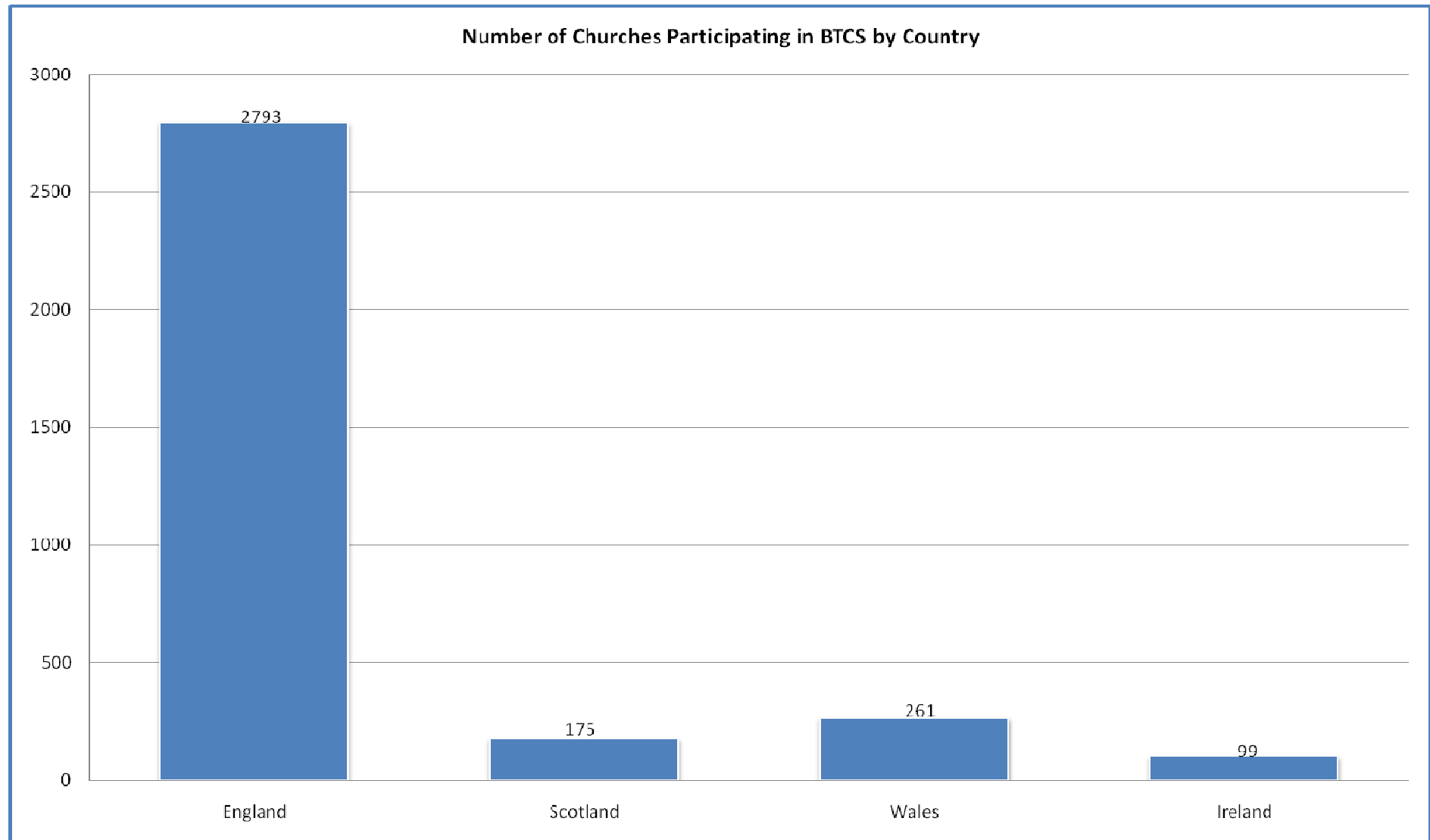
Denomination	Diocese	Number of Churches Submitting Feedback	Number of Churches Participating	% of Churches Submitting Feedback	Number of Parishes in Diocese/Denomination	% of Churches Participating	Average Normal Attendance	Average Extra Attendance	Average BTCS Attendance	Average % Increase	Extra
England		43					86	12	99	14.33%	531
Scotland		6					65	9	74	13.62%	53
Ireland		2					145	13	157	8.65%	25
Wales		1					88	3	91	3.41%	3
Total		52		n/a		n/a	96	9	105	9.56%	612

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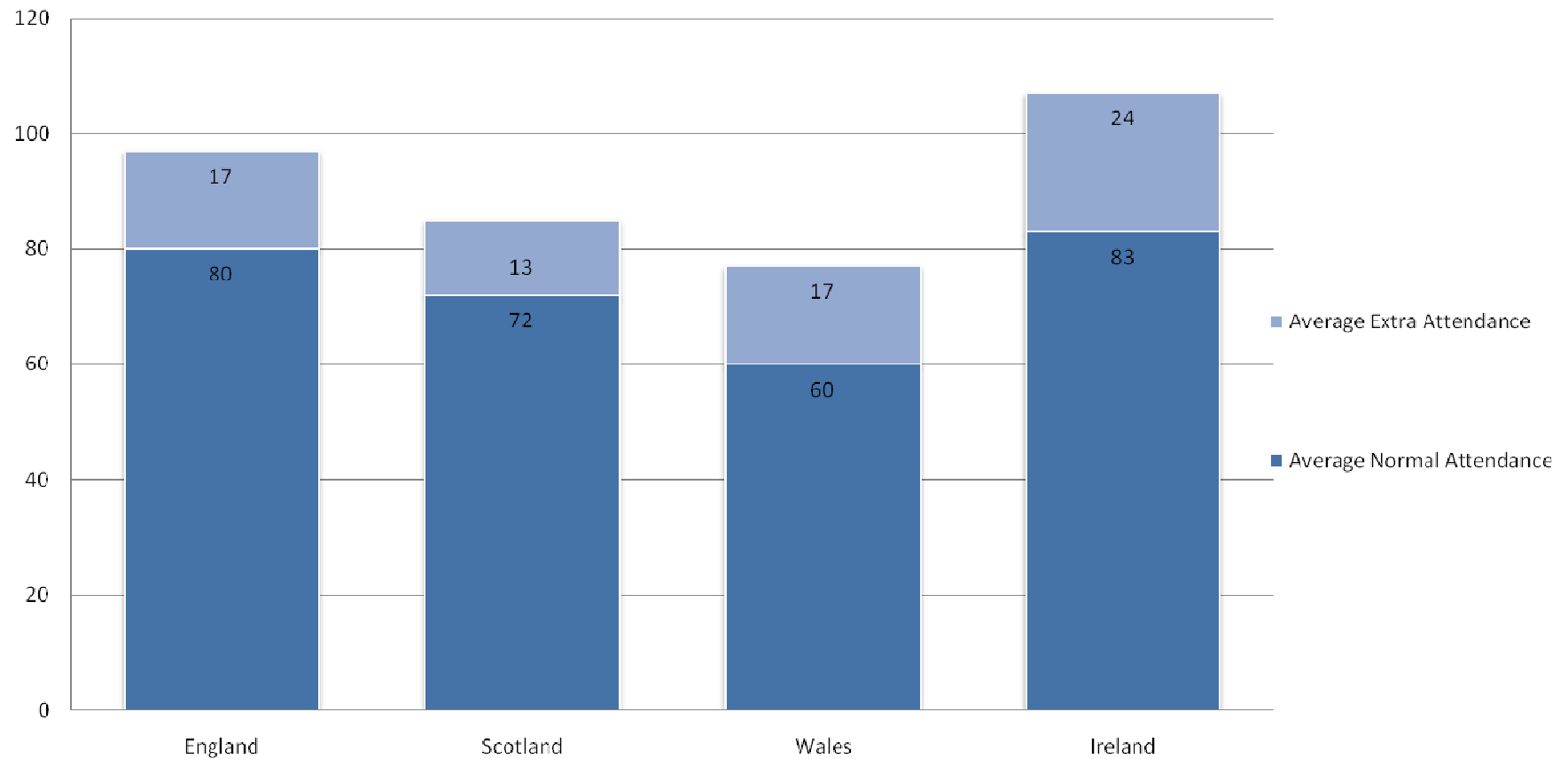
Appendix II

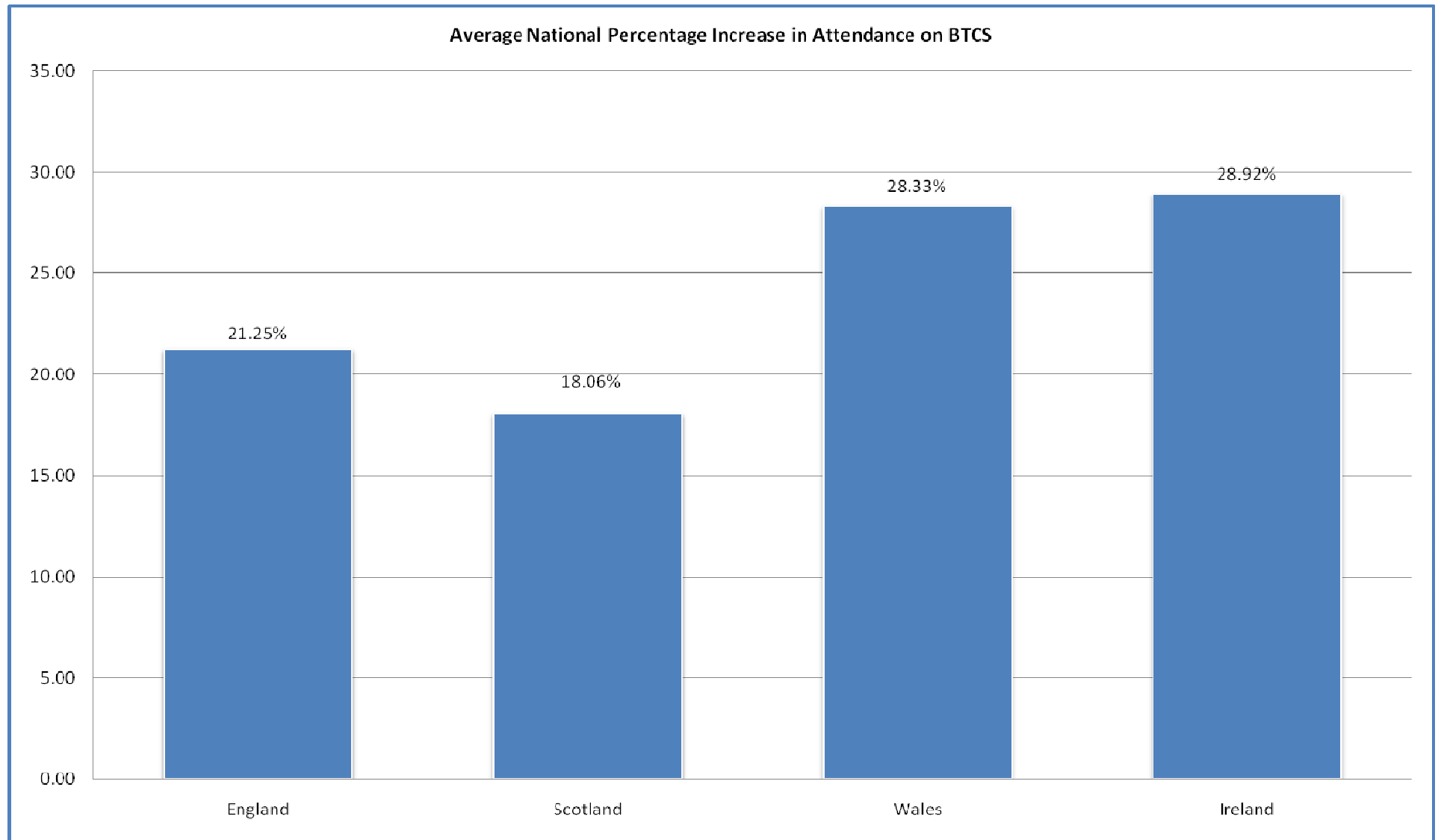
Graphs





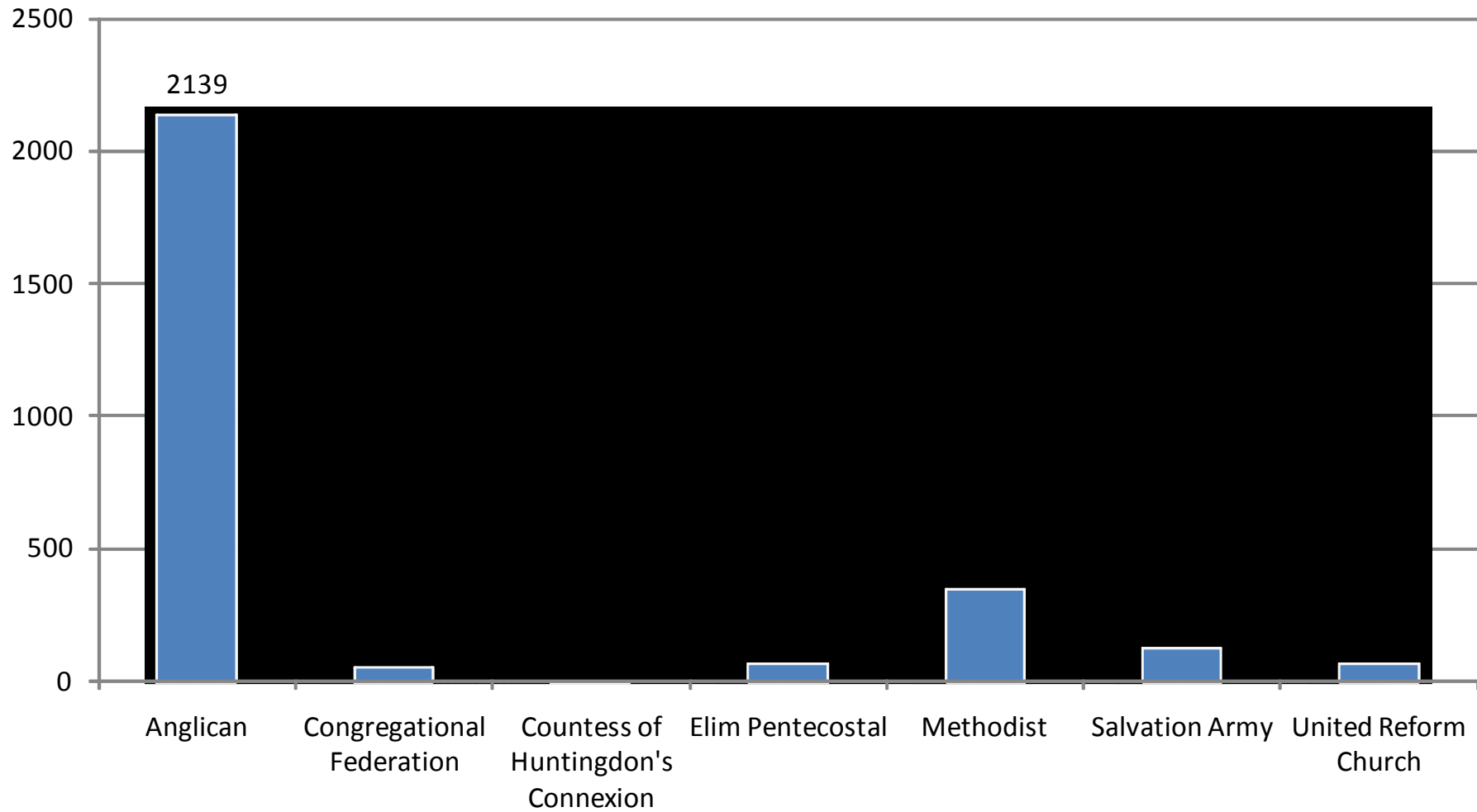
Average National Attendance per Church

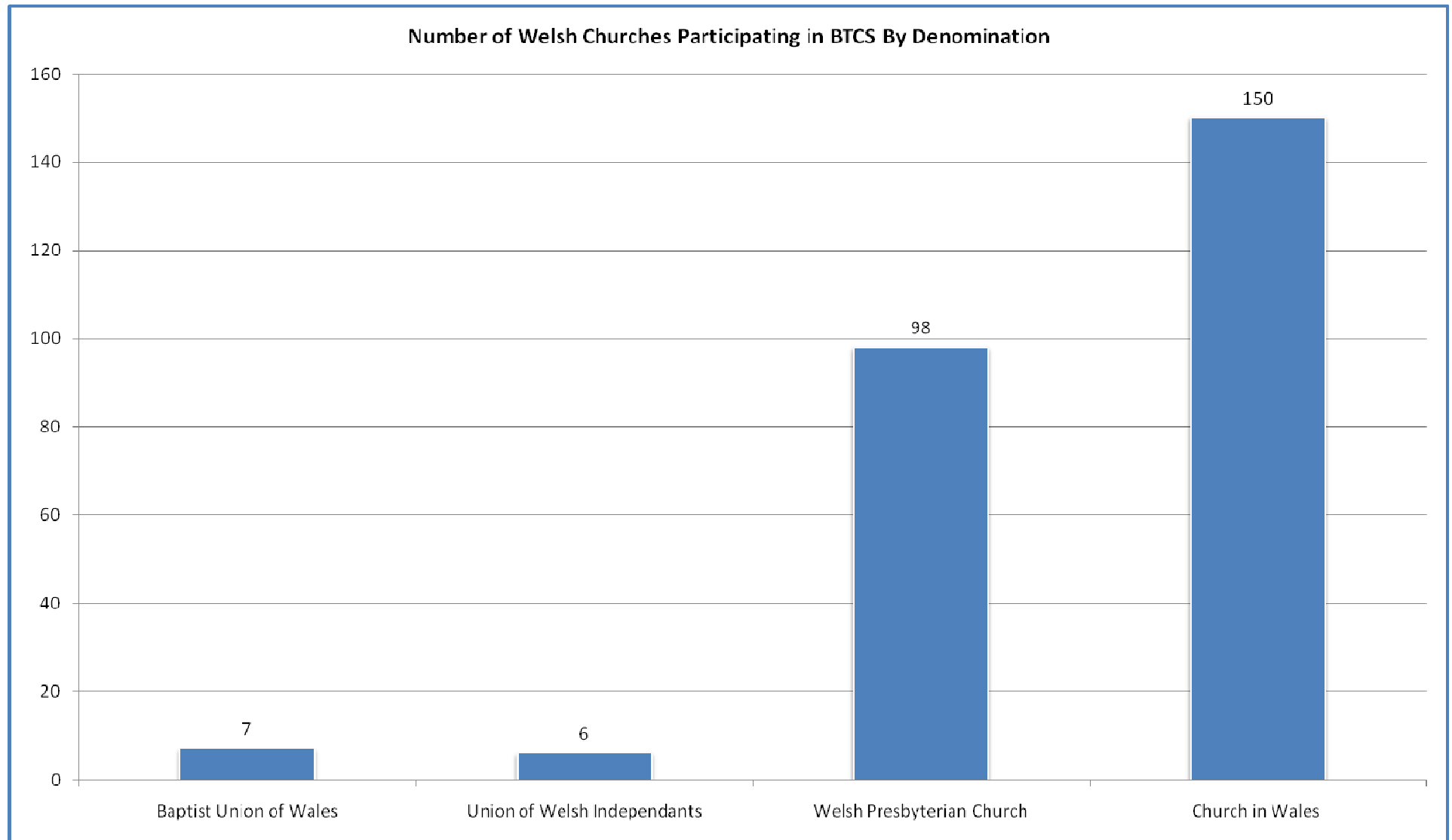


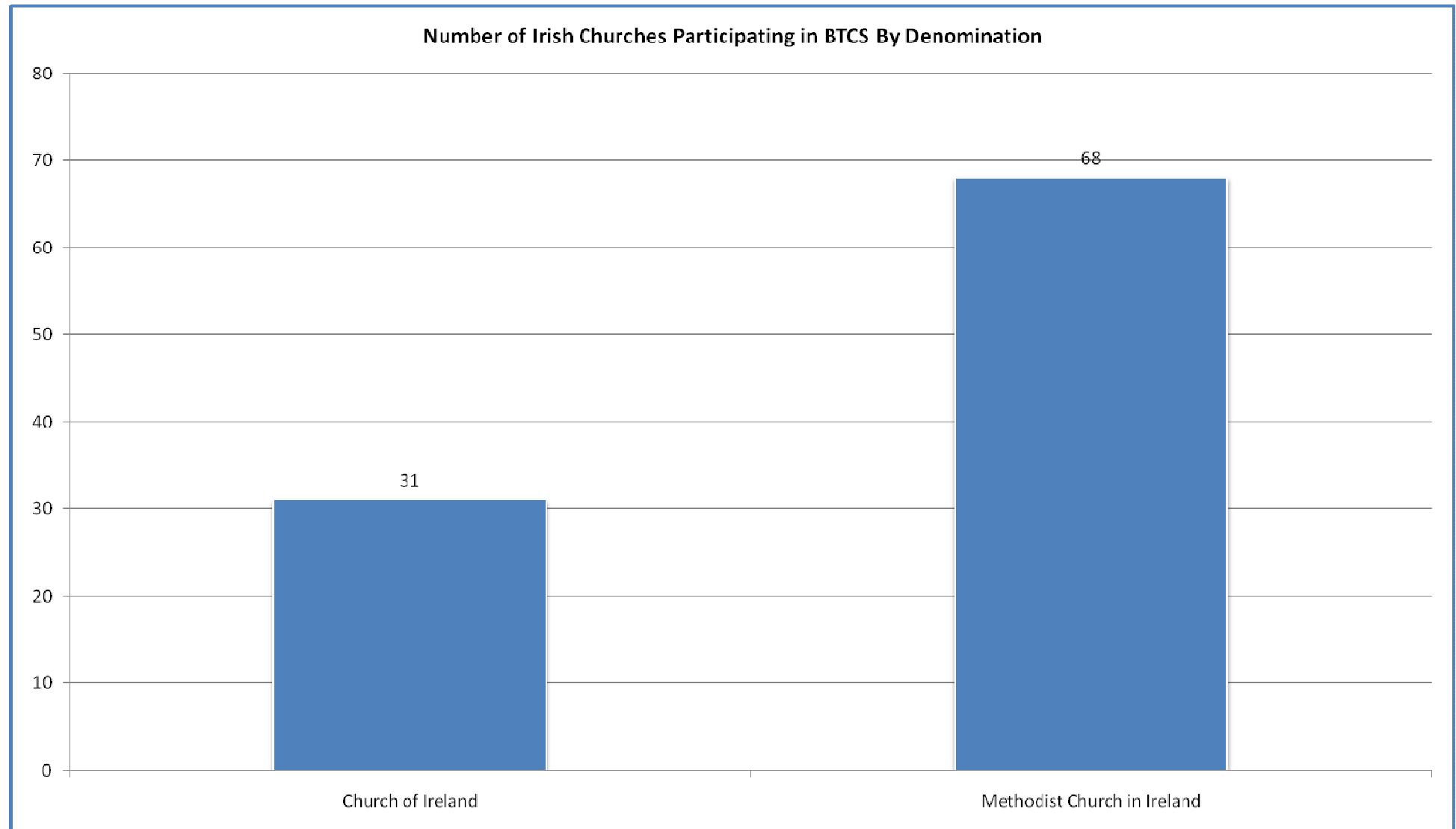




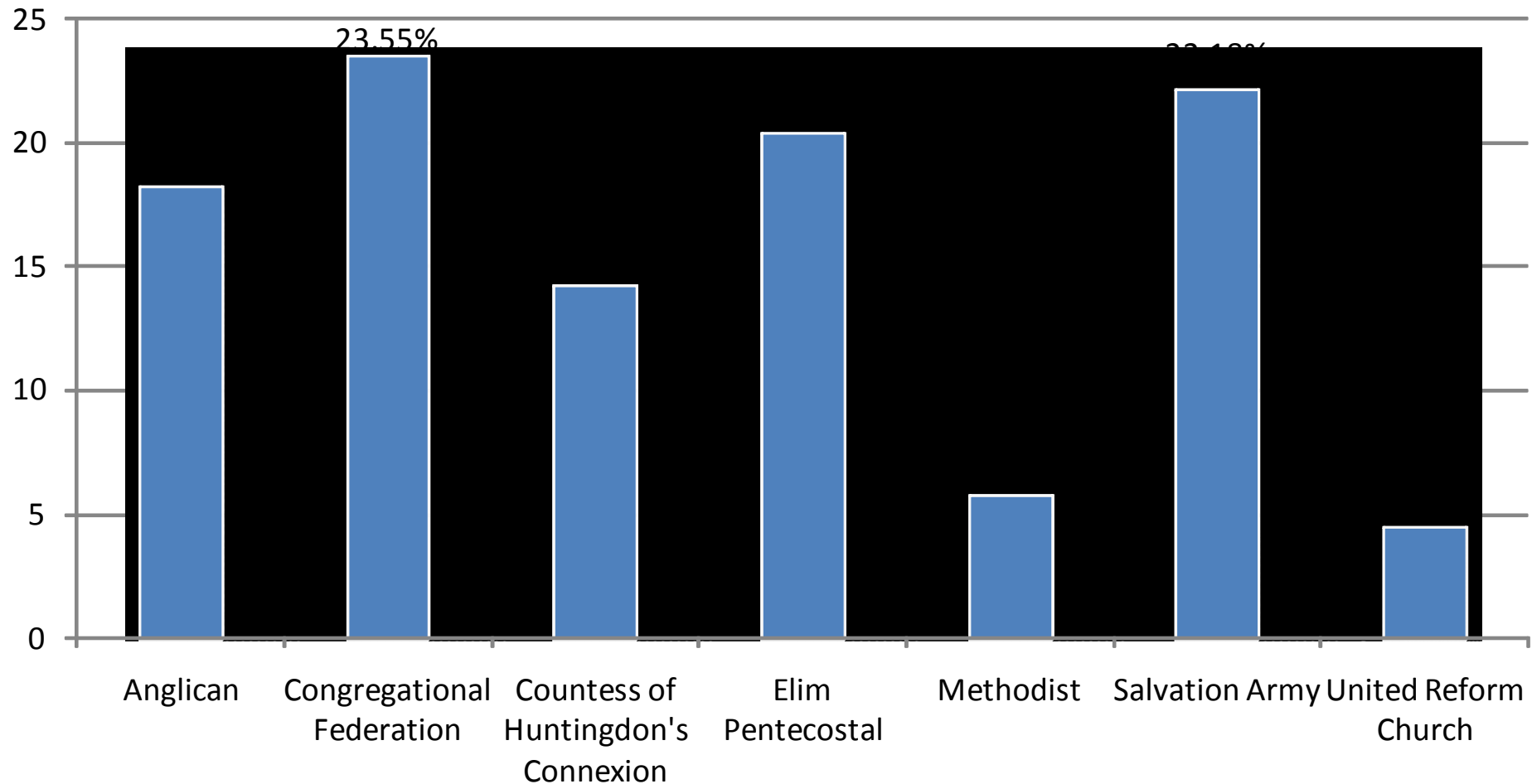
Number of English Churches Participating in BTCS By Denomination

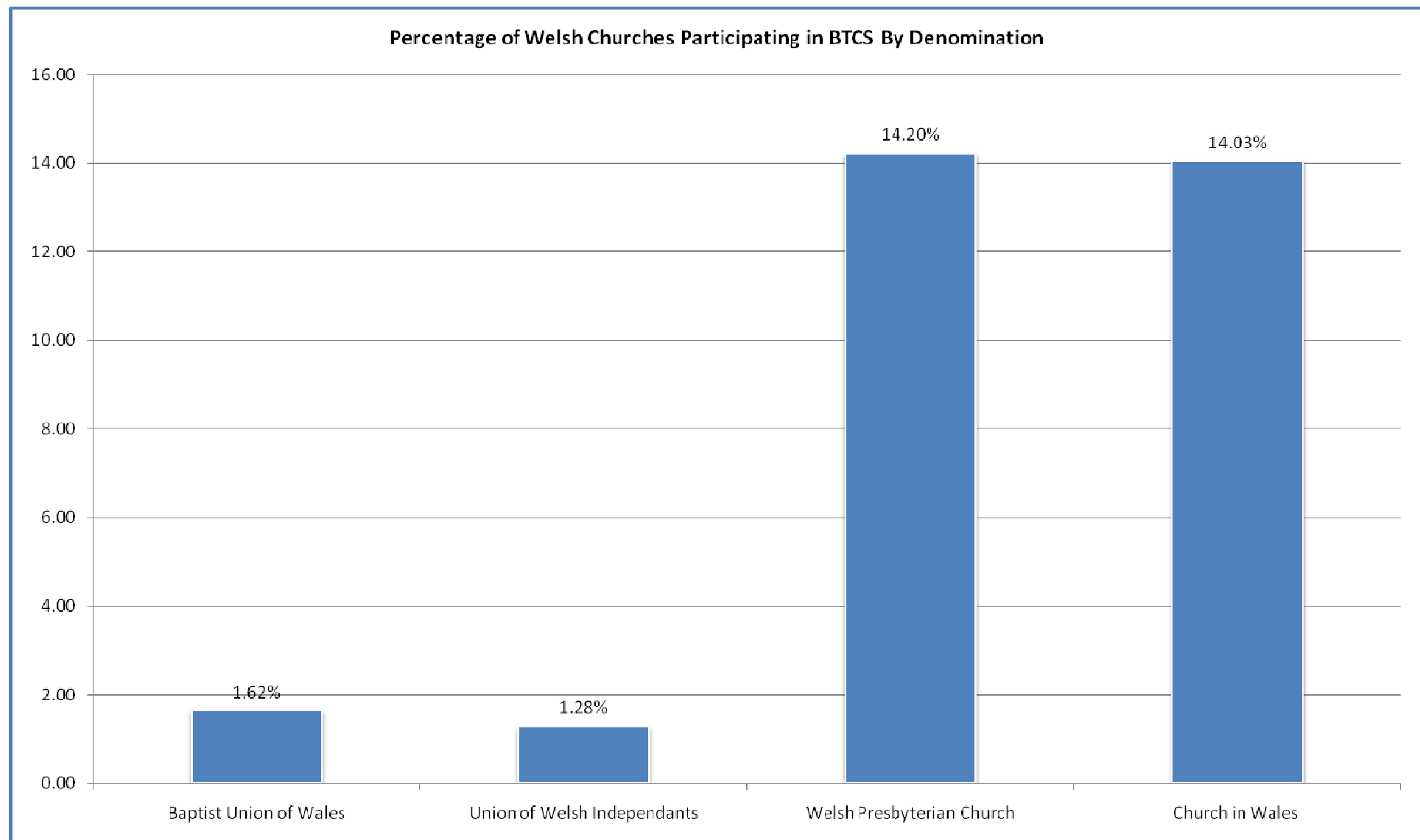


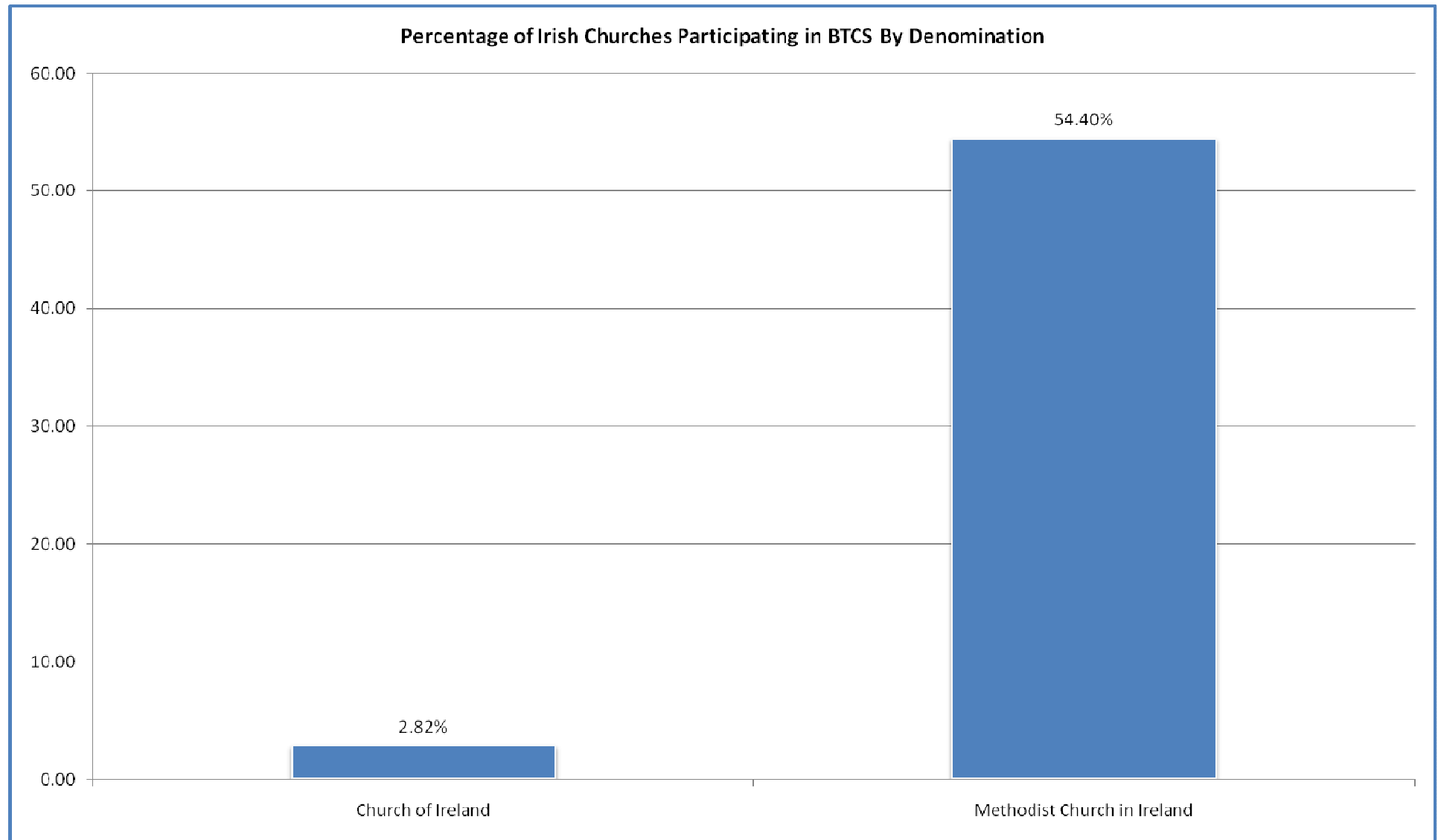




Percentage of English Churches Participating in BTCS By Denomination

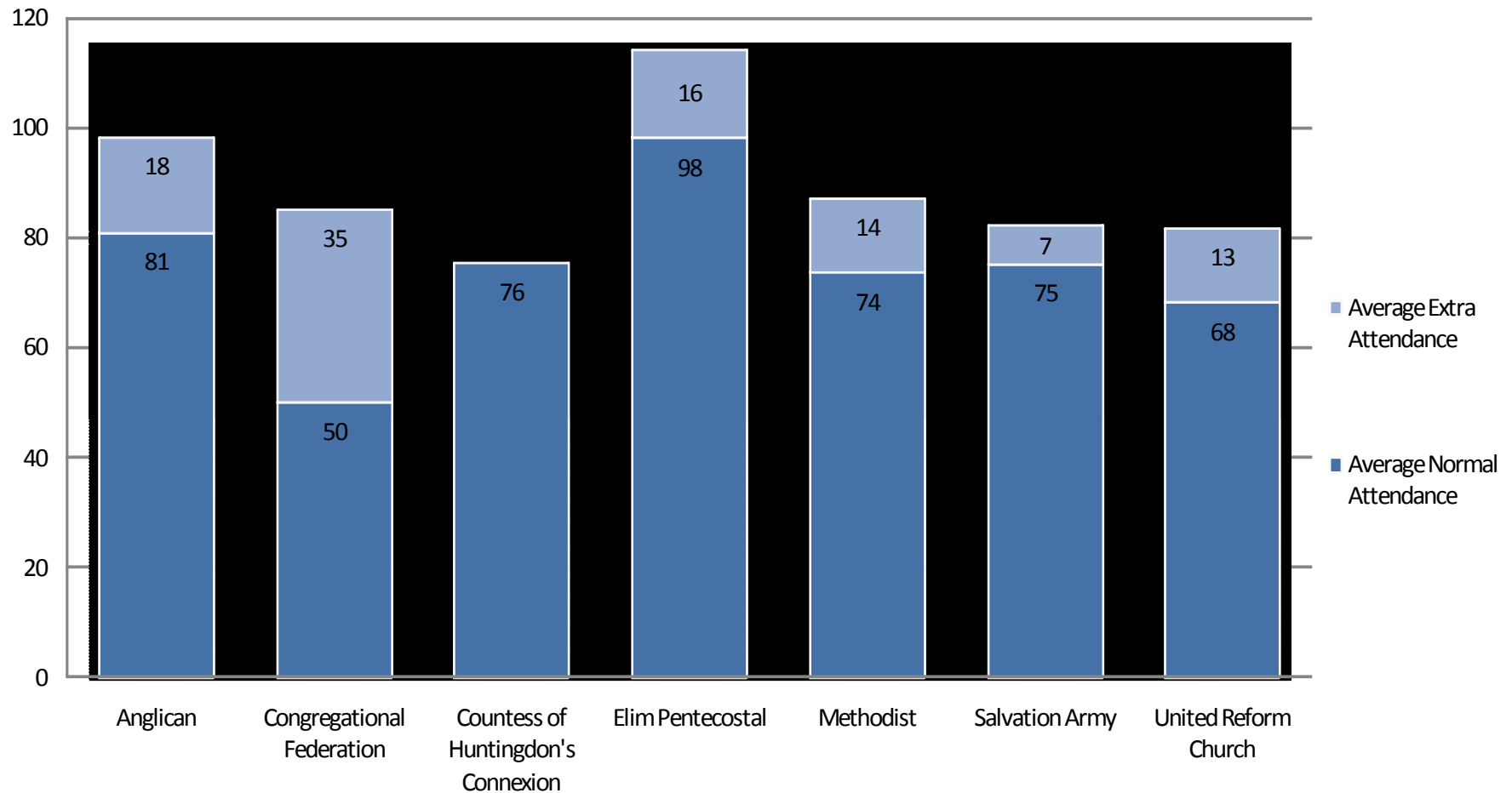






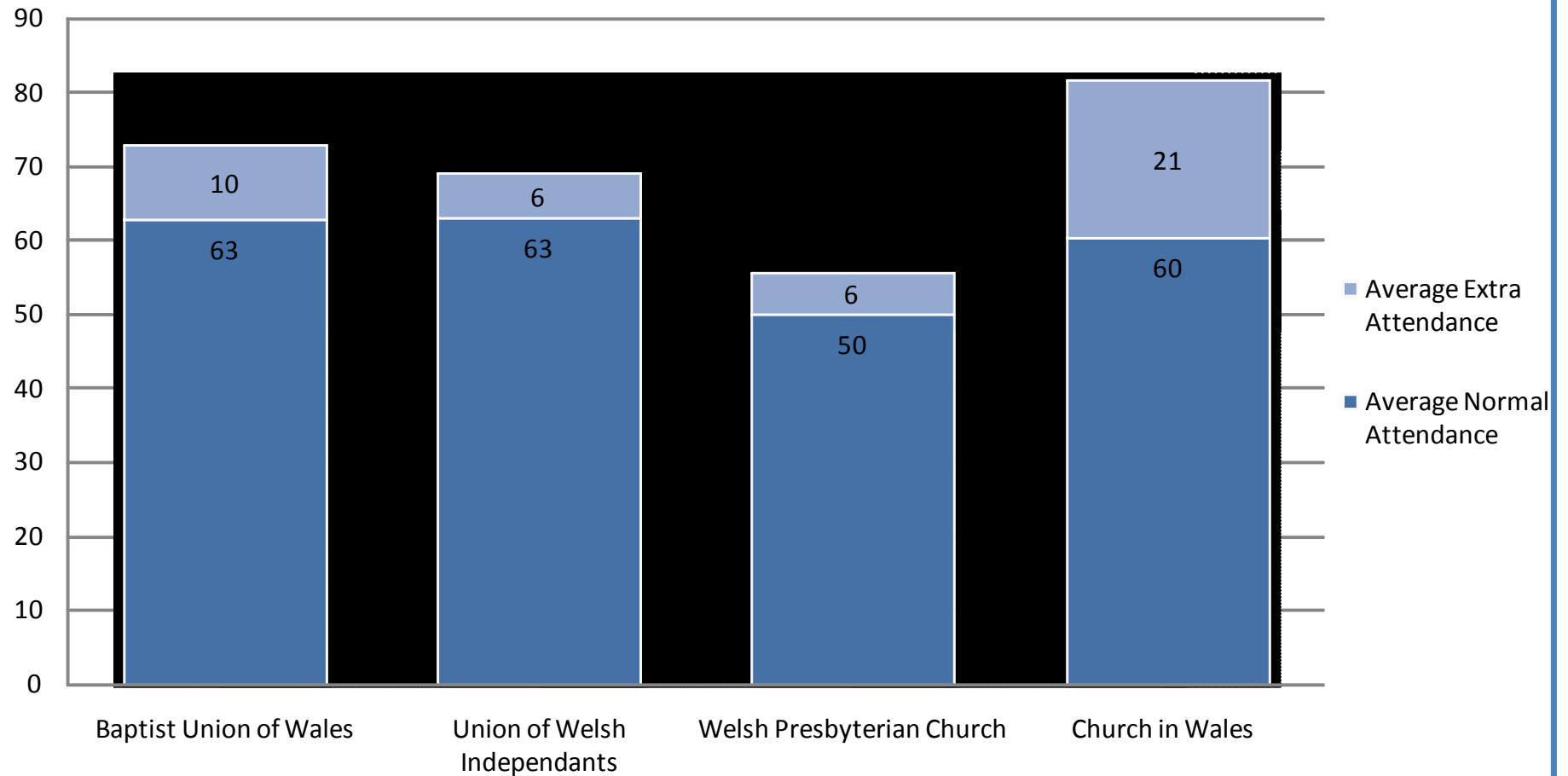


Average English Denominational Attendance per Church



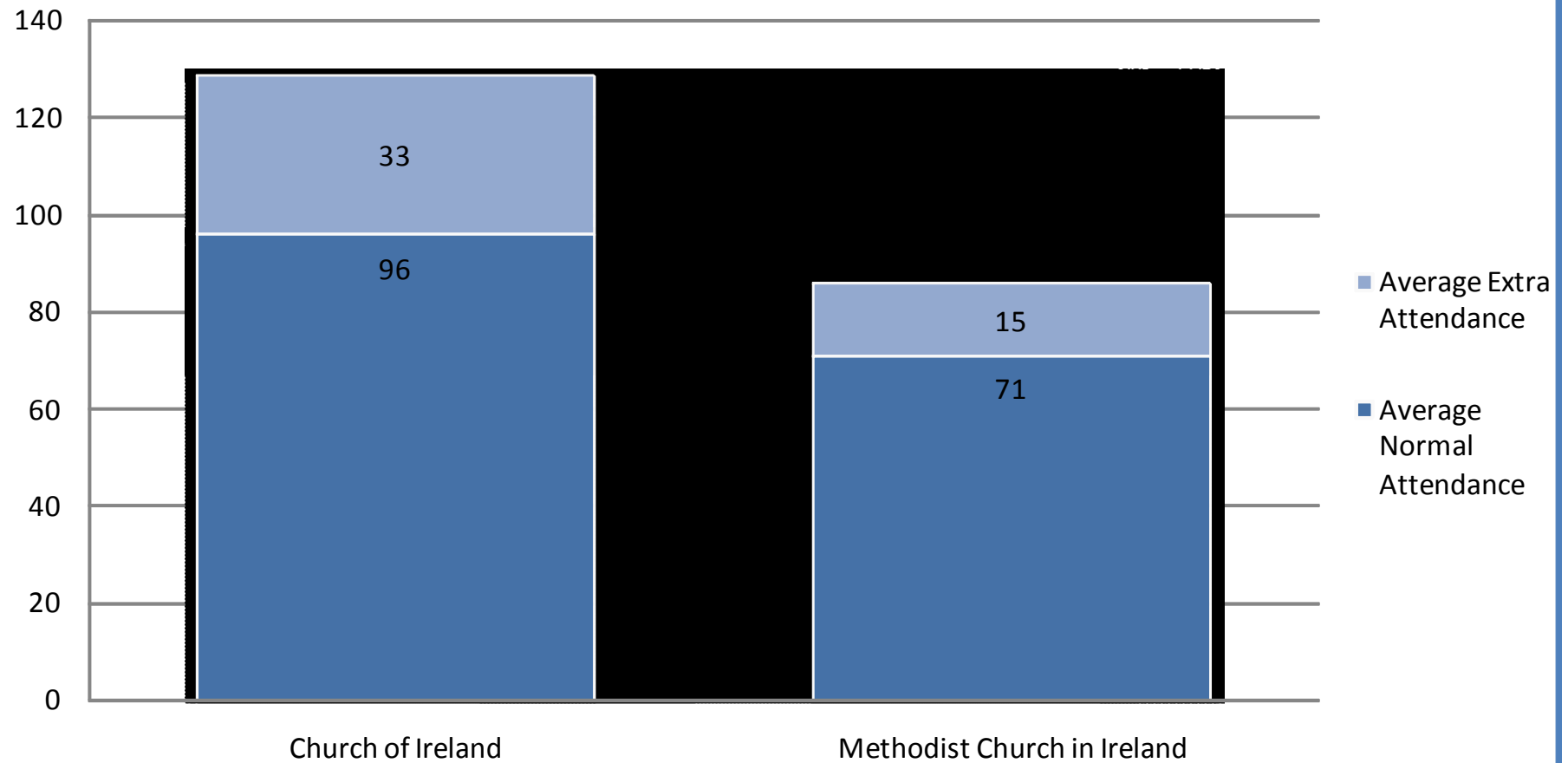


Average Welsh Denominational Attendance per Church



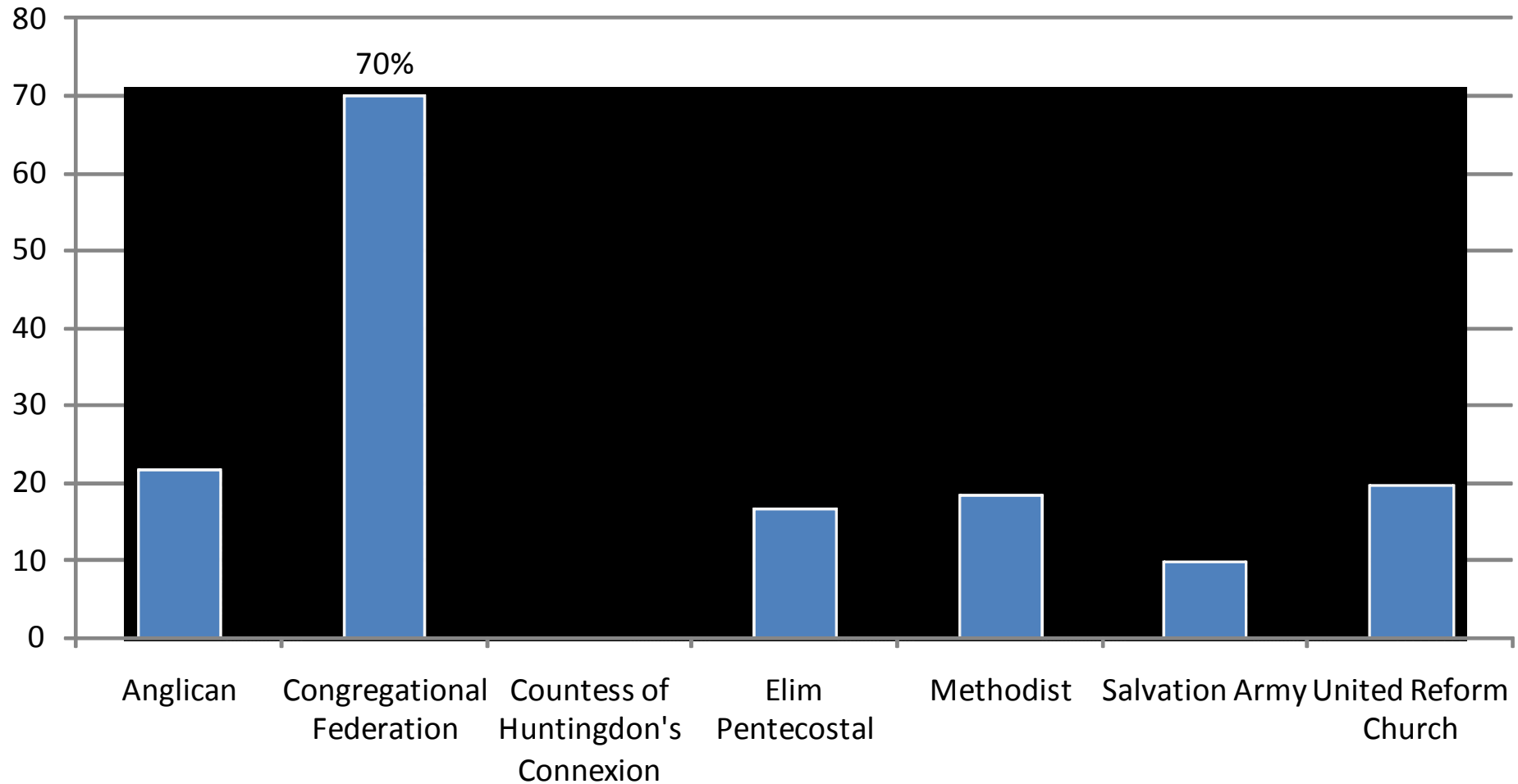


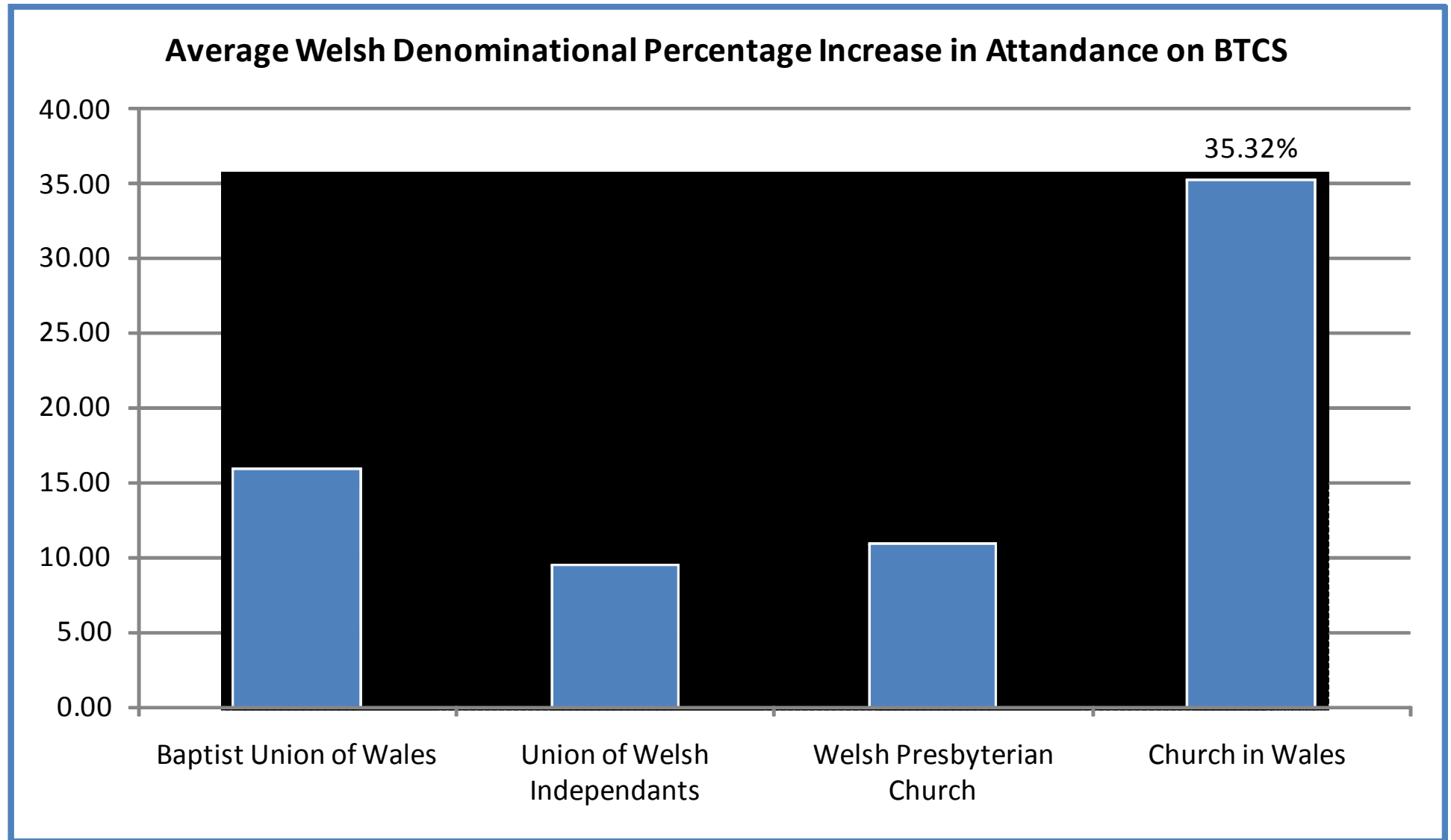
Average Irish Denominational Attendance per Church

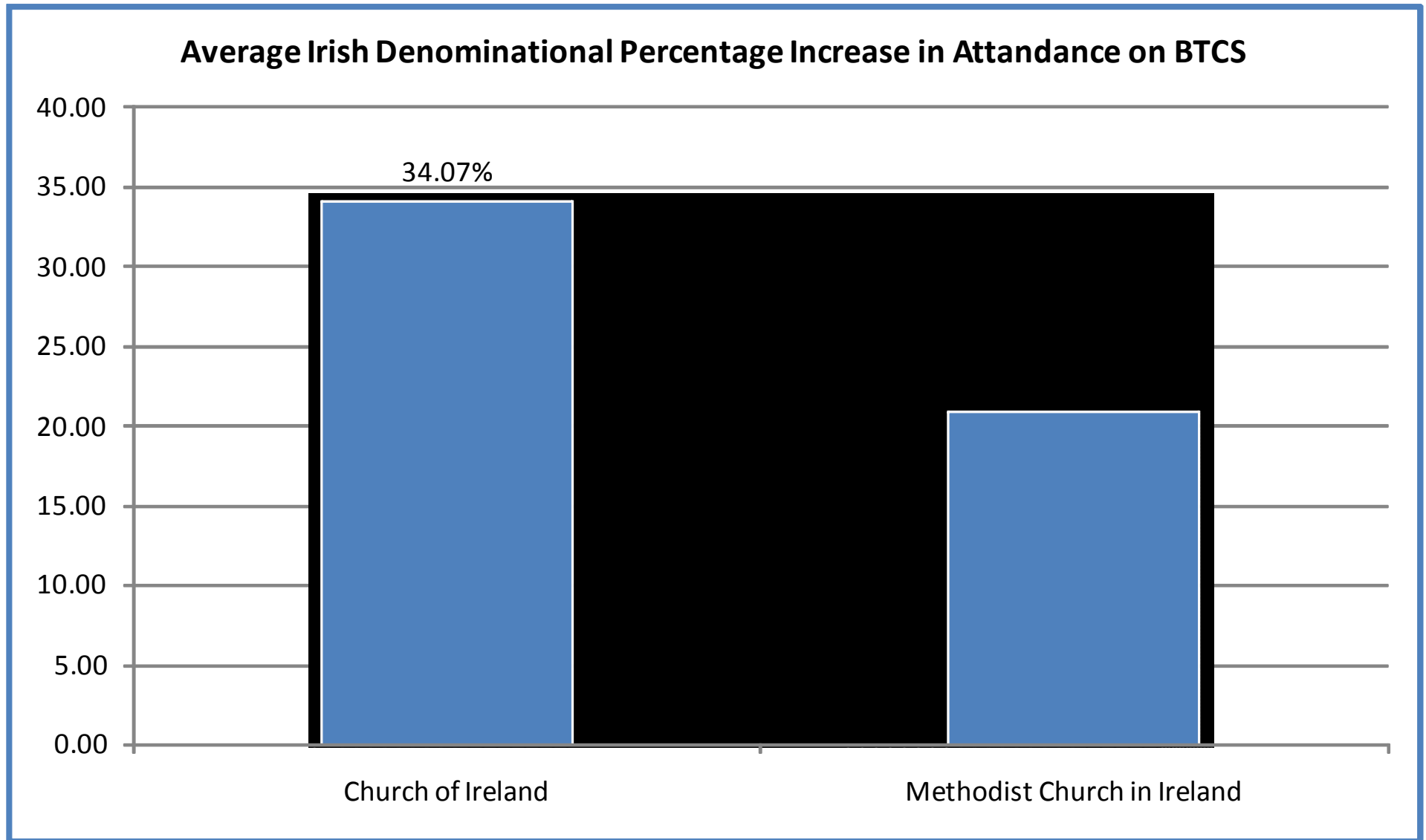




Average English Denominational Percentage Increase in Attendance on BTCS

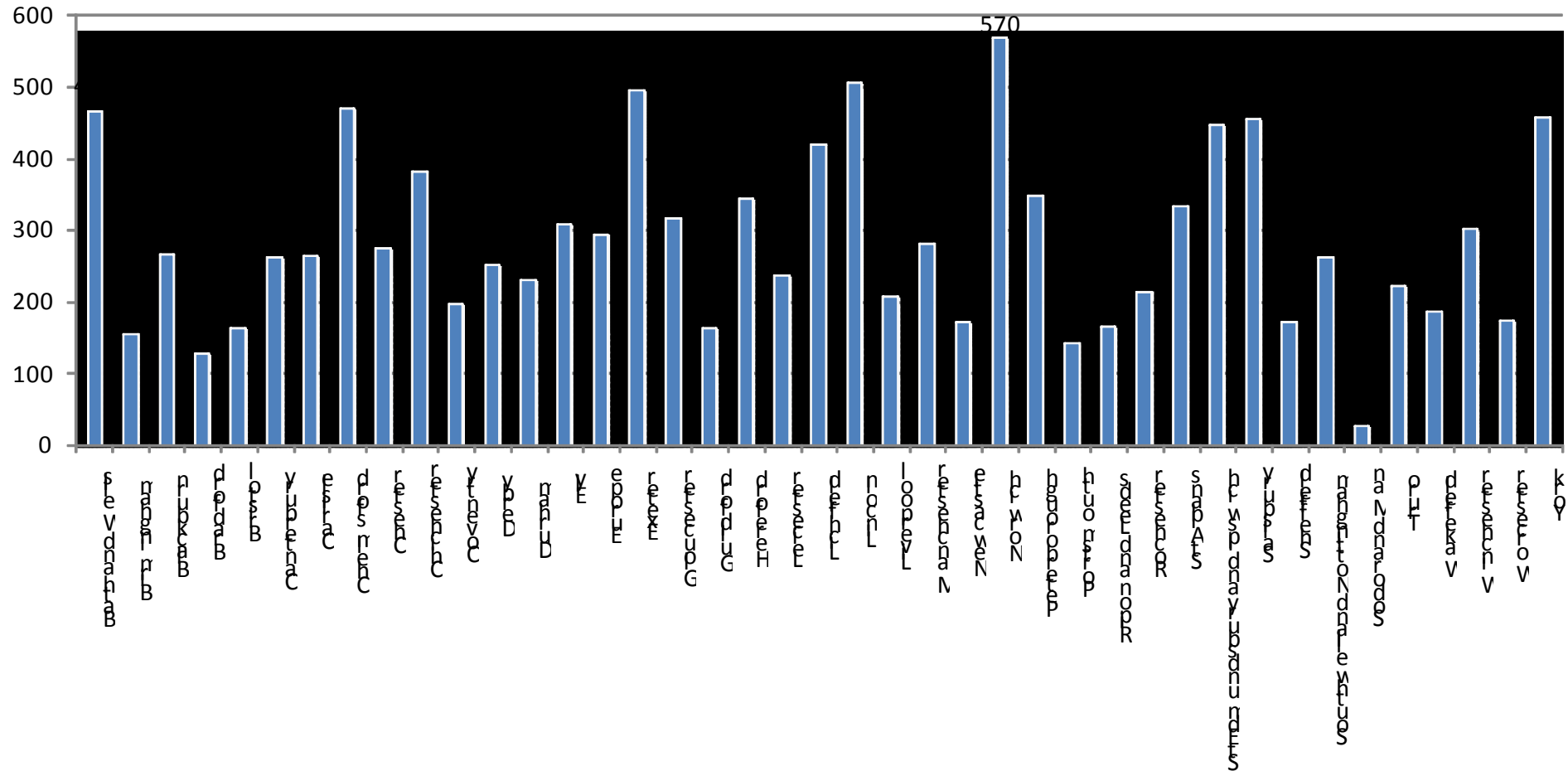




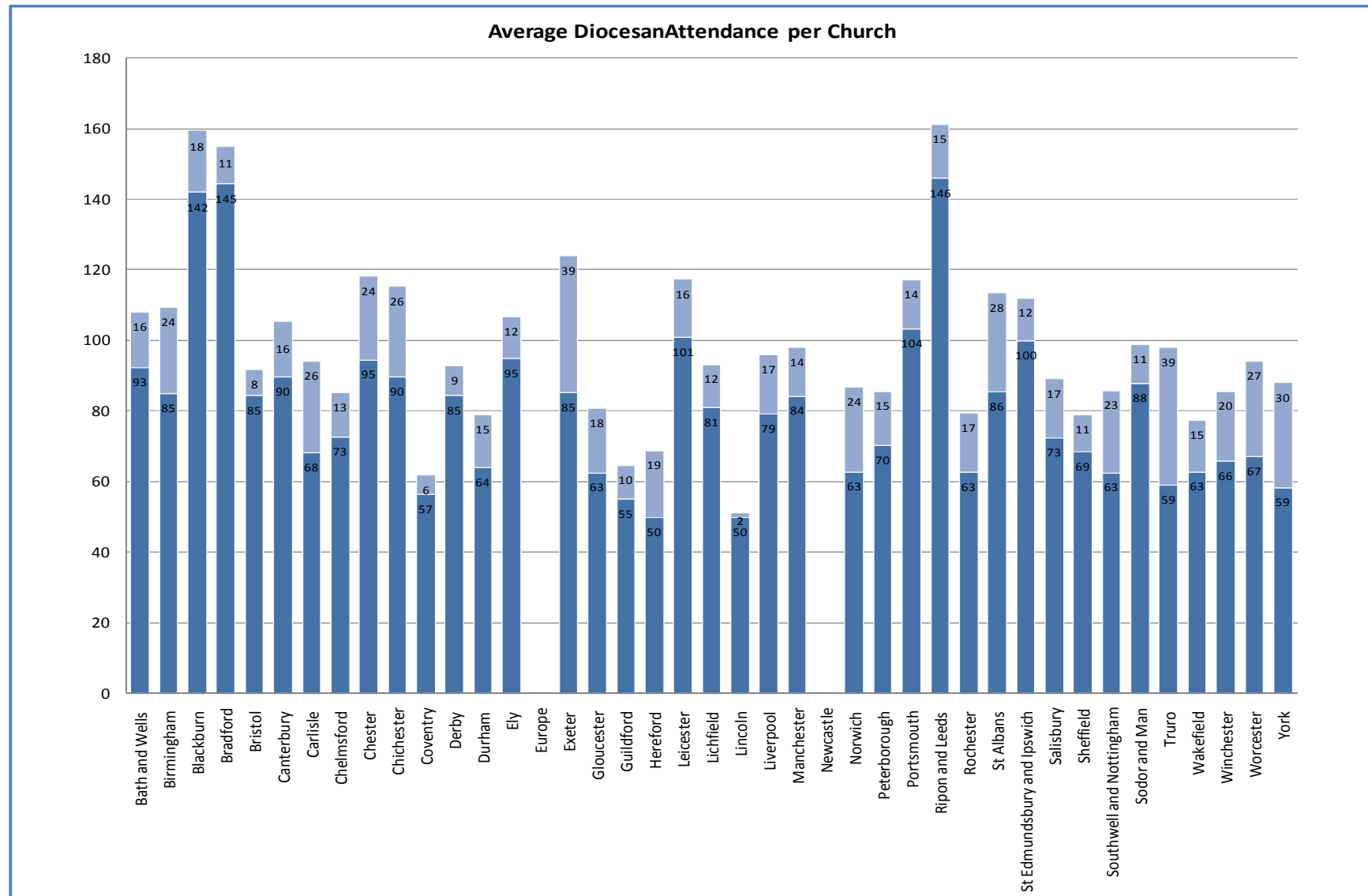


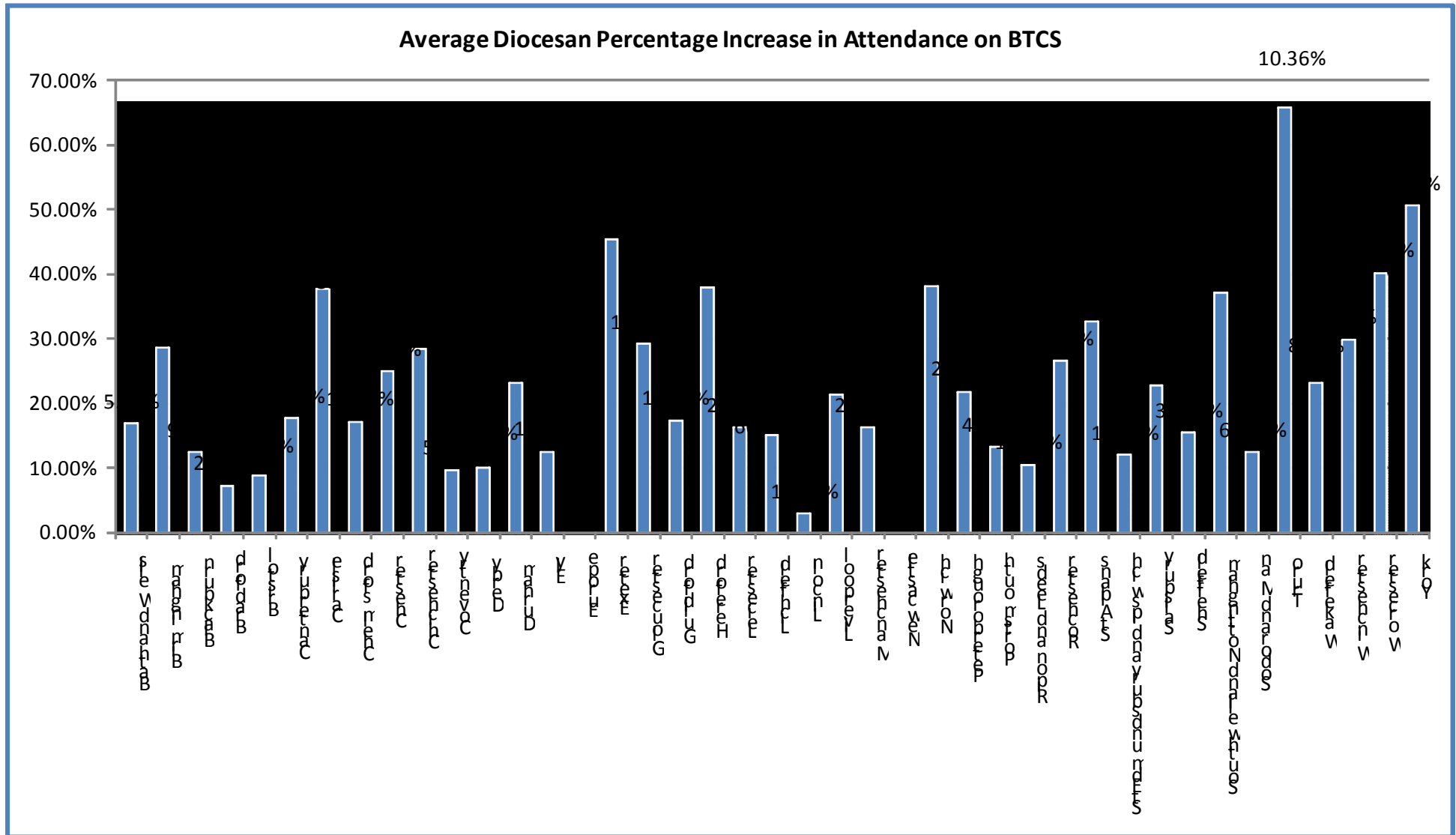


Number of Churches Participating in BTCS by Diocese



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Appendix III

Participation* Scoreboard

*Participation numbers based on traceable Essential Pack orders

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Denomination	Diocese	Number of Churches Participating	Number of Parishes in Diocese/Denomination	% of Churches Participating	
Church of England	Sodor and Man	18	27	66.67%	1st
Church of England	Lichfield Diocese	280	421	66.51%	2nd
Church of England	Worcester Diocese	108	174	62.07%	3rd
Methodist Church in Ireland		68	125	54.40%	4th
Church of England	Chester Diocese	114	275	41.45%	5th
Church of England	Portsmouth Diocese	58	143	40.56%	6th
Church of England	Liverpool Diocese	83	207	40.10%	7th
Church of England	Rochester Diocese	78	215	36.28%	8th
Church of England	Sheffield Diocese	57	173	32.95%	9th
Church of England	Canterbury Diocese	78	262	29.77%	10th
Church in Wales	Monmouth	56	191	29.32%	
Church of England	Bradford Diocese	37	128	28.91%	
Church of England	Birmingham Diocese	41	155	26.45%	
Church of England	Chelmsford Diocese	122	471	25.90%	
Church of England	Leicester Diocese	60	237	25.32%	
Congregational Federation		53	225	23.56%	
Church of England	Manchester Diocese	64	281	22.78%	
Salvation Army		122	550	22.18%	
Church of England	Carlisle Diocese	55	264	20.83%	
Church of England	Bristol Diocese	34	164	20.73%	
Elim Pentecostal		65	319	20.38%	
Church of England	Durham Diocese	45	230	19.57%	
Church in Wales	St Asaph's	34	176	19.32%	
Church of England	Derby Diocese	48	252	19.05%	
Church of England	Guildford Diocese	30	164	18.29%	
Church of England	Chichester Diocese	67	382	17.54%	
Church of England	Peterborough Diocese	58	348	16.67%	
Church of England	Ely Diocese	45	308	14.61%	
Church of England	Southwell and Nottingham Diocese	38	263	14.45%	
Church of England	St Albans Diocese	48	333	14.41%	
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion		3	21	14.29%	
Welsh Presbyterian Church		98	690	14.20%	
Church of England	Lincoln Diocese	68	507	13.41%	
Church of England	Newcastle	22	172	12.79%	
Church in Wales	Llandaff	13	111	11.71%	
Church of England	Gloucester Diocese	36	317	11.36%	
Church of England	Ripon and Leeds Diocese	18	166	10.84%	
Church in Wales	St David's	37	350	10.57%	
Church of England	St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese	47	447	10.51%	

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Church of England	Truro Diocese	23	222	10.36%
Church of England	Salisbury Diocese	47	456	10.31%
Church of England	Blackburn Diocese	24	266	9.02%
Church of England	Exeter Diocese	43	496	8.67%
Church of England	York Diocese	39	457	8.53%
Church of England	Wakefield Diocese	15	186	8.06%
Church of England	Winchester Diocese	22	303	7.26%
Church of England	Bath and Wells Diocese	27	467	5.78%
Methodist		345	5999	5.75%
Church of England	Coventry Diocese	11	197	5.58%
Church in Wales	Bangor	6	126	4.76%
United Reform Church		66	1470	4.49%
Church in Wales	Swansea & Brecon	4	115	3.48%
Church of England	Norwich Diocese	17	570	2.98%
Church of Ireland		31	1100	2.82%
Church of England	Europe	7	295	2.37%
Church of England	Hereford Diocese	7	344	2.03%
Baptist Union of Wales		7	431	1.62%
Union of Welsh Independents		6	470	1.28%
Churches Together in Scotland		175	n/a	n/a