



How to ...

Run an Inviter Sunday

Offer a welcome, with a simple request: 'Be our guest'.

Many people in our communities are ready to say 'yes' – to an invitation to church or a church event. Others deserve to be invited even if not yet ready to accept. However, making this invitation is not always 'easy'. First we must acknowledge the fear that holds us back.

An **Inviter Sunday** is an opportunity to share stories of invitation, build the confidence of others will invite friends, family and colleagues, and to celebrate the faithfulness of those who have extended an invitation as promoted by God.

This Sunday should be held after an Invitation Cross Sunday and as part of helping people to become inviters ahead of a Weekend of Invitation. It forms a small part of a regular worship service and plays a vital part in reinforcing that 'success' is making an invitation at God's promoting, no matter what the response.

What is an Inviter Sunday?

An Inviter Sunday is an opportunity to encourage and affirm your congregation and to emphasise the three different ways to think about the context of invitation:

- that success is just making the invitation and leaving the yes or no to God
- that the Inviter is as an important as the person being Invited
- that God is leading mission demonstrated by the way God has prompted so many to invite

There is more about these three different ways at: <http://weekendofinvitation.com/the-opportunity/a-new-mind-set/>

Preparation

During the week between Invitation Cross Sunday and Inviter Sunday seek out the stories of those that have invited people and got a "Yes", "No" or "Perhaps". This could have been an invitation that was extended this week following the Invitation Cross Sunday, or one that happened a little further in the past.

Affirm those who share their stories with you for their step of faith and ask if they would be willing to participate in an interview about it in church on Sunday. It can be good to have 3-4 stories being shared.

What to do

At an appropriate moment in your service arrange to conduct short interviews with those people you have spoken to beforehand.

As an introduction to the interviews it might be helpful for you to tell your own story about making an invitation, the outcome to it, what it meant to you personally, and how you felt at the time.

During the interviews ask one the following questions

How did it go?

How did you experience God through the process?

What might God be doing with the person you invited?

What have you learned from this?

In asking the questions you are demonstrating how to be as interested in the inviter as invited person.

Now ask people to turn to those around them and share how their invitation went or where they are up to asking God or in making the invitation. After a few minutes ask them to pray for each other and those being invited.

Conclude by praying, thanking God for what He is doing in the lives of those in church, for those who have received an invitation, and for those invitations still to be made.

It might also be helpful to remind people of the details for your Weekend of Invitation event(s) or service, and to encourage them, if they have not yet had the confidence to make an invitation, that there is still time to do this.

Further Information

Please also see our **Journey of Invitation** resource: www.bristol.anglican.org/intivation which is available as part of **Making Disciples in Your Parish**: www.bristol.anglican.org/MDIYP.

Other guides in this “Be our guest” series include:

How to... Run an Invitation Cross Sunday

How to... Run a Weekend of Invitation

[How to... Build a culture of Invitation](#)