



10 ideas to making the most of *A Season of Invitation*

1. **Share the vision:** SOI vision is for everyone in the church to invite a friend to come to church with them on BTCS in September and then to other special services and events in the autumn season. If everyone invites a friend the congregation will double. Use all available opportunities to share the vision with the church.
2. **Set up a SOI team now to plan for the events:** Decide how to share the vision ; the publicity between now and September; the service/s; and the after church care of those invited.
3. **Ensure every church member is personally given invitations card for each special service/event:** Get the church leadership team to stand at the church door and give the cards to people at the end of the service together with a word of encouragement.
4. **Teach about how God connects people through friendship:** Churches grow through friendship.
5. **Use the power of story:** Get people to give their own story of how they came to faith and who helped them.
6. **Pray:** Get every person in the congregation to pray about who they might invite.
7. **Handle people's fears:** Explain the fears we have of inviting people to church and how we all share them; what will they think of my church, what if they say no, what if I make my friends feel uncomfortable, what I make myself appear foolish.
8. **Help the church to be welcoming:** Think about the welcome you offer.
9. **To help people come back to church again:** Introduce your friend to others over coffee and food after the service. Discuss what your friends thought of the service.
10. **To help people come back to church again:** Plan some other special services to invite people to. Invite them again!

A Season of Invitation



As part of ***Growing in God*** we are inviting parishes to engage in '***A Season of Invitation***'.

This initiative encourages, churches to hold 5 separate events between September and December:

-  ***Back to Church Sunday***, September
-  ***Harvest***, October
-  ***Remembrance***, November
-  ***Christmas Starts***, Early December
-  ***Christmas***, Late December

Back to Church Sunday has made a great impact nationally and internationally over the last 10 years and this new season presents an opportunity for even more churches throughout the country to be resourced to hold invitational services.

If you would like further information, please contact Revd Rich Henderson (Diocesan Coordinator) on richhenderson@btinternet.com or 01502 349143.

To find out more about A Season of Invitation, please visit: www.seasonofinvitation.co.uk or speak to Rich who is happy to work with Deanery or Parish groups.

Growing in God



Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

1 Corinthians 3 v 6

Diocese of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich- **Season of Invitation Co-ordinator**
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