

A Small Church had a Vision

This Congregational church is located in a small rural village a few miles from Exeter. They are a church of about 8 people. The village itself has a proportionally high number of people with commuter homes meaning they perhaps do not buy into the village life. It was recognised that a local walking group passed through the village each month so the church reached out to them.

The coffee morning went from 8 to 20 and we have been working on building the relationship. A start up grant from the Congregational Federation has allowed this to develop. (Grant used for cooker and projector for this and to try a Saturday morning children's craft type group.)

The coffee has moved to hot sandwiches etc and now into hotpot type lunches. Rather than invite them to church we asked if they would like the church to be there for them at Christmas so rather than an invite where a couple might come to a small service the small service went to them so to speak. When they came church was decorated. With coffee came mulled wine, mince pies etc. They chose some carols and the Area Mission Enabler did a 5 minute talk on preparing to walk to Christmas. This service had over 40 people, church packed and Jesus story books taken away.

Just a way of reaching specific group where they were! The great thing is it really encouraged church with what can be done with a few.

December 2012