

KIT NEWSLETTER



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

I'm a young single professional woman. Like many of my peers, I was away from the Catholic Church for many years. I returned three years ago when I heard about a KIT Information Evening at my local Church. The KIT small group Meetings helped me to take a fresh look at my faith again and I attended Mass for the first time in many years surrounded by supportive members of the KIT Group. I feel blessed that my return to Church was made much easier by the KIT process. However, I feel strongly that many young single Catholics are not getting the support I was given. Church communities need to be more pro-active in seeking out those who are away. Many of my friends and work colleagues realise something is missing and are actively seeking to find meaning in their lives. Sadly, those who are lapsed Catholics can feel unwanted by the Church, so they may join other denominations or sects, or leave Christianity altogether to embrace other religions. Many are still seeking but feeling very lost.

I know if someone had knocked on my door and invited me back to Church, I would have returned sooner than I did. It's not enough to say that people will 'come back in their own good time' they need to know they are wanted and missed. When a lapsed Catholic wishes to marry in the Catholic Church, or to have their child baptised or prepared for the Sacraments, perhaps it's because something buried deep inside stirs, although this may only be expressed as a vague feeling of wanting their children to have what they themselves received. In answer to this, KIT has adapted the small group meeting process for use with parents and this is a useful tool in helping them to look at their faith again in a new light and can lead to a permanent return to the Church. However, people are marrying much later these days and sometimes not at all, so they miss out on these 'taster' opportunities of revisiting the Church of their youth. Some of these are people I know, work with and care about. I ask all of you involved with KIT to re-double your efforts in reaching out to them, so they can experience the joy I felt in 'coming home'.

WELCOME to our 2011 Newsletter. We hope you enjoy it.

Have you visited our Facebook? Or our web site?

Your comments on these and anything here are eagerly awaited.

If you have any photos of interest to KIT we would love to put them in the next issue and on the internet.



NEW GROUPS A warm welcome to Chandler's Ford, Earl Shilton (Leics), Blundellsands (Liverpool), Lee-on-Solent, Bitterne (Southampton) and Arundel, all of whom are in the process of starting KIT teams in their parishes.

PARISH LINKS - a new idea

A parish KIT group in Hampshire is preparing a new initiative. The Romsey KIT team are seeking volunteers to act as links with Catholics living in their neighbourhood (to a maximum of 10 households), linking every parishioner with a representative from the church. Each parish link person will keep details of parish contacts, events and programmes in case they are needed. Each Catholic household will receive a fridge sticker with the KIT logo and contact details of their parish link.

Further details when available from enquiries@kit4catholics.org.uk

From BLundellsands, Liverpool.

CROSBY TAKES THE PLUNGE!

OMG (as my children would say), I have only just become involved in trying to launch a KIT group in my parish and here I am writing about the experience, or at least trying to!!

It was uncanny how 3 parishioners – myself included in that number – came upon an article by Sheila Keefe almost simultaneously, the Holy Spirit certainly does move in mysterious ways sometimes. I don't even recall how we came to start talking about the possibility of starting a group; it almost seemed to happen by osmosis, with our PP acting as a conduit.

But talk about it we did, and the next thing you know we were having a meeting. We had the first one in Danny's house and there were 5 of us. The next meeting was in my house and there were 7 showed up, 9 came to the next one and we decided to hold an Information Evening. We thought that we ought to feed everybody... so we did, then we thought we ought to feed their minds too...so we did, the 20 people who came must have liked what they saw, heard and ate! because we signed 12 for the Core Group and filled our Prayer and Welcoming rotas too. Some people have even overlapped and are happy to be involved in more than one aspect of this important ministry. We are now starting to prepare ourselves, so if you are reading this do me a favour....pray for us, PLEASE. If you're thinking of reaching out and starting your own KIT group here's my advice..... come on in... the water's lovely!!

Jenny's story

As a recent returner to the church I just wanted to take the opportunity to say a few words in support of the wonderful members of St Swithun Wells KIT group and the support that they have given me on my journey back. I never really gave up on my faith but I had so many questions and concerns and felt unable to approach anyone I knew. I went to Mass one Sunday having made my mind up that I needed answers. I took a leaflet about the KIT sessions available to anyone who was unsure of their faith, had questions or just wanted to talk about it. It took me a few weeks to ring the number and from then my journey back began. Firstly, a one to one chat at my home then onto a KIT meeting. I have been attending for some time now and have nothing but praise for the warm welcome and the help I have received on my journey. I would just like to say to anyone who is unsure about the way back to church, just go along and try KIT. It's a very good place to start.

Ministry to our non churchgoing Catholic family has been given a much higher profile through a one day conference organised by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. The event, chaired by Bishop Kieran Conry, was attended by 90 invited guests from dioceses and organisations involved in evangelisation programmes. Father Christopher Jamieson was the main speaker and workshops (- one led by KIT) offered training and resources to equip participants in reaching out to and welcoming home non-churchgoers in their parishes. A complete set of these resources can be found on the Bishops' Conference website www.CBCEW.org.uk

KIT needs



We need volunteers local to Portsmouth Diocese to join our group and help us promote KIT in the UK. We also need donations to keep us going!
Please contact us: 01794-518071