

evangelism

Resources

Number 1

Sharing our Faith

**An Idea to help shy churches talk
about God**

Ian Mather

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Getting Started in Evangelism

Sharing our Faith

Part of sharing the Gospel is saying what our faith means to us. Many people don't find it easy to talk about God and may need help to put their faith into words. This is a simple idea, developed by Ian Maher, to encourage the members of a congregation to think about what they believe and to express their faith in a realistic, practical and honest way.

1. Produce a simple questionnaire for distribution to all members of the congregation. We asked these six questions:

- Why do you believe in God?
- Who is Jesus Christ?
- Why do you come to church?
- What practical difference does your faith make to the way you live?
- Has any part of the Bible been of particular help to you?
- What, for you, is the hardest part of your faith?

Ask for brief replies to the questions (preferably under 25 words), and don't ask for names!

2. When the questionnaires have been returned, use the answers to compile a booklet. You may wish to print all the answers as received, or you may find it necessary to do some editing to keep the booklet to manageable proportions. Add illustrations where appropriate, and a well-designed cover/title page. We called our booklet:

'Sharing the Faith:
Stories of faith from the people of church'.

3. It would be helpful to include a contact name/telephone number for anyone who would like to find out more about the Christian faith, or the activities of the church.
4. Discuss the different ways in which the booklet can be used. Certainly, everyone who has filled in a questionnaire will be interested in the end result, and the booklet can also be given to enquirers groups, baptism families etc. It could also be used as a basis for home-group discussion.

This project can help Christians to think about what they believe and to put their faith into simple words which they can then use to 'tell their own story of faith'. It is also an encouragement to see what other members of the church believe. Use the finished booklet imaginatively in evangelism.

Resource Material for Sharing Faith

1. Telling our Faith Story, Janice Price. CHP. £2.95

A simple, short, non-threatening process to help Christians develop their confidence in talking about their faith.

2. God's Story, Our Story - How We Share Faith As Women. MU.

£2.95 inc p&p. Sharing faith in everyday life - stories and resource ideas. Contact no : 020 7222 5533

3. Lost for Words. CPAS

A ten session course for parish groups on sharing the Christian faith in a relaxed, natural and helpful way. Full course including leaders notes, handouts, publicity material and overhead projector masters available only through attendance at an Introductory Day with the author, James Lawrence. Cost of the day (including full course material) approx £45. Contact CPAS on 01926 458458

4. The Christ we Share. USPG/CMS. £15 inc p&p

A creative resource pack based around 32 images of Christ from around the world. Seven sessions include the images on A5 cards + 12 on acetate; activity sheets; ideas for worship and theological background.

5. Sharing our Faith - A Southwark Evangelism Resource Leaflet. No 1.

Free. A project idea to help shy churches talk about God. Available on the Diocesan website or from Paul Buxton on 020 7939 9412.

For advice or assistance in the area of Evangelism please contact:

The Revd Jerry Lepine, Adviser for Evangelism, Croydon Area Mission Team Office, 020 8681 5496/7 or at home on 01737 822322 or the Revd David Fudger, Woolwich Episcopal Area Evangelism Adviser on 020 8691 8884.

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Further resources @ Diocese of Southwark Website: www.dswark.org/bcs