

The courage to keep in touch

It's never been easier for organisations to be in touch with us. You only have to look at your email inbox or daily post to know that! There are a whole variety of interest groups, organisations and shops all looking to keep in touch with us in a variety of different ways.

The good news for us in the Church in Wales is that those whom we meet through life's special moments want to be kept in touch with! In fact, research conducted by the Life Events Team was extremely consistent. Nine out of ten people said that after one of life's special services they would like to hear from us again.

Disappointingly though, the research also revealed that few of them felt that they have had heard from the Church afterwards, other than perhaps a general church or parish newsletter.

So, what does be in touch look like? It means that we maintain contact, not just once, not just twice, but we keep on giving them information, invitations, sending them news about our church, and encouraging them to be part of the story that they've joined. Who knows where that might take them?

It might be that we see them back in our church one day, even if that's a long time down the line. The same research with wedding couples showed that it sometimes took three or four years before people became part of a worshipping community.

Of course, we don't know if perhaps those people have begun attending a different place from the one where they had their special Life Event service. It might be that they decide to attend a carol service one Christmas at a church in the village where they come from, or perhaps they have begun attending a church in a place where they have moved to. It might be as simple as dropping into a church somewhere completely different whilst out, simply to light a candle to remember someone that they loved on a difficult, or special, day. We just don't know.

But the important thing is that someone is maintaining contact. So, don't give up! Have the courage to keep in contact with people, not just once, and not just for a short time, but to persist in that opportunity of maintaining contact, because that is how a relationship is built. If people wish you to stop, they will normally say so.

Again, the research was quite clear. If we don't keep in touch with people then the

chances are they won't come back. But if we do keep in touch with them, the possibility is always there that they may just walk back through that door one week, and develop further their relationship with God and with God's people.