

## VALE OF AYLESBURY METHODIST CIRCUIT

'CREATING A CULTURE OF WELCOME'—2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2019, STOKE MANDEVILLE

### FLIPCHART TRANSCRIPT:

#### SHARING IDEAS ABOUT BECOMING MORE WELCOMING CHURCHES

- Expand / create a 'welcome' team
- Learn names of newcomers
- Change our attitudes and personal behaviour
  - make a conscious effort to do things differently myself, not rely on others
- Explain to newcomers what we do / where to go
- Be more mindful of our clusters and cliques of members
- Don't be *ad hoc*: make sure there's a rota / team of welcomers **and train them**
- Provide a welcome pack, with information about the church, its activities and the community it serves
- Use a 'buddy' system: put an existing member alongside a newcomer (but not intrusively)
  - think inter-generationally: older folk alongside younger ones, always in the awareness of safeguarding protocols
- Wear name badges
- Use social media and websites more imaginatively and effectively
  - these media are often the first place of welcome for newcomers
- Invite newcomers to get involved in activities and rotas
- Ask for feedback from newcomers
- Give the flowers to visitors