

Mystery Worshipper Guidelines

1. Setting up visits.

It can be good to twin with another church or work with a group of churches to provide mystery worshippers for each other.
2. Before the visit:
 - a. Check that you are going to a 'normal' service. It can give a false impression if you go to a 'special'.
 - b. Make sure you know where the church is so you can arrive in plenty of time.
 - c. Look at the web site to see what you can find out in advance of the visit.
3. Guidelines for the visitor:
 - a. Look through the questions first to make sure you know what you are looking for.
 - b. Arrive a bit before the service starts but not too early (5-10 minutes is about right).
 - c. Try to remain unknown. If people ask, say you are just visiting the area. If they persist, say that you know the Vicar – that normally shuts them up!
 - d. Don't have the form and a clipboard out marking it off or people will know you are not 'normal'.
 - e. Try to make sure you look at things like toilets.
 - f. Loiter at the back (notice boards or bookstall) as these are good places to find out if people will come to you.
 - g. Stick around at the end to give people a chance to make your acquaintance.
 - h. Fill in the form as soon as you get to the car unless you have a brilliant memory.
 - i. Aim to be honest but not destructive.
 - j. If a question was impossible to answer, please put N/A (not applicable) in the comment column with a comment if appropriate and leave the rest blank.
 - k. It can be helpful to have an affirming comment in the summary paragraph as we are seeking to encourage the churches.
4. Alternative sources of Mystery Worshippers.
 - a. Ship of Fools (<http://www.ship-of-fools.com/mystery/index.html>) but you cannot book them in – they just turn up!
 - b. Christian Research (<http://www.retail-maxim.co.uk/churchcheck/>).