

What is Church?

Recently I have been asking myself why people come to church. Do they come for the worship, the sermon, to pray or for meeting friends? Or do they come to meet God and other Christians? I've been asking this question, as I would like to see more people in church.

But what do we mean by church? Do we mean the building? No, although we conveniently call the buildings in which we meet Churches, the Church is the group of people who believe that Jesus Christ is their Saviour. The Apostle Paul uses the word Church in this way, for instance: "Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the *Church* that meets at their house" (1 Cor 16:19). The Church (the group of Christians in Corinth in Greece) came together in a building – the house of Aquila and Priscilla. They did not even have a special designed building as we are now blessed to have but met in someone's home.

So, when we want more people to come to Church, what do we mean by that? Do we want more people to come on a Sunday morning to our church services? Or do we mean that we want to see more people who call Jesus Christ their Saviour? If we mean the latter, then we need to think about how we can help that more people will get to know Jesus Christ as their saviour. Is Jesus asking us to do Church in a different way, so that more people would want to come? Or do we need to speak to people about our faith more, so that they become curious as to what we have that they haven't? Maybe this February we can think and pray about these questions.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Bernard Fidler