



Disability Sunday Resource Pack

Sample letter of invitation

(to be printed on church notepaper)

[date]

Dear

It's a real pleasure to invite you and your friends, relations and colleagues, to attend a Disability Sunday event on 6th June 2010 at *[11.00 am]* at our church, which is in *[Lupin Gardens, Ambridge]*

The main talk will focus on what the Bible really says about disability and on God's positive attitude towards disabled people. We have also asked a few members of our congregation to speak about their own experience of disability. We plan a drama and musical contributions by disabled people.

We would like to welcome anyone in our community who is affected by disability – you yourself or a member of your family may have a disability, or you may work with disabled people. We want the service to be a first step towards fully including disabled people in the life of our church. Our church building is accessible to wheelchair users and has a loop system and an accessible toilet. A British Sign Language interpreter for Deaf people will be provided at the service. Braille service sheets will be provided.

If you have no transport and you need a lift, or if you have any questions, please call us on *[phone number]* as soon as possible and we will try to help.

With warmest good wishes



Draft news release

News Release

St Mark's Church in Ambridge is holding a Disability Sunday service on 6 June 2010 at 11.00 am. There will be an exciting meeting of teaching and worship, led by disabled people, focusing on the world of disability.

Members of the congregation will be sharing their own experience of disability, there will be a drama and musical contributions by disabled people and there will be a brief talk on disability from a Biblical perspective.

The church is accessible to wheelchair users and has a loop system. A British Sign Language interpreter for Deaf people will be provided at the service. Braille service sheets will be provided.

Child care is also available.

In addition to the worship service, disability awareness will be the special focus of the children's programme with groups for all ages.

For more information contact: Name:

Telephone:

Print the news release with a church letterhead, and post it, email it or fax it to local radio stations and newspapers in early September.

Give details of any other special contributions to be made by disabled people. Avoid using Christian jargon words or phrases.

If your church is not manned continuously during office hours, make sure you give a mobile phone number as an alternative to the Church office. Nothing irritates media more than to be unable to get an immediate response to a question. Why not cultivate a relationship with your local reporter and invite them to come along?



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Church Newsletter Items

Recruiting team members:

Many of you know the importance we attach to being fully inclusive of disabled people. We are planning to hold a Disability Sunday on 6th June 2010 with the following objectives:

- To show disabled people that God cares about them and their needs
- To raise awareness of disability and the needs of disabled people
- To give people affected by disability a voice
- To show that God responds to and uses disability in many different ways
- To show that including disabled people isn't a burden, but is a blessing.
- If you would like to serve on the planning team, please contact *[name]*.

Announcing the event:

The Disability Sunday is just *[number]* weeks away. Just to remind you, what we want to achieve on the day is:

- To show disabled people that God cares about them and their needs
- To raise awareness of disability and the needs of disabled people
- To give people affected by disability a voice
- To show that God responds to and uses disability in many different ways
- To show that including disabled people isn't necessarily a burden, but is a blessing.

Please invite friends, family and neighbours who are disabled or who are affected by disability on Sunday 6th June 2010

Recruiting volunteers:

Volunteers are needed to help with Disability Sunday. If you can help with *[list needs here]* then please contact *[name]*