

Statistic of the Month - one in five went to church at Christmas!

The Church of England has recently published its national attendance figures for 2003, which make interesting reading! They show, for example, that church attendance at Christmas increased in 2003 over 2002 to 2,650,000 in 2003, a 2% increase over the previous year.

If that kind of increase continues there could have been well over 2.7 million people in church this Christmas – and that's just the Church of England! Since C of E attendance is about 28% of the total, this suggests there could have been nearly 10 million in English churches this December, and probably more than 12 million in the whole country. That's 20% of the population, one person in five!

The Church of England booklet breaks the figures down further, to show that Christmas attendance is increasing most in individual towns, and in remoter rural areas. In towns, the average attendance is nearly 400 people per church, which is a huge opportunity to tell people the good news. In remoter rural churches, the average is 100 attending per church, more than 3 times the usual attendance. How can we best use these opportunities?

Inauguration of Eighth General Synod

Her Majesty The Queen inaugurated the Eighth General Synod of the Church of England in Church House, Westminster on Tuesday, 15 November. The Group of Sessions was arranged over two days, covering issues from tackling terrorism to admitting children to Communion.

Archbishop Rowan and Hyacinth Bucket team up for Lent 2006

York Courses have gathered an inspirational team for their Lent Course 2006, entitled 'Where is God...?' Participants on the CD/audio tape include Archbishop Rowan Williams, Joel Edwards (General Director of the Evangelical Alliance), actress Patricia Routledge, Dr Pauline Webb and Lord David Hope. The accompanying booklet is written by Canon John Young. Further details at www.yorkcourses.co.uk or from York Courses, PO Box 343, York, YO19 5YB Tel/Fax: 01904 481677.

As you consider your New Year's resolutions...

Philippians 4:13 --- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

The road to success is not straight. There is a curve called Failure, a loop called Confusion, speed bumps called Friends, red lights called Enemies, caution lights called Family. You will have flats called Jobs.

But, if you have a spare called Determination, an engine called Perseverance, insurance called Faith, a driver called Jesus, you will make it to a place called Success.