

I'VE BEEN TO CHURCH!

Theme: This is a light-hearted sketch, almost 'tongue in cheek', which looks at people's perception of church and challenges Christians to look at the influence that they have on others.

Cast: Monologue - male or female

Props: Mobile phone

Bible references: 'And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.' (Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV)

Performance notes: When performing a monologue, it is important that the audience is drawn in to your conversation and that they feel a part of it. Be careful not to direct the dialogue just to one place even though you are talking into the phone. Perhaps try pacing up and down and be quite animated with your face and hands as you talk.

I've been to Church!

Written by Rachel Gotobed

(Character enters, mobile phone rings – they answer)

Hi Joanne, it's me. Guess where I've been? No, not shopping. No, not to the gym. Go on... you'll never guess! OK, OK, I'll tell you. Are you ready for this? – I've been to church!

Joanne, are you still there? Yes, I did say I went to church! Now there's no need for blasphemy! Why? Well, because my neighbour Mary kept on asking me, and I couldn't think of any more excuses not to go! Actually, it wasn't that bad. Everyone was very friendly, and there were a few people I recognised from school and round the town. Overall, I'd say it was a surprisingly pleasant experience.

The singing was good. There were a couple of hymns I knew from school, and for the more trendy songs I just mimed and smiled so I looked like everyone else... I even clapped my hands at one point! I think some of the people were having a bit of bother though... they kept putting their hands up but no one excused them, so I was glad I went before it started.

The prayers were lovely and the choir sang beautifully... No, I didn't know the song. It was something about 'a cleansing flood', and so all I could think of were those poor people who'd had their hands up previously! No... there didn't appear to be any water anywhere, although the man who gave the notices said something about them raising £500 for flood relief, so that might have something to do with it!

He also said that there was going to be a large ladies' (men's) meeting next Tuesday, but he didn't clarify what size you have to be, so I don't think we'll be big enough to qualify. Oh yes, that's a good idea – I'll tell Jean, as she goes to Weight Watchers at the church and the man did say about them having to use the double doors, so that must be it.

I thought it was a bit rude myself, but they must be into plain speaking at this church, because he also said that if you knew anyone who was sick of the church that you should put their name on a list on the notice board so the vicar could visit them.

Well, we had coffee after the service and I overheard a few people moaning and groaning, and because I don't know their names, I couldn't put them on the list... But from what I heard, I think they were a bit sick of the church and the last thing they would want is a visit from the vicar!

No, he seemed all right to me. His talk was OK. He talked about 'loving your neighbour', and I was so glad that we moved last year 'cos you know what problems we had with them at number 26! Mary's OK, though – she kept grinning at me like a Cheshire cat all the time he was speaking. Which reminds me, I must tell her to keep her cat out of my garden, it's ruining my rhododendrons!

There was a band there this morning. Mostly tuneful, but the drummer thought he was from Genesis... No, he didn't look like Noah or Adam... No, he had more hair than Phil Collins... I just meant... Look, why don't you come with me next time and then you can see him for yourself?

Yes, I am thinking of going again, at Easter. The vicar said that he has asked Mrs Lewis to lay an egg on the altar this year... You'd like to see that too? Great, we can go together – put it in your diary.

Right then, I must go. Mary wants to know what I thought of the service, so I'm going to pop round. And I'll mention about the cat too – in a 'love your neighbour' kind of way!

Bye!

(Exits)