

Welcome Table APCM 2026 Report

Now in its third year, Welcome Table continues to open the doors of the church to the wider community around us. Every other Monday throughout the year, we host a warm space with toys and conversations, followed by a two-course meal free of charge to anyone that wants to join us.

We are regularly feeding between 40-50 guests, each coming from variety of backgrounds and differing experiences and expectations of Jesus. Some are regular visitors and others come for a period as long as their need lasts. We stand ready to meet any need they come with, often it is one of company and conversation.

These conversations over dinner regularly turn to the gospel, and as we strive to create a safe space with no agenda it creates room for the guests to approach what is on their hearts. This approach has allowed us to explore with our guests who Jesus is and how good it is to be in Gods family. As we disciple our guests, there are a few that have explored further and put more of Jesus in their lives. We are very grateful to God for bringing them home.

We are supported by a wide team of nearly 40 volunteers who graciously give their free time to love others around them as Jesus loves us. Between them a number of roles are undertaken which help the sessions run smoothly, from prayer ministry to washing up, cooks to setters-up, welcome team to playing with the kids. They all join together like cogs in a watch to facilitate Welcome Table, this is no small task with 27 different spots to be filled. Many of our volunteers double up to ensure that a session can run.

Last summer there was a feeling that there had been a subtle shift in God's direction for welcome table, and as we brought everyone together in prayer there was a shared vision of some minor tweaks to how we run. Most significantly this has brought about prayer being more a feature, with a room dedicated to prayer ministry open to the guests and sharing grace at the meal time. We are seeing the fruits of this, with a renewal of openness from guests to talk about God.

Our material needs have been well met by the church, and we are grateful to the PCC for their ongoing support and provision. Despite the large pool of volunteers, we face a challenge in not overburdening them in running Welcome Table. In the coming year, we pray that more would come forwards to join with us and assist in one of the many jobs that form part of running Welcome Table. In doing so we can continue to open the church to the community around us and showing them Gods love.

Prayer Points

- That the community around us know us and the church as a sanctuary
- For continuing gospel conversations, that lead people home to Jesus
- That we are able to grow our pool of volunteers