

Visiting a Secular Church

A secular church is just a place where people gather! Think of Ikea, a betting shop, a decent pub, specialty coffee shop, sporting club, or a restaurant. Visiting one you're unfamiliar with is a great way of being reminded of the feelings and experience of visiting a church for the first time.

Describe your visit.

What did you visit and where is it?

Who is there?

What do you notice as you're approaching the place?

What stands out, grabs your attention, etc?

What do you notice as you walk in the door?

What is inviting about this place?

What has been done to make it inviting; light, music, physical set up, use of space, etc?

What makes you want to come back (or not come back)?

How did the staff treat you? How did this make you feel?

What are the "regulars" doing? What does "fitting in" look or sound like?

How did you find out what you needed to know to make use of or benefit from this place?

How would you describe the 'feel' of the place?

Make a note of the language you hear and see; verbal, signage, etc.

Are there unfamiliar words or phrases?

Is there a way of finding out the meaning of any language you don't understand?

What would you do to improve someone's experience of this place?

How would you feel if you visited with children? With someone who has special needs? With someone from a different class or culture?

What do you know at the end of your visit that would have been helpful to know beforehand?

What did you learn about:

- Welcoming

- Personal engagement

- Communication