

SECTION H
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

Friends and Neighbours

I refuse to shake hands with my neighbour in church
Though my friends they all tell me I ought.
I expect I would find they are pleasant and kind
But I doubt if they're really my sort.

I refuse to shake hands with my neighbour in church
The Almighty I'm sure understands
That I'll smile when outside, but I still have my pride
And in church I refuse to shake hands.

When I get up to Heaven and Saint Peter is there
At the pearly white gates where he stands
As I'm quite free from sin, he will beckon me in,
But I'll flatly refuse to shake hands.

Checkpoints for Parish Liturgy Groups

1. Is our congregation's worship hospitable?

- How are worshippers greeted when they arrive?
- How are guests and new members welcomed?
- Do worshippers know each other? Are they introduced?
- Is there a feeling of "at easeness" among us?

2. Is our congregation's worship engaging?

- Is our worship boring?
- Is there a time and a format for prayers about our needs?
- Does the music (especially the lyrics) engage our lives?
- Do the pains and struggles or the joys and successes of members have a place in our worship?
- Can worshippers take our liturgy home with them?

3. Is our congregation's worship communal?

- Is there a sense of togetherness, of community, during worship?
- Is the presence of other worshippers important to me?
- What more could we do to promote this spirit of community?

4. Is our congregation's worship scriptural?

- Do we experience God talking to us in the scriptures?
- Do the songs, prayers, and rituals revolve around the day's scriptures?
- How can the words and stories of the Bible become our words and stories?

5. Is our Congregation's worship prayerful?

- Describe a time when liturgy was prayerful for you?
- What in particular enhances feeling of God's nearness during worship?
- What distracts from it?

6. Is our congregation's worship careful?

- What is there about our worship that is mechanical and listless?
- Which of the following aspects of worship needs more care: music, preaching, reading, rituals, prayers, physical space?

7. Is our congregation's worship joyous?

- Do worshippers in our community ever "snap their fingers"?
- Where and when do we smile during our worship?
- Are our songs and prayers joyous?