

## House Analogies - Welcome and Presentation

We all receive visitors into our home from time to time. Sometimes they will be first-time guests or people that have visited before – in any event we generally greet them and make them feel valued and accepted just as they are. How would it be if we ignored them and just spoke with our family members; leaving them to find their own way around? We value and honour them by giving them our time and often some refreshment. We show them to a seat and a conversation develops, perhaps around a topic has already been established or something new that we have in common. We listen to them.

Does the entry point to your church allow and encourage such open greeting and hospitality?

Most of us take care about how home presents to those who approach or enter. When my wife and I want to repaint inside or outside of the house we don't always agree at first. However we definitely don't settle on a bland moderate beige. We both have design skills and listen to each other before finding an agreeable and a nevertheless robust scheme. The church family to should debate and settle in love without being boring about its image. It can seek out and use people with skills in colour, presentation and engagement.

We put pictures on the walls of our homes that have meaning for us and present something to others of what is important to us.

How we present the house of the church tells people a lot about us as a church family. Do we care how we appear? When we invite people over the threshold do they receive a warm welcome? Are there facilities to provide them with refreshment? Can we sit down in comfort and talk with them, taking an interest in them and listening to them, showing that we care? We could be framing pictures of the African or Aboriginal community that we have close ties with, or a significant event in the life of the church. A piece of appropriate art or sculpture from a developing world community that your church supports could be displayed in the foyer.

Next time: House Analogies – Relationships and Socialising

The new paperback and ebook, [“Making Property Serve Mission - Rethinking the Church's buildings for the 21st Century”](#), was launched at an event a few weeks ago. Rev Peter Corney, former vicar of St Hilary's, Kew and author of 12 books said:

*“This book is full of practical tools and advice...I think this is a terrific resource”*

*“If you are thinking about doing some work on your buildings, buy it! If you are not, then buy it, because you need to start asking some serious questions about your property and mission.”*

“Making Property Serve Mission - Rethinking the Church's buildings for the 21st Century” by Fred Batterton is widely available online and in Christian bookstores. Available in paperback and ebook. [Further information link.](#)



*At St Michael's North Carlton, the message of Christmas was proclaimed to the community with an illuminated message on the glass foyer wall: “A light shone down on us” Photo Steve Webster*