

## Participant information sheet

### Short title of study

The title of the Study is: 'Why do people belong to a local Church? A study based on selected churches in the Oxford Diocese'.

### **What is the purpose of the study?**

My thesis is concerned with how individuals in the congregations of churches in the Deanery of Woodstock perceive how they belong in their particular church setting and what the main factors of that belonging are, indeed, what are the important elements they consider to be the major dynamics to their belonging.

I want to understand the reasons and conditions with respect to why people belong to their individual churches. Why they search out other churches to belong to and what constitutes the major reasons for staying when they arrive.

### **Why have I been chosen?**

You have been chosen because you are a member of one of the churches in the Deanery of Woodstock, amongst others, and have attended and have experience of the care, worship and working of the church you belong to.

### **Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. A decision to withdraw at any time, or a decision not to take part, will not affect you in any way.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and asked to sign the consent form. This will confirm that you wish to take part in the research. You will be given a 'Tick Box' questionnaire to fill in or access to a web-site for an electronic survey to be filled in. If you wish to continue and to be interviewed, with your permission, the interview will be audio taped. No-one will be identifiable in the final report.

### **What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

There are no disadvantages or risks foreseen in taking part in the study.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

As a member of a church in the Deanery it is possible that you may welcome the opportunity to share and discuss your views and experiences. By taking part, you will be contributing to the development of the understanding of what it means to belong to a church in the Deanery and through sharing your views, hopefully benefit the future of your church.

### **What if something goes wrong?**

If you wish to complain or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated during the course of this study, please contact:

Professor Robert E. Warner,  
Executive Dean of Humanities,  
University of Chester  
Parkgate Road



**Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

All information which is collected about your views and indeed your identity, during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential so that only the researcher carrying out the research will have access to such information.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results will be written up into a thesis. It is hoped that the findings may be used to improve the understanding of why we belong to local churches and therefore inform the way we organise and carry out the activities of our churches. Individuals who participate will not be identified in any subsequent report or publication.

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is funded by the local Eastwood Trust. The Baynes Benefaction Trust and private funds provided by the researcher. The University of Chester will be involved in monitoring and carrying out the study.

**Who may I contact for further information?**

If you would like more information about the research before you decide whether or not you would be willing to take part, please contact:

The Rev'd Roy Turner,  
Student number: 1127378.  
University of Chester,  
CH1 4BJ

**Thank you for your interest in this research.**