

# Use your OLD ARCHIVES to bring in NEW CHURCHGOERS !

## ***FAMILY HISTORY TOURISM IS BOOMING***

There is a huge, growing public interest in tracing family history, highlighted by TV shows such as 'Who do you think you are?' This has been massively streamlined by the Internet, major companies like Ancestry offer billions of searchable records online Church of England birth/marriage/death registers are the most valuable source for this information



## ***THIS CAN LEAD TO REAL NEW CHURCHGOERS***



- At St John's, a non-Christian with an interest in history started documenting the churchyard -> Vicar invited her to social event and Sue started to attend services. Now she is committed Christian
- During Heritage Weekend, one local church put up around the churchyard a series of six simple signs about church history. These attracted several hundred visitors to explore, and led a number of new attendees to Sunday services
- In another local parish, twenty members of a local history group conducted a project to document the history of several churches. They got involved with current church members and several have gone on to attend an Alpha course

## ***SO WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ABOUT IT? SIMPLE TIPS***



### **Website Manager**

- Are opening hours clear?
- Build page on church history
- Include churchyard map

### **Ask Your Local History Buff**

- Build a churchyard and plaque map and index
- Contact your local archive to find out how your registers are accessed, then direct relevant enquiries to them
- Offer simple leaflets on church history and its place in the community. [Contact Us](#) for handy templates

### **Involve Local School / Museum**

- Have a 'clean-up day' for the church and yard
- Encourage stories on church and community history



***Download detailed Guidance Document***  
***Contact Us for more suggestions and templates***