



Christians at work in Luton

Meaningful Dialogue—Thoughts from the Feast

A group of young people from diverse backgrounds and faiths spend the evening eating together and talking about faith. Their reflections are interesting:

“I enjoyed the conversations because it wasn’t really like anything like I had ever experienced before...”



“This was one of the calmest conversations I have had. Everyone listened. I could acknowledge what I think is true and still listen to and understand another person’s view. It was very powerful to me.”

“I enjoyed discussing and listening to the differences between not just our own faiths but even the nuances between the same faiths, showing me that not everything is

black and white.”

“I liked that we could share our own ideas and learn from one another without agreeing on everything. I like that our differences became points of conversation and never contention.”

“Hearing everybody speak so freely about their beliefs while respecting others, made me feel more comfortable to share mine more often, and more curious to listen to others.”

These young people are regularly having meaningful discussions about faith and various contemporary issues. At the heart of the discussion is the desire to really listening to understand someone else’s point of view, rather than to push forward their own opinions.



Disagreement is not overtly expressed but conveyed through participants explaining what they believe and think. No-one is treated as a spokesperson for their faith community or culture, nor is anyone judged by the (negative) actions of others from that faith community or culture. It’s a time for sharing ideas, rather for trying to get others to agree with your idea. No-one is put on the defensive.



The dialogue time is framed around a guiding question, such as: “What thought or portion of your Scripture is currently the most meaningful for you and why?” Or “How have you grown spiritually since we last met?” or “What is your perspective on ... (insert current issue)?”

We then go round the table and each person is given the opportunity to speak to the guiding question, without being interrupted. Everyone else listens, although clarifying questions are encouraged.

Only when every person has spoken to the guiding question, is the discussion opened up more widely. The impact of these discussions is significant.

Time and time again, young people reflect how transformational these encounters are in developing confidence in their own beliefs and identity, but open enough not to dismiss, push away or cancel someone whose views are very different. In a world that increasingly polarises people into belligerent camps, these spaces for dialogue fill us with hope for the future.



To hear more, why not come along to the Churches Together in Luton breakfast on 18th October.

[CTL October Breakfast](#)

Would the community perceive the absence of your church or organisation? Chances are they would, considering the valuable ministries and services it offers. Stay tuned for further updates on the thriving church in Luton as it remains actively engaged with the community
