



"Meet the Neighbours" Guidelines for Hosts

First of all, many thanks for offering to host this event. Meeting other people of faith in the varied places of worship in Westminster is a regular and popular activity.

These guidelines offer a brief guide of expectations so that you can plan an appropriately informative and successful evening.

The Five Main Elements

1) A Talk/ Tour about the Place's History:

Please appoint someone to give a brief (20mins max) talk about the history of your place of worship. The places of worship in Westminster all have fascinating stories. The talk can be enlivened by the use of visuals and the showing of artefacts, if appropriate. Some buildings lend themselves to a guided tour, pointing out features whilst others are more suited to a sit down presentation.

2) A Brief Explanation of Your Beliefs and Practices:

Whilst we are all drawn together by a shared basic belief system, we differ in detail and in practice. Others may know little of your approach and would appreciate a brief description (5 to 10mins) of the main features of your ways.

3) Current Mission:

We often realise just how we share similar mission projects and common challenges when we hear the hosts tell us of their work. Please give a brief 5 to 10 minute outline of current activity and projects.

4) Refreshments and Fellowship Time:

Usually, at the end, the hosts offer drinks and nibbles over which the gathered company meets and chats and interacts. It is up to you and your particular customs what you provide. In the past we have had wine, juice, coffee, tea, crisps, dips, sandwiches, cake.....

5) Worship reflecting your Practice: Worshipping together is a central part of ecumenism. Please plan a short devotional activity which reflects your particular way of approaching liturgy. If it is within the MTN Session, let it be no more than 5-10 minutes. For example, when we were guests of the Quakers, we participated in a short silent worship period, characteristic of the main method of worship followed by The Society of Friends. It could be an extra, though. For example, we went 45 minutes earlier than the MTN Session at Westminster Abbey once, so that we could experience Evensong.

Finally

It is always good to hear the priest/ minister/ convener/ leader of your place of worship speak, but it is equally good if other members of your community are involved.

The style of delivery will differ, according to circumstances. Whilst a "lecturing" approach may be suitable for much of what is to be said, it would be good if a little space is given for interaction through question time. One of the aims of these visits is to deepen understanding of each other so an interactive approach can be helpful.