

Tea and Prayer Together: Some Conversation Starters

Brexit will be a cause of great celebration for some and great lament for others, but now is the time when we can no longer carry on defining each other by how we voted in the referendum and come together to serve the common good in our local community, in our nation and in our relationship with the rest of Europe.

Whatever the future holds for us as individuals, families, communities and as a nation, Christians believe that our future can be entrusted to God; therefore there is hope.

We now must begin the slow, patient and careful work of listening – and creating the conditions for people to listen to one another.

So, when people come together, the following points may help you to get the conversation started:

- Wherever people stand on Brexit, honour the integrity of their position.
- Perhaps make the local community the focus – how will we, here, help shape the future?
- Recognize that, for some there may be a deep sense of anxiety and loss – and for others, a sense of the game turning in their favour. Both may be valid.
- If this community tends to feel the same about the issues, how might people use their imagination to let people who feel differently be recognized as having valid concerns?
- Acknowledge that this is only a first step – a first conversation, backed by prayers of hope, that may start a process of finding clarity together about ways forward.

Some possible opening questions:

- What effect has Brexit had in your family relationships, friendships etc? If you disagreed, has it been possible to disagree well?
- Putting Brexit to one side what are the three main things we have in common that we can build on for a better future *as a community*? What are the three main things *as a nation*?
- What would it mean to live as a people who believe in the Cross and the Resurrection? What might be the “cross” experience for our community – and what would resurrection look like?
- How can we work together to build a more just society which is at peace with itself and committed to a better future for the next generations?



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