



HOSPITALITY

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hospitality is at the heart of who God is as Trinity, God in relationship is at the heart of our faith. This is seen throughout the Gospels in the actions of Jesus where time and again he offers unconditional welcome.

Jesus was interested in individuals and their stories. Think of the account of the Samaritan woman or the story of Zacchaeus. Jesus met them where they were and listened to them. It was in the listening that he was able to share the transforming love of the Father.

Hospitality is the practical action of welcoming someone. The offer of a drink and a place to sit enables conversation to happen and connections to be made. It enables us to become community, to build relationships and to carry each other's stories in prayer during the week.

Enabling someone to be valued and to belong is an act of mission that transcends having to explain our faith to a stranger because they will see our faith in action.



TOP TIPS FOR HOSPITALITY

- Hospitality is worth investing in, get the good biscuits and coffee.
 - Consider variety – decaf coffee, herbal teas and green teas.
 - Invest in mugs. Cup and saucers are not practical, they can be difficult to hold, especially if you have mobility constraints.
- Some people have allergies so provide alternatives and ensure the ingredient content of any food is easy to find out.
- Actively invite people to stay for coffee.
- Ensure that they are not left with no one to speak to.
 - Notice if everyone is just talking in their friendship circles.
Draw other people into conversation.
- Always put out more chairs than the number of people expected.
- Only start clearing away when just the core group are left.
- Don't turn the lights out as a hint to leave.
Politely use words to explain your time limitations.

If in doubt, love as you would want to be loved.