



into the Melting Pot

the question is more important than the answer

Sunday 13 October 2019

Creating A World Beyond The Beliefs That Divide **Notes from the session**

How can you be a follower of Jesus and also non-theistic?

Jesus' teaching doesn't need a God.

Social justice is a driving force for many; some would argue that they are 'followers' of Jesus without recognising it as they are 'being' the person Jesus calls them to be!

Does praying need a 'to'?

For many, God is a 'back-stop' – expressing a need for consolation.

Why are people abandoning religion?

Many read the Gospels as all belief and salvation, and this doesn't chime with their lives.

Non-theism is a modern development or pattern of living.

The Church is not meeting the needs for the population, leading to indifference.

Scientific enquiry is the basis of our education system; traditional views of a supernatural interventionist God just doesn't work today.

Church used to be central to community, but no longer.

Interestingly, it is 'certainty' churches who seem to be popular, but what are their retention rates?

What communities might 'Nones' have access to?

Our Bitesize service touches 18 families and 29 children. Are they a 'full' part of Christchurch in terms of rights and responsibilities? They are certainly part of our pastoral contact. Should we be inviting them to other parts of the church, but if so, why? Hobby groups are a community, but church can be a fuller community.

Should we 'save the Church'?

No.

It's not about 'bringing them in' but us getting out and involved.

Monthly Market Stall idea is being investigated at the moment.