

10 ways to step out with other faiths

The Inter Faith working group led a seminar at the Baptist Assembly 2015 on the subject 'Risk and confidence in a diverse society'. The following guide to building relationships with people of other faiths was shared:

We may meet people of other faiths in all kinds of ways, at work, at leisure activities, in our neighbourhood, in the neighbourhood of our church and in other ways. Below are some suggestions for ways in which Christians and churches may consciously 'step out' to meet and build understanding and relationships with people of other faiths.

1. People of other faiths are likely to appreciate the offer of praying for their concerns. Neighbours or work colleagues who have a family member who is ill are most likely to appreciate an offer to pray for them.
2. On behalf, and with the approval, of your church visit local shops, restaurants, take-aways, taxi firms etc and ask if there is anything they would appreciate you praying for. Such conversations about prayer are an opportunity to listen and may develop into wider conversations and be the start of friendships.
3. Most areas now have some kind of inter faith group, forum or council. The [Inter Faith Network](#) can provide contact details. Find out what's going on in your area and go along to one of their events. There may be regular opportunities to be involved. You may like to invite a representative from the inter faith group to speak about its work and activities.
4. Hold a home group or study series exploring relationships with people of other faiths, possibly drawing on the [resource materials available from this website](#).
5. Invite members of your church who have friends of other faiths to meet to share their experiences.
6. Send a greeting at a festival time to a person of another faith, or from your church to the gathering place of another faith community.
7. Invite a member, or leader, of another faith community to come to a midweek meeting and talk about their life as a person of that faith.
8. Arrange a visit to the place of worship/prayer of another local faith community and then invite them to visit your church.
9. If you become aware of a particular crisis or need in another local faith community, show your support for them with a letter, a gift, a helping hand, or in another appropriate way.
10. If there is a pressing need in your local community, invite members of other faith communities to meet with you to discuss how you could respond together.



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