

## **Wesley's Chapel**

Recently a group of students and 'twenty somethings' were invited to the manse at Wesley's Chapel, where we have all begun to worship in the last few months. Those in the know had realised that, whilst they are gradually getting to recognise us, remember our names and our various stories, we might not recognise each other - or indeed realise that there are other new(ish) members of the congregation of a similar age.

We began with a good chat on the comfy sofas downstairs, everyone shuffling up as more people arrived. What started as a simple round-the-circle introduction turned into a brilliant way to get to know more about each other. Each time the circle widened we introduced ourselves again – and we had soon moved on from name, age, job/studies etc. to facts about our childhood and upbringing, our hobbies, beliefs and, of course, football teams!

Leslie, Jennifer and Joy gave us an overview of the wide variety of work the church is involved in, and this prompted lots of questions from the group. We were able to share our experiences of different styles of worship and discuss what it means to approach God in a liberal-minded way, not seeking comfort from easy 'answers', but with a desire to explore, learn and grow through a questioning, thoughtful faith. The honesty and openness of the group, many of whom had never met, was extremely refreshing.

Many of us had similar issues on our minds, such as being a person of faith in a relationship with a person of no faith, or of a different faith, and vice versa. A couple of very brave young people without religious backgrounds had come to support their partners – and this prompted some interesting discussion. There were also several people in the financial industry who shared their concerns over the current crisis and its impact on their places of work.

We moved upstairs to share some snacks and more conversation. We had a very positive couple of hours, and hope to meet again soon. That way when new faces are spotted on a busy Sunday morning, there will be a network of young people ready to offer fellowship to someone whose situation we were all in not so very long ago.