



United Church Worship Day 8th October 2023 Feedback Summary

14 feedback forms were returned representing 19 people (40% of those not organising or giving talks)

Overall average scores out of 5:

5 Very good, 4 Good, 3 Satisfactory, 2 Poor.

Venue 4.6

Rooms 4.5

Sound 3.8

Catering 4.5

Format and timing 3.7

Overall 4.2

Those who fed back were very grateful for the fact that the day was organised. They thought the venue was a good one and not too far to get to. They enjoyed the opportunity to talk with church friends.

They found the talks inspiring and helpful but felt there was too much packed into the morning with not enough time to reflect and discuss with others in small groups before responding. Someone thought the talks should have been limited to 40 minutes.

They were happy with the choice of afternoon activities and appreciated the service but found this too long. They would welcome the opportunity to discuss the themes of the day on another occasion and/or in house

Extracts from the feedback forms.

Talks

'Lots to take in from Howard. Jo and Patricia thought provoking and informative.'

'Howard inspiring as ever'.

'I enjoyed Howard's talk and it made me think more about Christianity and my own faith journey. Patricia's talk cut to the chase in setting out the financial facts and figures and the dilemmas facing The United Church right now. It was interesting that Tim did his best to give a positive and upbeat slant on everything, when in actual fact the stark reality of the situation we are in was sitting there in front of him. We didn't

get the time to discuss the situation or give the time and thought necessary to fill in the forms we were given.'

'I would have liked a chance to talk together about developing a shared vision that Howard and Jo talked about to better equip us to consider the challenges and opportunities ahead. . This shared vision and ownership of some foundational values for moving forward seems vital if we are to harness a collective effort.'

'Talks were excellent and thought provoking'.

'Excellent speakers but timing could have been tighter.'

'I found Howards' talk valuable and wanted to spend some time using that as a springboard to develop a shared understanding of where we are going. Please can we set up some time to speak again with each other in smaller groups and gather feedback.'

Afternoon activities

'The afternoon activities were well planned. I joined the afternoon walk with Helen and then sat in the grounds chatting to a few others out enjoying the sunshine. I feel it is most important to allow plenty of personal time in a worship day. Time for general chat or just being quiet and wander round the grounds.'

'I joined in Helen's walk. It was just right and made even better by the sunshine. Great to talk with people I haven't spoken to much in the past.'

'The meditation trail. I found it very helpful for my thoughts to be guided as we walked through the woods.'

'I wandered and prayed.'

What did you enjoy most?

'Being in quiet tranquil surroundings and have time to stop and look.'

'The smooth-running of the timetable.'

'The chance to reflect with inspiring contributors. The chance to spend a bit more time talking with church friends. '

'Howard's talk'

'Fellowship and worship.'

What was inspirational?

'Concept of vision in the light of our Christian faith

'Parts of the worship - communion liturgy.'

'Inspired by Howard and Jo to think about what's important for and to us as individuals in the context of our faith. Then a challenge to develop this into what's important for and to this Church.'

'All of the presentations, particularly Howard.'

'Parts of the worship - communion liturgy.'

What was disappointing?

'Being rushed to give feedback after Patricia and Tim's talk as this was such an important subject. More emphasis should have been given to allowing input from the audience.'

'There was not time to go and peacefully enjoy the place as although we were invited to do so, the talks were not ones you could leave, and I felt there could have been spaces between them.'

'Not enough time to discuss in the morning. Nothing really for the young people in the morning - we need to encourage them to discuss with us and that won't happen in the large group.'

'More emphasis should have been given to allowing input from the audience.'

'Timetable a little rushed. Service too long.'

'Flipchart session in service. Service too long.'

'I felt that the service at the end could have been shorter as we were tired by then. Personally I felt it would have been better to have a quiet service without jolly songs. The chapel was beautiful, serene and I would have liked a service that fitted in with that. Or even a liturgy conducted by the nuns.'

Did you feel listened to?

'Not sufficient time to think before sharing.'

'Questionnaire was far too soon. No time to think and pray.'

'I would have valued more time to explore and reflect with others.'

'It might have been a good idea to have a short group discussion time in the afternoon instead of trying to fit so much into the morning.'

'Everyone had chance to have their say.'

'No, but this wasn't the issue for me. I wanted to listen to others but not just people at the front, but those around me in small groups. It was such a good opportunity to do this.'

Would you value an opportunity to extend the discussion?

'Yes' (lots)

'Yes. We can still do this. I think it would be good to talk with people whom we don't normally talk to so that there is a cross pollination of ideas.'

'Yes, possibly in house groups.'

In what way could we improve similar days in the future?

'More space for group conversation, less input.'

'More down time.'

'Portable loop system Occasional Worship Days at United'

'Perhaps only two talks in the morning instead of three would have been better. The closing service should just be a short act of worship to give thanks for the day.

'Everyone is tired by then and ready just wind down and get off home.'

'More time for discussion. Perhaps a clear purpose for the day (Felt like there was a bit of blurring about worship day/away day etc).'

'By switching one of the morning talks to the afternoon followed by a short group discussion time and putting a short creative session into the morning in its place.'

'Not having the whole morning devoted to talks. Maybe save one till the afternoon and a shorter service to finish. Too long a day!'

'The service in the chapel could have been more meditative.'

Bob Lord 24/10/23