



Come e-Dine Together 2021!

FAMILIES SUPPORT GLOBAL SCHEME

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK



The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February

This February, nearly 34 families from 10 different religions and beliefs and many cultural backgrounds who have never met before, have been come together for a special project.

Come e-Dine Together aims to build friendship, understanding and tackle isolation as part of efforts to mark UN World Interfaith Harmony Week 2021. The initiative is the brainchild of HM King Abdullah II of Jordan. Events are encouraged to take place over the course of the month rather than a week.

St Philip's Centre, an interfaith organisation based in Leicester, UK is organising a wide range of get-togethers.

Come e-Dine Together involved the participation of **Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan** and **Sikh** communities plus several family pairings include children which helped to enrich the experience further. The project encompassed many different cultures such as Afghan, Filipino, Indian, Nigerian, Polish, Somali and Turkish.

Come e-Dine Together inspired by the UK television programme 'Come Dine with Me' which is shown on Channel 4. The project is a development on previous schemes run by St Philip's Centre which involved faith communities and the British Army and the Police.

Owing to the pandemic, Come e-Dine Together was an online version of the scheme which connected families who shared the occasion over a meal. Bobby's Restaurant located on Leicester's famous Belgrave Road referred to as the 'Golden Mile', supported the project and by providing meals to many of the families to enjoy.

Riaz Ravat, Deputy Director of St Philip's Centre said, "The response to Come e-Dine Together has been exceptional. This is an international scheme but we have the world on our doorstep here in the heart of the UK. Families from different religions, beliefs, cultures and ages are demonstrating their commitment to unity and understanding not just through words but through actions. At this moment in time with the pandemic, the project also tackles isolation and boosts confidence.

Mr. Ravat added, "I am very proud that families from many different belief and cultural backgrounds have taken part. It means that Leicestershire has contributed to this United Nations supported week in a meaningful way".

In order to make the project Covid secure, households met via video with the intention that when it is safe to do so, they can meet face to face later in the year all being well.



Come e-Dine Together 2021!



"We had a brilliant afternoon last Sunday and very much enjoyed meeting Amit and his family. We really enjoyed the E-Dine experience, having an hour chat about our faith, things that we like to do as a family and generally getting to know this lovely family, it was so interesting to be able to interact with another household as it's been so long since lockdown began last March." - Sarah

Sareh & Paul, Aimee & Lewis dined with Amit & Maya Shah



Polish - Turkish

Come e-Dine Together

9th February 2021



"Myself, Karolina and her daughters had a lovely time exploring each other culture. We have learnt so many interesting facts about Polish accents in Turkey (including the Polish bazaar, Polonezkoy "the village of the Poles" in Istanbul, etc)."

- Barbara

"At such times, this event surely raised all attendees' spirits up. Thank you for the team of St Philip's Centre to make this a reality. Cannot wait to gather altogether post-Covid-19"

- Kadir

Barbara Czyznikowska, Karolina Choina dined with Kadir Demirlenk and family



"Thank for the excellent evening - my family (Badri, myself and Eren) loved meeting Neelu and Anil and we had good old chat. We discussed faith, travel, family, careers, heritage and much more besides -it was a lovely meeting of minds. The meal from Bobbys was excellent- thank you. We would love to do it again." - Ather

"The meeting went very well, we chatted for nearly an hour and 15mins. Thank you St Philip's for this lovely experience" - Neelu

Neelu & Anil Sharma dined with & Ather & Badri Mirza



"We had a great time with the Come E-Dine with me. The meal went well and we were able to ask each other different questions, and also learned that New Year is different in Afghanistan." - Paul

Paul Savage & Family dined with Jawid Alizoda & Family.



"We met Angie Alexander and her family. We felt very much at home despite meeting on a virtual platform. We exchanged with her, her husband Andy and the two boys matters related to culture, faith, values, politics and personal interests. They claimed to be non practicing Christians, yet they seem to possess strong moral and ethical values.

They were eager to learn about the part Buddhism played in our lives. On other matters too, we had good, easy going discussions." - Ramesh

Angie & Andy Alexander and family dined with Ramesh & Radha Bellur



"Angela and I met up for our Come e-Dine on Tuesday this week, 9 February via Zoom. We had a lovely conversation, and learned a lot about each other's faith" - Novetta

Angela Langrick dined with Novetta Headley

"Our virtual come and dine session with Derek.Wss very enjoyable and could exchange lot of important useful information." - Shashi

Revd Derek McLean dined with Shashi & Ramesh Mehta



"It was a very great experience for us and we are all thankful for the opportunity. I was encouraged by the experience and I organized e-dine event with the members of the Filipino Chaplaincy last Sunday evening and it was participated in by 5 couples and one lady. Thank you so much." - Father Herbert

"A really enjoyable evening, good conversation and dialogue about each others culture and faith, also our journeys to the UK. Looking forward to meeting in person once the lockdown is over." - Raj

Father Herbert, Emmy Lou and Nikka dined with Raj & Ramila Chauhan



Come e-Dine Together was featured the Leicester Mercury and on BBC Radio Leicester



<https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/strangers-meet-over-virtual-dinner-5050885>



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p096d069>

See our video of youtube



<https://youtu.be/BPkL4cF8wyQ>

St Philip's Centre would like to thank all the participants for their contribution and feedback.
If you would like to take part please contact Riaz Ravat, riaz.ravat@stphilipscentre.co.uk

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St Philip's Centre Ltd. 2A Stoughton Drive North, Leicester LE5 5UB
0116 273 3459 • stphilipscentre.co.uk
admin@stphilipscentre.co.uk • @SPCLeicester