

## Trinity Community Church, Accrington

Trinity Community Church is a Baptist - Anglican LEP, formed in 2008 with three churches covenanting together to form a new congregation in the Lancashire town of Accrington. The church is keen to find ways of connecting with its local community, and one of the ways it has done this is through hosting community Fun Days, such as the recent 'Spring Special.' *Rev Matt Allen from Trinity, shares their story...*



"At Trinity Church in Accrington, we aim to be good news to our community and to show God's love in every way we can. One way of doing this is our Spring Special. The plan for the Spring Special event was for the church to invite all of the local community to enjoy a free afternoon and evening of fun for all ages. On Saturday 23rd May, we held our annual fun day to which we invited folk from across the town. Our aim was to provide a fantastic and completely free day out. Nearly 500 people came, of all ages, to enjoy the activities and refreshments in the sunshine. We were entertained by John and Rachel Kell, live music from Hannah Katherine Moore, JMS Dance School, Trevor Rowe's puppets, as well as a local ukulele band.

Around the church grounds, the climbing wall, football cage, coconut shy, big inflatables, Gladiator challenge and the gyroscope proved popular. Inside, the Messy Church area, face painting and animal balloons were also a big hit. It was great to share with the community in what proved to be a fun day, in every sense.

Trinity's Spring Special has shown us that people are not afraid of interacting with, and coming along to, events led and run by the local church that challenge those preconceptions of what church might look like. The recipe of free fun, entertainment and faith shared through music, story and Messy Church has again drawn together the people of Accrington."



***"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. " Isaiah 55 v1***

### For your thoughts and prayers:

- What could your church do to connect with the local community, and how would you then follow up that initial connection? How far would your church go to see the community come together in the name of the church?

- Does your church have a mission strategy for community engagement? How would your church cope with 'new arrivals' who may never have stepped foot in a church building before?