

# Sharing Our Story...

## People's Church Partington, MCR



Jonathan Boyers is the minister of the People's Church in Partington, where the church has been faithfully trying to find ways to engage with the local community and share the love of God in accessible ways. One of these has been through a programme called Love Partington, where the church has hosted events to bless the local community, often in holiday times when 'there's not much for the kids around here to do.' This Easter, the church embarked on pulling together an Easter trail that involved the whole community, as Jonathan explains....

'Ruth, one of our church members, is full of amazing ideas of how we can connect with and reach out to the local community. This is a real blessing as it's so good when church members are having dreams and ideas and we are able to say 'yeah go for it and let's see how we can help make this possible.' This year's Easter outreach idea was an Easter trail around the community—not an Egg Hunt, but six different locations around the centre where families could engage with the Easter story. We did this in partnership with a couple of the other local churches too and it was wonderful to work together with that sense of being on God's mission together.

Families started at the Anglican church where they engaged with Palm Sunday, before moving on to the Methodist Church for some foot washing and then to our building to take part in the last supper. We had loads of great conversations with kids and parents as they thought about who Jesus was and the significance of the story.

From here, people were led to the community gardens to write a prayer, before they came to the cross. This was located on a derelict space outside the centre, before people then made the journey to the Hideaway, an amazing local play centre, where they were met with an empty tomb.

We had so much positive feedback from the community and a number of really positive conversations. We've shown the community that churches can work together, that we share the same message, and we've sown seeds of the Easter story in to so many lives. This was all followed up by a community curry night where evangelist and preacher Carl Beech shared his story. Our church building was packed out, with as many 'unchurched' people as believers, with many bringing friends along. The curry was good, the message was great and a number of people responded to Carl's call to begin to explore faith and to come back to the Lord for those who had drifted. All in all, a great week and God is on the move in our community.'

## Home Mission: Supporting, equipping and enabling churches in

