

Operation EDEN Case Study - note Operation EDEN was the pilot project for Faiths4Change

Community plant pots

Toll Bar with Prescott URC, St Helens



To improve the look of our local area and to bring people together we held a community planting day where local people could plant up two large outdoor plant pots – one for themselves and one for a neighbour. The event took place in the church (it would have been outside if the weather was nicer) and refreshments were served. A short act of thanksgiving for the wonders of creation was held at the end.



Getting stuck in!

What we did:

- We held the event in May – church members who were good at gardening bought plug plants early in the year and grew them at home.
- On the day itself experienced gardeners helped others so that everyone could take part.
- We had fun activities for children who were too young to do the planting.

Lessons learnt:

- Check that the event is planned for the right time of year if doing planting. We had initially hoped to plant bulbs to give away – but realised we were too late for this, hence the summer flowers.
- It would have been useful to have had a list for people to be kept informed about future events.

Impact of the project:

Everyone has had their awareness of the environment increased – especially about the wonders of the world around us. This is helping us to build bridges with other local groups and to encourage the formation of a ‘Buddy Group’ through the local Housing Association.

Our partners:

We discussed this project with Helena Housing and have used it as part of their activities to try to get a ‘Buddy Group’ together to support local residents. The local shop was supportive and helped advertise. We received a small grant from Operation EDEN and contributed the rest ourselves.

Where you can go for help or advice:

- Local gardening or allotment associations should have expertise if you don’t.
- Your local garden centre can tell you what is available at various times through the year.
- Try to use Peat Free compost

“One lady had only recently moved into the area and was keen to make new friends – at the end of the day she knew most people’s names and expressed an interest in coming to other events.” *Project coordinator*

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