

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!

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.

Funding:

We received a small grant from Operation EDEN and contributed the rest ourselves.

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.

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*

