



17th – 22nd July

70 young people and their leaders from 9 Churches across Leicestershire bless the communities of Woodgate & Netherhall

Proverbs 2:1-6

*Trust the lord with all your heart, and don't depend on your own understanding.
Remember the Lord in all you do, and he will give you success.*

Monday

Training and Worship

The whole group were together for training at the All Nations Centre which included Worship, Prayer and mini-projects. On the Monday the young people were sent out to demonstrate God's love through Acts of Random Kindness. Some cleaned windows; some handed out sandwiches and some simply blessed people with bible verses & words of encouragement. On the Tuesday they were sent out again onto the streets with their leaders, to demonstrate God's power. This was more challenging but the young people were amazing, talking & praying with people. Each day there was an opportunity for each group to feedback on their experiences.

*"I wasn't going to do the whole week but Jesus spoke to me on the Sunday and the young people challenged me, so I rang work to say I wouldn't be in and came along on the Monday..."
Dumisani Fengu*



Tuesday

Social Action and Community Outreach



From Wednesday to Friday the team divided into two social action centres; one in Woodgate, based at the All Nations Centre and one in Netherhall, based at Laburnum Road Community Church. At both centres, we worked closely with the City Council and Leicestershire Police service on several projects, and each young person had a chance to continue demonstrating God's love and power, taking part in detached work. The work continued in the evenings, with four teams based in churches across the county, providing activities for their local youngsters to take part in.

Wednesday

"It was a pleasure! What a group, the parents should be proud of what they have sown. All the participants were excellent and well mannered. Special thanks to the leaders, they were an example to the Christian faith. It was a joy working with them, all the areas have benefited immensely from the scheme." Ahmed Faraji, Parks Officer

Woodgate

Partnering with the Parks, Environmental and Housing Departments of Leicester City Council, we set about several projects around the area. One project involved litter picking alongside Jethro and Angie from the Environmental team. Another team worked with the Parks Officer, weeding Tudor Gardens, coppicing, digging borders at the entrance to the local youth centre and organising sports activities on Rally Park.



A particular area of concern to the Housing Office was Andrewes Street. The youngsters worked hard to clear the footpaths around the flats and tackled an overgrown garden of one tenant in particular, to which they added more plants. It also gave the group an opportunity to talk to the lady's son about why they were spending a week blessing the community and the man was very thankful for their help.

"Thank you for all of the effort made on Andrewes Street... a huge improvement!"
Sam Taylor, Tenancy Services Officer



Thursday



Netherhall

The majority of the projects were organised by the brilliant Mark Paton of Urban Mission, based at the Church. Working in the area all year round, means Mark is the best person to identify where we can best help and the things that work on the estate. Mark along with the local Housing Office identified several gardening projects to help the more vulnerable tenants on the estate.

One project involved our youngsters helping out at the local school with their summer scheme. Another used the Government initiative *Change4Life*, to encourage primary school children to take part in all sorts of activities, not just sport, and this scheme will continue to run throughout the summer. The Church was also open each afternoon for a family café. The youngsters provided refreshments, along with face painting and crafts for the children. Other projects included sports activities on the local park.

After learning about demonstrating God's love & power earlier in the week, the youngsters were encouraged to undertake detached work in each area. In Netherhall they provided live music outside the shops and a chance to talk to people about their beliefs, using resources provided by Reality (KGP booklets & Quest surveys).



Friday

Again we worked with Charlotte from the Environmental team of the City Council, undertaking both graffiti removal and litter picking on the estate.

Friday Evening

On the Friday evening, we all came together for food, worship and a chance to share stories. Many of the leaders spoke about the inspiration the young people had been in their hard work and their willingness to step out in faith. Others spoke of how they'd got to know their team better over the week. Stories were shared and it was a great encouragement to all those involved, plus the people who had come to listen to what had happened during the week. Becky told the following story...

"Generally you do not get the opportunity to follow up a random act of kindness, usually the blessing is showered and then left up to our wonderful creator to do the rest. This year however was different. On the Monday we met a man at his car wash business and we bought him a coffee and gave him a card too. On the Friday we got to go out again and we met him and he talked to us openly about his faith and the troubles he was going through in his life. We got the chance to share our stories and hear his, and then we had the privilege of praying with him. He was taken aback by this and extremely grateful. It was so special to have some input into these people's lives and them in ours, through the Lords guiding Hand."

Becky Murgatroyd, Sutton in the Elms Baptist Church



Thanks

A huge thanks goes to all our partners and supporters, especially those who held us in prayer over the week. Particular thanks go to Ahmed Faraji of the Parks service, the PCSOs, Angie Vodi of the Environmental team and the City Wardens, Charlotte & Jethro, who worked tirelessly alongside the youngsters all week. We are also grateful for the financial support provided by the Hinckley Road and Keyham Lane JAGs (Joint Action Groups), to pay for refreshments & food for the group. Further thanks goes to those who provided the food including the two Churches involved, All Nations Church Leicester and Laburnum Road Community Church. Thank you also to the worship teams from Coalville Youth for Christ and All Nations Church Leicester; and the group organised by Phil Ndabananiye.



Congratulations to all those who attended the week, you worked so hard and were a real inspiration to all those involved and the communities you served.

Our final thanks go to our Lord Jesus Christ, for His provision over the week. Psalm 89:8 says, *Who is like you, LORD God Almighty? You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.*

The Lord definitely provided all we required, including courage and it was amazing to see His power demonstrated.

Bez Gradden, Events Manager, Reality Youth Project

"The things we do at Ncounter summer shouldn't be just restricted to one week in the summer. But should inspire and equip us to do things through out the year and in our daily life." Charlotte Carpenter, Whetstone Baptist Church