

## The Ridge Ministry, Lancaster

The Ridge is a post-war council estate within Lancaster, built on the slopes north of the Asthon Memorial. As part of Lancaster Baptist Church's outreach in the city, they have begun a work reaching out to the estate through Rev. Linda Mackenzie, who is getting stuck in and seeking to be the presence of Christ in that estate. Away from the lights, the historic attractions of the city centre, and the buzz of student life, this is a valued and timely ministry for the church to be engaging in. Linda shares something of the work she's involved in....



"The work on the Ridge is going well. At The Older People's lunch I said that I would pray for people if they wanted me to. We started to say grace before the meal, but one day I forgot, so one of the old ladies told me and promptly said grace herself. She now does that regularly. There is a real friendship between all of the people who go there. We also give people a big hug as they arrive and as they depart. At first they were a bit stiff and apprehensive, but now they give big hugs back and hug one another.

One of the church members brings her mother as it is good company for her. I also have a helper from the church who makes a great contribution in many ways. I have seen great developments in the young people at the youth club over this last year, building good relationships with them and a mutual respect. I am just one of the people at the youth club, but a constant and caring presence for these youngsters makes a massive difference in their lives.

We have just started prayer on the Ridge. Every Tuesday, we give out cards saying that we believe in God, we believe God hears our prayers and answers them, then we ask if we can pray for people. We have had prayer requests and also some very interesting conversations. I ask for prayer specifically for this work as it is a new venture and feels definitely like Daniel walking into the lions den.

I still do some work in church with regular services and I have also set up a craft evening for people to come and play. This is being used by a very diverse group of people from the church and is also there to bring friends to. Last year we had a 'come and play' day which went very well, we also had a sale of works and a coffee morning combined which raised a tidy sum which we gave to persecuted Christians.

Lastly, every few weeks after the church service, about a dozen of us from church go into Lancaster City centre and give out fruit, tea, coffee, biscuits, sweets that say 'Jesus loves you' on them and of course free hugs. We call these events Street party because they have a real vibrant feel to them. As you can see, things have progressed and I am very thankful to the people who pray for the work and also for LBC for their support and the willingness of the church members to join in and have a go."



### For your thoughts and prayers:

- Are there estates near to you that you could engage with and begin a ministry in?
- What would creative evangelism and sharing the good news look like to you in your context?