

# Sharing Our Story...



## Openshaw Baptist Tabernacle, Manchester

This April, Forest Church, Manchester was launched. This is a new initiative from the Urban Expression team based in Openshaw Baptist Tabernacle (OBT). Openshaw's minister Tim Presswood explains:

"OBT has long been twinned with the Baptist chapel in the Lake District at Hawkshead Hill and they have worked together to heal the divide between urban and rural. Forest Church is a new, inclusive expression of church aimed squarely at those who are not attracted to conventional church. As we walked, one participant spoke freely about 'the church I don't go to.'

Currently meeting once a month on a Sunday morning, Forest Church aims to enable people of all faiths and of none to find God in nature. Meeting in different locations each month, participants are kept up to date via our website, as well as the Facebook group and Twitter feed. Usually involving a walk, Forest Church draws heavily upon Celtic traditions, viewing mind, body and soul as united. God is to be found both in the natural landscape in which we walk and also in the way in which humans interact with that landscape.

God loves both the countryside and the people who walk through it. So, Forest Church welcomes all, irrespective of gender, sexuality, age or ethnicity.

More details can be found at the website, [www.forestchurchmanchester.org.uk](http://www.forestchurchmanchester.org.uk)

### **For your consideration, reflection and prayers:**

- To what extent does your church engage in connecting with God outside the four walls of the church building? How do you think you can encounter God beyond Sunday gatherings?

- Openshaw is a church from 'inner-city Manchester' but relating with a rural church and exploring ways of being church beyond the local environment. What do you think are the benefits of coming away from our 'normal context' to meet with God?