

Sharing Our Story...

Hoole Baptist Church



Hoole Baptist Church have been developing Missional Communities as an intentional way of engaging with those 'outside the church' and growing as a community of disciples. Here, Andy Glover, who leads HBC, shares their story of how Missional Communities (MCs) has impacted their life as a church, including an MC on the Blacon Estate on the edge of Chester. Andy explains...

"Katie is a single mum with four children who has become part of our Blacon MC. Her children go to the same school as Ed (Blacon MC leader) and Lynsey's children. Lynsey is a governor at this school and every Friday morning Ed and Lynsey go into to the school and take an assembly. Katie moved to Blacon to escape domestic violence from her partner and our MC helped her set up home, helped decorate and lay floors. In May, Katie made the decision to follow Jesus and she is being discipled by two ladies from the MC on a regular basis.

Ed has been leading two monthly IPODS (intentional Places of Discipleship). These are our primary vehicle for discipling our leaders across the MCs and wider church. They are six to eight in number and use the key discipleship question, 'What is God saying to you and what are doing in response to this?' Ed also sends out a monthly news and resource update for all our MC Core teams. At this moment, as a church, we have seven MCs including a newly-launched Messy Church MC that runs once a month in our building in Hoole.

During these past 12 months, we have held eight baptisms – six of these have been people coming to or developing their faith through the Missional Communities. One of the MCs is called Welcome. This MC has had four of its members baptised this year. Back in October, we held an evening with a couple of baptisms – one of the people being baptised was Penny. Penny is a member of the Core Team for one of the Welcome MC. Penny's decision to be baptised is a result of the growth in her own personal discipleship journey and a significant part of this have been the commitment Penny has made to be involved in our regular IPODs.

The Welcome MC has developed a strong focus on the 'People of Peace' model that a number of the Core team have and they have held regular gatherings where these people have been invited along. They have also started up an 'International Forum.' This takes place once a month and includes the people of peace telling their stories of living in the UK and what life was like in the country of birth. As a result of the developing and strengthening relationships within the MC, Penny was able to invite these People of Peace to come and witness her baptism and to be involved in the evening gathering that it was a part of. At the baptism, 12 people of peace came along, heard Penny's testimony and began to see the wider context of church community that the Welcome MC belongs too."

Reflective Questions: In what ways is your church a 'missional community'? In what ways do you as a church and you personally connect with those who aren't part of the church?

Home Mission: Supporting, equipping and enabling churches in God's Mission

