

Sharing Our Story...

Ellesmere Port Community Ministry



Rose Uitterdijk is minister of the Community Ministry in Ellesmere Port, where signs of the kingdom and hope are beginning to shoot up in the community, as Rose shares with us here:

'Some of the things that often give me the most pleasure in life are the small things; hearing our grandchildren laugh, the smell of a good cup of coffee, the beauty of the winter tree silhouettes. Likewise, in our work in Ellesmere Port, it is the small things which often encourage me the most. In writing a good news story it is tempting to look for a big event to write about, but sometimes, and maybe more often, we see God at work in the little things that can easily be overlooked. Like a tiny flower pushing its way through concrete to bloom against the odds, so we see, in the pain of people's lives, moments of sheer beauty. These teach us so much about our God and the care that God takes over each individual.

Some of our group were on their own at Christmas and went to the Salvation Army. Afterwards, one of them invited the others back to his home for the rest of Christmas Day. We loved seeing how they looked out for each other on what could have been a lonely day. But this is not the only thing where we're seeing God at work:

There's the joy we could share with one of our Iranian friends as her husband was granted a visa to come here and be reunited with her and their five-year-old son;
A man who started coming to our Tuesday 'Bible study' group and prayed for the first time;
Seeing a woman we baptised a couple of years ago becoming part of the Poverty Truth Commission in the area;
Becoming friends with a young widow and her children, and seeing them become more and more confident with us;
Thursday morning computer, craft and coffee, where we are seeing people make and deepen

friendships. Some refer to themselves as part of the gang - I love that they feel they belong.

Of course, no good news story is complete without coffee! I spend a fair bit of time sitting with people, deepening relationships, listening, laughing and at times crying. What a privilege it is to walk with people, made in God's image and deeply loved. We so want them to know the truth of that for themselves.'

Who are you connected to? In what ways do you share the love of God with those you are connected to?

