



Yorkshire Church on Show

A GREAT Christian Presence
At the GREAT Yorkshire
Show

Issue 12 - Autumn 2010



This year the Parable of the Sower was used to focus on seeds of potential that God has planted in each of us, also featuring the biblical text: *"All things are possible with God."*

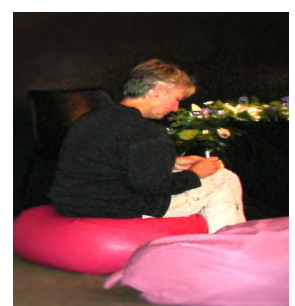
Story Tellers gave 120 interactive presentations of the Parable of the Sower, encouraging listeners to consider and explore what the parable might mean to themselves and others.

4000+ sunflower seeds were planted and 1000+ petals of faith and prayers were written and added to the display. Other activities encouraged thought about hopes, and disappointments. Fridge magnets with the theme and logo (a daffodil breaking through concrete) printed on them were given out as people left the display.



Public comments....

- Very simple and very good
- I just called in because it looked so lovely – I didn't expect to stay so long.
- Loved planting the sunflowers - something young and old could work on together.
- Caused me to think about God again.
- God is opening up my prayer
- Why isn't our Gala Church Tent like this?



Display Development

Five years ago the ecumenically representative Yorkshire Church on Show Committee challenged the Design Team to work together in designing and implementing a display for the Great Yorkshire Show that would more effectively attract many more Yorkshire Show visitors to engage with the Church on Show display.

The content of previous displays had chiefly been a static visual and informative display about churches and ministry in Yorkshire. In the period preceding 2004 as few as 600, chiefly older church members, were visiting the display over the three days, mostly for only a few minutes and with very little interaction with a small number of stewards. The change of approach was to re-focus the display entirely on relevant Gospel messages that our churches share and are called to share.

Using interactive activities the overall aim has been to explore the Gospel with those of all ages, in a way that engages those of all faiths and none. Emphasis has been given to what the Church has to say and believes rather than what the Church is and does.

Over the past five years the number of visitors to the display has consistently grown and this year reached a total of 4,433 visitors over the three days appealing to a wide age-range. The average time and interaction with visitors has each year substantially increased and a growing number of visitors tell us they make a priority of allowing more time to return each year.

In fact, in the past two years we have had to increase the space available, reduce the number of features, and at times subtly marshal the flow of visitors to cope with demand and maintain the quality of interaction.

We believe the statistics and visitor comments, some of which appear overleaf, bear out the success and effectiveness of our change in approach.



2011

Dates

Tues 12th July

Wed 13th July

Thurs 14th July

*Further details will be
found on the official
Great Yorkshire Show
Website*

www.greatyorkshireshow.com

**Don't forget to keep a
watch on our own site**

www.yorkshirechurchonshow.org.uk

Contact details

Chair: Revd Maureen Browell: maureenbrowell@talktalk.net (01484 545085)

Treasurer: Mark Gosling: mark@gosling.entadsl.com

Secretary: Edward Smith: edwards@stlcloze.freeseve.co.uk (01423 886529)

Chief Steward: Mrs Margaret Davis: margaret@davisthegables.fsnet.co.uk (01423 70172)

Communication: Revd John Davis: revjhdavis@gmail.com

Yorkshire Church on Show is supported by the Anglican Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield and York, along with the Yorkshire Baptist Association, Quaker Outreach in Yorkshire, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds, the Salvation Army and the Methodist Districts of Darlington, Leeds, West Yorkshire and York and Hull.