



SET UP A FOOTBALL TEAM

Why did you do it?

We wanted to find a way to meet people who might not be interested in attending church but might enjoy a friendly game of football. Playing football together is a mission opportunity to share God's kingdom. Jesus said that "everyone will know that we are his disciples, if we love one another." As we play football together other people get to experience God's kingdom through the way we speak to one another and the way we act towards each other, on and off the pitch. And as they see it, hear it, and experience it, they know that we are disciples of Jesus.

What did you do?

We found 3 people who were willing to commit an hour and a half to playing football every fortnight. We then bought a set of portable goals and went out in the park to play football. We used social media to get the word out and if we saw people out in the park playing football we asked if they wanted to join us for a game.

How did it work?

We have got to know people who we might not otherwise have met by being out on the field playing football. It's been great to build friendships and there's something about playing as a team which gets you working together. It's a shared experience and it helps reinforce those friendships. Some of the people who play football with us have come to other events that we put on for our community and it's been great to see these friendships grow in other, non-football contexts.

Where did you do it?

We use our local park, but have also used local astro pitches, especially in the winter when the park is muddy and the afternoons are dark.

What would you do differently?

If we started again we would try to find enough volunteers to run two sessions. One for under 16's and one for over 16's. At the moment we mix the ages together which is great for keeping it friendly but it does bring some additional safeguarding challenges.

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