

## Good Friday on Northolt's 'mountain range'

07/04/10

Christians from Northolt and Greenford united for a special Good Friday service on top of Northolt's own 'mountain range'.

More than 250 people from at least 11 local churches met for children's workshops and prayer before walking together in three groups, from north and south of the A40, converging on the tallest of the four man-made mounds at Northala Fields.

The half-hour act of worship for the 'Soul in Northolt and Greenford' (SING) network was co-ordinated by the Revd Greville Thomas, Rector of St Mary with St Richard, Northolt and the Revd Charmaine Howard, pastor of Northolt Park Baptist Church. Ealing North MP Steve Pound was among the worshippers who climbed the hill via its winding path.



Northolt and Greenford Methodist minister, the Revd Kip Bennett, led an Easter morning sunrise Communion service around the cross, which then remained on the hill for the coming week, visible to hundreds of thousands of travellers in and out of London on the Western Avenue this Easter.

The Revd Greville Thomas said:

"Rather than competing, through SING we have an opportunity to learn from and be enriched by each other. People are on the whole confused by the different denominations and churches and I often feel that if we can't get on with each other, how can we speak with integrity of a God who loves all?"

Northala Fields, a piece of public open space beside the A40 in South Northolt, was opened in March 2008 by Ealing Council when abandoned land was transformed into play areas, an amphitheatre, fishing and boating ponds and four overlapping conical mounds - the tallest measuring 26 metres – created from 60,000 lorryloads of spoil and crushed concrete, much of it from the old Wembley Stadium. Pastor of Greenford Baptist Church, the Rev David Wise, chairs the Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park.



The Revd Simon Winn of St Joseph the Worker, Northolt, said:

"Soul in Northolt and Greenford began in 2003 as we planned for the London-wide Soul in the City initiative, and sprang from a desire among 11 'smaller' churches to listen to and serve our community.

"We are diverse, ranging from 'High Church' Anglicans to Baptists, Methodists and a Pentecostal church. Our shared vision is to see God's kingdom grow through outreach, service and showing solidarity and love to the people of Northolt and Greenford.