

Walk for Water (at Greenford, Ealing Trinity Circuit 35/24)

How would you like it, if every drop of water used in your house had to be collected from the river and carried home? To give people a taste of what is the reality of life for 900million people world wide, and raise some money, Greenford Methodist Church joined up with local charity Operation Wellfound (www.operationwellfound.org) to stage a sponsored Walk for Water.

The idea was simple. Take a bucket to the river, fill it with water and bring it back to the church to fill a children's swimming pool on the forecourt of the church. The geography is perfect. The River Brent is one third of a mile from the church, and the walk is straight through the town centre. So with buckets in hand or on heads, and participants wearing special t-shirts there was plenty of scope for engaging the local people in conversation on the way.

Participants came from the Ealing Trinity Circuit, The SING ecumenical group of churches in Northolt and Greenford, and people from other churches and denominations in Ealing. The event was started by the Mayor of Ealing, Barbara Yerolemou, and participants included Stephen Pound MP, and Ian Gibb, the Conservative parliamentary candidate.



Comfort, Joyce, Yvonne and Olive
in Greenford Broadway

Music on the church forecourt was provided by the Stonebridge Steel Band, and a barbecue lunch completed the FunDay atmosphere. And despite earlier dire weather forecasts the sun shone.



Rev Kip Bennett at
Greenford Church

By the end of the morning about 100 people had carried at least one bucket of water up from the river, one person had collected 149 litres in 7 trips, and we had 2,342 litres of water in our swimming pool. We are still waiting for some of the sponsor money to come in, but estimates suggest that about £3000 will have been raised.

Perhaps the most striking thing however was the experience and expertise on display. For a surprising number of people, this was not a new experience, but a reliving of what had been their own reality at an earlier period of their lives. How many in your congregation have carried water out of necessity?