We began to pray about it..

and in faith we decided to go ahead

Syd Little at Warfield

"So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people eveywhere" (Luke 9:6)

Three years ago during a time of worship, I "saw" a picture in my mind which I believed was from God. It was of a large green area full of people praising God. I recognised the green as being on Warfield Park, near Bracknell, an estate of over 400 'mobile' homes of mostly the retired with a sprinkle of families. This community is different from the new housing estates where our two Church Plants operate. I shared my picture with the small group that meets in the community centre on the green and they were excited and began to pray about it. I also told others but I could not see how *"the picture"* would come about.

Prayer request

Please pray for Gary and his team that God will continue to use and speak to them in this exciting way.

Please pray that as many people as possible will respond with a 'yes' as they are invited to the Alpha course this autumn.

Then Elaine Chalmers-Brown told me she had the possibility of booking Syd Little and my picture had come into her mind. Could we do something with Syd on Warfield Park on June 28th?

In faith, we decided to go ahead. With £2,000 from the PCC, a promise of help from the Parish Council and the enthusiastic endorsement and involvement of the Warfield Park Community Association, we arranged a fun day.

"We believe that lost people, young and old, matter to God, and therefore, ought to matter to the Church" (Distinctive Values 2)

Attractions organised included a bouncy castle, live music, a street entertainer, games and competitions and face painting, with cream teas in the afternoon and burgers in the evening. Then Syd Little entertained us and shared his faith story. Information on the Christian faith and Alpha was available as were Christians to chat and serve. We offered people free Bibles and a response card asking for reactions and inviting them to a daytime or evening Alpha.

My prayer was for 1,000 people and 100 responses - enough to begin a New Church plant on Warfield Park in the almost completed brick built community hall. On the Thursday before the event, three people from the Park had already expressed an interest in attending an Alpha course. God, as always, had gone ahead of us!

On the day, we had possibly 600 people pass through and 200 people, including the Mayor, heard how God had worked in Syd Little's life. Many more saw the gospel in action as we fed and entertained people for free. We now hope to run an Alpha course in the autumn. Many want us to run another event and one lady commented: *"I only came for ten minutes but I've been here six hours."* Two people asked us to start a church on the Park.

Please pray that many people will respond as we invite them to an Alpha course.

Gary Shirley

Since 1999, as Church Army Evangelist and Church Planter, Gary has served in two Warfield church plants and helped to set up the newest one at St Peter's. Led by a lay team, it has grown in numbers and commitment to evangelism.