



Top Tips for Volunteers - Shop Reflective Prayer Space

Before the Reflective Prayer Space

1. Have an engaging display outside, Abingdon base, the display could have questions as part of it to help people know how they can pray or write thoughts specifically for Abingdon.
2. Be clear in the window it's a space for children and adults.
3. Have posters you can put up in friendly stores in the precinct and in mayoral hall.
4. Let friendly shops know their staff are welcome to come and use the space in their lunch times.
5. Invite the local press as a follow up to the incident in the precinct at Poundland - shows we care and are consistent.

Volunteering outside the shop

1. One volunteer handing out prayer guides. (Passers by will then have a guide and may come back another day) Please don't stand by the shop door as this may seem intimidating. Instead be more in the central walk way for the precinct. Perhaps say to them as you hand out a leaflet: **Just to let you know the community shop is open for you to use today as as a space for reflection.**
2. One volunteer near the outside display so that as people stop to look at the display you can chat to them or invite passers by in.
3. Explain who you are. We are from churches together in Abingdon.
4. Ask questions that help people see why the reflective space is relevant to them. How does it relate to their life? E.g. **What does Easter mean to you? Do you have any questions about what Christians celebrate at Easter? The community shop is exploring what Christians believe, feel free to pop in and visit sometime this week.**
5. Remember it is likely the people we talk to will have no concept of a prayer/reflective space. Say reflective/prayer space and they think 'what the heck is that?!' Explain it is a space to reflect on questions we have about life and we have created some creative ways to reflect on the Easter story to help you do just that.
6. If you ask a questions that seems to work well, share it with the other volunteers, lets share what works well and what doesn't work so well!
7. Don't approach children, only adults.
8. Don't forget to bring a coat incase your are outside!

Volunteering inside the shop

1. Welcome people as they come in, if they don't have a guide, offer them one.
Hello, my name is....., I'm part of the churches together in Abingdon team, these guides will explain to you what the space is about and how you can use it to reflect in the different areas if you wish. Then step back to let people explore.
2. Try not to stand in the middle of the space or to sit there when the shop is empty, as it creates a 'barrier' for people to pass through when looking around. It doesn't look too friendly from the outside either.
3. Perhaps be actively doing one of the activities yourself if the shop is empty. This way onlookers will see people actively engaging in the space.
4. Invite people to leave a comment.
5. **Smile and be friendly.**