

Flowers, Faith and Photos

Photography group



St John the Evangelist, Old Trafford

This 8 week course was set up by Faiths4Change with St John's Church and Old Trafford News (OTN) to provide an opportunity for local people to improve their photography skills. Working with OTN who had a surplus of students interested in a photographic skills course and St John's Church who wished to find more opportunities for opening the church up for community use, Faiths4Change worked with both partners and enrolled 13 students from the surplus list, to work with a professional photographer, based in the lady chapel in the church, but after having heating problems in the church we had to resort to the Centre next door! The 8 week course had an additional week for exhibition preparation, so there were a total of 18 hours training for the 13 students which dwindled down to 11 students



Oak chair detail

The brief of the course for the photographer was to support students to develop their photographic skills and encourage the appreciation of the environment and places of worship in Old Trafford through the

camera lens. We asked the tutor to capture the good and bad aspects of the environment - for instance the award winning parks, the beautiful tree lined avenues as well as rubbish and fly tipping.



Mosque pillar

The other aspect was to capture the places of worship - we were based in St John the Evangelist church with its grand stained glass windows and we also wanted to capture the more modern church and the traditional Roman Catholic church, we snapped inside and out as well as the mosque which unfortunately we were only able to capture the outside.



Duerr's iam factory

The resultant exhibition included some very inspirational photos and many caught the colour and texture of Old Trafford! As you can see from these fine examples, the students created some wonderful pieces of photographic art for the exhibition which ran for 6 weeks in the church.

The exhibition was opened by the Bishop of Middleton and he especially asked to be there as he was so impressed with the way the church was using the church to engage with the wider community - people of all faiths. We celebrated with tea and home made cake. Very elegant!

