



# Feast of Fun

Impact Report  
Summer 2021



**TOGETHER  
LIVERPOOL** 

**FEAST**   
 **F FUN**



# TOGETHER LIVERPOOL

## About Us

Together Liverpool is a social justice charity working to equip churches, communities and charities across the Diocese of Liverpool area to make a bigger difference to people's lives through social action, as part of our Network of Kindness Initiative.

Find out more: [www.togetherliverpool.org.uk](http://www.togetherliverpool.org.uk)

## Contact Us

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# Introduction

## DIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL - FEAST OF FUN - SUMMER 2021

Feast of Fun activities celebrate food and families, strengthening relationships between churches and their local communities.

In Summer 2021, Together Liverpool awarded 18 Feast of Fun grants to churches across the Diocese of Liverpool, as part of the charity's Network of Kindness initiative.

These small grants of £130-£500 enabled churches to offer holiday clubs, fun days, recipe cards with food, barbecues and cooking classes for families in their communities.

Over 1,000 families - including 1,150 children - took part in a Feast of Fun event. All 18 activities engaged with single parent households, and three engaged with asylum seekers and refugees.

## Feast of Fun in Numbers

**82%**

of Feast of Fun activities engaged with BAME households, while 18% engaged with LGBTQ+ youth and families

**78%**

of churches would not have run their activities without this grant from Together Liverpool

**94%**

of Feast of Fun activities engaged with families on free school meals

**2200+**

people took part in Feast of Fun activities

**176**

volunteers supported Feast of Fun events at 18 churches

# Making a Bigger Difference



WIGAN WEST

Together Liverpool equips churches, communities and charities to make a Bigger Difference in their communities.

The Feast of Fun grants provided a catalyst for more social action across the Diocese of Liverpool.

Over 3 quarters of churches said they would not have ran their activity without the grant. For some churches, the grants made it possible for them to extend existing summer activities, offering food for the first time or getting involved with community partners in new ways.

## CHURCHES CONNECTED WITH NEW FAMILIES FOR THE FIRST TIME AND RECONNECTED WITH THEIR COMMUNITIES FOLLOWING LOCKDOWN

83% of Feast of Fun activities involved community partners, meaning that churches formed new partnerships with schools, local businesses, MPs and organisations through their events. Several hope to build upon these partnerships in the future, offering similar activities again in the months ahead.

Together Liverpool's Feast of Fun grant both encouraged and enabled churches to run activities in their local communities. The events allowed churches to re-engage with families following months of COVID lockdowns. They also helped tackle food insecurity in their local areas. Around two fifths of activities were specifically aimed at families on free school meals.



ST GEORGE'S, EVERTON



ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WALTON



WIGAN WEST

# What our Feast of Fun churches said

"The grant has enabled us to continue developing relationship with the families in our local community. For many, this was their third zoom online cooking series but for one or two families it was the first time they had been able to engage with anything connected to church. It was a very easy thing to be able to invite people into and it has strengthened relationships with several families on the fringe who then went on to put their children in our summer play scheme."

**- Living Room Church, Norris Green**

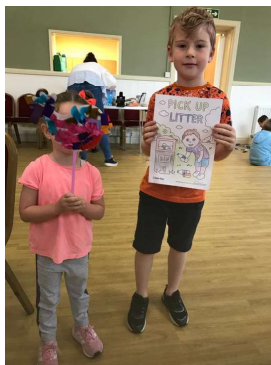
"These Grant aided events are so important to the continuing presence of our church in the community. We are not just the 'church chimes on a Sunday' but the beating heart of the community. We hope you continue your support in future"

**- St Stephen's Church, Hightown**



ST STEPHEN'S, HIGHTOWN

**"THIS GRANT BOTH ENABLED THE HOLIDAY CLUB AND GAVE US A PROMPT TO DO IT. THANK YOU FOR RELEASING US TO DO IT" - ST MARY'S, WALTON**



ST GABRIEL'S, HUYTON



"The Feast of Fun Grant made a huge difference by helping us to meet, develop and strengthen relationships with new families as well as families we are already in contact with. We also developed and strengthened relationships with community partners in our local community. The Grant also made a huge difference for us as a parish as we would never have been able to offer this without this."

**- St Gabriel's Church, Huyton Quarry**



SUTTON PARISH



ST GEORGE'S, EVERTON

"We were able to connect with several families that we had never engaged with before and invite them to come along to future initiatives like the Feast of Fun. Some of the families also enquired about our church services and said they would like to start attending church which was also a great success. This has encouraged our parish to start preparing to relaunch some form of children's ministry on Sunday mornings."

**- Sutton Parish**

# What our Feast of Fun churches said



CHRISTIAN GOLD HOUSE MINISTRY



"We would love to do this every school holiday because during the holidays the under 5's provision in the area stops and the parents become isolated, but due to us being in a deprived area and the churches having a restricted finance pot it would prove difficult to cover the costs."

**- Kirkby Team Ministry**

"We are incredible thankful for the opportunity to run Feast@5 with some of the most disadvantaged families in Walton. This was a perfect way to start our work in Arnot St Mary's, which will continue into the future."

**- St Mary's, Walton**

"The Feast of Fun had a big impact in opening up to more families and strengthening community relations with the church and neighbours."

**- Christian Gold House Ministry**

**"IT WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS! AND WE AIM TO DO ANOTHER ONE IN SEPTEMBER!" - ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, CROXTETH PARK**

"I think we would have run something similar but we would have had to ask people to provide their own ingredients, which - for many of our families - is just a stretch too far over the summer holidays with all the other outgoing costs! So it wouldn't have been possible in the same way without the grant."

**- Living Room Church, Norris Green**

"We reckon we provided over 500 breakfasts and 500 lunches during this summer project, half of which were funded through the Together Liverpool grant money. Thank you for backing our proposal and enabling us to participate with such important work in our community."

**- St Luke's, West Derby**

"We're really grateful for the continues support of Together Liverpool. Thank you for your willingness to find and share resources."

**- St Andrew's, Clubmoor**



ST GEORGE'S, EVERTON



LIVING ROOM CHURCH, NORRIS GREEN

# Locations



## 18 CHURCHES HELD FEAST OF FUN ACTIVITIES:

- St Cuthbert's, Croxteth Park
- Living Room Church, Norris Green
- South Hub Church, Wigan
- St Luke's, West Derby
- Sutton Parish
- St Mark's, Haydock
- St George's, Everton
- St Andrew's, Clubmoor
- Trinity Church, Page Moss
- St Nathanael's, Walton
- Glory Worship Church
- St Gabriel's Church, Huyton Quarry
- Christian Gold House Ministry
- St Mary's, Walton
- St Stephen's Church, Hightown
- Wigan West
- Dingle Parish
- Kirkby Team Ministry



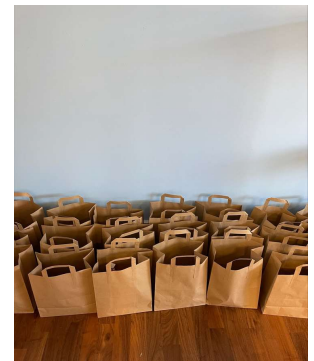
# St Luke's West Derby

1000 healthy breakfasts and packed lunches were provided to families in West Derby, as St Luke's church partnered with community youth group Smarty's and local food support hub The Drive.

The three organisations worked together to host a holiday club including days out.

6 volunteers made 500 breakfasts and 500 lunches children and many of their parents

The activity helped build relationships between the church, community and local organisations. Most holiday club attendees were pre-existing Smarty's members, including BAME people, single parent households, asylum seekers and refugees.



**"IT MEANT THAT WE WERE ABLE TO BE AN  
ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN OUR COMMUNITY AT A  
TIME OF GREAT NEED" - REV JONTY FORSTER**



**Rev. Jonty Forster, vicar at St Luke's said:**

"The project has helped to feed, entertain and occupy a significant number of children and young people in our community over the summer.

"It has taken a huge pressure of families in terms of sourcing food. It has also given families, who need a break, some rest by giving children and young people a place to be throughout the summer to be entertained."

He added: "It has also strengthened the link from church to the community as we were able to connect with people who don't come on a Sunday, but have since shown an interest in baptism for their children and kids church in the future."

# Glory Worship Church



Children from inner city Liverpool learned to make Ghanaian and Indian food, as well as an American pancake breakfast, during Glory Worship Church's 'Little Cookers Club' Feast of Fun event.

Families were invited to the three-day holiday club, where children learned knife skills to cut various vegetables and how to prepare different ingredients from around the world.

'Little Cookers Club' enabled more than 50 nutritious meals to be prepared and eaten by children from BAME backgrounds.

## "THIS GRANT MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITY' - BLESSING OSAGHAE

- 6 volunteers helped run the educational family event
- 8 families participated, including 16 children and 7 adults
- The event engaged with families in receipt of free school meals, single parent households and BAME households

### **Pastor of Glory Worship, Blessing Osaghae, said:**

"One of the best things about the activity was that it brought families together. The kids definitely made new friends." "Three children even began coming to church on a Sunday after attending Little Cookers Club. The children enjoyed it so much - they made friends with another family". She added: "We normally have summer events for our kids. However, this year because we just got a new building the finances of the church was more focused on the building. This grant gave us the push to do an event."



# St Stephen's Church, Hightown

People in the Hightown area shared fruit kebabs, afternoon tea and curry during a Feast of Fun community day at St Stephen's church.

The event helped bring the church and the community back together, following a period of COVID lockdowns.

St Stephen's Church partnered with local businesses and organisations to host the event, including The Altcar M.O.D Training Camp, the village store, Hightown pub and club as well as a local youth club.

The grant from Together Liverpool helped make the event possible on a larger scale.



**"THE FEAST OF FUN DAY BROUGHT TOGETHER OUR CHURCH MINISTRY AND CONGREGATION AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AT LARGE" - MICHAEL CUDBY**



- Over 200 people attended the event, including 150 adults and 60 children
- 20 volunteers helped make the event possible

**Michael Cudby, of St Stephen's church said:**

"The afternoon was blessed with calm weather, and the consensus from the church and the community agreed that the event was a success in bringing church people together with our friends in the community, and we pray that this bright occasion will translate into encouraging greater church attendance." He added; "This was the tonic Hightown needed. After the past 18 months of the pandemic, it was wonderful to see the re-emergence of the community spirit as families, friends and neighbours from the church and community met on the church lawn."



# Wigan West



More than 300 children and parents shared healthy food at three 'Feast of Fun' family barbecues in Wigan.

Wigan West hub partnered with local partners Tom's Pantry, the Real Junk Food Project, Highfield Cricket Club and Civic Hall, and local business BM Wholesale Foods.

The grant from Together Liverpool allowed the churches to provide a free barbecue, with vegetarian burgers and sausages.

Attendees made fruit kebabs with different fruits, symbolising the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

**"THIS WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR COMING OUT OF THE RESTRICTIONS TO SHOW WHO AND WHAT THE CHURCH IS" - REV. MARK WADE**

- 30 volunteers took part in helping the barbecues go ahead across the three events
- Among attendees were families experiencing food insecurity who are regular members of Tom's pantry
- One attendee said; "I never knew church was like this, if church is like this I will come again"



**Reverend Mark Wade said:** "This came at a significant moment for the community of being able to meet together after so long and there was a real need for community. Also showing the Church was not a building but a community and what the church is doing and going to do locally."

He added: "It was a really special atmosphere, that moment of community coming together. If I was to describe the event in three words, it would be; fun, energetic and a sense of relief and joy of the community coming together."

# St Cuthbert's, Croxteth Park

160 local families joined an eco-friendly community fun day and outdoor meal at St Cuthbert's church in Croxteth Park.

Activities were themed around the environment, with families making bug and hedgehog houses, bird feeders and fat balls. Children were given a wildlife pack to help them spot and name wildlife they saw on the day.

Attendees enjoyed a meal of chicken curry, chilli and soup with vegetarian and vegan options, as well as homemade bread and muffins.



**"THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT ON THE DAY WAS FANTASTIC... IT WAS AMAZING WITH CHILDREN'S LAUGHTER BEING THE KEY"**



- The event allowed St Cuthbert's to develop a relationship with their local MP
- 299 adults and 210 children attended the Feast of Fun community day
- 5 volunteers helped make the day possible, and 2 other baked the food that was given out at the event

**When asked about the difference the grant made to the church, Rev Laura Leatherbarrow said:**

"New relationships with people in our communities who also appreciated being able to do things and eat together for free. It allowed us to begin to retouch base with some people who had been on the fringe of church for a long time with COVID too."

# St George's, Everton



Members of St George's pantry in Everton attended a Feast of Fun breakfast barbecue during the summer.

Reverend Adam Maynard wanted to encourage people to try different, healthier food options.

The community could pick from several vegetarian food choices, including making their own kebabs with tomatoes, courgettes and peppers. There was also corn on the cob, vegan burgers, and sausages.

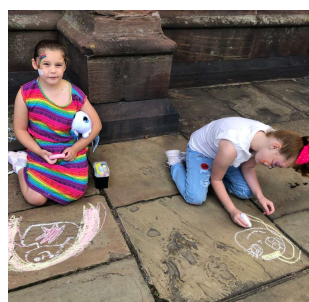
As well as the food, there was music throughout the event and other activities such as face painting and chalk drawing for children to do around the church grounds.

**"THE FUNDING ALLOWED US TO TRY SOMETHING NEW - THE BREAKFAST BBQ - WHICH WE OTHERWISE WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT TO DO"**

- 30 families attended the Feast of Fun barbecue, including 47 adults and 20 children
- St George's engaged with families in receipt of free school meals, single parent households and BAME households during the event
- 12 volunteers from the pantry took part in the event

**Revd Adam Mynard said the church** treated the local community to a breakfast BBQ alongside the usual St George's Pantry session. They served up sausages and vegetarian burgers saved from landfill by national charity FareShare.

He said the best part of the Feast of Fun day was seeing pantry members try new foods: "One pantry member said 'Vicar! Where's my chicken?', but after a few bites was converted and even took some of the leftovers home to have a BBQ with their family!"





# TOGETHER LIVERPOOL

## For churches

If you would like to be kept updated about future activities such as our Feast of Fun grants scheme please sign up to our newsletter by emailing:

[deb.james@togetherliverpool.org.uk](mailto:deb.james@togetherliverpool.org.uk)

## For funders

If you would like to support future activities such as this, or our other charitable social action work please email:

[kate.eaglestone@togetherliverpool.org.uk](mailto:kate.eaglestone@togetherliverpool.org.uk)

