



Feast of Fun at Home

Impact Report
Feb 2021



**TOGETHER
LIVERPOOL** 

**FEAST
OF FUN** 
at home



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

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In Numbers

3,460+

People took
part in a Feast
of Fun activity

2,164+

Children took
part in a Feast
of Fun activity

186

Volunteers
helped deliver
Feast of Fun
activities

66%

of churches said their
activities would not
have happened
without Feast of Fun
funding

DIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL- FEAST OF FUN AT HOME - FEB 2021

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

In February 2021, Together Liverpool awarded 24 Feast of Fun at Home grants to churches across the Diocese of Liverpool, as part of the charity's Network of Kindness initiative.

These small grants of £75-£500 enabled churches to offer holiday clubs, online pancake parties, breakfast clubs, baking sessions and half term food hampers for families in their communities.

Making a Bigger Difference



ST STEPHEN'S HIGHTOWN

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

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

Two thirds of churches said they would not have offered their activity without the grant, Several churches explained how the Feast of Fun activity ideas provided by Together Liverpool had **inspired them** to connect with their community in safe and creative ways.

CHURCHES CONNECTED WITH NEW FAMILIES FOR THE FIRST TIME AND RECONNECTED WITH FAMILIES IN NEW WAYS.

Churches formed **new partnerships** with schools, local businesses and community organisations, through Feast of Fun at Home activities. Several hope to build upon these partnership in the months ahead, offering similar activities in future holidays.

Churches connected with Together Liverpool, with a third of churches seeing the grant as a catalyst to a journey with Together Liverpool to explore how to **tackle food insecurity in their local communities**. Together Liverpool is supporting churches to develop existing projects and to start new projects, such as opening a food pantry to provide affordable and sustainable food in local communities.



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH CLUBMOOR



LIVING ROOM CHURCH, NORRIS GREEN



BIRCHWOOD & WOOLSTON

What our Feast of Fun churches said

"The Feast of Fun activity has made connections strong with the church and school. It has helped some local families to be able to feed their family over the school holiday. It has also made our community more aware that we as a church are there to help in time of need. We have made a connection with local businesses too. We now feel this is something we would like to be doing each major holiday in conjunction with the school."

- St Mark's, Haydock

"This grant motivated us to plan a half-term breakfast club over Zoom as a way to reconnect with families we had been working with prior to Covid. We wanted them to know that we still care about them and miss them. It has given us confidence as a parish that we can and will be able to reconnect with parishioners once we emerge – but it might need to be in a new way."

- St Michael's and All Angels, Burtonwood



ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, BURTONWOOD

"IT HAS HELPED TO BUILD OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY AFTER SUCH A BIG BREAK" - KIRBY TEAM MINISTRY



TRANSFORM WIDNES

"Over lockdown, we have worked really hard to keep walking alongside families in our parish. Feast of Fun was a great opportunity to do this in a different way. I think we were all a bit low on creativity and energy when we heard about the funding available, and it was a great catalyst for us to build upon what we were already doing and keep reaching out to families."

- Living Room Church Norris Green

"We wouldn't have been able to distribute 100 pancake packs to the community without this grant. It has meant that as a church we have been able to reach out to more children, young people and families in the community that we may not have had contact with otherwise. 30 out of 48 of the sign ups were new families and 28 of those would like to hear about more events at Transform Widnes."

"We have had a sign up to our weekly Kids Zoom already, as well as a new young person wanting to attend our youth club when we're back in person and other parents wanting to find out more about kids and youth work and our adult service too."

- Transform Widnes



KIRBY TEAM MINISTRY



PRESCOT PARISH



24 CHURCHES HELD FEAST OF FUN ACTIVITIES:

- Holy Trinity, Wavertree
- Birchwood & Woolston Parish
- Christ Church Norris Green
- Transform Widnes
- St Mary the Virgin, Walton
- St John & St James, Bootle
- St Stephen's, Hightown
- St Nathanael's, Walton
- St Mary's, Grassendale
- St Anne's, Aigburth
- St Mark's, Haydock
- Church Wigan (St James with St Thomas, St Paul's and St Matthew's)
- St Michael's, Garston
- St Mary's Waterloo
- St Mary's Hale
- Kirby Team Ministry
- St Andrew's Clubmoor
- St Gabriel's Huyton
- St Peter & St Paul's Ormskirk (Ormskirk Parish Church)
- Trinity Church Page Moss & Halewood
- St Michael & All Angels, Burtonwood
- All Souls, Springwood
- Speke Baptist Church
- Prescott Parish

Case Study St Andrew's Clubmoor



200 free packed lunches were given to children and parents to help tackle holiday hunger in Clubmoor.

Families were invited to come along to St Andrew's church hall to collect their lunch each day, including sandwiches and fruit.

The activity was aimed at supporting families who would have struggled to provide food during half term, including regular pantry members, and local primary school children.

The church also held a pancake party on Zoom and provided free activity packs with ingredients to 35 households.

"HOLIDAY HUNGER IS AN ISSUE AND FOR THE CHURCH TO BE PART OF THE RESPONSE IS IMPORTANT TO US" - REVD JAMES GREEN

- 18 volunteers helped deliver the activities
- 200 packed lunch recipients included regular pantry members
- 19 of the 35 households who received pancake packs were not church members

Vicar at St Andrew's Revd James Green said:

"The lunches were particularly trying to tackle holiday hunger. Struggling to access nutritious food during school holidays puts a strain on the whole family and makes relationships and quality time together more difficult." He added: "By providing them (families) with a game and craft we hoped to make their times together easier and take the pressure of parents. The funding facilitated this and made it possible."



Case Study St Mary's Grassendale



A week of activities led by St Mary's Church in Grassendale was a catalyst to inspire future social action, after reaching 150 people with food, fellowship and fun.

Family meal packs contained food and recipes to make pizza baguettes, sausage pasta, a cooked breakfast, lemon cake, and pancakes.

There were also on-line family baking classes, a soup and sandwich meal delivery for the elderly and isolated, a toddler's fruit treasure hunt, and Youth Alpha pancake party.

The church is now working with partners to plan future social action including potentially a food pantry, job club, and biodiversity project.

"THE FAMILY BAGS OF FOOD REALLY HELPED TO EASE THE PRESSURE ON THE WEEK" - CHURCH OUTREACH WORKER HEATHER DYKINS

- 12 church volunteers were joined by local councillors, and housing association staff
- The activity helped build relationships between the church and local community

St Mary's Church Outreach Worker Heather Dykins said: "It released the families to not have to think about food. It was very cold the week before and people were having to spend their money on heating, so our meal packs came at just the right time." She added: "It feels like it's opened doors for a positive way for us to be able to help address food insecurity and build relationships to work towards addressing some of these long-term problems. "So many positives have come from this week – thank you for what this funding has allowed us to do with our local area and helping those in need."



Case Study Church Wigan



322 children and parents enjoyed homecooked meals thanks three churches in West Wigan.

28 volunteers delivered half term Hampers of Hope with ingredients and recipes for Lancashire corned beef "lobbies", and hot dog pasta.

The hampers were topped up with surplus items from the local Real Junk Food project, including fresh vegetables, tinned beans and soup.

They also included ingredients to make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, and activities including making ashes from Palm crosses on Ash Wednesday, and a Lent eco-challenge with ideas for 40 days of actions for families to reduce waste.

"WHAT A HUGE DIFFERENCE THIS GRANT MADE" - REVD MARK WADE

- Volunteers from St James with St Thomas , St Paul's and St Matthew's churches joined together to deliver the hampers
- Among the hamper recipients were 40 families who are regular members of the Tom Pantry at St James with St Thomas church

Hub leader at West Wigan Revd Mark Wade said: "Part of the area of Wigan we cover has one of the worst deprived areas in the country.

"Just to know we had a grant of £500 allowed us to dream big about what we could offer. The funding from Together Liverpool enabled us to think outside the box and be able to offer something at half term when many people are at isolation breakdown.

"People are getting so much more than simply a food hamper, from relationships to friendship, it's about helping tackle food poverty but also social isolation." He added: "The activity bags were an ideal opportunity for us to do mission."



Case Study

Ormskirk Parish Church



Baking bread brought families together thanks to a bread box delivery activity by Ormskirk Parish Church.

Boxes with recipe cards and ingredients were delivered to local families via Ormskirk Foodbank, Ormskirk C of E Primary School, and the church Sunday School and Tiddlers group.

The church partnered with a local independent baker to make up the boxes.

Each family also received activity sheets for children to learn the miracle of the five loaves and two fish, from the Gospel of John.

"IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO DO THIS AS OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY..."

- REV PAULINE BICKNELL

Bread box recipient Helen Clarke who baked with her four-year-old daughter Ivy, said: "It's nice to know that the church are thinking about the children. It's been really hard this year with church being closed to engage the young people. It's really nice for the children to know they are not being forgotten even though we are not all together."

Vicar at Ormskirk Parish church Rev Pauline Bicknell said the activity had given people a well-being boost, and doing doorstep deliveries helped her connect with local families. She said: "We wanted to provide a way for families to have fun together and to work together. It was a good way of reminding people we are still here for them." She added: "We wouldn't have thought of doing this without the Feast of Fun at Home funding. There are a number of families we would not have reached out to as a church and engaged with."



Case Study

Trinity Church Page Moss



Children from across Knowsley joined in a virtual Olympic Torch relay as part of a Bible-inspired holiday club to help boost their mental and physical health in lockdown.

Members of Trinity Church Page Moss organised for free healthy packed lunches to be delivered to family's doorsteps, as part of the three-day holiday club to boost the health and wellbeing of children from Huyton to Halewood.



Online Zoom sessions followed a Winter Olympics theme focusing on mental and physical strength, through a different Bible story each day.

These included learning about Daniel's perseverance as a champion of healthy eating, favouring vegetables and water to stay strong.

"OUR OLYMPIAN THEME INCLUDED HOW ATHLETES TRAIN AND EAT AND GENERALLY PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING" - CHURCH CHILDREN'S WORKER NATASIA BULLOCK

- The church made an uplifting video of children virtually passing homemade Olympic torches , to help create a feeling of being together.
- Children completed a physical challenge each day, and made a 'lucky egg' mascot inspired by the film Cool Runnings.

Children's worker for the Anglican/Methodist circuit in Knowsley, Natasia Bullock said: "We wanted to use the grant to be able to offer healthy lunch boxes to those families who need additional support during half term. It was a lot of fun and great to be able to support the families with meals, especially during the difficulties of the pandemic."





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

For funders

If you would like to support future activities such as this, or our other charitable work including in food, financial inclusion and social action, please email:

naomi.maynard@togetherliverpool.org.uk

