



FEAST ^{'21} Summer OF FUN

Feast of Fun Summer '21 Report

**TRANSFORMING
PLYMOUTH
TOGETHER[⊕]**

Summer 2021

This report looks at the work of Transforming Plymouth Together and the Feast of Fun projects we have been involved in during 2021 (particularly from June 2021 until September 2021)

In late May and early June, 23 churches hosted their "May half-term events", and, after the pandemic restrictions were slightly eased, it was decided to host hybrid events, where all activities were held outdoors, and refreshments, or meals were served as buffet style meals from the church premises. TPT provided all ambient food to support the events, and also in order to provide take-home parcels for families still facing the challenges brought about by the Covid pandemic. TPT also provided some fresh items for the families, such as milk, bread, cheese, potatoes, and apples.

With still so much uncertainty in the middle of the year, about what the next coming months' regulations would look like, many churches were unsure as to what exactly they would, or would not be able to do during the summer holidays. We have found, though, that Churches are easing into activities that were run prior to lockdown but look slightly different.



Current conversations with churches indicate that many would like to, and others already have, established 'community larders' or 'pantry's', in order to provide continual support for their communities, for example, after hours or at the weekend.

One church has set aside two days a week for the community to pop in and help themselves to whatever items they might be needing. This also offers the chance for families to converse and connect with other church members and representatives.

Other ideas which have been implemented, and which are hugely popular are:

Cafe style set up (with craft etc) - cake, biscuits, simple food and drinks

Food parcels: focus on fresh food?

Additional voucher for food bank or a food bank box for any family needing additional support

Signposting to other services (Kid's Matter, Covid Cash Recovery, Kintsugi Hope, etc)





On the 12th of August, Plymouth was rocked by a terrible tragedy where six people lost their lives. St. Marks' church, where TPT have their offices, was opened up as a place of sanctuary and refuge for the community of Ford and Keyham. TPT were also on hand to provide refreshments, and emotional support, to any witnesses or simply for any local community members who were affected by these events. Our prayers remain with the relatives, friends, and neighbours who will be trying to rebuild their lives after this shocking event.



On the 31st of August, our team at TPT had the task of emptying St. Marks' church of all the ambient food which had been stored there for the past year. Together with a wonderful team of volunteers, and after a hard day's work, we had moved what transpired to be almost 8 tonnes of food!! We have been able to utilise space at the ARC (Aid Redistribution Centre) in Plymouth, and so would like to thank them for their generosity.



In April, TPT were contacted by Abby Nelder: Community Engagement Programme Officer from Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise CIC: requesting that she and her team leader, Karen Burn, could meet with us to talk about the possible dental support they could provide for the Feast of

Fun summer sessions. Their new dental outreach team has now been formed and they were in a position to meet with partners to explore opportunities. Abby and Karen both attended the Feast of Fun summer events held by St. Peter's and St. Budeaux, where they gave advice on oral hygiene to the families attending. Also, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and handy leaflets were handed out to all. Meetings scheduled for October and November were scheduled between Peninsula Dental and Dawn at TPT, where they came to us to find out more about what we do and begin to plan their activity.

They then came back out to us to outline their idea and tweak the design so that it would meet the needs of both us and our church families. The third meeting is when they will actually deliver their activity.

Looking back at the work of TPT over the last few months, it can be seen that the impact of the work of Feast of Fun at Home and other projects is vast. Working with 23 churches to consistently and frequently reach approximately 300 families across Plymouth, the work of countless volunteers has made such a difference in so many people's lives.

There were also a number of other organisations and churches that TPT connected with and were able to support in one-off contributions throughout the year, and we acknowledge the work of these also: Mutley Baptist church, Plymouth Christian Centre, Provide Devon and Stoke Community Hub.

Comments from Churches:

Eggbuckland (St. Edwards and Rock Community): "We currently have 17 – people 8 families at Eggbuckland and 9 at Christ Church . Thanks again for this – families are so appreciative and though numbers were lower it doesn't distract the significance – we supported 82 individuals of which 48 were children – so WELL DONE it was very worthwhile. Those who stayed for the cafe really appreciated the space to chat too."

St Peters church: "Feast of Fun brings families to church"

Plymstock URC: (Volunteer) "This Feast of Fun is so helpful in building relationships with the church and the community".

Derriford URC: (Dad from family) "I think this Feast of Fun thing is just great". (Volunteer) "It's so wonderful to see children in church again"

St Budeaux Parish church: "One of the mommy's at the Feast of Fun event held on Thursday 2nd September said she really appreciated this opportunity to meet with other mom's as she was feeling very isolated and lonely – she never saw her neighbours much, and this was a great opportunity to have a cup of tea, enjoy some refreshments, and to chat with other mom's who were feeling the same, whilst the children were allowed to play in a safe environment."

ST PANCRAS Summer feedback: "We've enjoyed an amazing time with so many people during our weekly Feasts of Fun over the summer holidays. We'd like to say a big thankyou to all those who came along and joined in the fun, it's been so good to meet you and spend time together. A big 'thank you' also to all those who volunteered their time in helping and organising, including TPT (Transforming Plymouth Together). It's been great to see so many enjoying themselves and to receive such positive feedback, including the following:

"The best part of the school holidays was coming here on Wednesdays, doing the activities and meeting people".

"I have loved meeting people. They are all so friendly here".

"Is there anything else going on this year?"

"It's good for the parents to have time with their children."



HOPE Baptist Church: "This summer has been our best project yet, we really valued being able to engage with our families on a deeper level (more than just providing food!) Through providing a picnic lunch and running games and activities, we have learnt the children's names (previously it was family size on a referral form), enabling us to build relationships and invite them to age-specific events at Church."

Text message from one family: "Thank you so much for the lovely few weeks we've had the chance to meet your team. You made the hard days just that more enjoyable. My youngest is playing in his room with Lego and my eldest is doing some school work to get him ahead for next year. Thank you!"

In Conclusion

Presently, both the churches, and TPT are facing the challenge of deciding 'where next', and although at the time of writing nobody has clear answers as to how things will look in the future, all we can say for certain is that Feast of Fun has had a massive impact for the better for over 300 families across Plymouth, despite all of the many challenges and obstacles presented during the year. We would also reiterate that none of this would be possible without the incredible organisation and hard work of the vast army of volunteers across the city, and for them we give thanks to God and pray that He will continue to bless them with compassion, good health and stamina in their efforts in their communities.

More information on this project and our other work can be found at transformingplymouthtogether.org.uk

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