

A young boy with short brown hair and blue eyes is smiling broadly. He has a silver butter knife stuck in his mouth, with the blade pointing upwards. He is wearing a dark blue collared shirt. The background is a blurred indoor setting, likely a school cafeteria or dining hall, with other people and tables visible.

T L G make
lunch

Getting you
started.

Filling the holiday hunger gap!

The scale of holiday hunger in the UK is huge. Before COVID19, over 1.5 million children were entitled to Free School Meals with millions more children living in poverty. It poses an urgent question: how can the Church respond to this huge need?

For too many, food is running out.

What if your church could provide the answer?

TLG Make Lunch enables and equips churches to bring hope to struggling children through holiday lunch clubs. Each club provides free, hot and healthy meals to children and families who would otherwise go hungry. Through TLG Make Lunch, your church can provide vital support to some of the most vulnerable children in your community and, in addition, build relationships with families in desperate need of the loving support of your compassionate church family.

We've seen that churches in every context can provide a lifeline during the school holidays.



What volunteers say...

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Because of Make Lunch, we have seen the number of children who come to our church go from 2 to an amazing 32 over the past 2 years!

Next month, we are having 20 baptisms, more than half of these are people who came to church after going to the club.

Joining Make Lunch has been a wonderful decision on so many

levels as we are seeing lives impacted well beyond feeding hungry children in the holidays. I now know why God gave me a burning feeling in my heart the day I heard about Make Lunch - despite us having no money, no kitchen, no volunteers. I told God that it's a crazy idea and how can it possibly work, and He said, 'Watch me!'

- Katja, Make Lunch Coordinator,
St John's Farley Hill

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Explore

Because Make Lunch will become a vibrant ministry of your church, it's really important for your church's leadership to have an opportunity to fully explore the exciting impact that running a Lunch Club can have. We'd love to talk through how the set up can work in this season.

Our Church Partnerships team are on hand to answer any burning questions you might have and to guide you through the process. Pick up the phone to find out more - call us on 01274 900377.

It's also a good idea at this stage to begin conversations with local schools who can invite families on your behalf. Most of our partners take referrals from schools however you may also wish to work with other organisations such as children's centres, Citizens Advice Bureaus or debt centres.



Things to do...

- Talk to us about working in partnership and ask any questions that you might have
- Talk to your church leadership team and discuss whether this programme is right for you
- Talk to your local schools – a firm commitment isn't needed yet, but you'll want to know which schools are interested

What the kids say...

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I get to see my friends & make new ones too. I liked the sausages with gravy. It's my favourite lunch!

- Jamie, age 9, Ardrossan

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Sometimes we don't have lunch because we run out of bread and stuff to go in sandwiches so if we don't have money we can't buy that stuff.

- Shania, age 11, Norwich

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Partner

Once your church has made the fantastic decision to begin running Make Lunch, we'll ask you to identify a core team of three to lead the Lunch Club, one of whom will be the lead volunteer – or, as we like to call them, Make Lunch Coordinator!

TLG will support your Make Lunch Coordinator in taking the all important steps to opening your Lunch Club. From liaising with schools and understanding the necessary policies you'll need in place, to putting together a brilliant group of volunteers, our support team will help you make your vision a reality!



Things to do....

- Sign and return the TLG Make Lunch Partnership Agreement to us
- Choose your church's Make Lunch Coordinator and ask them to fill in a short application form
- Begin recruiting volunteers from within the church to join the core team. You'll need between three to five volunteers (including your coordinator)
- Confirm your partner school(s)

What volunteers say...

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We continue to be amazed at the amount of people coming through our doors – and the capacity of our everlasting pot of food. This project is life transforming for both guests and volunteers.

– Joanne, Make Lunch Coordinator, Blandford Forum Parish Church

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We had one mum who was surprised to find that we fed parents as well. She said that she doesn't eat lunch in the school holidays.

– Kristi, Make Lunch Coordinator, Taunton Vineyard Church

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Prepare

Having partnered with TLG, we'll prepare you and your team to access the online training content. With over five years' experience of running Lunch Clubs across the UK, our training will teach you best-practice for running a professional and effective Lunch Club.

We'll go into more depth about the practicalities involved in running Make Lunch through your church, including building a team of volunteers, food preparation, safeguarding, funding and how to measure the impact of the Lunch Club. Plus we'll fill you in on the support you'll receive from us as you join the TLG family..

As an official partner, you'll have unique access to a wealth of resources as part of our bespoke online system, 'Kitchen Cupboard'. There, you'll also find plenty of recipes so you never have to worry about what to cook!

Things to do....

- Work through the TLG training content online and in your manuals.
- Confirm access to a kitchen. This doesn't have to be at your church, it could be in the school or at a community centre but it goes without saying you'll need to have a kitchen in place.

What church leaders say...

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We decided to run a Make Lunch club because we saw that holiday hunger was an issue in our city.

One mum has built a close friendship with the volunteers over the last couple of years and, as such, she has come along to church as well.

It's not always easy, we're not a church that has our own building – we rent a hall each week, but people are coming because it is a safe place where they can build friendships and know that nobody will judge them.

- Matt, Church Leader,
Leicester

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Launch

We'd recommend you start planning at least a school term before you want to run your first Lunch Club to allow time to put all the preparations in place! We're here to help as you work towards launching for when you're ready, and when it's safe to do so in line with Government guidance.



We'll offer all the best advice we can to help you spread the word about your Lunch Club through local schools and community organisations.

Things to do....

- Book a TLG speaker to launch the programme in your church and recruit volunteers.
- The Make Lunch Coordinator receives support from the TLG Make Lunch team to guide them through the set-up of the programme in your community.
- Ensure you have met all the statutory requirements for your Lunch Club to open. Don't worry – it's not as scary as it sounds. We'll explain it all along the way but a full list of what you'll need in place is available at tlg.org.uk/make-lunch/checklist.

What volunteers say...



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We wanted to start Make Lunch in Bath after hearing how many children and their families are living in poverty in our city. One mum told us that coming to our lunch club has really helped her this summer, knowing that she and her children could get out of the house twice a week to somewhere safe and fun.

- Claire, Lunch Maker, Hay Hill Baptist Church

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Being part of this has had such an impact on me personally.

- Ann, Lunch Maker, Aylsham Community Church

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Grow

We really want to help volunteers make a lasting impact.

We're serious about building great partnerships! That's why, as an official TLG partner church, you'll have access to:

- Ongoing support from our Make Lunch team. We'll check in with you to see how you're doing but we're also available whenever you need any support or questions answering.
- Places for members of your Core Team at Connected, TLG's national annual conference.
- Access to regional forums to share best practice and unite with other Make Lunch teams across the UK, plus receive further training and resources.



As well as fighting holiday hunger in your corner of the UK, being part of TLG helps us to build the case for long-term change. Plus, by sharing with us the impact that your Lunch Club is making, you'll be contributing to national research - making an even bigger difference.

Your partnership with us strengthens our voice as we campaign on behalf of struggling children and families across the UK.

What parents say...

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We don't get any support from social services anymore. This is the only thing we get invited to regularly now and we love it so much. Thanks for keeping in touch with us.

- Rosie, mum of two, Cirencester

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Things had got so bad that my daughter's school had put things in place for us over the school holidays. One of the things we were told about was the Lunch Club at the Baptist church in town. Make Lunch has turned out to be a lifesaver for us - a complete godsend.

- Joanne, mum of one, St Helens

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Costs

At TLG, we're passionate about making sure churches can bring transformation to their communities in a way that is sustainable, professional and makes the greatest possible impact. So, with that in mind, what does it cost a church to begin Make Lunch?

Training - £200 one-off payment

This one-off cost covers the training support of your Make Lunch Core team of three to five Lunch Makers (including your Coordinator). Our training is based on years of best practice and will equip your team of volunteers to make a real difference. We'll coach you through the statutory requirements and help you to know how best to reach the struggling children and families in your community as you journey towards launching.

Partnership Subscription - £20 per month

To make a lasting impact in the lives of children, young people and their families, we know that this takes long-term engagement and support. A monthly partnership subscription of just £20 offers you all the valuable support you'll need and will ensure you receive the latest and most effective resources to transform the lives of families in need.



What a partnership with TLG offers you...

- Expert support from the Lunch Maker community on social media.
- Full expert training for your Make Lunch Coordinator and your two additional volunteers.
- Access to 'Kitchen Cupboard' our Make Lunch app designed to support you in the administration of your lunch club. Plus, it's jam packed full of recipes and activity ideas to equip you and your team with all you need.
- Ongoing support from the Make Lunch team based around the UK.
- Opportunities to take part in forums with other Make Lunch Coordinators in your region to share best practice and support one another.
- Invitations to TLG events, including free places at our national conferences.
- Access to place for your volunteers and the families they're supporting at our Family Faith Adventure Weekends.

Partnering with TLG: your next steps...

Our Church Partnerships team would love to begin a conversation with you. With hundreds of church partners, we've helped churches of all shapes and sizes find the right TLG programme for them and their community.



You can call us on **01274 900377** or just drop us an email at **partnerships@tlg.org.uk**



Alternatively, visit **tlg.org.uk/your-church** to explore the options further.



tlg.org.uk

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