

September 2021

FEAST lunches, summer holidays 2021 and update on FEAST larders

Having paused FEAST lunches since February 2020 and replaced them by a series of takeaway meals in each school holiday, we reverted to serving lunches in person this summer at Tonbridge Baptist Church, St Philip's and St Andrew's, Paddock Wood.

At St Philip's, 120 lunches in total were served over 5 Fridays, to between 5 and 8 families, aided each week by a brilliant team of some 20 volunteers - churched and non-churched, young and young-at-heart - who cooked, served, chatted, washed-up and cleared up faithfully every week. Activities were offered every week together with lunch: drama and singing, a drumming workshop, polymer clay modelling and forest school.

The lunches seemed to bless volunteers and guests, children, and parents. Parents had time to chat to each other and get involved in the activities alongside their children. For many it was just good to get out of the house for a few hours. We're looking forward to serving lunch in the October half term and in the Christmas holidays.

The larders continue to open on Wednesday mornings at Tonbridge Methodist Church (TMC) and at St Stephen's Church on a Saturday morning. We are in the process of rolling out a membership program to our customers which should accrue benefits over time and ensure that we can reach out and help those in need.

A student nutritionist completed a placement with us at the TMC larder over the summer. Each week she produced tasty dishes from items we had in surplus for our guests to sample and to cook themselves, guided by recipe cards and videos posted on our website.

We are now being helped in our efforts to assist our customers in areas other than food by 'Involve' (a charity funded by the NHS whose focus is on building communities and social prescribing). A representative from this charity attends every two weeks to chat to and advise those attending the larder at TMC.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all those who volunteer, pray, and donate time, effort, and food. This is a community effort and without you FEAST would not have come this far.

God bless!
Felicity Layton



Craft at Forest School.



Polymer clay doughnuts to be turned into keyrings.

