

## During the Street Party

- Have a good sound system with a range of music playing in the background. Not too loud but enough to create a friendly feel to your Big Lunch
- Have a few people record this event for prosperity with a camera and video.
- Borrow tables from churches, community groups or people in the street so everyone can be seated over lunch.
- Create your own certificate to present to everyone under 15 to record this day
- Be creative. One church is asking everyone to dress as they would have 60 years ago and all the games are from 1952!
- As one of the organisers - be the first there and the last to leave!

## Resources From the Hope Website

### The Big Thank You

A 'Big Thank You' sheet is available to download so everyone can write, or draw a picture, to say thanks to the Queen in gratitude for 60 years of service.

### My Prayer for Queen, Country and Family

### Queens' Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Magazine

Buy this 16 page mini-magazine for your street or local community. Preview it online at [www.cpo-online.org.uk](http://www.cpo-online.org.uk)

### HOPE's Big Jubilee Lunch Promotional DVD

Download the DVD and show it to your church or planning team to inspire them.

Purchase resources from Fusion Youth & Community UK to build community at your events. Either go online at [www.fusionyac.or/2012](http://www.fusionyac.or/2012) or purchase copies at [www.morethangold.co.uk](http://www.morethangold.co.uk).

[www.hopetogether.org.uk](http://www.hopetogether.org.uk)



*in our villages, towns & cities*

"Make 2012 the year of getting to know your neighbours."



Brochure Sponsored by **The Methodist Church**

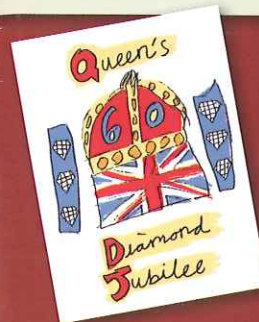


**HOPE**

*in our villages, towns & cities*

## Building Community at your Big Jubilee Lunch

Sunday 3 June 2012 a unique moment for churches to move into the heart of their communities & join with neighbours & friends celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.





## Why Do It?

Sociologists tell us that what's gone missing from society is Social Capital. It is the glue that holds communities together measuring the level of trust and good will. Where there is Social Capital you'll experience a welcoming environment in your street and wider community.

A Big Jubilee Lunch is a natural way to build Social Capital. We leave the security of our houses and reach out to others who live nearby. As bridges build between us, we experience a taste of what God's Kingdom is like. Those joining in begin to experience the way life was meant to be.

People still talk about the Silver and Golden Jubilee celebrations in their street. This will be an event that will be talked about and remembered for a lifetime.

*"Your street or the area around your church may not be the same again."*

## How does community build? Through an Open Crowd!

What's it like when you enter a group for the first time? You can feel cautious, maybe even suspicious. It is similar each time a new group forms.

The Open Crowd happens when strangers become connected with one another and move from being outsiders to becoming neighbours. Often connections and trust can take a long time to build, however the Open Crowd helps build community relatively quickly.

An Open Crowd is a group of people that is genuinely welcoming of everyone. People feel free to be themselves and free to belong. Belonging matters. People will be free to participate at the level they want to join in. A sense of "us" builds. As people feel safe, then joy and celebration flow.

The power of an Open Crowd is that everyone, children in particular, are seen and appreciated. It doesn't happen accidentally just because you may be inviting people to a lunch. It takes intentional planning and sensitivity.

**Outlined in this booklet are steps you can take to help build a sense of celebration. By the end of the day you will have your whole street, or the community around your church, dancing the Hokey Cokey! No one will want to go home!**

*"Celebration comes from the human spirit."*

## Building the Open Crowd

Build your Open Crowd around an invitation. Explain that everyone can join in and come to know others in their street or wider community. The activities and games that take place during the day invite people to participate and enjoy having fun together. They will then invite others into a widening circle.

The best programmes don't strictly follow a running sheet. The games and activities are selected with sensitivity to what is happening amongst the crowd and how people are interacting. Try to consider which activity would work best at what time.

Behind an Open Crowd is always a team who have planned the day, invited the street to the celebration and who are committed to caring for everyone who comes so they will all enjoy the day.

*"You don't build community as a spectator."*

## The Role of the MC the Master of Ceremonies

Find someone from your street or the community around your Church who can act as the MC for the day. They will be the "Story Teller", the face and voice with a manner that treats the crowd like family. They make everyone feel at ease and answer questions. They're positive and always looking for things that will make everyone smile.

The MC is continually relating to the crowd rather than following a script. They let people know what is ahead, helping people prepare to get involved. The MC anticipates the crowd and answers any questions they might have even before they ask.

## 3 Phases Towards Community

A gathering of people typically moves through at least 3 phases on the journey towards a real sense of community.

To begin with, people are uncertain of where they fit in. Do I belong here?

*"Can I trust this?"*

Secondly, if the Open Crowd is building, your street or local community move from a growing interest to a fascination of what is taking place. People begin to participate more actively.

*"Can I be me here?"*

Finally, the Open Crowd is evident when people are experiencing community and belonging, enjoying and appreciating one another.

*"Can I belong?"*

## The Process of the Day

We suggest you see the day in 5 stages.

1. As people arrive
2. Over lunch - a grace, toast, lunch and activities
3. Activities after lunch
4. Games where everyone is invited to play and
5. Bringing the day together and possibly continuing on with other activities.

## 1 As People Arrive

In the initial phase people arrive uncertain as to what the day will be like. How do you get over those initial awkward moments? What do you say after you say hello?

What helps here is:

- A hospitable team welcoming people as they arrive. It is good to have people who are the friendly ones who already know many people in the street. It helps to be greeted by a familiar face.
- Have face painters ready to paint the Union Jack on any willing person young or old!
- Have someone handing out name-tags with both names and either the street number or



which community they live in. Make it large enough for all to be able to read it.

- A badge making machine.
- Popular music playing in the background.
- The MC is continually welcoming and having fun with the crowd.
- As everyone arrives pin an unseen fictional or historical character name on their back. They can only ask Yes or No questions. See if they can guess who they are. They must ask a different person each time. Suggestions on the Hope website.

After a few people have arrived, the MC can begin a few activities to continue to reax people. Here are a few suggestions...

- Ask people to find someone they don't know and ask them where they doing when...
- The Golden Jubilee took place in 2002
- The Silver Jubilee in 1977
- England won the World Cup on 30 July 1966
- The Coronation on 2 June 1953
- Elizabeth II was born on 21 April 1926

## 2 Over Lunch

In your planning, decide before hand whether children will sit with their families or all sit together with various people serving them and arranging games over lunch. There is no best way – decide as a group what you want to do. Teenagers may want to sit together or may want to sit with families

## Preparing for Big Jubilee Lunch

### Welcoming

The MC may say something like, "Let's take this opportunity to build community today. During and after lunch we will have some quizzes and games together. Let's get to know one another. In advance let's forgive each other for knowing one another's faces but not our names. Today we come together to be a neighbourhood, a community that we all enjoy being a part of."

"The Queen was willing for a grace to be written especially for this event. Would people feel it was a good thing for us to read it out together?"

"After we say it together let's make sure our glasses are full and we'll stand and make a toast to the Queen. Then, together, we'll sing our National Anthem and we will give the Queen 3 cheers!"

"Now we can sit down/stand around and have a celebration lunch together. We will have some games and quizzes over lunch and after lunch we will have more activities and games together."

It is helpful to explain how the food will be served, particularly if everyone is seated.

## Lunchtime Activities

• A Royal Quiz – there are 3 to choose from: an easy one for children to join in, a moderately easy one and a difficult one. See the Hope resources website.

• Conversation starters:

My best lunch ever...

The weirdest/grossest/nicest/most expensive thing I ever ate... *More conversation ideas see*

<http://www.thebiglunch.com/ideas/table-games.php>

• Karaoke – Our Street's Got Talent – either you can prepare people beforehand or spring it on them. Whatever way it is a lot of fun!

• Street sketch for the Diamond Jubilee – for copies of the script see the HOPE website.

• Community Treasure Hunt – find the right neighbour that meets the answer! Download the full copy. The winner is whoever has answers for the most questions by the end of lunch.



## The Big Thank You and Children's Prayers

Ensure there is a table both during lunch and during the activities after lunch where people can write a thank you for the Queen. Make it look very special with a nice tablecloth, flowers and plenty of pens so it is inviting for people to visit and write a thank you.

## The Big Thank You

The Big Thank You project is giving people an opportunity to add personal well wishes to Her Majesty the Queen to special thank you letters being displayed in many cathedrals and churches around the country. The letters give the public a chance to say a few words in appreciation of 60 years of loyal service.

Once compiled into one Big Thank You letter later in the year, the letters will be delivered to Buckingham Palace. **Completed Big Jubilee Thank You letters should be posted to: Communications, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ by 30 June 2012**

## Children's Prayers

– for Queen, country and family

Next to the Big Thank You table have a place where children can write a prayer for the Queen, the UK and their own family. These prayers are being written across the country and will be prayed by local churches in the weeks after the Diamond Jubilee.

If possible have one person near both tables letting everyone who is interested in writing something know how it works and encouraging children (and others) to do it.

## 3 Activities after Lunch

As lunch is finishing and children maybe looking for something to do, plan some fun activities. It is helpful if these activities are based nearby so no one misses seeing what's going on. Ensure everyone is free to participate at the level they want to.

During this time choose a few activities that families can enjoy doing together.

- Consider hiring a Bouncy Castle.
- Keep the face painting going.
- Other activities could include balloon modelling, someone taking Family Photos to remember this day, people teaching others to juggle or spin a plate or use a diabolo, bubbles being blown, making paper jet-planes or funny face biscuits to be decorated ... and then eaten.
- Some of the older folk in the community could supervise a Coconut Shy, Splat the Rat or Aunt Sally or another activity that people in the street or community would like to run for children.

There are a number of ideas on the Big Lunch website. <http://www.thebiglunch.com/ideas/games.php>

By now, if your Big Jubilee Lunch is working successfully, you will see people more relaxed, sitting around talking to each other, participating and cooperating.

## 4 Games

As the organisers of the day are watching how the Big Lunch is progressing, it is good to be aware of how to move into the last phase of building community. It is here where you invite the whole street or gathering to join in some games. Hopefully by now your Big Lunchers will be less self-conscious and more likely to connect with people they have not previously met.

The games suggested on the next page invite everyone to join in, yet still there is space to observe and enjoy from a distance. It is helpful to have a small team of people who learn how each game works and who bring a sense of celebration and fun to the activities. If the team is working well together, the dynamic between them attracts more and more people to join in. If one or two are willing to be clowns, this can help build a sense of fun and celebration.



Each time the MC is introducing people in a game, or the winners of a game are announced, ensure the participants are cheered and celebrated at any and every opportunity.

It is helpful to start with games like "In the Pond/Out the Pond", Water Balloon Volleyball or the Limbo because everyone can join in. Those watching, smile, laugh and cheer the people in the centre.

A game of "What's the Time Mr Wolf?" may work here or Duck, Duck, Goose for the younger children. Perhaps consider running Sack Races, Egg & Spoon or a Three-Legged Race with family members in the team together.

If there is enough room, have a Wellie Boot Throwing competition with suitable comments from the MC and the crowd!

As people become more relaxed you can observe how everyone is inter-relating and simply enjoying being involved. Perhaps it's time now for a giant tug of war. You could borrow a rope from a local school. It could be men against women, under 15s against those over 15, one side of your street against the other side or visitors verses local residents.

Keeping a large beach ball in the air can also help build a sense of community, particularly if those on the outside are drawn in to help keep the ball in the air.

The culmination of the day is inviting everyone to join in a dance called My Big Fat Pony and then to finish...the Hokey Cokey. It is so much fun you will need to do it a second time as an encore! All of these games are at the Hope website.

## 5 Bringing the day together

It is important to gather everyone together for the final time to reflect on the day. This may be an opportunity first of all to present any awards e.g. Biggest surprise of the day, best Limbo dancer, oldest participant etc

As we finish today let's have an honesty game. Who talked for the first time today with a neighbour?

How have you enjoyed yourself today?

What was it you enjoyed?

Anything you've especially appreciated about today?

Can you agree that something important has happened between us today – something more than the food and a few games?

Do you feel we have become more of a community?

Outline some of the next possible things that "we" can do together

Some people today brought enough food to feed an army. Some people really got into the games and helped those of us who are a bit more reserved. And some of us are amazing welcomers. They helped us introduce ourselves to one another. Wouldn't it be great for our children if this kind of safe connection was normal in the neighbourhood – that's the vision of those who organised today? Our little team has a dream that maybe our street could be more of a community. Maybe we can do this more often. Maybe we can say hello to others in the street more often and see how we can help one another.

We're wondering would you like to make your contribution to seeing other things like this

"Build a memory children will pass on to their children and grandchildren."

If things are going well with your games and the "Open Crowd" is growing, a sense of excitement builds, particularly near the end of your Big Jubilee Lunch. In the lead up to the last part of the day you may have a spontaneous playing of YMCA by Village People or the Superman dance by Blacklace.

happen in our street. If you are willing to give a hand, come and see ... and give them your contact details so we can be more a community together.

Thank you for coming and being part of the day. Let's all give a cheer to each other for what we have seen and done together today.

Share some of the ideas that we can do later today, tomorrow or for the Olympics.

Encourage people to stay around talking together before they go home.

As a final activity take a group photo of this "historic" day and find a way to ensure everyone in your street or commity receives a copy.

## On-going Connection

### After the street party

As your street party is finishing, why not suggest a football game with anyone interested on the local sports field followed by a barbecue in the evening so the celebration continues?

Invite people into one another's homes to watch the concert at Buckingham Palace, the lighting of the 2012 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons and the Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral.

Are there other invitations? An afternoon tea to show the photos of your Big Lunch, an invitation to an Olympics event one of the local churches or the Churches Together are running?

Maybe an Olympic Games Opening Night Celebration in your street on 27 July?

"Inspiring celebrations help create a sense of people wanting to do more."

## Other Ideas That Will Help Build Community

### Before the Street party

Why not invite others, who may not be part of the Christian community, to come and join you in organising the event? We don't want people to think we are doing it to "them" rather we are doing it together. Find the "people of peace" in your street and work with them and their friends.

- Invite everyone in the street by door knocking and leaving an invitation.
- Get some of the men in the street to help find and carry the tables and chairs, climb trees and roofs to put up your bunting. It's a great opportunity to build relationships with people as you work alongside them. Give the men a role they can feel comfortable with.
- Food is a big part of the day so highlight it in your preparation.
- Encourage everyone to wear something red, white and blue.
- Make sure all the team comes with a willingness to have fun, get their faces painted, wear a Union Jack etc. - this will give permission for others to relax.



"Community doesn't just happen. It needs a group of people to build it intentionally."