

Community development work at St Peter's Church, Earle Street, Crewe

Background

Prior to the pandemic and successive lockdowns St Peter's leadership team had been in discussion with Crewe Town Council for the church to act as a community hub and provide a variety of activities for the local community. This work was building on existing activity with the Town Council including the Makers Market.

The church is in a prime location with two primary schools, a GP surgery and the retail park on the doorstep. We have successfully launched an Incredible Edible project in the church grounds and we would like to continue to build community links with this project.

Feedback on funding received for 2021

Pebbles – Toddler Group



The group started meeting weekly during term-time from Thursday 4th November 2021, with a core volunteer team.

We currently have 10+ families on the books and at least 4 families attend every week.

We have been able to purchase safety fencing, cups, dressing up kit, sensory kit and other toys and craft materials to enable us to offer safe and fun activities for local families.

We are currently planning a table top sale of baby and toddler clothes and toys.

Many of the families are also attending the Lunch Crewe and other social activities at the church.

Friendship Groups and Lunches

We would also like to work with the local community to set up friendship groups around specific interests. We would start with a weekly lunch and social session as way to get to know people in an informal environment. We would like to leaflet the local area as well as contacting local social prescribers to refer people to the group.

To enable us to provide a good quality lunch in a safe environment we would need to upgrade the kitchen equipment which would also benefit the toddler group and any other groups which may be established.

We are hoping to have this up and running by Easter 2022.

Befriending

Some work has already been done to set up telephone befriending during lockdown and we are also starting to receive referrals for face to face befriending. We currently have one volunteer and befriender matched for face to face meetings.



The Lunch Crew

This has happened daily through all school holidays except Christmas when we offered four hot meals and activity sessions. These sessions occur across three churches, St Peter's, All Saints' and St Andrew's.

With the funding provided by Crewe Town Council (and Cheshire PCCO, Cheshire East HAF and Transforming Lives Together) we have been able to provide:

- Summer 21: 186 packed lunches
619 activity packs
50 hours of activities
447 packed lunches and activity kits delivered to 6 families
- October 21: packed lunches
10 hours of activities
90 packed lunches and activity kits delivered to 6 families
- Christmas 21: 40 hot meals to local children, plus 28 hot meals for parents and carers.
16 hours of activities
- February 22: 96 packed lunches
7.5 hours of activities
27 lunches and activity packs collected
12 lunches and activity packs delivered

Summary

Some activities have been able to continue throughout or start up since the end of lockdown and others are due to start in the next few months.

Community Development Work: Crewe Church of England Churches

Proposed Activity for 2022

Incredible Edible

We propose to start an Incredible Edible garden at St Andrew's Hall on Bedford Street. This will transform a currently unused and unattractive area into a green space with social areas. It will also provide free fruit and veg to the local community.

We will involve all the groups using the hall and already have commitment from Connexions and Little Fish (toddler group). The neighbouring Scout group, YMCA and other local groups will also be invited to participate.

Funding required:

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| • Planters | £450 |
| • Soil + seeds + plants | £715 |
| • Gardening Equipment | £250 |
| • Publicity – banners etc | £225 |

Total	£1640
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The Lunch Crewe

Daily lunches and activities will be provided throughout the school holidays, with longer activity sessions and hot meals provided over fewer days over the Christmas break.

Growing relationships with local schools means we are able to welcome more families to the sessions.

Funding required:

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| • Food (£1.25/head) 25 meals a day over 45 days | £1406.25 |
| • Craft activities | £235 |
| • Publicity | £75 |

Total	£1716.25
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Interim Update

September 2021 – February 2022



Context

The Wishing Well & Crewe Town Council

The partnership between The Wishing Well and Crewe Town Council has developed over many years. During the recent pandemic, Crewe Town Council offered significant support that allowed The Wishing Well to focus on reaching local residents who were directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19. This partnership enabled a number of non-contact based services to be delivered to improve the health and wellbeing of Crewe people.

In the summer of 2021 it was recognised that a number of contact based services could potentially return to delivery within Crewe. Crewe Town Council identified that The Wishing Well was well positioned to deliver these services, however, the financial impact of the pandemic was still taking hold of the organisation and its ability to return to or establish new health and wellbeing services.

Crewe Town Council stepped up to invest in The Wishing Well to deliver two health and wellbeing projects that aimed to reconnect people, reestablish friendships and increase physical activity.

Wellbeing Walks

Crewe Town Council invested in a 12 month wellbeing walk scheme that aimed to provide local people to attend a led walk around the safe, accessible and picturesque environment of The George's Playing Fields, Queen's Park and the adjacent woodland areas. The project was a return to services within a relatively low risk and COVID secure environment. The project has delivered relative success reaching approximately 15 people every week, however, it has had some disturbance and disruption within the opening 6 months of delivery. The emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in November and December 2021 as well as the recent storms and inclement weather in February 2022 have meant that some of the sessions have not been able to run as planned. However, to combat this, we are putting on additional sessions in the spring and summer months to ensure that the programme is on track.

Friendship Lunch Club

Pre-COVID our Friendship Lunch Club was a sought after place to be with many people looking to attend the session. Unfortunately, it was one of the activities that had to be suspended during the pandemic. We were not in a position to reopen the club until Crewe Town Council stepped in to support the initial running costs of returning. After a relatively slow start to the club given the anxieties about returning to indoor contact-based services it is now reaching pre-COVID levels with approximately 18 people attending the session and lunch. The activities delivered allow for people to come together socialise, laugh and reminisce and it is one of our most popular activities.

Without the support of Crewe Town Council these projects would not have been able to return and therefore it is with thanks to the council that we have been able to deliver sessions that have improved the health and wellbeing of local people.