



Christmas Food and hospitality provision 2015

Building upon the success of last year we again provided two different types of support for families and individuals struggling to put food on the table at Christmas time – Christmas Day lunch and food parcels. Both activities were made possible through a mix of generous donations of food/cash, volunteer time, and some external funding from the Harold Ward Fund for Hope and MCC Neighbourhood Investment Fund.

Christmas Day lunch

This was co-ordinated by Pat and run completely by volunteers. The lunch provides a hot meal and some company for people in the area who might not be able to cook their own Christmas lunch or wouldn't see anyone else on Christmas Day. Transport was provided, a 3 course lunch was served and a small gift is given by Santa. There was music and singing. Every Church in the Team received a number of invites to give to people who might benefit. These may have been people who attend Church or people known to us in the wider community through other activities provided in our buildings

Food parcels

Food parcels with extra items for Christmas were give out to everyone who came to Food for Thought at St Luke's in the session before Christmas. We had donations from all the Churches, Real Food Wythenshawe, Manchester Airport, Asda at Hollyhedge Rd and Carillion construction. During Christmas week itself we received a number of phone calls from members of the public and local organisations and schools wishing to donate. We also received some funding to buy 50 fresh chickens. These parcels were suitable for couples/families who had facilities to cook and enjoy Christmas in their own homes but were

struggling to buy the “extras.” Every parcel contained a chicken, fresh veg, stuffing, gravy, Christmas pudding, mince pies, biscuits, juice, tea, coffee, sugar and several tinned products. We also had music, hot drinks and mince pies. A small hamper was donated and raffled amongst people using Food for Thought too

In addition to the activities outlined above we received some joint external funding with GMP. They provided hampers for local people who had been victims of crime. We worked together to share resources and ensure that we weren't supporting the same families. St Luke's hosted the GMP community Carol Service. A collection was held during the service and Food for Thought has benefitted from a share of the proceeds.

Going forward

As a Team we might want to consider whether we can expand our hospitality offer throughout the year by offering another meal (maybe simpler such as hotpot for example) or re-visit people to give them information about other things such as our good as new shops, lunch clubs etc.

If we would like to train people p to have a MIDAS licence to drive a mini bus we will need to look at that immediately after Easter – do let me know if I can do anything to help with that

Tracey Rawlins