



FEAST

2023

Annual REVIEW

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Charity number: 1199711

LOOKING BACK



Towards the end of 2022, the demand for FEAST increased rapidly, so we entered 2023 with some trepidation. We were worried that, if numbers stayed high or even increased, we would soon struggle to accommodate all of our guests across our two weekly larders. We were wondering whether a third larder might be needed.

Wind forward to September 2023; we have been lucky to have wonderful volunteers coming to help on a Wednesday from the Oaks Specialist College. This amazing college caters for young adults (16-25) with additional needs and looks to find opportunities for their learners to hone their skills. Following discussions, we have set up FEAST @ the Oaks, a Friday morning larder that offers ambient food to anyone unable to book a slot on Wednesday or Saturday or for our large families to have a second opportunity each week to access further food. This is going really well, and the Oaks are also offering tea and coffee and a simple lunch. We are so happy with this partnership – it seems just perfect.

A highlight of 2023 was the celebration of our 5-year anniversary. Hosted at Tonbridge school, we invited volunteers, donors and the mayor to hear more about what Feast has achieved and share in some yummy but rather questionable looking cake (I can say that as I made it!). It was a lovely event and reminded us all of what we have achieved together.

Really it has been a year of the same; wonderful two-course lunches, and occasional brunches, offered through every school holiday and our busy larders on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.



We love coming to the Feast lunches. Me and the kids get a decent lunch, and there's things for them to do too...everyone is really kind and welcoming.

Alice, Tonbridge

We have secured grants and income, been blessed with new, and retained existing volunteers and continue to work with our host churches to create warm and welcoming communities.

All of our guests had a voucher to buy their Christmas turkey and a bag of 'all the trimmings' to go alongside it. This, with the Tonbridge school fresh food market means that our guests could look forward to eating well over Christmas.

THANK YOU



We remain so very grateful to many organisations and individuals.



- ★ Tonbridge Methodist Church, St Philip's Church and St Stephen's Church for the free use of their premises.
- ★ River Church, St Peter and St Paul, St Andrew's and St Saviour's for generous donations all year.
- ★ Others who sent us donations, particularly over Harvest Festival.
- ★ Sainsbury's Tonbridge and Co-Op, Martin Hardie Way for permanent donation points.
- ★ FareShare, FareShare Go and Neighbourly for access to surplus food.
- ★ The local residents and community groups who run regular food drives for us.
- ★ Tonbridge School for their ongoing support.
- ★ The team at Dodd Group for storage, the gazebo and all their support.
- ★ All the other companies and individuals who donate money and/or goods.
- ★ And, of course, our amazing volunteers.

Please accept our sincere apologies if we have not mentioned you or your organisation by name in our list above.

We are so grateful to each and every one of you who come alongside us regularly, helping us to help those who need our support locally.

FACTS & FIGURES 2023



We have broken down our 'numbers' by larder, lunches, volunteer and *other* (Christmas) income and expenditure.

FEAST Fresh

In 2023 we ran 104 Community Larders, with an average of 56 visits per larder. In 2022 we averaged 45 visits per larder, so this is an increase of 24% in demand (demand increased by 38% from 2021 to 2022).

So that equates to 5,807 'larder visits'; so 5,807 big bags packed with meat, dairy, veg, fruit, tins, dried goods and bread.

300 individual households used those larder visits. This is a little lower than 2022 – we are pleased that some of our guests are moving on and getting through the cost-of-living crisis.

At the end of 2023, 162 of these have become full members of FEAST.

To achieve this, we bought surplus food from FareShare, purchased food from local supermarkets, picked up leftover food at the end of the day from local supermarkets and received donations of food from both companies, shops and individuals.

- We spent £8,897.75 with FareShare.
- We spent £17,447.29 buying food.

We estimate that we receive or collected over £80,550 worth of goods across 2023. This includes pick-ups from supermarkets at the end of the day, collection bins (e.g. Sainsburys), local businesses' surplus, Harvest Festival giving, churches, community groups regular donations, groups of neighbours and kind individuals.

So, if we convert £80,550 into potatoes (£1.29 for 2kg), that equates to just under 125,000kg of potatoes. If left to rot, 1kg of potatoes will produce 2.5kg of CO₂ – so we can model this to suggest that we have prevented 312,500 kg of CO₂ from being released.

FEAST Lunches

We held 23 FEAST lunches in 2023 across 3 different locations.

We served 778 meals across 55 families.

We ensure there is fresh fruit and vegetables and also use rescued food, so that we are able to offer a two-course meal, costing us on average £2.72 per meal.

24%
Increase in
Demand

We experienced a 24% increase in demand to use our larders in 2023.



Volunteers

None if this would be possible without our volunteers. We have no paid staff at FEAST.

As at the end of 2023 we had 130 fully active volunteers on our books and we estimate that between them they have given just under 9,000 hours to Feast across the year.

Other

Christmas

We sent shopping vouchers worth £10, £20 or £30 (depending on household size) to all of our members.

140 bags were sent out containing 'all the trimmings'.

9,000
Hours

Volunteer hours worked for FEAST during 2023.

LOOKING FORWARD



As we look at 2024...

One project that we need to bring to fruition this year is the Community Garden.

A meeting early in 2024 should enable us to either take this forward in earnest or make a decision not to proceed. If we can move ahead with this, then we envisage a partnership with other community groups and charities in Tonbridge.

We have been building a membership and welfare team who are getting to know our members at a deeper level. This gives us the chance to *signpost* them to further help. We really want to open up the opportunities our guests have to face challenges and move forwards.



We will be taking part in the Tonbridge Lions Community Fete this year in June. Working with the Oaks Specialist College, we will be parading as 'Food Waste Heroes', and manning a stall to raise money, build our brand and spread the word about Feast.

FEAST TIMELINE



FEAST started in the summer of 2018, offering lunches during school holidays to families who received free school meals.

Tonbridge Methodist Church, St Philip's, Tonbridge Baptist Church, Christ Church, St Johns Sevenoaks and Otford Methodist Church all joined in. We offered lunch at our venues for every week of every school holiday.

We served approximately 30 local families.

2018 6 lunches at Tonbridge Methodist Church. Meanwhile, St Philip's started in the Christmas holidays.

2019 Tonbridge Baptist Church joined and Christ Church also hosted.

2020 3 Feast lunches - then LOCKDOWN.
We set up a food bank at Tonbridge Methodist Church.
We began on 31st March and ran for 23 weeks, delivering 5 days a week.
We sent out 627 food parcels to 119 households; this encompassed 189 adults and 169 children
In July 2020 FEAST Fresh was launched, initially at St Eanswythe's
In September, the Tonbridge Methodist Church food bank converted to a larder.

2021 We restarted lunches at St Philip's and at Tonbridge Methodist Church. St Andrew's, Paddock Wood also held lunches. Approximately 20 lunches were held in 2021.
102 larders in total.
3,314 visits.
Average = 32.5 households per larder (65 per week).
This was across 326 unique households.

2022 104 larders in total.
4,693 visits.
Average = 45 households per larder (65 per week).
This was across 439 unique households.
24 lunches in 2022 at Tonbridge Methodist Church, St Philip's, Carrotty Wood and the Angel Centre.