



# Summer Holiday Outreach Suggestions

The summer is a fantastic opportunity for the church to reach out to people and the local community with summer family fun for all ages. Families are often looking for things to do on a budget and hopefully there is better weather and the long school holidays..!

However, the church can also be taking holidays so these ideas can be run as big or small as your capacity and volunteers – you decide – but don't miss the summer opportunities!

Here is a list of ideas that can be easily picked up and made as simple or complicated as you want them to be, choose what's right for your context.

Remember to make sure there are pointers of what other things are on offer at your church for the rest of the year!

Make sure there is something for people to take away if they want to find out more about faith – from [Hope in Hard times](#) booklets, [Mark's gospels](#), [Happyland books](#) for the children or our new all-season newspaper!

## Board Games Bonanza

Just what it says on the tin. Get lots of board games together and run a board game based 'café' session where families can play games, chat, and have refreshments together.

## Summer Sport

There are lots of options when it comes to sport with families, but a lot will depend on the size of the space you have and the ages you want to include. You could offer sports like volleyball, badminton, rounders, football, cricket, or games like Captains on Board, frisbee, squares, dodge ball and capture the flag. You might want to link a sports session with a calendar event e.g. Olympics, World Cup, Wimbledon. You could even hold a family sports day. If you don't have space for sport yourself then check out your options locally. Many swimming pools and sports centres will offer exclusive deals for charities. For more information see

[Sweaty Church sessions](#) | [Scripture Union](#)

## Family Food

Food is always an effective way of gathering people. You might want to hold a picnic, 'Bake Off' or BBQ either or in conjunction with another idea from this list. Summer holiday food provision is often high priority for local councils, and it is often possible to get funded for things like a summer holiday lunch club. If you live near a supermarket, they also have funding available to support feeding families. ASDA stores have Community Champions who will come and host 'Feed a Family for a Fiver' sessions with you. Our friends at Care for the Family Kitchen Table Project have some fabulous downloadable placemats with activities to get conversations going as you eat including a summer themed one. [Kitchen Table Project](#) | [The Big Scrumptious Faith-Filled Feast](#)

## **Holiday Clubs**

School holidays are a challenge for parents and many churches find offering a 'holiday club' a wonderful way to connect with families in their communities. Some clubs will be a school day in length, whilst others will be a morning or afternoon. Some churches devise their own but there are lots of programmes available if you prefer not to start with a blank sheet. There is a lot to think about when you hold a holiday club from child protection and team training to the resources and content. The good news is that our friends at Scripture Union have it covered see [Holiday Clubs | Scripture Union](#)

## **Crafternoons**

If a holiday club is a bit daunting and your families/volunteers are not the sporty type, then why not try just a morning or afternoon of craft. Craft makes for brilliant conversations! Add in some refreshments and it becomes a great space to hang out in the holidays whatever the weather. Check out the internet and Pinterest for craft ideas but here are three of our favourites with free downloads:

[Baker Ross Homepage | Baker Ross](#)

[Twinkl Primary Resources - KS2, KS1, Early Years \(EYFS\) KS3, KS4 | Twinkl](#)

[Flame Creative Kids Flame | Creative Children's Ministry](#)

## **Family Fun**

This really is a catch all, an 'everything that hasn't fitted a heading so far, but it's what we want families to have, so makes for a great hook.

- Quiz nights
- Old school skittles
- Knockout competitions
- Minute to win it style games
- Scavenger/Treasure Hunts/Hunt the Leader around the local community
- Escape room style event like those you can find here [Escape Rooms | Church Youth Ministry](#)

Want to go BIGGER than a focussed activity outreach event? We can help with that too, try some of our ideas for a Church Summer Fun Day on the following pages.

# Church Summer Fun Day

A church summer fun day can be a popular addition to the calendar. With overtones of a summer fayre, it's an accessible invitation and a fantastic way to reach out to a community. What a fun day looks like will depend on the facilities and space available; but here are a few top tips!

## Planning/Safety

- Check your available space. If the weather is wet, will you cancel or want to move inside?
- If you are using your car park for the event where will people park?
- Check your Public Liability Insurance so you know what you are covered for.
- Have you got someone who can be your first aider? This person should have a current first aid certificate or be someone like a doctor, nurse, or lifeguard where their role means they will have up to date training.
- Have you got a risk assessment? Remember, if you are paying for anything it forms a contract which includes liability.
- Consider how you will manage safeguarding effectively. Children should remain the responsibility of the adult who brings them at these events so not everyone on team will need to be DBS checked but you will need a safeguarding lead to manage any issues as they arise; and your team will need to know who they are.
- How are you going to advertise your event? Think about who it is for? If you are aiming it at people in your community who don't usually attend church, then what language will help them to see it's for them? Are there local shops and businesses who might put up advertising posters? Are there community social media groups where you can post details?

- A community event works best when it's embraced by the whole church, so that even if someone isn't on the official volunteer team, you can create a culture of invitation and welcome.
- Could you invite your local Police Community Support Officer?

## Food

- Do you want to offer everything for free or are you happy for people to pay?
- If you have people preparing and serving food, even if it is free, someone on team who is overseeing things needs to be at least Food Hygiene Level 2 trained.
- If you invite businesses to supply the food to be purchased, are then liable for food hygiene and standards.
- If people are paying for food, check what regulations you need to comply with.
- Make sure you display the ingredients in any food, especially the allergens.
- It's often best to invite donations rather than to expect people to pay.
- BBQ's and sausage sizzles are simple options to cater for lots of people.
- You might want to invite local food trucks to your event.
- Do you have a local ice cream van you could invite along?
- If you want to keep things simple, invite people to bring a picnic!
- Local supermarkets are often willing to donate food for community events.
- Every ASDA has local Community Champions who will work with you. They are happy to run events such as 'Feed a Family for a Fiver' as part of events.

## Fun

- Traditional games still work well. Can you set up a 'hook a duck' using a paddling pool? Your local school or Rotary Club will have giant garden games like Jenga, Snakes and Ladders, Draughts, and Four in a Row, that you can borrow as well as things like Splat the Rat and a coconut shy.
- Sometimes simple is best. Do you have the space to run an intergenerational game of rounders? Even a game of balloon rounders inside is a lot of fun!
- Bouncy castles are always popular. If you hire one, then the fee includes insurance. Do make sure that it is tethered, especially if it's outside.
- You might want to think of some 'off the wall' things to make your fun day memorable. What about welly throwing or a duck race if you have access to water?
- Your local council's waste recycling and sustainability team might have a smoothie bike you can borrow which makes smoothies as you cycle. The fruit is one of the things you could ask local supermarkets for.
- Kite making and flying can work well and your local scrap store may be able to help you with the resources you need.

## Faith

- Decide if you want your day to have a 'faith' element. Sometimes embracing the opportunity to have conversations, welcome and love the community is enough. For some people, your event might be the first time they've set foot in/around a church.
- Do you want to have an accessible prayer space/Hope Space where people can take time out for a chat and a prayer if they want to?
- You decide to include a short reflection on the programme giving it a designated time and space but keeping it optional.
- Think about what you want to signpost at your event. What posters and notices will

people see? If you are giving notices or invitations don't give people too many or they won't choose any. Try to highlight two or three things.

## Competitions

- Competitions create a bit of interest and can help to 'hook' people into an event when you publicise it. Consider a 'Bake Off' or, depending on your theme, a dressing up competition.
- You might want to run a community talent show/open mic slot. These work well if you can encourage local community groups and schools to get involved beforehand.
- Guessing the number of sweets in a jar is always popular! Swap out sweets and jars for endless possibilities!

## Community

- Invite your local council waste recycling team. They often bring fun ways to teach people what they can and can't recycle... and lots of freebies!
- Do you have a local bike maintenance charity or shop? Could you invite them to do bike safety checks? It's a creative way to encourage people to cycle to your event.
- If you have a local community centre then some of the regular groups might be willing to come along to your event to do a showcase of what they do, everything from baton twirling, crafts, and dancing to Zumba!
- Could you advertise and see if small local businesses want to run a stall at your event? They are usually willing to pay £10-20 for a pitch and will often donate a competition prize too. Offering seller slots can add a community market element at your event and bless local businesses in the process. *Note: If you are doing this in a public space, make sure and check with your local council.*

If you have any local uniformed organisations, they are often willing to bring volunteers to an event and to run some activities for you. A favourite activity is often bird feeders, but they are also great at running games!