**Parish Fun Day, 19 September 2023**

On Saturday 23rd September the 'Live Simply Parish Event' took place. Different aspects of the community were represented and gave people an opportunity to meet new people and try new things. The turn out was excellent and it was lovely to see so many new faces. It was a brilliant example of the community coming together to enjoy some fun filled activities, always with thoughts of God and his wonderful creation in the background.

Rather than trying to describe the event in detail, see the comments and feedback here.

See also the slide show on the [SSMJ School website](https://www.ssmj.lancs.sch.uk/live-simply-parish-fun-day-september-2023/)

**Feedback**

The parish event was amazing. It was everything we wanted it to be with a wide range of members of the community coming together to enjoy a fun filled day. Thank you for all your hard work, dedication, time and effort over the past few weeks. The community are incredibly lucky to have such passionate people living in Clitheroe. The turn out to the event was incredible. I hope you had a chance to enjoy the event yourselves and see the happy smiling faces across all parts. Thank you for being part of such an incredible parish team and helping to spread the word of one community living together. The PTA have counted up and they have raised around £700 so far and will be in touch with Carol & Betty shortly about the donation towards the carers fund. Please pass on our thanks and gratitude to other members of the parish like Little Church and the rest of the ladies group. Please tell them how amazing they all were. I hope we can do something like this again in the future.

 Thanks to everyone who contributed and helped organise to make it such an enjoyable and positive experience. I was struck by the happy atmosphere and the sense of purpose and fun when I chatted with people, young and a little older! The PTA team, School and Parish all combined to take up the challenge of bringing the School & Parish closer together and we now have something very concrete to build on.  I'm looking forward to catching up with everyone to get more feedback and see what our next steps might be to build on this.

If one thing stands out it's the importance of community building and the contribution that events like this can make in emphasising that fun and faith in action go together. This is how we evangelise.

I would like to echo the comments made and thank you all for your support, commitment and involvement.  We look forward to many more collaborative events in the future.

The yoga was a great success. For the little ones all seven mats were taken. They absolutely adored it. KS2 had five mats occupied. The children loved it and their mums sought me out afterwards to tell me they loved it so much. The adult class also liked it tremendously and asked if I could teach it in school.

The children who practised their knitting skills were very enthusiastic and took home their needles and wool to continue at home.

Thank you for the many wonderful prizes gifted to the Tombola stall which was a brilliant success.

The Food Bank stall  was delighted about the awareness raising, and very appreciative of leftover sausages and cakes!

The CAFOD  stall did well with its Fair trade sales.

I saw the excellent face painting on the children, it was magnificent.

The winning cake in the Cake and Biscuit Baking Competition was an amazing fruit cake and I class the winner as good as Mary Berry

The Imam expressed his desire to repeat the mosque open day each year to welcome everyone from the community in to see their worship space.

Wonderfully successful and let's hope we can build on this and  really strengthen our parish/school community.  The number of people who contributed is a credit to both.

What really struck me was:

* The children with their little painted faces and how much they enjoyed the knitting, the yoga and the games. It was wonderful to see the opportunity the day paved for building a community of young and old, school and parish.
* Such a wealth of stalls and activities and a marvelous atmosphere as people circulated and chatted.
* A wonderful choir, even when the music failed and the children had to sing Acapulco. They sang words of God and creation which set the day off beautifully.
* So much to see and to take part in, a truly astonishing achievement in planning and executing the day in such a short period of time. At first we thought it couldn’t be done in 2023 and yet the day went far beyond what we ever imagined was possible. Thanks and praise to all the volunteers who contributed in one way or another, but particularly the Team Leaders for School and Parish
* So many people asking for more of the same, a clear demonstration of the wish for community and church/school links and a Parish and School full of fun for young and old.

Antony Brown