

# FEAST 2022 YEAR REVIEW



2022 was another busy year for FEAST. We continued with our core mission of addressing food poverty via two main projects: FEAST Lunch and FEAST Fresh.

We implemented a robust membership model that means we can be sure that our guests fit our criteria, but which also helps us identify further help and support for our guests as we get to know them on a deeper level.

We also strengthened processes, reviewed policies and began to gather meaningful Management Information on a regular basis.

This helped us to make fast decisions to reflect the changing face of poverty this year when we saw a significant upswing in the demand for our services: **over 30% increase since 2021, much in the last quarter of 2022.**

Work on securing grants and other funding meant we could offer great social opportunities for our guests and pass on help with fuel and phone costs.

Relationships with other charities also meant we could pass through individual welfare help, with guests receiving support with white goods, carpets, and through the Winter Warmers scheme supported by Tonbridge Lions, items to help them cope with the cold while managing increasing energy costs.



We were also supported by local churches and other charities to enable us to make sure every guest had a voucher to buy their Christmas turkey and a bag of 'all the trimmings' for Christmas.

This, alongside the Tonbridge school fresh food market means that our guests could look forward to eating well over Christmas.

Beautiful homemade blankets were also given out, gifted to us by Tonbridge Charity Crafters.



**We remain so very grateful to so many organisations and people.**

- Tonbridge Methodist Church, St Philip's Church and St Stephen's Church for the free use of their premises
- St Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood, for rolling out lunch
- River Church, St Peter and St Paul's, 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
- All the other companies and individuals who donate money and/or goods
- And, of course, our amazing volunteers!

# FEAST 2022 FACTS & FIGURES



## FEAST FRESH

In 2022 we ran 104 Community Larders, with an average of 45 visits per larder. In 2021 we averaged 32.5 visits per larder, **so this is an increase in demand of 38%**

So that equates to 4693 'larder visits' so 4693 big bags packed with meat, dairy, vegetables, fruit, tins, dried goods and bread! 439 individual households used those larder visits. If we use 3 as the average number of people in each household, we can say 1317 people in our local area benefitted from the FEAST Fresh project in 2022.

In 2021 we reached 326 households, so 2022 saw an increase of 35%. At the end of 2022, 152 of these have become full members of FEAST.

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 companies, shops and individuals.

- We spent £5,760.20 with Fareshare
- We spent £12,412.32 buying food
- We estimate that we receive over £6000 worth of goods in donations per month (recording started in July 2022).



# FEAST LUNCH

**We held 24 FEAST lunches in 2022 across 4 different churches and we served 646 meals for 46 families.**

Thanks to some specific Reconnect funding we were able to offer social activities and were pleased to have a range. These included: forest school; circus skills; football; skateboarding; a science workshop; a drumming workshop; arts and craft.

We also held events at the Angel Centre (with roller skating and soft play) and Carroty Wood (with climbing, abseiling and ‘the great escape’).

# VOLUNTEERS

**None of this would be possible without our volunteers.** We have no paid staff at FEAST. As of the end of 2022, we have 112 fully active volunteers on our books, with 3 more under recruitment.

## OTHER Christmas

We sent shopping vouchers worth £10, £20 or £30 (depending on household size) to 110 guests. 140 bags were sent out containing ‘all the trimmings’

## Fuel

We have sent out fuel (gas/electric) vouchers worth £49 each to 151 guests

## Winter Warmers

76 households benefitted from this scheme. We distributed 8 electric blankets, 15 slow cookers, 12 hot water bottles (to 8 families), 21 microwaves, 19 cosy blankets, 5 thermal curtain linings.

## Welfare

With the help of the Tonbridge Lions Welfare fund, we have secured two cookers, a freezer, a fridge, bunk beds and carpets for 6 of our guests