

## **Summer fun in a good cause!**

### **1. What is the most enjoyable aspect of the Church Fair for the individual members of this group? Please indicate whether each person is speaking as a helper, an organiser or someone who has attended the Church Fair.**

- Group 1.      Organiser/host: Seeing enjoyment of crowd and camaraderie of helpers  
                  Helpers: Hard work combined with goodwill  
                  Outreach: event that bears fruit, not just financial  
                  Puts church on map  
                  Attendees: Joyfulness, sense of family, integration and interaction
- Group 2.      Organisers: Meeting new people and welcoming them  
                  Contributing to charity in a fun way  
                  Helpers: Making ourselves known to folks who don't attend church  
                  Engaging with the wider community  
                  Attendees: Fun for everyone  
                  Bring friends/family to a relaxed environment  
                  'A little bit of Britain'  
                  Entertainment (dancing, music, dog show etc)
- Group 3.      Helpers: General feel-good atmosphere  
                  Nothing – too much like hard work  
                  Meeting people  
                  Being outside and meeting people and food  
                  Generally great atmosphere – seeing people haven't seen for a long time  
                  Attendee: English fête feeling, fun, inclusive; willing involvement of visitors in clearing up
- Group 4.      Organisers/helpers/attendees: socialising (2 people)  
                  Socialising with the wider community  
                  Organisers/helpers: Having fun with the family  
                  Helpers: meeting new people  
                  Meeting old friends and making new ones
- Group 5.      Helper/organiser: Feeling part of a team  
                  Attendees: Great for kids  
                  A piece of quirky English culture transported to Luxembourg.
- Group 6.      Helpers: Meeting people not from church  
                  Atmosphere  
                  Attendees: Balance between organised events and free space for children  
                  Traditional vibe  
                  Organisers/helpers/attenders: Children's faces watching strong man act  
                  Watching people having fun  
                  Cakes

### **2. What is the most challenging aspect of the Church Fair for each individual member of your group? Please indicate whether each person is speaking as a helper, an organiser or someone who has attended the Church Fair.**

- Group 1.      Organiser/host: Rising early for loo delivery!  
                  Helpers: Logistics – heavy lifting and carrying  
                  Attendee: Transport, access
- Group 2.      Organisers: A lot of work to organise, do inventory, pricing etc  
                  Time consuming  
                  Storage  
                  Health & safety  
                  Attendee: Parking – but it's worth it! Glad that it's just once a year

- Group 3.      Helpers: Safety, Particularly kids on tractor  
Not enough volunteers  
Physically demanding (books)  
More solidarity - more helpers (2 people)  
Attendee: thankless task, stuck with doing it after you've volunteered once
- Group 4.      Organisers: Loneliness (isolation)  
Arriving at yes (getting authorisation)  
Helpers: Heavy lifting  
Distance and parking
- Group 5.      June timing  
Clash of events  
Hard physical work for an ageing team  
Overall coordination  
Distance
- Group 6.      Organisers/helpers: Finding parking near enough to carry stuff  
Carrying tables  
Heavy lifting at end of day  
Getting helpers  
White Elephant stall  
Attendee: Taking down structures

**3. What does your group think are the 3 most important aspects of this forty-year tradition for our Church?**

- Group 1.      Fund-raising and fun-raising  
Outreach  
Tradition
- Group 2.      Outreach  
Fun  
Charity  
Visibility within the Luxembourgish community
- Group 3.      Brings us together - solidarity  
Raises a lot of money  
Outreach – family-friendly day
- Group 4.      Connecting with the wider community  
Fund-raising for charity  
Socialising
- Group 5.      Outreach and integration of new people  
Shared community experience  
Impact of funds raised
- Group 6.      Mixing church and non-church folk  
Effective fund-raiser  
Fun for all the family  
Cakes

**4. What does your group think? Should we focus on one big event or should we think in terms of smaller events?**

- Group 1.      Consider some smaller events closer to Lux city, e.g. picnic in park, events to attract younger people, plus 1 or 2 bigger events in the year, summer outside the city, winter closer to the city
- Group 2.      Would be harder to coordinate several smaller events for all of the helpers – hard enough to get people for Harvest, Mothering Sunday and Christmas lunches  
More small events might accommodate other schedules – could also move date of

- Fair for that purpose  
 Smaller events could be simpler like a picnic with music or similar, possibly even in addition to the Fair  
 Overall in favour of one big event
- Group 3. Scaled-down Fair  
 Smaller, diverse events  
 'Piggy back' on local events – visibility, outreach, local contact
- Group 4. One big event – economies of scale!
- Group 5. Explore options to contract out part of the process – contact organisations which might help (scouts, schools etc)  
 Smaller events still take a lot of coordination  
 Idea for small event: parable of the talents - £10 to multiply by harvest festival?
- Group 6. Dilemma! To keep the fun and cut the work!  
 Different venue  
 Reduce size, max.7-10 stands and also have smaller events, e.g. book sale, cake competition, hymn singing, winter bazaar in New Year

### **5. Does your group want to raise any other questions, issues or ideas?**

- Group 1. Find out what younger segments – with or without children – would like in terms of activities  
 Cliques and groups in the church – do people (individuals, couples, families) feel part of a group, or on the edge or the outside?
- Group 2. Could use more young people, but hard to get them involved  
 Can we pay a group of people for heavy lifting? This is controversial  
 People feel like we need more transparency about the doings of the Council, i.e. service time change, Fair cancellation etc. Folks would have liked to be consulted and had some say.
- Group 3. People don't have time to volunteer nowadays
- Group 4. Problems with lack of communication  
 Finding a venue, perhaps  
 Professional event organiser – or a team of volunteers to organise it jointly ?  
 Will the Council initiate a Fair?
- Group 5. How to preserve church identity of event without it being overtly evangelistic?  
 How to guard against same people doing all the work?  
 Has it become over-ambitious? But, how to simplify?
- Group 6. 2 barriers to large event and current venue: finding an organiser and people to do heavy lifting.  
 Ideas: Link with other organisations/charities  
 Encourage outside people to help  
 Setting up – offer charities cash share!

### **Summary/Conclusion**

Most people have found the Church Fair mostly enjoyable in the past. Fund-raising is important but so is having fun and socialising – with other church members and also people from the wider community. Tradition is also mentioned, mainly by attendees rather than helpers. Most people would like the Fair to continue in a way that did not involve so much physical hard work and at a venue which was easily accessible, with plentiful parking. This need not exclude smaller events at other times of the year, such as winter events indoors.