

PLATINUM JUBILEE
Celebration of Faith & Service



YOUR PLATINUM JUBILEE PARTY PLANNER

Take to the streets for the jubilee! #theplatinumjubilee

What's the Platinum Jubilee?

It's a chance to celebrate the Queen's life of faithful service with your whole community.

When is the Jubilee?

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is marked by an extended bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June 2022.

Why get involved?

It's a great chance to meet people, to get to know them, to have fun together, to eat together, to laugh together, to celebrate community together.

It's a chance to extend a radical invitation to everyone in the neighbourhood, to include the lonely or isolated, to welcome people who get forgotten about or who don't join in very easily.

It's a chance to build relationships, share and hear stories, tell others you're a Christian, pray for your neighbours, be bold in your faith-sharing.

This is a chance to join with God's mission on the streets of your community.

What's so exciting about Jubilee?

The Jubilee gives us an opportunity to be with our community and to get to know our neighbours, inspired by the Queen's faithful service to our country and Commonwealth.

The celebrations end on Pentecost Sunday 5th June so HOPE Together, the Methodist Church, the Church of England and others are bringing a special Pentecost Sunday focus on the Queen's Coronation anointing for service.

Jubilee is a biblical concept; the year of Jubilee was a year to release people from their debts, releasing all enslaved people, resting and being with loved ones. Jubilee in the Bible is about radical justice and inclusive community. We can celebrate both of these things in the ways we mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 – in the ways we extend the invitation to the whole neighbourhood.

The values at the heart of biblical jubilee – equality, freedom, celebration and rest – are values that Jesus proclaims and fulfils with the good news of the Kingdom. Our calling is to be Kingdom-builders in our local places, and bearers and sharers of this good news – the good news that all are invited, all are free, all are equal in Christ.

The social impact of the jubilee in the Bible is transformational. How might our neighbourhoods be changed if our Platinum Jubilee celebrations had this good news at the centre? How might the simple act of coming together in celebration make a significant difference?

As we intentionally bring local people together we can help the neighbourhood become a friendlier, safer, more connected place and a more caring and trusting community. We can play a part, however small, in helping to change the atmosphere.

It can take a while to develop relationships but as bridges build between us, we experience a taste of what God's Kingdom is like.

Join the party

Our most effective mission will happen when we form partnerships with people who are already doing good things. It's likely that your community will already be planning events for the Jubilee – if this is the case, don't organise something else, just join the party!

If you're joining in with an existing event, here are some ideas about ways to be present:

- 👑 Get involved in inviting people – knock on every door in your neighbourhood!
- 👑 At the event, hold a space for conversation and listening, put some sofas or comfy chairs out and put up a sign indicating that the space is relaxed and safe – you could also indicate that prayer is available.
- 👑 Offer free food and drink – don't charge for things, that's not what this is about!
- 👑 Team up with a local baker or catering college and provide a giant Jubilee cake for the party.
- 👑 Offer something creative that celebrates community like making a neighbourhood mural or making a video with vox-pop interviews.

Plan a party

If nobody is planning anything already, then it's your opportunity to get the ball rolling – but do this with other community groups and organisations, making sure that the event is accessible for every section of your community. Here are some tips and suggestions:

Planning team

Behind a good Street Party is a team who have planned the day, invited the street to the celebration and who are committed to caring for everyone who comes so they can all enjoy the day. Gather a few people on a planning team who are passionate about community – include people representing local schools, other churches, other faiths, people with disabilities and, ideally, someone who has local council connections who can advise on road closures and any licences.

Plan to have a rota on the day to control any road barriers, serve teas and coffees, clear up afterwards etc. That way no one gets left doing all the work without time to celebrate.

Early details

Is this a party for your street, neighbourhood or wider community? Will it be literally in the street or at a venue? If it's outside, do you have the support of the nearest neighbours? Will you require power or water? What about toilets?

Which day of the long weekend will it happen and from what time? How structured will it be – will you have a set time to eat (afternoon tea or a barbeque?) or will it be more of a drop-in? Are there many older folk who will require seating? Will you have music on the day? If so, what type and who will organise and run it?

What if the weather is wet? Do you have an alternative venue? Do you have shelter? Do you need gazebos or a marquee?

Music

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee a new anthem 'Rise Up and Serve' has been written by contemporary musicians Graham Kendrick and Rend Collective. Invite local choirs to learn the song to sing at your event. The lyrics and music are available to download from www.theplatinumjubilee.com

Food

Is the Street Party offering a meal or snacks? Will local supermarkets provide party food? Do you want people to bring a contribution? Will you have a drinks table available for sharing? Will you serve tea and coffee? Will alcohol be present? If alcohol is being sold you will need to contact your local council to apply for a Temporary Event Notice (TEN). Make sure any food is hygienically prepared and presented and be aware of food allergies.

Activities

Plan for food, drinks and activities that will foster a sense of fun and belonging. Plan some activities to break the ice – something a bit competitive is a good idea! Try to involve all ages and people of all abilities. Gradually you'll notice people are moving from engagement to community – from 'me' to 'us'. There are suggestions for games, activities and dancing [in the document here](#). As a final activity, take a group photo of this 'historic' day and find a way to ensure everyone in your street receives a copy.

The role of the MC

Find someone from your street or your community who can act as the Master of Ceremonies for the day. The MC treats the crowd like family, makes everyone feel at ease and answers questions. They let people know what is ahead, helping people prepare to get involved. It is helpful for the MC to have a PA system with a microphone.

Practicalities

Street parties on quiet streets that don't affect the wider road network count as small events. Read the details on your local council website as most councils require between 4-6 weeks' notice. You can apply for a road closure if the road is purely residential. Consult everyone who lives in a house or runs a business which will be affected by the road closure; it is your responsibility to make sure they are aware of the proposals and are happy with them. Make sure the street or area is left clean after the event. Try not to run the Street Party late or allow it to get too noisy.

Children should be in the care of a parent or guardian at all times. Keep a watchful eye and let common sense prevail. Take photos of the day, but check with people that they are happy for photos to be taken and shared – it is illegal for photos of children to be taken without permission. Insurance is not compulsory for a neighbourhood event but make sure you are well planned and have assessed all possible risks. Public Liability insurance is not expensive and many churches have the necessary insurance for events they are running.

What you need

Where will you get tables or chairs? Will people bring their own garden furniture or is there a local parish hall, church or school where you can borrow what is required? Will you need decorations, bunting, cutlery, plates, tablecloths, serviettes etc? What resources do you require for the games and activities – are you having prizes? St John Ambulance can send a volunteer for larger events, but even for a small party, have a first aid kit available (parents should be on hand to deal with any problem arising with their child).

Follow up

Always plan with the end in view. What are your dreams for your street or neighbourhood? What will be the next way that you will connect with the street? Could you set up a new way for the community to stay in touch, e.g. with a WhatsApp group. Expect your street to be different after the party. There might be more conversations on the street, an increase in waving as people drive by or a thank you note in the letterbox.

Involve EVERYONE

Jubilee in the Bible is about justice, fairness and inclusion. What can you do to make sure the whole neighbourhood can come along, especially those who are lonely, isolated, or marginalised in some way? In what way can you make sure the invitation is extended to the whole community? How can you help people to feel they are wanted? Here are some suggestions:

Invitations work best when they are issued in person – knock on every door in your street to ask them to come. Give each person a printed invitation covering what food or drink to bring, possible road closures, wet weather plans and contact details.

Extend the invitation to your neighbours' family and friends. This inclusivity allows people to bring someone along and gives the Street Party a 'family feel'.

Consider the ways you might invite the following groups of people to participate:

- 👑 Homeless folks or those living in hostels or temporary accommodation
- 👑 Elderly people or those living in care homes or assisted accommodation
- 👑 Those who are neurodiverse or who might find loud parties or new people stressful
- 👑 People who have recently moved to the area, especially those who might be migrants or refugees
- 👑 People who live on their own or who are single parents, or who might feel lonely or isolated
- 👑 People who are struggling financially who might be worried the party will cost them money

Pray: Thy Kingdom Come

The Jubilee weekend is at the same time as Thy Kingdom Come, the period when the Church focuses on praying for people to come to faith. When we join in with God's mission, it's essential we're praying about it! How can you pray for this in the lead up as individuals or a team, could you offer prayer at the event, and can you pray together afterwards for the people you've met?

Here are some ideas:

-  Invite everyone in your church to 'pray for five' – five people they might invite who are not yet Christians.
-  If appropriate, pray together as a planning team.
-  Ask a group of Christians to be praying regularly about the event as a specific prayer team.
-  Pray for your neighbours regularly, by name if you can.
-  Offer prayer as part of the event, perhaps by saying grace before eating. Or, it might mean holding a space somewhere for quiet time, reflection, listening and prayer. If you're going to offer prayer as part of your presence make sure the team are trained for this – it's important to do this in a way which is sensitive and safe.

Share your faith

We take our whole selves out onto the streets in celebration – we don't have to bottle up our faith and leave it safely at home. Community parties are a chance to be bold in our faith sharing. But we need to be intentional. Our neighbourhood is where God has placed us. Take the Queen as an example – she frequently refers to her faith in Jesus in her Christmas broadcasts. Use the Platinum Jubilee book *Our Faithful Queen* as a gift and a conversation-starter.

Pray

If we are to share our faith with neighbours, we must begin in prayer, bringing them before God. Ask God to give your opportunities to journey with others and to share your faith with them.

Live distinctively

Let's model to others what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Be warm and welcoming, sensitive and caring, listening to people's stories, full of compassion and willing to help by providing meals during illness, driving neighbours to hospital appointments, helping with shopping, or providing a listening ear. Each time we step outside our front door and choose to connect in some way, through conversation or kindness, we reveal the light of Jesus.

Speak about faith

Trust that God is at work in the lives of our neighbours. Healthy evangelism is about building relationships and listening to others while being completely yourself as a Christian. Look out for opportunities to talk about faith. You will sense if people want to talk more or if they are eager to finish the conversation. As you get to know your neighbours, you could ask questions such as:

-  'Have you ever been to church?'
-  'What do you think about spiritual things?'
-  'Have you ever had a spiritual experience?'

Use social media

For small events use WhatsApp or a private Facebook group or event page to keep people connected with the plans. Larger events can make use of the full range of social media channels to publicise the event, sharing the specially-made YouTube video of the Platinum Jubilee anthem 'Rise Up and Serve'.

Publicity

The Platinum Jubilee logo is available from www.theplatinumjubilee.com to use on all your publicity, linking it with the national celebrations. Visit the website for templates and free-to-download artwork to use.

Our friends at CPO (www.cpo.org.uk/queen-platinum-jubilee) also have a range of banners, bunting, mugs and other resources to help you publicise your party and add that festive party flavour.

Connect with the Church

If you're there as a team from your church, with a stall or formal presence, then you can offer giveaways or prayer on the streets.

As you get to know your neighbours, it might feel right and appropriate to invite people to discuss faith further, to join Alpha or a Christianity Explored course, or to come along to prayer or worship in a church or outreach event. It's helpful to have something to give out with the necessary information.

What other resources are available?

You can find the gift book Our Faithful Queen, plus resources for toddlers, children, schools and young people and the Jubilee anthem here: www.theplatinumjubilee.com

As the 4-day Bank Holiday ends at Pentecost, Thy Kingdom Come are also providing a Cheeky Pandas film, song and book for primary school children – with resource packs for home/church/school and community Pentecost events.

Thanks to Jenny Woods for the inspiration behind this party planner. Find out more about planning community festivals from Shift Youth and Community (www.syc.life) and their training website www.opencrowdfestivaltraining.com where you can download their free booklet full of practical tools for all-age community celebrations.