



**25–31 August 2012**

[nationalfamilyweek.co.uk](http://nationalfamilyweek.co.uk)



## Church of England Ideas Sheet

**National Family Week can be used as an opportunity to showcase the good work you do – demonstrating how your church connects with and supports families, offers activities and services for families, develops family-friendly policies or engages in other ways in the promotion of family life.**

Below are a number of different ideas on how your church can get involved depending on the resources you have available. We hope you will find these useful in planning your participation in National Family Week 2012. You'll find more on the website Going for Growth: <http://www.going4growth.org.uk>

### 1) Run an event:

- Host an event based on one of National Family Week's themes, such as:
  - **Family Food:** host a picnic and encourage families to round up their nearest and dearest, bring a rug and some healthy picnic food to join in the fun
  - **Family Learning:** host your own story telling event and encourage families to share a story, anytime, any place, anyhow!
  - **Family Safety:** contact a local service provider, for example the Safer Neighbourhood Team or local fire service to come in and talk about safety awareness issues
  - **Family Environment:** organise a Big Tidy Up and families can make a valuable contribution helping to tidy up their local area
  - **Family Health & Fitness:** organise your very own family games day where families enter as a team. The course could include an obstacle course, a family relay race, hoola hooping, as well as a sack race or egg and spoon race
- Plan themed services or prayers based around the importance of family
- Organise a family fun day or fête encouraging intergenerational participation from the congregation and the wider community
- Run a family sing-along session or concert encouraging all ages and all abilities to join in
- Run a serious debate on family issues either for the public or for people working within the family arena (faith groups, charities, local authority, early years groups etc)
- Encourage your congregation to bring family members to a service during National Family Week
- Theme a youth service around family, encouraging children to draw pictures or write a poem about their family
- If you already have events taking place in the week, you can simply brand them as National Family Week and use this national celebration as a platform to promote your activities and church

### Top tip!

- ✓ For further information on each of the themes and how to turn these event ideas into a fundraiser, please download the appropriate theme toolkit from the Partner Zone area
- ✓ Login to the Partner Zone area to upload your event(s) to the Events Finder
- ✓ All family friendly events and activities taking place from the 1st – 31st August 2012 can be uploaded to the Events Finder
- ✓ Order the free merchandise we will supply to help make your event a success including stickers, balloons and posters to help pre-promote your event. Additional merchandise such as T-shirts and banners can be purchased at cost price

## 2) Support nearby events:

If you are unable to run your own event, why not collaborate with another partner in your area?

- A number of local authorities, churches and other community groups will be organising events; perhaps you could have a stand or run an activity at one of these?
- Signpost families to the local events happening in your area

### Top tip!

- ✓ To find your nearest Family Week events, visit [www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk/events](http://www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk/events)

## 3) Support the week through internal and external communications:

- Announce National Family Week and your involvement on your website, newsletters, flyers and in brochures
- In the run up to and during the week, display National Family Week posters on your notice board and in other prominent places
- Encourage other community groups and charities you are in contact with to get involved with National Family Week

### Top tip!

- ✓ Don't forget to download the National Family Week logo, website banners (available in various sizes and formats), posters and press release template from the Partner Zone area

Visit [www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk](http://www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk) for all the latest information, the video show reel plus additional ideas and resources to support your involvement

## Read how other faith groups got involved in National Family Week 2011?

**St. Andrew's Methodist Church** in Burnley, Lancashire celebrated National Family Week with games, craft activities, story time sessions, songs, a prayer and party food.

Author Jane Clarke shared some of her best stories with the **Canterbury Baptist Church** congregation. They were then encouraged to think up their own adventure stories and this was combined with an arts and craft session.

A fun interactive way to pray and play activity was held for all the family to enjoy inside **Liverpool Anglican Cathedral**.

**Edinburgh Blackhall Mosque** planned a Fun Family Day for families in the local area. There will be plenty to see and do at the free event including tours of the Mosque, henna, face painting, bouncy castle, storytelling, games, food stalls and mango lassi!

Several faith groups including **St Johns Church** in Bristol and **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** in Woodbridge, Suffolk helped distribute National Family Week's *Family Time* magazine directly into the hands of their congregation.