

A bit of a do.....

Sometimes, in my job, the hardest thing to do – is nothing.

Recently the congregations who worship in the building decided they would like to have a combined event. They wanted to organise something that people in the community would come to, to have fun and to meet new people.

This seemed to me to exactly fit with the work I was doing to bring the community together.

There is still tension between the different cultures who live around the church – and quite often, having a good time together can make a big difference.

Now; I can organise events – I'm quite good at it – and during my time in Fenham I've learned what works and what doesn't. However, I only have one year left – and given the number of people who were keen to get involved, I decided that this time I would step back and see what happened.

With 4 congregations working together, 3 of them with limited English (though not as limited as my Romanian!) I wondered whether there might be problems, however, sitting in on meetings what I heard was a wonderful example of how people can come together and make themselves understood.

I confess I did do something to help with this event, I did a bit of shopping for burgers and buns. But most of the food was made by those involved – we had different examples of Ethiopian, French Congolese and Romanian traditional dishes – and some English jam and scones. Until this event I hadn't even realised that Ethiopian coffee was “a thing” – but it's just gorgeous!! The music was also provided by all the groups. I tried, with my organisers hat on, to suggest that perhaps a timetable of which groups would be on stage might be useful, but I was told it would “just flow along” – and do you know what? It did!!

The day itself turned out perfectly – many from the community came along, the youth workers provided a face painter, another project brought hula hoops and balls for the children to play with, the group of “litter pickers” finished their stint by coming into the hall for refreshments and ended up staying all day.



People have been congratulating me on a wonderful event And asking when we're having the next one – and I just can't convince them I did nothing at all!!

