Feasts and Festivals – My neighbourhood

Church Related Community Work Ministry is about working to bring about change and transformation in a local church and the neighbourhood.

Tackling the big issues which affect people’s lives locally are central to that work – whether that is the issue of unemployment, poverty, health, quality of life, environmental issues or community cohesion.

One excellent way of promoting community cohesion is bringing people together with food or a community festival.

Extravaganza was the first festival I was part of, and ended up organising. About 7,000 people turned up for a day of fun, food and music.

The Eccleshill Village Fair grew year on year, with thousands attending. The event was established to raise funds to pay for the installation of Christmas Lights throughout the community. This culminates with a Christmas Lights switch on event each November with carols, mulled wine and minced pies.

In 2016 I was involved in two community festivals. Everyone’s Festival in August 2016 was a great community event, with stalls, music, food and an outdoor cinema. In November 2016, the annual bonfire, firework and food event on Manor Fields attracted over 6,000 people, with no anti-social behaviour reported over the bonfire weekend.

Simon Loveitt