

**The Presbytery of Forth Valley  
and Clydesdale  
in conjunction with  
Uddingston: Viewpark Parish Church  
Proactive Outreach Project  
BUSINESS CASE**

**UDDINGSTON: VIEWPARK PARISH CHURCH  
400 Old Edinburgh Road  
Uddingston.  
G71 6JP**

<https://www.facebook.com/ViewparkChurch>  
<HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/YWATVPC>

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the Presbytery planning process Viewpark Parish Church is currently unclustered. Attempts at clustering have been made. However, these have been rejected by the other churches involved. Viewpark Parish Church was then invited by the Presbytery to be creative and suggest alternative solutions and as such our Proactive Outreach Project was born.

## OVERVIEW

### VISION

The vision is for Viewpark Parish Church to operate within the Presbytery as a pioneering outreach mentoring hub where the staff and volunteers of Viewpark Parish Church will walk alongside other churches who are responsive and eager to build on their mission but may lack resources, volunteers, encouragement, experience and connections. Longer term the vision is for the Proactive Outreach Project to become the norm with all churches sharing resources, people and expertise and everyone being encouraged to approach each other for support and help in building God's kingdom together.

By no means does Viewpark Parish Church believe themselves to be the experts in church. However, the church does believe it has been blessed with a gift of community ministry that they wish to share with other churches and the Presbytery. It should also be noted that Viewpark Parish Church already welcomes visitors from other congregations regularly who have heard about their work and wish to come along and see what is going on. The Project would seek to acknowledge and formalise this.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the project is to exponentially grow God's Kingdom throughout the Presbytery by using learned experience and lessons learned to pass on gained knowledge and support other churches in their mission plan.

## THE BUSINESS CASE

### PURPOSE OF THE BUSINESS CASE

This document will provide the Presbytery detail of what Viewpark Parish Church currently offers in house by way of outreach missional work, some variations on how the Proactive Outreach Project might operate, and how this might be achieved along with any associated costs.

## ASSUMPTIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

The Project assumes that churches, congregations and ministerial staff will be open and eager to receive assistance and will not create barriers to the objectives the Project aims to achieve. The Project also assumes that Presbytery will provide support and encourage engagement with the Project. The Project assumes that Viewpark Parish Church will be allocated **1 FTE Minister of Word & Sacrament** to allow the work that is currently ongoing within Viewpark Parish Church to continue alongside the work of the Proactive Outreach Project.

The Project acknowledges that the long-term viability of any church continuing on what the Proactive Outreach Project creates will be dependent on many factors and as such some churches may take longer than others to establish a permanent new outreach activity.

## CURRENT SITUATION

Viewpark Parish Church is an outward-thinking active missional church within the North Lanarkshire area of Uddingston. The church is extremely passionate about following the teachings of Jesus Christ and being an example of who He is to their local community and beyond. The Church has purposefully sought what their congregational and local community needs and then worked to fill the gaps. This has led to a Church that has become a hub of activity and is held in high regard across all of Lanarkshire and beyond due to the extensive level of service they offer in worship, spirituality and practical assistance.

Each day many activities take place within Viewpark Parish Church. An overview is shown below:

Viewpark Parish Church, 400 Old Edinburgh Road, G71 6PJ

**Monday**

- Sum it Up Maths with NLC
- The Guild
- Bible, a brew & a blether
- Study groups
- McLean School of Dance
- NHS near me hub appts

**Tuesday**

- Same! ASN parents support
- Study groups
- Music Makers & Shakers
- Music Movers & Groovers
- Brownies
- Guides
- NHS near me hub appts

**Wednesday**

- Foodbank,
- Clothing Bank & Home Bank
- Karen Bowen Pilates
- Study groups
- La Jolie Ronde baby French
- Close-Knit Friends
- Rainbows
- Eastbank Karate
- Boys Brigade Junior section

**Thursday**

- Baby & Toddlers
- Rainbows
- Angels singing
- Messy Church
- Anchor Boys
- Boys Brigade Company Section
- NHS near me hub appts

**Friday**

- Foodbank,
- Clothing Bank & Home Bank
- CAP debt drop in
- Music Makers & Shakers
- Music Movers & Groovers
- Eastbank Karate
- Brownies
- Teen Space
- NHS near me hub appts

**Saturday**

- McLean School of Dance

**Sunday**

- Messy Breakfast
- Morning Worship
- Sunday Club
- Youth Fellowship
- Freedom

Our Prayer room & Sanctuary are open Mon - Sat 9am til 3pm for quiet reflection and prayer time.

Our cafe is open to the public Mon - Sat 9am til 3pm for breakfast, lunch and snacks.

Our daily devotional is distributed via whats app every morning. To receive it daily please text 07934158093.  
Our prayer line is available 24/7. If you are in need of prayer please text 07940559509 and we will pray for any request, big or small.  
For further info on any activities that take place in the church please send us a private message or call us on 01698 810478  
Ear defenders & sensory bags available on loan for any activity while you are in the church.

The Viewpark Parish Church building is a large multi-functional complex open to the public 7 days a week. The building contains a popular café open to the public 6 days a week 9am – 3pm and is currently in the process of moving to operate as a not-for-profit service. In addition, the community outreach service ViewCare Project operates within the building complex.

Many of the activities that take place in the Church are operated by community groups & businesses therefore our focus will be on the activities created and run solely by the Minister, staff and volunteer team at Viewpark Parish Church. Many of these activities are transferable and it would be these activities that would form the basic programme of the Proactive Outreach Project. However, the project would not be limited to these and if partner churches had new ideas that Viewpark Parish Church are able to support in practical ways they will do so within the realms of what is feasible.

## TRANSFERRABLE ACTIVITIES

### TEEN SPACE

A pioneering new pastoral youth ministry opened on 28 Oct 2022. Several spaces are provided throughout the building for P7+ kids to congregate with friends and stay off the streets. Toast, drinks and biscuits are provided free of charge. On average between 65 and 95 kids attend each week. However, over 400 local kids have attended since opening.

The 20 strong volunteer team is an ecumenical team consisting of all Christian volunteers from Viewpark Parish Church, Kirkmuirhill Church of Scotland, Holy Family R.C. Church, Uddingston Nazarene Church and Viewpark Nazarene Church.

Due to the very delicate age range involved it has been a process of building relationships, gaining respect, building trust and introducing Jesus very gently by the volunteers openly praying together each week at the start of the night, prayer activities being dotted around the church, the sanctuary and prayer room being open for teens to investigate and a team of prayer pastors who hold TeenSpace, its kids and volunteers in prayer throughout a Friday evening.

TeenSpace has seen many success stories such as kids who have never attended a church asking for prayers, a young aggressive teen who has been involved in a lot of trouble breaking down and confiding his troubles to our volunteers, kids asking questions about God opening discussion regarding faith, teens who would otherwise be hungry being fed and publicly discussing on social media how they love 'the church'. Locally all TeenSpace kids refer to TeenSpace as The Church. Many volunteers have been shouted at in the street to ask "is the church is open tonight?"

Given the success of TeenSpace and the engagement from local kids, Ambassadors Football recently contacted the minister and will be coming on board the TeenSpace team from Autumn to provide ministry to the kids attending via football.

A local Christian Counsellor is also currently in talks with the church regarding providing safe, confidential, free, Christian counselling on a Friday night during the TeenSpace session. The Nazarene church is also currently in talks with their central church to provide resources for a gaming ministry for TeenSpace. (below is a small video from our Christmas party night where approx. 120 local teens came along).






## VIEWCARE PROJECT

The ViewCare Project was registered as a SCIO in February 2022 in order to access funding not available to churches. Grants have been obtained to employ a 0.4 FTE Project Co-Ordinator and to support the work carried out. The Project is a community led needs-based service providing loving, practical aid to those in the local community and beyond.

The Project began 8 years ago when a local school approached the church for assistance to purchase underwear for local children attending school without any. After purchasing the necessary items, the church went into the local community to determine the level of the problem and discovered a very real and local need for second-hand clothing and shoes as many families could not afford to buy what they needed. A clothing bank was created and as usage increased more and more families advised they were also struggling to put food on the table and therefore a food bank was also created. Further conversations led to the creation of a home bank and sign up to become a CAP debt centre.

ViewCare Project is open twice a week and operates on a no referral basis. From 01 Jan 23 – 31 May 23 the service has fed 1741 people, clothed 286 people and provided home packs to 107 homes. The service is run by a team of 30 volunteers from Viewpark Parish Church and St. John the Baptist R.C. Church. The service is used by a multitude of local agencies including but not limited to North & South Lanarkshire homeless teams, Blue Triangle, Simon Community, Restorative Justice, Women's Aid, Shine, CAB, North & South Lanarkshire addictions team, NHS, local schools/nurseries and many people/families who come along looking for help. Many travel long distances to access the clothing and home bank as such services are rare, for example from as far afield as Kilmarnock, Law, Harthill, Rutherglen, Paisley, Kirkintilloch and Parkhead.

The Project is strongly supported by the local community with collection trolleys in 2 Scotmid stores, 1 Tesco store and a local Dunelm Mill store. Many local people, churches and businesses provide regular support by donating food, clothing, homeware and financial donations. St John the Baptist RC church run a monthly food drive and 2 local St Vincent de Paul groups provide food and financial donations on a monthly basis. Due to the non-judgmental and welcoming approach to all who use the service many people share their struggles and problems with the volunteers and because of the relationships built, allow the Church to contact services on their behalf for professional, expert advice from agencies such as addictions team, Citizens Advice Bureau, housing office, NHS team, routes to work and many others. Many businesses also come along for volunteering days and help out across the ViewCare areas.



**ViewCare Project**  
Viewpark Parish Church

**How we can help**

If you are hungry please contact Susan on 07481559165 or foodbank@viewparkparishchurch.org.uk Our foodbank is open Wed 12pm-2pm and Fri 10am-12pm

If you need help with clothing or home essentials please contact Emma on 07929362228 or welcome@viewparkparishchurch.org.uk Our clothing & home bank is open Wed 12pm-2pm and Fri 10am-12pm.

If you need help with debt or money worries please contact Billy, our Cap Advisor, on 07842336167 or billywaton@capuk.org or you can contact CAP direct on 08003180006.

If you would like to donate to our project please contact Emma on 07929362228 or emma.lyall@viewparkparishchurch.org.uk

You can also contact all of us via our facebook page.

Scottish Charity No: SC009991



## PRAISE WORSHIP

Worship at Viewpark Parish Church is an integral part of their identity. They are blessed with an abundance of musical gifts in the congregation which allows them to praise with a band which includes piano/organ, guitar, bass, drums, saxophone, accordion, trumpet, recorder and numerous singers who can play a mixture of modern and traditional music. Members of the band regularly play at other church events including ordinations, praise concerts, church events and external organisation events like Boys Brigade concerts.

The church has a breakfast service at 10.00am – this is for all ages and teaches through the Bible with a variety of videos and songs – and includes food and fellowship.

As well as the more traditional Sunday Morning Service at 11.00am Viewpark Parish Church also hold a Sunday evening service 'Freedom' which is a contemporary, worship, prayer and spirit-filled evening where people are invited to be free and worship as the holy spirit calls them to. This is very popular, and the 'Freedom' concept has already been adopted by Mossneuk Parish Church in East Kilbride who are seeing similar success.

Due to how important music is at Viewpark Parish Church they have held 2 successful 12-hour worship days which have attracted ministers and people from a host of different churches to come along to take part and worship with them. (videos below)





## LOCAL DIGITAL MINISTRY

Viewpark Parish Church are very aware that face to face ministry is not suitable for everyone and that as online platforms continue to grow the church must move with the people.

Viewpark Parish Church is very supportive of Sanctuary First, the Church of Scotland's online ministry and as well as sharing this with its own social media followers, members of Viewpark Parish Church have taken part in Sanctuary First segments.

In addition to Sanctuary First, members of Viewpark Parish Church felt they also needed a more local digital ministry. Viewpark Parish Church currently have 1.2k followers on Facebook with ViewCare Project having 2.3k followers. The Social Media team post a variety of church, spiritual and local information daily with posts reaching up to 23.5k people. As well as an active online presence the church produces a daily devotional that is distributed across the world. Recently a newer member to sign up to the devotional sent it on to her cousin in Manchester who replied to say he already received it daily from someone else who had it sent on to them.

The church also operates a 24-hour prayer line where anyone can message for prayer and support for anything big or small. A large online connected prayer group then prays for each issue.

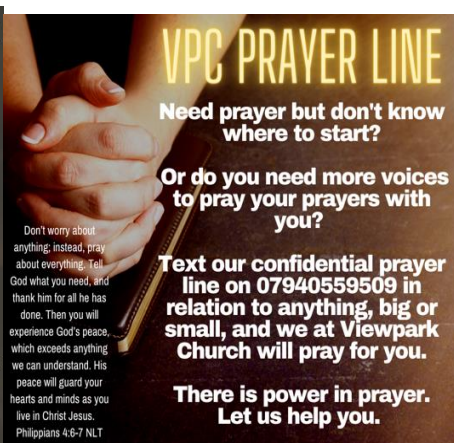
Services are streamed each week via YouTube with several members of the sound team trained to do this. A church newsletter is also produced each week and distributed via email, displayed in the church and online. Our digital team are proficient in all Microsoft packages and use Canva Pro for media.

Pick your phone up for a different reason tomorrow morning

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Text 'Devotional' to 07934158093 to receive our daily devotional each morning via whatsapp.

Viewpark Parish Church 400 Old Edinburgh Road G71 6PJ



**VPC PRAYER LINE**

Need prayer but don't know where to start?

Or do you need more voices to pray your prayers with you?

Text our confidential prayer line on 07940559509 in relation to anything, big or small, and we at Viewpark Church will pray for you.

There is power in prayer. Let us help you.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 NLT



ViewCare Project: Foodbank, Clothing/Home Bank and Debt Help is at Viewpark Parish Church

11 May

Well today we had a donation that was so kind it left us all pretty emotional... See more



See Insights and Ads Promote

608 89 comments • 11 shares

## A SEAT AT OUR TABLE

Viewpark Parish Church is aware of the current levels of food poverty and that these levels are rising incrementally. Therefore, the church seeks to offer as many ways to feed people as they can, without advertising as a service for those who are poor as they have discovered from personal conversations with people in poverty how that is perceived and it is not positively.

As you enter Viewpark Parish Church you are greeted with a table full of fruit and invited to help yourself. This is extremely popular with adults and kids alike.

Viewpark Parish Church offers Messy Breakfast, a free continental style breakfast, every Sunday morning at 10am. This is attended by approx. 30 people each week and has been a simple open door for non-church attending families to engage with church informally.

Messy Church is also run monthly with 60-100 kids attending each session that always ends with a free dinner, soft drinks and cakes together.

The church View 21 Café also operates a pay it forward scheme where people who are eating in the café can purchase vouchers for food drinks that are displayed on a 'blessings board' where others are encouraged to take a voucher and then eat for free when they are in need of a blessing.

An open Living Room was also run during the colder months where people could attend for company, food and hot drinks. This was

well attended and became a small community on its own, with one man even being saved in the Living Room on a Monday afternoon with some volunteers praying over him.

For the past 9 years at Christmas time Viewpark Parish Church has organised a hamper & toy project that in 2022 fed 827 people and generated huge community engagement.



## SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Viewpark Parish Church is dedicated to providing multiple opportunities for people to grow in their faith.

Throughout the past 10 years multiple spiritual campaigns have been run to engage, grow and challenge attendees. Most campaigns run for 6-8 weeks and include a study and small group scenario and typically have 65-85 people attending over 3 weekly sessions. Many of the activities and the volunteer engagement present in Viewpark Parish Church has been a direct result of these campaigns and people feeling called to do more in Jesus' name.

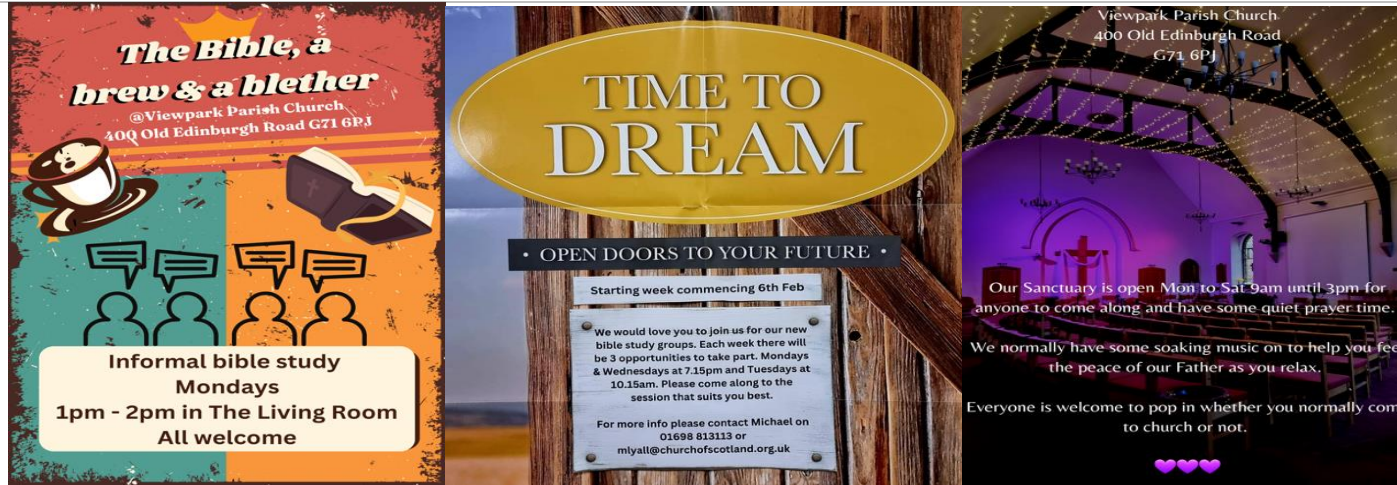
As well as the study groups run by the minister Viewpark Parish Church runs an informal bible study where people gather for peer directed bible study in the Living Room.

The church also has a prayer room which is open daily 9am till 3pm and used by members and non-members alike.

Members at Viewpark Parish Church are encouraged to learn about their spiritual gifts and are inspired by regular 48-hour prayer vigils held in the prayer room. Many people have had extraordinary spiritual experiences during this time which have compelled them to look afresh at how they serve the church and display God's love to others.

The Sanctuary is also open 7 days a week and is used daily by many church and non-church attendees





## NEURODIVERSE SENSITIVE

Church should be accessible to all is a concept that Viewpark Parish Church hold close to their hearts due to several members and kids who attend who are neurodiverse.

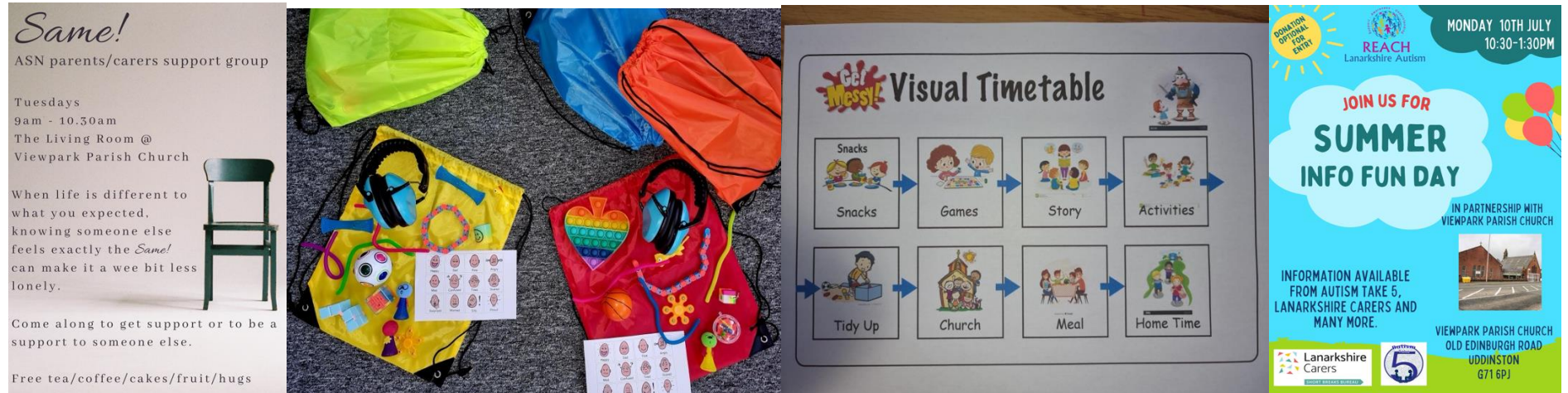
Based on conversations with a variety of people some adaptations were made to make the church more accessible and accommodating. However, the church is still on their journey to be all inclusive in all ways. As you enter the church you are offered ear defenders, fidget toys & emotions charts on loan to help with your visit no matter why you are visiting, the church displays a sign to advise they are neurodiverse sensitive and welcome any feedback to make church more accessible for anyone who wishes to come along, boardmaker stories are available for activities and circulated via social media and a sensory room is available during messy church and kids fun days.

More recently the church has been working in partnership with REACH Lanarkshire, a local autism charity, and will be hosting an ASN fun day in July in partnership with many local disability and ASN agencies/charities. Also, at the request of local families the church now host an ASN parents/carers group weekly which is a valuable resource to many. Due to the work the church has undertaken with Autism they were approached by some local parents who had adult children who were receiving little support from services and both were struggling with mental health difficulties. Viewpark Parish Church took the time to build relationships with each person and slowly made adaptations as they required. Both are now active members of the church who attend on Sundays but also play important roles in the church community volunteering within Viewcare, attending study group and many other groups.

Viewpark Parish Church also has a member who is fluent in BSL and is able to provide this where required.

The church is also fitted with hearing loops in the rooms with speakers.

The church is still on a journey of learning and growing but is committed to doing everything possible to make church a place all can access.



## FOR THE COMMUNITY

Due to the volume of service offered by Viewpark Parish and the importance of relationship building is the church is regularly approached by third party organisations to work together to deliver services for the community.

At present North Lanarkshire Council are running a 'Sum it up' Maths group in the church each Monday which provides Maths skills from basic to Nat 5 for adults who struggled at school.

The church is also an NHS Online hub 5 days a week where people who have an online NHS appointment but do not have access to wi-fi, a laptop or just need a bit of support can come along to the church and take their appointment there. 6 volunteers were trained by the NHS on how to access the appointments and problem solve any digital issues that arise during the appointments.

Scripture Union Lanarkshire recently approached the church to request they begin Scripture Union in the 2 local Primary schools, Aitkenhead Primary & Tannochside Primary and joined the Uddingston Grammar High school team. This was due to the success of Teen Space and they wished to build on the relationships the volunteers have already built with the kids. Volunteers agreed and these will all commence from August 2023 in partnership with both local Nazarene Churches and Park United Free Church in Uddingston.

Recently the NHS team called the church to ask to deliver covid boosters within the church one morning. This was very successful to the extent there were people outside waiting for the church to open and nurses arrive.

The church is also part of many community groups and forums such as the North Lanarkshire Poverty LOIP, Bellshill Community Network, Food Poverty Action Group and the Community Action Group. The NHS health improvement team have attended Messy



Church to reach the local community when they were struggling to get their voice out there and were astounded by the volume of families they could connect with.

The local community council is very supportive of all of the activities the church undertakes and in 2022 Viewpark Parish Church, Thorniewood Community Council and Tannochside Olde Club held a jointly funded free community fun day attended by approx. 3000 local people. This is set to be held again in August 2023.



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**THORNIEWOOD COMMUNITY FUN DAY 2023**

OLD EDINBURGH ROAD FROM TANNOCHSIDE MINERS TO VIEWPARK PARISH CHURCH INC TANNOCHSIDE OLDE CLUB AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN

Saturday 5th August

All activities will once again be free across all 3 sites.

COMMUNITY FOOD More details to follow nearer the time!



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