



BRISTOL

THE NOISE

2021

HANDBOOK



The Noise weekend is an annual occasion when churches across the city unite to reach out to the communities around them with a shared vision of

SHOWING GOD'S LOVE IN PRACTICAL WAYS

Each year, volunteers from different churches and communities join together to host a weekend of events and practical projects which make a difference in neighbourhoods across the city.

Mindful of the uncertainty of the next few months, caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we are working towards hosting The Noise around the **May Day bank holiday weekend (1st-3rd May)**. We are passionate about Bristol and want to equip the church to continue blessing communities across the city and the people who live there.

This handbook is designed to spark ideas as you consider how your church community could be involved. We're here to encourage and equip you, and to ensure that The Noise 2021 has a lasting impact for your community.

So, join us in this opportunity to show God's love, together, and be part of building Bristol as a city of hope.

Find out more about Bristol Noise charity on our website

WWW.THENOISE.ORG.UK

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WEEKEND PROGRAMME

In previous years, we have enjoyed gathering volunteers together for a morning celebration, with equipping through **worship** and **teaching** before starting on practical activities in our neighbourhoods.

This is a key element of The Noise, as we build **unity** as volunteers and churches across our city - remembering that we are part of something bigger, and that showing God's love at the same time, together, makes a **NOISE!**

We are not expecting large gatherings to be possible in May. However, we are excited to be developing an alternative **ONLINE** programme for all volunteers to receive equipping through worship and teaching and to feel **part of something bigger** during The Noise 2021.

We will be releasing more details soon - **watch this space!**



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Over The Noise weekend, we work with **local churches** to host events for people of all ages in their communities. These can be **one-off events** that give you the opportunity to trial something a bit different or **high profile** events which highlight activities you regularly run. It can also be a really good opportunity to run something in **partnership** with another church in your neighbourhood.

We encourage host churches to think about what might connect best with those they are seeking to engage with in their local community, and also what skills are already available within the church to host something.

Each event will look different, as hosts consider what will work best in their local area, however the key ingredients for community events is that they are **FREE** and **LOCAL**, a practical example of God's **EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY** to those nearby to your church.

In previous years, community events have been a great place of **CONNECTION** as volunteers meet with others living in your neighbourhood. This year, for obvious reasons, face-to-face interactions are a bit trickier to manage. However, we want to encourage you to consider how you can still facilitate connection and human interaction in the events you run this year.



EVENT IDEAS

On the next few pages, we've listed some ideas for community events that we can help you to facilitate in your community this year as part of The Noise weekend. Some are 'in-person' and some are online, and all will be subject to Covid-19 regulations. Please note, this is a very brief overview, and should you decide to go ahead, we will provide you with advice and resourcing as mentioned on p10.



Pop-Up Takeaway Café

Pop-up for a few hours outside your church building to serve free drinks and snacks to your community in a takeaway style. A great way to connect with all ages and offer refreshment for neighbours out on their daily exercise.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Volunteers to set up the café, prepare drinks / food and serve people
- An outdoor location, with plenty of space for queuing as well as for volunteers to stay socially distanced
- Various equipment for making and serving drinks and food - we'll supply you with some ideas!



Treasure Hunt / Trail

A simple, fun way to invite children, young people & families to get active and get to know their neighbourhood. We have several ideas for how this could work and still tick all the boxes of a Noise weekend event!

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Instruction sheet with directions, questions or clues - you might print some out to give to people or make it accessible to follow on a smartphone
- Small prizes for completing the hunt - you could give these out at a start/finish point or invite participants to submit their answers online and deliver their prize to their home



Craft packs

Create a pack with resources and inspiration to enable families to get creative at home! We recommend thinking carefully about the age you want to target and what resources they would need to have at home to engage with the activity. We have lots of ideas to give you!

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Craft resources for your chosen activity/ies
- Instructions - these could be written or you could create a demo video that can be watched from home



Skills workshop

Provide an opportunity for people to sign up and learn a new skill e.g. cake decorating, craft, football skills, etc. The skill you choose can be tailored to the expertise of those leading the workshop. We advise getting participants to sign up in advance so that you can limit the numbers, according to the size of the venue you are using. This could be aimed at families or adults.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- A venue
- Workshop leader(s) who can teach a new skill to those attending
- The rest of the resources depend on the skill(s) you choose to offer



Care home performance

Take a small group to a local care home and put on a performance for the residents! This should be done outside, socially distanced from the residents as well as for individuals unless they are in a 'bubble' with each other. You may want to prepare a few songs, magic tricks or jokes to perform.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- A group of volunteers willing to perform (group size will be dependent on current government guidelines)
- A marquee (optional)



Cream tea delivery

Churches have often hosted cream teas for senior citizens during The Noise. While the pandemic continues, it's not possible to do the same. Instead, why not get your volunteers baking and put together all the things someone might need for a cream tea at home? Volunteers can deliver the packs to their door and might even enjoy a quick doorstep chat with the people they visit!

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Scones, jam, cream, tea, etc. (individual portions!)
- You might choose to include other things in the pack too e.g. a quiz
- A way for people to sign up to receive a delivery
- A suitable venue to put the packs together



Other doorstep deliveries

A cream tea delivery is one option, but you might have other ideas of things that adults would enjoy doing at home if they received a few resources e.g. DIY craft kits, baking or puzzles.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Whatever is needed for the resource you are delivering e.g. DVDs, puzzles, craft kit and instructions
- A method of delivering
- A way for people to sign up to receive a delivery



Online quiz

Host a quiz for your community via Zoom (or another video calling software). Give a mix of rounds that cater to your audience and make it as interactive as you like! Encourage participants to sign up in advance and join with others to create teams.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- A host (or two) who can lead the event and act as 'quizmaster'
- Access to video calling software e.g. Zoom, Skype, Teams
- A variety of quiz rounds

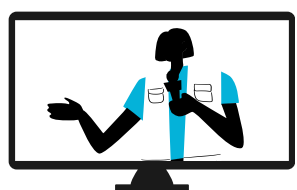


Online talent show

Invite people in your community to submit videos of themselves performing their different talents. It could be singing, dancing, juggling, performing magic tricks or something else! Then combine the videos to 'live-stream' a talent show performance online for your neighbourhood to enjoy.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Someone who can do some video editing
- A method for gathering the video entries



Online 'fun afternoon'

Pre-record different elements of a fun afternoon using volunteers from your church, then live-stream them online for your neighbourhood to watch at home! Check out examples from last year which include... crafts, jokes, games, quizzes, exercise demos etc.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Someone who can do some video editing
- A camera
- Volunteers who can record different parts of your fun afternoon

RESOURCING

We will provide you with **advice** and **resourcing** for planning and hosting your event(s), including:

- equipment
- publicity
- health and safety
- insurance
- volunteer management

PRACTICAL PROJECTS

Over the weekend, small teams will be tackling practical projects in neighbourhoods around the city. These could be based at a **community venue**, **public outdoor space** or be supporting an **individual** or **family** with their garden. Projects are referred to us by people living or working within communities, with the aim to have an immediate and long term impact.

Community projects are a great way to give practical help to neighbours or to show support to groups or organisations who are working for the good of the community all year round, such as schools. The type of things we're often asked to do include:

- litter picking in the park
- clearing rubbish from gardens
- tidying outdoor play areas
- painting fences
- cleaning graffiti
- building planters

As you will imagine, there are always a lot of health & safety considerations with practical projects, with an extra layer of precautions that we will be taking this year, due to Covid-19. With that in mind, we partner with local churches to **train local volunteer Project Coordinators** who assess each project beforehand.

If your church would like to host practical projects in your neighbourhood, get in touch with us ASAP to discuss the process: info@thenoise.org.uk



VOLUNTEERING

Over the last few years, we have had around 900 people volunteering from around 60 different churches. Volunteer ages have ranged from 4 years to 80+ years! We invite volunteers to sign up either as **individuals, family teams or small groups**.

We have loved involving young people in **youth teams** each year, but are aware that Covid-19 restrictions may impact what is possible this year. If your church would like to bring a youth group to participate in The Noise, please get in touch with us to discuss the options.

We provide publicity materials for churches to engage their congregations in the opportunity to take part, including volunteer registration information, a promotional video, slides for notices, etc.

This year, we are anticipating that volunteer registration will officially open during March. There is a small fee for volunteers, which contributes towards the running of the weekend. Everyone who registers as a volunteer will be involved to our volunteer worship gatherings (see p2). They will also be covered by The Noise insurance and receive a t-shirt to wear as they take part.

Centrally, we oversee the distribution of volunteers. Most volunteers will serve in the local community where their church is based, but some may be invited to serve in a different neighbourhood, depending on the need.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

We are committed to ensuring the health and safety of all taking part in The Noise, whether as volunteers or members of the public who are engaging in our activities.

For this reason, all aspects of The Noise weekend are carefully **risk assessed**. We work with partner churches who are hosting events and practical projects as part of The Noise to tailor risk assessments to their location and to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to **minimise risks** e.g. protective wear for volunteers completing practical projects and food hygiene monitoring.

All registered volunteers will also receive a health and safety **briefing** prior to taking part in activities on the weekend.

We are closely following updates from the Government regarding **Covid-19** to ensure that all proposed activities adhere to Covid-19 health and safety guidance. The final decision about which activities can go ahead on the dates proposed will be based on **government guidelines** at the time and we are fully aware that plans may be postponed.



HOW TO SUPPORT

PRAYER

We cover all that we do with prayer, because we know God listens and prayer changes things. We really appreciate prayer support for what we do, and we would love it if you would join with us in praying for our projects, events and vision to see God's love shown in practical ways throughout Bristol.

You can sign up to receive prayer email updates in the build up to The Noise 2021 on our website: www.thenoise.org.uk/supportus

FINANCIALLY

As a charity, we are funded by individuals, churches and a few grants. Our vision has always been to see how we can resource and equip the church in the whole city of Bristol to work in their local communities, particularly the urban estates in Bristol. We would be grateful if you would consider supporting us financially in one-off or regular giving. Every gift, whether big or small, is of huge importance in growing this long term vision.

Please visit our website for information on how to give financially towards The Noise 2021 or our ongoing work: www.thenoise.org.uk/supportus

WHAT NEXT?

There are three key ways for churches to be involved in The Noise weekend:

1) Encourage your congregation to participate as volunteers with the social action activities that take place on the weekend. Volunteers can sign up for just one day or more. Get in touch if you'd like to receive information from us about volunteer registration.

2) Host practical projects that make a difference to individuals, families or the wider community, from simple DIY tasks to clearing up a public space. Get in touch to discuss what that could look like in your neighbourhood.

3) Host a community event for your local area. We love to facilitate free community events for all ages that are fun, within walking distance of people's homes and that bring people together. Get in touch to discuss your ideas and learn more about how to make this happen.

To register your church's interest in participating in The Noise 2021, please contact the Bristol Noise team via:

INFO@THENOISE.ORG.UK

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