'I had the chance to sit down, have a lovely dinner with friends and catch up after a long time'

COMMUNITY DINNERS 2025

CASE STUDY

ST LUKE'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

Overview

Community Dinners, formerly Community Lunches, are monthly gatherings where volunteers come together to cook and share a meal with our local community. These events encourage connection, kindness and a sense of belonging while supporting our mission to reduce food insecurity. We are supported by a diverse group of volunteers including local residents, businesses and from members of the Islington Veterans' Association.

What We Do

Each month, we prepare a delicious vegetarian meal and serve between 45 and 80 portions to everyone who walks through our doors. Our menus are diverse and comforting, featuring dishes such as hearty curries, creamy macaroni cheese and warming chillies. Wherever possible, we make use of surplus food to reduce waste and promote sustainability.

Impact in Numbers

- 42 volunteers contributed throughout the year
- 90 volunteer hours dedicated to cooking and serving
- 647 meals served to the community

Special Events

- June Refugee Week event – we prepared a delicious shakshuka and couscous followed by a fresh fruit salad to 80 guests including local asylum seekers
- October Black History Month – 70 guests celebrated a cultural evening and enjoyed a traditional okra stew and sweet banana pudding

Why It Matters

Community Dinners are more than just meals – they are opportunities for connection, inclusion and sustainability. By using surplus food and welcoming diverse volunteers, we create a space that nourishes both body and spirit while supporting local people with free, nutritious meals.

St Luke's Community Centre, 90 Central Street, South Islington, London EC1V 8AJ. Registered charity number 207497
email: info@slpt.org.uk, website: www.slpt.org.uk

St Luke's Cookery School - Black History Month Community Dinner

'Community Dinners bring me immense joy and happiness. The most rewarding moment is serving the food and seeing people genuinely enjoy it. Preparing and sharing meals allows me to make others happy, and even give them a chance to try new dishes they might not be able to afford. Beyond that, these dinners create a warm sense of togetherness and strengthen the bonds within our community, reminding me of the simple yet profound impact of sharing and caring for one another.'

Volunteer Nassima

2025 Member's Feedback

Members who attended the Community Dinners told us they had a highly positive experience:

95% rated event 5 star
95% felt more part of community
75% felt more happy
80% improved my wellbeing

'A wonderful social occasion bringing community together, improving mental health, reducing hunger and social isolation.'

WHERE AND WHEN DO COMMUNITY DINNERS TAKE PLACE?

Community Dinners take place once a month on Fridays. Volunteers cook from 3pm to 5pm, and food is served from 5pm to 6pm.

Contact awcislo@slpt.org.uk to find out more.

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