**Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day**

**Wimbledon**

For about 20 years now we have been able to offer Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day to anyone who lives in our local community who might be on their own or have difficulty cooking lunch for themselves. We usual feed about 90 guests of all ages, culture and religion.

We advertise through our local church and through Social Services. We invite local people to volunteer to help on the day or the day before preparing food and decorating the church hall. We also invite people to donate food, decorations, gifts for the guests to take home, wine or soft drinks or entertainment on the day.

We ask for volunteers to transport people to and from the lunch. To bring them in about 11.30 am and to take them home about 4.30 pm. People also donate money which often more than covers the cost of the day. All surplus cash is kept by the church to be donated through the year to people in need.

We like to make the hall beautiful, with a big Christmas tree, and the tables covered in white with candles, flowers and crackers. Musicians come in to play for the quests and we sing carols. In recent years we give every guest a raffle ticket for some lovely prizes. Father Christmas always visits us after lunch. Everyone is given some cake sweets and fruit to take home. Anyone who wishes to take a doggy bag of cold turkey, ham and vegetables home are very welcome to do so.

The army of volunteers are also welcome to have lunch if they wish and they stay to clear up when the guests have all been packed off home. Their reward is to go home very tired and very satisfied when they know that about ninety people have had a wonderful Christmas Day instead of a day at home alone.

Sadie Smith