



# Press Release

**For immediate release**

21 September 2016

## Feeding of the 2000 in Saltaire

CHRISTIANS in Shipley will be aiming to recreate the feeding of the 2000 in Robert's Park next month.

On Saturday October 1, Shipley Christians Together will be hosting the Big Picnic in the Saltaire park between 12 and 4pm. The event – part of the Believe in Shipley festival of Christian faith - is open to all and participation in all of the activities is free of charge. The food is also free.

“Picnics give us a chance to relax and enjoy the company of others in the great outdoors. We want to help everyone to do this on October 1,” said event organiser Debbie Skowronski, a resident of Shipley and a member of St. Peter's church. “The subheading for the Big Picnic could be ‘a taste of grace’. We want the event to reflect the nature of God - generous, kind and wanting to develop a relationship with us. Hopefully everyone taking part, whether workers or members of the public, will sense this on the day” Debbie added.

As well as enough free picnics for 2000 people, activities offered on the day include craft stalls, face painting, bouncy castles and football. More unusual things to participate in include falconry, zorbing, and welly wanging. There will also be bands, a Bible stall and prayer tent.

Making this all happen is a huge communal effort - Debbie has formed teams of volunteers from all the churches in Shipley and the wider community to work on ensuring everything will run as smoothly as possible on the day. “I couldn't have done this on my own; there has been an enormous amount of community support and not just from local churches,” she said. “We have had food and equipment donated by local businesses and even offers of help from people who have just seen our Facebook page. It's great to have experienced so much goodwill and generosity from so many quarters.”

The event is on the penultimate day of the 10-day long “Believe in Shipley” festival of Christian faith, which includes events presented by people as diverse as the Archbishop of

York and Leeds Rhinos Star Jamie Jones-Buchanan. For further details of all the events in the Festival go to <http://believeinshipley.com/>.

**Ends**