

# A Cracking Covid Christmas

Dear Monyhull Church member...

Sadly, with phrases like 'digital Christmas' being bandied about, it seems inevitable that Christmas this year is going to look a little different. However, the good news of Christmas is that Jesus was born – Emmanuel – God with us – he is never socially distant, even when we have to be. So, let's make this year a 'Cracking Covid Christmas'!

After a long and tiring year, the message of Christmas is good news for our souls, that brings us comfort and leads us to share the joy of the Christmas angels. However, it's also good news for our friends and family, our neighbours and colleagues. Normally at Christmas we're trying to pack as many people as possible into a building, to hear the message of Christmas interspersed by carols and mince pies. In the absence of Carols on the Green and the numerous other invite opportunities, we've put together a few simple ideas for you to help you share the good news this season.

The reality is that most of our society is a long way off from the gospel. So many of these are little ideas or activities, that we hope might give you an opportunity to share that you're a Christian and cause your friends or colleagues or neighbours to ask questions. We want to take advantage of the season to plant some seeds and prayerfully open up some meaningful conversations. You might feel more comfortable with some of them than others, but our prayer is that something in this list might connect with you and your situation:

## 1 PRAYER

Here's one way that all of us – young and old – can take part – pray! In particular let's be praying for those we come into contact with. For those of you with kids why not write the names of 24 family and friends on lollipop sticks and pray for a different person/family each day of advent!



## 2 LIGHT DISPLAYS

Part of the Christmas 'magic' is seeing lights popping up all over the local area. Perhaps you live in an area with lots of light displays – rather than the usual Santa and reindeer, why not make a nativity themed light display at your house. Perhaps someone in your fellowship group or wider church could help you construct a simple crib scene?



## 3 SOCIAL MEDIA

For those of you on Facebook, Instagram, etc how could you use this to show a bit of light on your Christian faith?? Click attending Monyhull Carols and invite friends who might be interested. Share videos - there's a catalogue of excellent videos available at [gochattervideos.com/category/seasons/christmas](http://gochattervideos.com/category/seasons/christmas)



## 4 SALTY CONVERSATION

We may be in what feels like an endless lockdown but many of us are fortunate to be able to get out to work or the school gate. Following the Evangelism DVD earlier this year why not consider what questions you could ask friends that would give an opportunity to share a snippet of your faith as they then do that conversational thing and ask the question back to you. E.g. "It's going to be a strange Christmas this year... what do you normally do at Christmas?" "Do you have any Christmas traditions in your family?"



## 5 GENEROSITY BOX

2020 has been the year of the delivery man... whether it be Tesco, Amazon or Postman Pat our doorbells are being pressed daily by those dropping off packages of all shapes and sizes. Could you put a clip lock box on your doorstep filled with chocolate bars and some Christmas tracts\* and a little sign thanking delivery people for their efforts and inviting them to feel free to accept a small token of your appreciation.



Dear Postman  
Thank you for all you're doing.  
Please help yourself to chocolate  
and a leaflet from the box.



## 6 CUL-DE-SAC CAROLS

Not just for Cul-de-sac's, please forgive the alliteration! Are you and your family musical? Could you put a message on your community/street WhatsApp group to say you'll be playing 3/4 Carols one evening and inviting them to come out on to their drives with lights and voices to join in.

## 7 POSTER IN A WINDOW

It's been the year of having something in your window and so especially for those of you who live in houses close to the road, could you put one of these A3 posters in your window? We've already purchased them ready for you – so just get in touch! Or following the 'Easter means hope' campaign what messages could you have displayed from an upstairs window?



## 8 DESK DISCUSSION

For those of you who are working in an office of some kind (assuming there's any of you out there!) what could you put on your desk that might prompt conversation... a Christian book? A Bible verse? A photo?

9

## GIVE A GIFT

Christmas is the time for giving, so what better time to give a neighbour, friend or family member a short evangelistic book\* such as Glen Scrivener's 'The Gift' or Rico Tice's 'A Very Different Kind of Christmas'... wrapped up nicely with a bar of chocolate. Or maybe you're aware of those who'd love to get to a Carol service but can't this year... as well as inviting them to the Monyhull online carols, could you give them 'Home for Christmas'\* a CD recorded especially for this year with Carols and a Christmas message from Roger Carswell – we've bought some and would love to supply you with as many as you need. Why not even initiate a Secret Santa in your office or on your street?



10

## CHRISTMAS BAKE ALONG

Everyone loves baking, and everyone loves Christmas! So why not join the Faith in Kids 'Bake Along' featuring a professional baker helping you make gingerbread men to then retell the wonderful good news of the Christmas story. Parents - why not send an invite to those on your class WhatsApp group? Saturday 12th Dec @ 2pm on the [Faith in Kids YouTube channel](#).

11

## A NATIVITY TRAIL

Do you live close to other Christians? Could you run a Nativity trail using either your front garden or windows to tell the Christmas story as people go from house to house? Could be promoted by using those Community WhatsApp groups setup during Covid. For further details and ideas of how it might work check out this link: <https://bit.ly/33jby98>



12

## PRAYER

So good we've included it twice as it really is the thing that all of us can do, regardless of the situation we find ourselves in, as we seek to play our part together in God's gospel work.

# What's next?

So, you have a meaningful conversation...

- Could you invite them to one of our many Christmas online events:
  - Coffee Morning
  - All Age Carols
  - Carols on the Screen
  - Christmas Kids Club
- Why not ask if they'd like to read a gospel with you? We've got copies of The Word one to one working through John's gospel that we'd love to give you.
- Would they be interested in Christianity Explored starting online in January weekly from Tuesday 19th January?
- Let's keep praying – ultimately we're looking for God to do a glorious work in the lives of our friends and families.

We hope this list of ideas has excited you about the role we can all play in our ongoing outreach into the communities where we live and work. Do be chatting to others in the church, share your ideas with your fellowship group, do get in touch if there's anything we can do to help resource and support you.

\*Please note as a church we have already purchased a number of these Christmas tracts and books. Please just get in touch if you'd like to look at some before considering which might be most appropriate.

Any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.  
[markwiggins@monyhullchurch.org](mailto:markwiggins@monyhullchurch.org)