

Festive Fundraising: Ideas to raise funds this Winter

Christmas is a time of year when many of our Fundraising Groups would be out in the community holding fundraising activities from Carol Concerts to Christmas Fayres. This year will look very different, but there are still plenty of fundraising activities that you could encourage your local community to get involved with. Speak to your local community fundraiser if you need any support with organising these activities. Also, be creative. If these ideas don't work for you, have a think about what else you could do.



12k's of Christmas Active Challenge: An active challenge for all abilities in your community.

The idea is to encourage people to run, walk or cycle up to 12kms to raise money for Marie Curie. This could be 1km each day for 12 days, different distances over a weekend to make up the 12kms, have a team of 4 that do 3km each or to complete it all in one go. The options are endless. People could include this in dog walks or even walk it in their own garden. Too cold to run outdoors? People could run on a treadmill at home or the gym instead.

If you think 12kms is too much for your family, friends and community then you could do another festive active challenge of a 5km Santa Dash or Pudding Waddle.

Follow our [Active Challenge Event Guide](#) for more information on how to run this type of event.

Christmas Crafting: If you or someone you know is a keen knitter or sewer, why not make some items that you would be able to sell to your local community. Use social media or your local contacts to sell the items.

Some ideas of what you could make are:

- **Christmas Decorations:** From knitted baubles to being creative with pinecones, there are lots of ideas that you could make to hang on a Christmas Tree or for a Christmas display

- **Christmas Face coverings:** The need to wear face coverings are still mandatory this winter, so why not get your sewing machine out and create festive themed options for people to buy for themselves or as gifts. You could use Christmas material or be comical and make ones that look like a Santa's beard or Snowman's smile.
- **Handmade Christmas Cards:** If you are arty and/or looking for an activity to get the children involved with, why not make handmade Christmas Cards that you can sell to your local community in packs?
- **Homemade chutneys or jams:** These make a great Christmas present or treat. Speak to your community fundraiser for our guidelines around food safety if you are making any food items.
- **Reindeer Food:** this is a great Christmas eve activity for children to put out special reindeer food for Rudolph. There are many recipe ideas on the internet, just make sure it is wildlife friendly. You could make up small bags and sell them to your community.

Christmas Cooking Challenge: There are so many fun Christmas foods that you could challenge members of the public to go head to head with seeing who can make the best. From gingerbread houses to icing a Christmas cake or the best mince pies or chocolate log, be creative!

Some ideas of how you could run this event:

- You could hold a virtual cook off where you get 2 people to go head to head and show what they are making. People would make a small donation to watch and then vote on which is the best.
- People could enter photos of their best decorated item and make a small donation for a chance to be the winner. If you have a Fundraising Group Facebook Page, you could upload photos for people to 'like' their favourite. You could offer a small prize for the winner.

Follow our [Cooking Challenge Guide](#) for more information on these type of events.

Virtual Christmas Crafting Workshops: Experts often run workshops that people will pay to take part in. Why not see if you could run one of these virtually? Follow our [Expert Demos Guide](#) for more information on how to run the event.



Some Christmas themed virtual workshops you could run are:

- Wreath Making
- Christmas Cake decoration
- Homemade crackers

Christmas Decoration Competition: As many of us will be spending more time at home this Christmas, why not encourage your community to add some extra Christmas cheer to their homes and enter a competition. People would pay a small entry fee to go head to head to see who wins the best design. You could get people to add their photos to your social media accounts for people to 'like' to show who is the best or have a local judging panel who will decide.

Some ideas of competitions you could do are:

- Decorate your door this Christmas: people could add wreaths or other decorations to their front doors. Not only would this be part of the competition, but it would be nice for your community to be able to see the different doors on walks as it could make a trail
- The best Christmas Tree: encourage people to add some extra sparkle this year and show off their decoration skills
- Children's grotto den: why not tailor the competition to children in your community to be creative and make a Christmas fort or den
- Decorate your desk: With many people working from home, they could still decorate their desk to make them feel festive whilst working. Why not encourage local businesses to ask their employees to enter a desk decorating competition. Speak to your community fundraiser about our hashtag that people can get involved in when entering.

Christmas Auction: Why not use the ideas from our [Auction Guide](#) to run an auction before or after Christmas? It is a great way to use up prizes that you may have previously had for raffle or sell at a Christmas Fayre.

This could be to either:

- Auction off prizes that people could give as Christmas Presents or a little treat for themselves or their family
- Ask people to donate their unwanted Christmas Gifts and do an Unwanted Present Auction in the new year where people can pick up bargains as a little New Year treat

Donate instead of giving: A simple way to ask your community to donate to Marie Curie this Christmas.

Often people will make a donation to a charity that they are close to instead of giving Christmas Cards so you could ask them to make a donation to Marie Curie. If your group has a JustGiving page you could set up a specific fundraiser for this. This year many of us will be at home more this Christmas, so you could also ask people to make a donation instead of other items they might usually spend money on too. For example:

- The cost of a taxi after a works Christmas party
- The money they would spend on a big Christmas lunch or ticket to a party with friends
- Instead of buying secret santa gifts in the workplace, make a donation to Marie Curie instead and see how many nursing hours they could fund

You could also ask your community to give an alternative present this year: they could donate £20 to fund an hour of nursing care instead of buying a present for a loved one and you could give them a certificate to present as the present. Our Hinckley Fundraising Group have been attending an event called Alternativity each year doing just this, and it goes down well with the local community.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies: like our virtual Blooming Great Tea Party events that ran earlier this year, why not give the idea a festive twist and invite people to take part in a Mulled Wine and Mince pies event.



Some ideas on how you could run this event:

- Ask everyone to join you for a virtual get together to enjoy a mince pie and a glass of mulled wine (or a hot chocolate) to start the Christmas celebrations. People would pay a

small donation to join you and you could run a small game or talk to your community about the work that Marie Curie do. One of our volunteer speakers may be happy to join you.

- You could ask for Christmas goodies from local shops and package them up and offer a Christmas Afternoon tea delivery service.
- Ask for a donation for a recipe card for how to make mince pies – ask a local bakery or chef if they would be happy to offer their recipe or you may have one of your own

If promoting alcohol at your activity please ensure that you advise people to drink responsibly. You can find more information on the Drink Aware or Alcohol in Moderation websites. Please speak to your community fundraiser if you have any questions.

Virtual Advent Calendar: bring the family together with some ideas that they can do each day in December together.

People would pay a donation and you can either:

- Invite them to a private Facebook group where you will post a new activity each day
- Ask for their email address when they donate and email them the activity. Please follow our GDPR guidance regarding personal details. Speak to your community fundraiser for more information.
- You could also print these out as a checklist that people could complete in their own time in the lead up to Christmas



Ideas on activities could be:

- Make a new decoration for your tree
- Watch a Christmas film
- Go for a walk and try and find a certain number of items
- Decorate a gingerbread man
- Build a snowman – if it isn't snowing, they could get create with household items
- Phone a friend or family member and sing carols to them
- Create your own Christmas Pantomime
- Create a Christmas Eve box of treats
- Dance to your favourite Christmas song
- Dress in red, green or white
- Create a newsletter or video to share with friends and family of what you have done this year and wish for the new year
- Create Christmas cards and send to a local care home who may have residents that are unable to see loved ones
- Read your favourite Christmas story
- Have a games day/night
- Bake a Christmas treat
- Picnic by the tree – have an indoor picnic in front of your Christmas Tree
- Have a snowball fight – no snow then use paper or socks
- Have a Christmas jumper day – if you don't have one why not make one?
- Drive around your community to see Christmas lights
- Cut out snowflakes from paper to hang in your house
- Set up a hot chocolate station in your kitchen with marshmallows and treats to put on top
- Play Christmas Bingo

- An act of kindness: donate a food item to a foodbank or give an old toy to an organisation to help others
- Write a letter to Santa
- Create and play a Christmas Quiz

Festive Quiz/Bingo Night: Add a festive spin to our [Games and Trivia Guide](#) and encourage your friends and family or local community to get involved.

If holding a virtual version, why not ask people to either dress up in Christmas jumpers or sparkly Christmas outfits.

Caroloke: Help get everyone in the Christmas Spirit by hosting a virtual sing along Karaoke party. You could do this with friends and family who pay a small donation to come along or ask local businesses if they would be interested to hold a Caroloke instead of the traditional Christmas Parties that won't be able to take place. Add to the atmosphere by encouraging everyone to dress up.

You would need to pick a virtual platform that you are comfortable with using and ensure that you trial that your speakers work before hand or that you can play videos with the music by sharing your screen.

There are many Christmas Song Karaoke videos on YouTube. Speak to your community fundraiser for our guide on setting up a YouTube playlist to help you with this.

Your options would be:

- To have a list of the songs and everyone is randomly allocated a song (it could be picked out of a hat for example) and they sing that song by themselves
- Each house that has joined sing one song each
- Everyone sings all the songs together at the same time
- Everyone picks their favourite Christmas Carol that they could sing along to

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