

'Windows of Light' at Christmas

Earlier this year we got used to seeing colourful posters in people's windows in support of our wonderful NHS staff and all keyworkers. Building on that idea, and an initiative called 'Streets of Light' in Sheffield (around Hallowe'en), Churches Together in Ashford are encouraging Christians in and around the town to create and display a 'Window of Light' this Christmas. These will brighten and cheer our homes during this difficult winter, shine out as a witness to Jesus the Light of the World to our neighbours and passers-by, and also form a Christmas Trail of windows to explore during the school holidays. You are invited to take part in this exciting project, and have until **Sunday 13th December** to make and register your window!



Here's how it works:

YOU WILL NEED:

- ✓ Some large card or paper (black is good, but you can use any colour), coloured tissue paper, scissors, sellotape/blu-tac to attach it to the window. For a more complicated design you might need a craft knife and board to cut on.

Hobbycraft is currently selling large card and sugar paper, including black and tissue paper in packs. The cheap(ish) black sugar paper is fine. Everything is only available on click & collect – i.e. you can't just turn up at the shop to buy some during lockdown, so do pre-order.

Supermarkets such as Tesco also have some small card/paper and tissue paper.

WHAT TO DO:

- ✓ Decide which window in your home to decorate - which will passers-by see most easily?
- ✓ Design your window before you start cutting etc. Remember it needs to be read from the outside! The card/paper shapes and letters will stand out as silhouettes, the tissue paper will provide the light and colour.
- ✓ Measure your window before you start and cut your card to fit it (ask a grown up to help & take care with sharp scissors & knives).
- ✓ Include a few keywords for Christmas, such as HOPE, PEACE, JOY, JESUS, LOVE, LIGHT etc.

WHAT NEXT:

- ✓ When you've finished (**by Sunday 13th December please**), place the design in your window.
- ✓ Register your window by texting 'Window' plus your street name (house/flat number is not needed) to 07523 270369. This is a church mobile phone that the person administering the list/map of all windows will use. You will not be contacted on it.
- ✓ Every evening that you can, **from Friday 18th December until Sunday 27th December** between the hours of 5pm and 9pm, switch on the light in the room behind your window so that it shines out. (You can also do it before or after those dates, or for longer hours, but these are for the Christmas Trail.)
- ✓ If you want to do the Christmas Trail yourself and find as many Windows of Light as you can, then from **Friday 18th December** either go to www.ashfordbaptist.org.uk to pick up the list/map from there, or else go to the Facebook page 'Ashford Churches Noticeboard' where it will also be available.
- ✓ Take a photo of your window & post it on social media, using the hashtag #windowsoflightashford. There is no need to do this if you don't want to.
- ✓ Pray at your evening meal that people will see the windows and that God will speak to them about his love, hope and peace this Christmas.

Many thanks for your interest in 'Windows of Light'. If you would like to see a promotional video about the Sheffield version of this (used at Hallowe'en), then follow the link:

<https://stthomascrookes.org/streetsflight/>

On behalf of Churches Together in Ashford,

Revd Rob Sylvester (chair of CTA and minister at Ashford Baptist Church)