

IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

Christmas is coming and we are all so busy, so I thought some simple tried and tested fund-raising ideas might be helpful and not require too much effort and planning.

I love the idea of getting people involved with MU whether fundraising or in other ways and it can be a way of talking about MU, and the important work that we do throughout our parishes, counties, country and indeed the whole world.

So, let's get people involved.

Idea No 1. Christmas poster. Do you all send each other Christmas cards in your church or place of work? This idea worked well for me and got all the staff involved. Well in advance (before people have written their cards) suggest that instead of sending a card to each and every one, that you have a large poster (or two) in a prominent place for people to write their Christmas message and sign their names, and a collection jar for everyone to put a £1 into when they do this. Participants can save money on buying cards, and the collection could go to our charity or AFIA to help our work. A template for your poster can be found on the MU website under fundraising. Log on and print as many as you wish.

Idea No. 2. Again, getting people involved. How about talking to your church choir about a 'sing - a - thon.' People can sponsor their favourite hymn or Christmas carol and everyone can come along and sing for Christmas. An opportunity to talk to the congregation about where the money will be going and our work, plus getting everyone into the Christmas spirit. Make sure you have a plate at the exit for people to donate as they leave the church.

Idea No. 3. Do you have a store near you that gives tokens at the checkout for you to post into a charity box as you walk out? Why not talk to the supermarkets and get the MU AFIA selected as one of the charities. Again, it is an opportunity to bring MU to the notice of not just church people but the public by putting leaflets or a poster in the shop.

Idea No. 4. Sponsored events. Let's 'ring out' for Christmas. Talk to your bell ringers and suggest a sponsored Christmas peal. A sponsorship form could be left in the church and poster nearby. This could be rolled

out further by putting a poster and sponsorship form in your local shop or pub. Ideas for poster and sponsorship form can be found on the MU website.

Idea No. 5. Let's get the children involved. How about having a children's gift wrapping service where they pay a small amount to buy a gift for their mother and father, and have it wrapped in secret by helpers in church. This means the child has a present to give to parents that will be a surprise for them on Christmas morning. We did this last year at our church and it was very successful. We did not intend it to raise money, just cover the costs, but the publicity and working with the children was worth far more.

How to go about it. Ask for small unwanted gifts to be donated, or go to a friendly shop and make a deal for presents under a certain price, say £2 but with discount so the gift is worth giving. St. Andrews Church social group approached a shop that sold crafting equipment and beautiful hand-made gifts which they bought at discounted prices for the children.

As well as a selection of gifts, you will need wrapping paper, ribbon, and labels for the children to write on. After our family service the children went with the organisers to a quiet corner of the church (away from parents), chose their present and had help to wrap it and secure the label ready for them to take home and put under the tree.

This needs to be advertised so the children can save up their money and bring it to church with them.

Do you have any ideas that you can share with us? Log on to our Facebook page at [Mothersunion Oxford](#) and share your ideas with our members.

I look forward to hearing how you did in your fundraising and hopefully these ideas will help.

Rosie Jackson-Kilham

Fundraising and Communications Unit
Facebook Co-ordinator

