

## For Participation or Prayer, week beginning 2nd December

- Mon:** 2pm, Little Saints, St George's Hall  
2pm, Knit & Natter, St Hilda's  
2pm Pastoral visit to Craghall  
6pm, Advent Reading group (email Rev Debbie for info)  
6pm, Beavers, St George's Hall  
7.15pm, Scouts, St George's Hall
- Tues:** 8.45am, Morning Prayer, St Hilda's  
9.30am, Holy Communion, St Hilda's  
9.30am, Tuesday Group, St George's  
11.30am Office staff meeting  
2.30pm, Meet & Move (referral required)  
7.30pm, Community Hub committee meeting  
7.30pm, Concert Band (members only), St George's Hall
- Weds:** 10am, Plant Pots Christingle service, St George's  
12pm, Great Chapter Christmas lunch  
5.30pm, Cubs, St George's Hall  
7.15pm, Tai Chi, St George's Hall  
7.30pm Children and Youth committee meeting
- Thurs:** 8.45am, Morning Prayer, St George's  
9.30am, Holy Communion, St George's  
10am, Little Kickers, St George's Hall  
12pm, Ecumenical clergy meeting  
2pm Pastoral visit to Cestria  
5.30pm, Lights switch-on on Acorn Road  
6.30pm Lights switch-on service, St George's Church
- Fri:** 10am, Friday Café, St George's Hall  
11am, Sing & Socialise, St George's Hall  
7.30pm, Bellringing, St George's
- Sat:** 10am, Christmas Tree Festival, St Hilda's  
12pm, Christmas Market, St George's Hall  
5pm, Carol Concert, St Hilda's



## **Eco Church tips**

Alone or with others, a great way to enjoy nature at this time of year is to make a foraged Christmas wreath.

Of course, there are more sustainable options to buy these days (look for locally sourced, no plastic, wreaths - local florists can be a good option), but for those who like making, this is fun and will be completely unique. Foraging can be done in your own garden, or locally. Even if you live in a city, you could make a morning of visiting some woodlands and doing some foraging there. Even from central London, trains can get you to foragers paradises quickly. N.B. There are some strict rules banning foraging in some city parks and woodlands, so do check locally before you start.

### **First you'll need a base**

**Willow or vine weave:** You can weave a wreath base out of willow or vines - or buy one locally (check that bought ones have come from sustainable sources and haven't been treated with chemicals).

**Bendy plant material:** If you can't find willow, are there any very bendy plant materials you can find? You may need to tie branches together into a long strand, and then shape it into a circle. Depending on how firm the materials are, you may need to wire the circle to hold its shape.

**Straw ring:** Straw is a traditional wreath base material - again, you might be able to source one locally or buy one.

**Recyclable materials:** If you don't want to buy something, do you have any recyclable materials at home to make a sturdy base? You can be creative if you want!

**Wire ring:** This is most often used for wreaths and is widely available to buy at florists or other places. You can pack it out with moss or other base materials. If you go for this option, could you save the wire afterwards for future use?

### **Create a green base**

For a more professional and stable look, you may want to use wire to fix your foliage to your base. You could try using biodegradable twine or other bendy vines to be as sustainable as possible. Options for a green base might be holly - beware of prickles! Pine branches are a firm favourite, or really, any other green foliage. If you can cover the whole base with the same material, this will give it a more uniform look.

### **Decorations**

This is where you really get to make it your own and add colour and interest - as much or as little as you like. Berries add colour, contrasting greenery. Pine cones, dried fruit, and cinnamon sticks can become features and add interest. You could forage from your own home as well - are there some old Christmas decorations you could attach? Stars, ribbons or anything else. If you can, avoid buying anything new to keep this a truly foraged wreath!