



## Welcome!

Our doors are open for you to look, listen, touch, smell, connect, laugh, cry, pray, reflect, think, remember, admire, be still and wonder at this beautiful Christmas celebration.

Each of our 40 “Caring Christmas Trees” supports Bethany Christian Trust’s work, transforming the lives of people affected by homelessness. This A-Z of trees tells you a bit more about the people and charities who have decorated the trees.

If you would like to make a donation please visit our Giving Tree. Donations will be shared between **Birthlink**, an established charity who have regularly supported the Christmas Tree Festival and are based in our parish and two much newer local charities, **Blood Bikes Scotland** and **The Welcoming**. Our “New Life” theme connects so well with each of them.

 [EdinburghChristmasTreeFestival](https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghChristmasTreeFestival)

## A-Z of Christmas Trees

**2018 Babies:** this tree is sponsored by the Gilmour/MacPherson family. It celebrates babies born in 2018; if you wish, please add the names of babies, special to you, born this year - and where they were born.

**Agnes Hunter Trust** makes grants to registered charities that help disabled people, including those with physical disability, visual impairment, illness, mental health or learning disabilities, or providing education and training for people over 16. Our tree highlights some of these organisations. Find out more at [www.agneshunter.org.uk](http://www.agneshunter.org.uk)

**Amnesty** our local group meets downstairs in the Undercroft Café 12.15 to 1pm, last Monday of each month (except December). All welcome. At our tree you can post a card to someone facing human rights abuse: a powerful message of support that also lets the authorities know the world is watching. Please post a card today.

**Amos Christian Trust** aims to spread God's love through distribution of our prayer cards. These are used by churches, hospital chaplains and individuals and have been bringing comfort, and helping people to share their own and God's love, for many years. [www.amoschristiantrust.org](http://www.amoschristiantrust.org)

**Birthlink** @ the heart of adoption with a Scottish connection. In the words of our service users: 'You have squared my circle and closure after all these years' 'You have made this journey for us so seamless' 'If this hadn't happened I wouldn't be on this new journey in life.'

**Blood Bikes Scotland** are a dedicated team of volunteer motorcyclists, who commit their time to provide a motorbike courier service free of charge to the NHS; using fully liveried motorbikes, as a way of 'giving something back'. They deliver small items that are urgently required, moving them from one site to another or to a patient's home in the community.

**Changeworks** this tree was decorated by St David's RC Primary School nursery pupils. Each star has been carefully made from home-made, recycled paper. Thank you Changeworks for asking us to decorate your tree and for helping us make the paper. Happy Christmas everyone!

**Children's Tree:** this tree welcomes decorations made by visiting Nursery children and others visiting the Christmas Tree Festival. The tree is sponsored by Roger Miller, whose wife, Jean Miller, supported the children's tree and loved helping others: her message - 'Happy Christmas to all the Children, love Jesus and be kind to everyone.'

**Chit Chat Crafters Self Reliant Group** We are a group of ladies who meet for friendship and support. We share ideas and learn new skills together through various crafts. We are independent of funders, making our own decisions and saving together with potential to become a small business.

**Christian Aid Scotland** Peace is broken every day but it is also built every day through the tireless work of peacemakers across the world. Peace is possible this Christmas with your donation to Christian Aid.

Be a peacemaker. Find out more and donate at [caid.org.uk/Christmas-appeal](http://caid.org.uk/Christmas-appeal). *#WeAreThePeacemakers*

**Creative Together**...is for anyone who loves making things. This year *'Knit for a Bit'* produced hats, scarves, blankets, teddies and raised over £650 for Edinburgh Direct Aid project for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Future plans include a second button sale in 2019. Creative Together is part of Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together.

**Crofters** Tree. Our Undercroft cafe, (downstairs, where you will find our tree) is open weekdays 10-2pm, providing good food and a warm welcome to our customers. Peter is our chef and Meyko our trainee. The rest of us are volunteers, church members or friends. Interested in joining our happy band? - please leave your name and phone number.

**Curves** Edinburgh Northwest is a fitness club specially designed for women combining high intensity interval strength training with stretching and cardio. We help women of ALL ages and fitness levels give themselves a new life and the gifts of strength, health, fitness and weight loss. Warmest Christmas greetings –and here's to 2019! Andrea, Ana, Helen, Ivana, Lara & Vicki.

**Edinburgh Direct Aid** is an all-volunteer international charity helping people caught up in disasters worldwide: currently refugees in Lebanon fleeing war in Syria. Decorations on the EDA tree were made by Syrian refugee women in Aarsal and represent Syrian stars and Lebanese cedars.

**Edinburgh Women's Aid** is an all women, confidential organisation which provides information, support and, where appropriate, refuge accommodation for women, children and young people who have experienced or are at risk of domestic abuse. Helpline: 0131 315 8110 – Mon-Fri: 10am-3pm, Thurs: 10am-7pm, Sat: 10am-1pm.

**Firsthand** Lothian supports families and parents with young children or with additional support needs - spending 1:1 time doing fun activities with children to help them achieve their goals. Our decorations have been

created by children and reflects our commitment to being able to offer families a helping hand and build resilience. [www.firsthand-lothian.org.uk](http://www.firsthand-lothian.org.uk)

**Freedom from Torture** Edinburgh Local Group works to raise awareness of the work of Freedom from Torture and to raise funds for the charity's work. FfT is the only UK charity dedicated to the support and care of survivors of torture. Demand for FfT's services is growing, reflecting the current global political climate.

**Greetings Tree** this tree carries greetings from the congregation of St Andrew's and St George's West, sponsored by Cathie Donaldson. Members make a donation for a (recycled!) Christmas card and write greetings to all their friends in the congregation. Money raised goes to The Welcoming, Birthlink and Blood Bikes Scotland.

**Hadeel** is a Fair Trade Palestinian crafts shop which aims to provide a sustainable source of income for craftspeople working with social enterprises in Palestine. Fully owned and operated by Palcrafts charity organisation, we are a member of the British Association for Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers.

**Homeless 'Room at the Inn'** – The Parish Church of St Cuthbert and Bethany work together during winter to provide a safe warm place where a bed, clothing, and with help from other churches, a hot meal can be enjoyed. Additionally in January a weekly "open evening" offers food, clothing, support and care.

**InterGen** is a global team of talented people deriving expertise from all levels of the company providing energy solutions to meet the world's changing needs. InterGen is a preeminent developer, owner, and operator of modern, environmental, low-cost power generation assets in markets that support strong growth potential, flexible financing options, and long-term government support.

**Mamie Martin Fund** Established in 1993 by the family and friends of Mamie Martin, to advance the education of girls in secondary school, within the catchment area of the Synod of Livingstonia in Northern Malawi. This year we pay the fees of, and support, 112 girls across five schools, including a school for The Deaf in Embangweni.

**Messy Church** Welcome to our community of young and old, families and students, hearing and deaf. Together we laugh, share stories and create. We hear of a man called Jesus, we challenge ourselves to live differently, to help, to support, to encourage. This is our community, all are welcome.

**Missing People** is the only charity supporting children and adults who are missing or thinking about going missing and their families. Our round-the-clock helpline supports thousands of people in crisis every year in the UK.

**Neal's Yard Remedies Edinburgh.** We are driven by the belief that health and beauty should be natural. We are proud to offer the UK's largest range of organic health and beauty care. We offer a wide range of treatments in our Hanover Street Therapy Rooms, and run regular 'Make Your Own' workshops.

**The Open Door** in its café, has welcomed in a caring, supportive atmosphere, the lonely and those with health or other issues since 1982. In our Clubs for the elderly, the focus is on friendship, love and laughter and on our Tree are found, suggested by our Club members, their reasons for the Charity's popularity.

**Pasda** is a support group in Edinburgh and the Lothians for carers of adults with autism. We hold social groups such as walking, singing and gardening to give carers the opportunities to meet informally. Many carers are isolated and find consolation meeting others in a similar situation.

**Peace and Justice Centre** working across Scotland, we promote nonviolence, human rights, conflict resolution and ecological sustainability. From our co-operative games programmes in primary schools, to challenging militarisation and advocating disarmament, through to our Peace Cranes project and partnership working to honour conscientious objectors, past and present, we strive to create a culture of peace.

**Prayer Tree** You are welcome to write a prayer and add it to those on the tree. Please use one of the cards provided.

**Scottish Adoption** This year our adopted young people helped organise a conference where they shared their experiences of Adoption as part of #AdoptionWeekScotland. Our families have created decorations with the Adopted Voices theme in the hope that of raising awareness and educating

people that Christmas can be a particularly hard time for adopted children. Merry Christmas from all at Scottish Adoption.

**SHRUB Cooperative** This upcycled tree has been made collaboratively by members of the SHRUB Cooperative. We promote creative re-use of unwanted and scrap materials. Our tree aims to inspire people as to what can be created from "waste" and to highlight the need to care for our environment and be mindful of how we live.

**SKO Family Law Specialists**, 18 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PF, are delighted to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Sophia Tree** Sophia is a Greek word for wisdom. This tree is decorated by the Learning Together lay worship team at St Andrew's and George's West. At 9.45am on Sundays we aim to provide something for every age and stage and to engage us all in a variety of art, drama and thinking out of the box. A big bag of toys is always available.

**St Andrew's and St George's West choir** leads singing at the 11am Sunday service. We have a wide repertoire, and perform in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and in BBC religious broadcasts. We also go on tour in the UK and abroad. Our decorations are inspired by the theme 'New Life'

**Stewart Investors** is an Edinburgh-based fund management company specialising in Asian and Emerging Markets equities. We hold our annual Christmas Carol concert in the church - all are welcome - and are delighted to sponsor a tree in our name.

**Together Trust** Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together (Registered Charity No SC040773) is a grouping of this church, St Cuthbert's and St John's, whose purpose is to work in service to all in central Edinburgh and share Christ's love. Our theme gives information about our work and shows "attributes" of the relevant saints.

**Tree of Remembrance** – Sponsored by **W.T.Dunbar Funeral Care** Please use the cards provided to add to the tree the name of anyone dear to you whom you want to remember today.

**The Welcoming** We welcome migrants and refugees to help them start new lives in Edinburgh, by fostering integration through friendship, language learning, cultural education and many other activities. Our handmade decorations have been made by New Scots with love, to thank Edinburgh for its openness and to wish you all a Merry Christmas.

**Women in Black** originated in Jerusalem to protest the 1987 occupation by the Israeli state of Palestinian territory. Women in Black internationally, however, stands for peaceful alternatives to violence wherever conflict occurs. Edinburgh Women in Black have stood in silent vigil every Saturday by the Wellington Statue since 2001.

**The Yard** is a children's charity based in Canonmills running adventure play services for disabled children, young people and their families. In 2017, we worked with over 1,000 families and some of those families have helped to decorate and design our Christmas tree this year.

### **Music among the trees**

Tue 11 Dec 11am Brigitte Harris, organ

Thurs 13 Dec 2pm Honest Singers

Fri 14 Dec 11am Brigitte Harris, organ

Sat 15 Dec 11am Susan McLarty, Recorder Group

Tue 18 Dec 10am Brigitte Harris, organ and 1pm James McNeill, organ

Thurs 20 Dec 10am Brigitte Harris, organ and 1pm James McNeill, organ

Thurs 20 Dec 7pm Siobhan Wilson

Fri 21 Dec 6pm Carols at Six

Sat 22 Dec 1pm James McNeill, organ and 2pm Viokoh

Mon 24 Dec 10am Brigitte Harris

### **Come for Christmas**

**Friday 21 December 6pm Carols at Six**

**Christmas Eve, 24 December**

5pm Christingle Service

11.30 Watchnight Service

**Christmas Day 25 December 11am Family Worship**

**St Andrew's and St George's West, 13 George Street,  
Edinburgh EH2 2PA Charity SC 008990 [www.stagw.org.uk](http://www.stagw.org.uk)**