Carols for Christian Aid

‘When out of poverty is born’, the beautiful carol written by Kathy Galloway, challenges us to remember amidst our Christmas celebrations, our neighbours around the world facing poverty, injustice and climate crisis.

The carol echoes the words of Isaiah, fulfilled through the actions of John the Baptist, to ‘prepare the way’, calling us to generosity in our Christmas giving and actions that reaches beyond our immediate family and friends. It ask us to use the joy and hope that Christmas brings to imagine a new world for all.

By sharing ‘When out of poverty is born’ with your church and community through your Advent and Christmas worship, carol services, or carol singing, you can stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers facing poverty and injustice. Unleash the power of song this Christmas by raising your voices with carols for Christian Aid.

Carol resources:

Download resources for our carol fundraiser at caid.org.uk/christmas
- ‘When out of poverty is born' sheet music and lyrics
- ‘When out of poverty is born' videos
- Ideas for prayer and worship
- Order collection envelopes
- Set up a digital fundraiser
Carol singing in your community

Alison Trezise, Sara Millard, and Yo Tozer-Loft organise annual carol singing in Sheffield. Alison shares some of their experiences:

Carol singing to raise money for Christian Aid in Sheffield city centre has a long tradition - in fact, I can't honestly remember when it started!

Every year Sara organises a rota of different church groups and choirs to bring festive cheer to the shoppers in Sheffield city centre and I organise a rota of willing collectors to hold a bucket. We raise over £1000 for Christian Aid but we feel that it is equally important to be a good witness to the true spirit of Christmas amidst all the commercialisation: not only remembering the humble birth of Jesus but also our global neighbours living in poverty, for whom Jesus had a special affinity.

And then the pandemic hit and we had to get creative...

We realised the potential for a virtual carol singing event, then Yo had the brainwave of doing an Advent calendar of carols, posting a different carol performed by a different group every day during December. You can take a look by searching 'Advent carols Sheffield' on YouTube.
Switching to virtual carols

Churches and other musical performers recorded a video of the carol, which were posted on our YouTube channel each day. A Justgiving page was included for donations.

We had the most eclectic collection of carols you could imagine, from solo singers bringing us traditional Sheffield carols, to a Christmas rap from a URC minister, plus the well known and well loved carols sung by church choirs. We raised over £3000 which was amazing! It went so well that we're hoping to do both versions of carol singing in 2021 - the virtual calendar and the in-person singing.

Tips for your church carol service

Sue Pettit and Jenny Kwee have been organising the Big Christmas Sing at Truro Cathedral for 12 years. Here are their top tips for your carol service:

- Begin planning early and have one or two people to take the lead
- Focus on the singing! Have lots of carols involved including some 'old favourites' that everyone can join in with.
- Decide if you are going to have any guest choirs or singers. We invite some local choirs to make the event really special.
- Don't forget to fundraise! Make sure you have donation envelopes available so that people can give a gift.
Fundraising at your carol event

At a Service

**Take a collection**
One way to encourage gifts for our global neighbours is to take a church collection. Order envelopes at caid.org.uk/christmas and leave on seats, include in a song booklet, or hand to people as they arrive. Share a story of the impact of Christian Aid's work during your service, and

**Sell refreshments or gifts**
Arrange some festive refreshments, such as mince pies, and have them after the service for a suggested donation. If you have some creative members in your group or church, you could ask them to create Christmas cards or other items that could be sold as Christmas presents.

**Take contactless donations**
In a retiring collection, or at the back of your church or venue, use a contactless donation device so that those without cash can also make a gift. Order a contactless device for your church or group at caid.org.uk/contactless

At public carolling

**Take bucket donations**
Encourage some of your carollers to have buckets to take donations from the public as they pass by. If you're carolling for a long time, consider having a rota of collectors. When planning your collection, ensure you check with the relevant groups (eg. local council or supermarket chain) that collections are allowed.

**Encourage people to donate digitally**
Set up a fundraising page and share a QR code so that people can donate using their mobile phone. You can also order contactless devices so passers-by can make card donations. Sign up to create a GiveStar page with Christian Aid at caid.org.uk/contactless

**If you need any advice about your carol event, or how to fundraise, please contact us at hello@christian-aid.org**