

#FollowTheStar, the Church of England's national Advent and Christmas campaign for 2018, is inviting people across the country to experience the Christmas journey this year.

### **How can your church get involved in #FollowTheStar, our 2018 Advent and Christmas campaign?**

To help us share the Christmas message through the #FollowTheStar campaign, we are encouraging as many churches as possible to be 'star churches' for a special 'night of the stars' on Friday, 21 December 2018. We may have a surprise or two up our sleeve that evening too, keep an eye on our social media channels!

### **How can you and your church get involved?**

The first thing to do to be a 'star church' is to display a prominent star (ideally outdoor and illuminated at night, for maximum visibility) before 21 December. The aim of the star is to help us inspire people to visit A Church Near You and #FollowTheStar to find their local church Christmas service. By participating, you will help us share the Christmas message on a national scale – and locally. The star you will adorn your church with will serve as a visual invitation for the whole community.

Secondly, please ensure you have already added details of your Advent and Christmas services to [A Church Near You](#). Don't forget to also add



When creating the star, remember that it doesn't have to be an expensive art installation! Below, we have compiled a few of our favourite DIY ideas – and remember that these can all be increased in scale to maximise the effect. For help in creating these, there are tutorials online.

1. **The illuminated star:** use wire, wood or other material, fashioned into the shape of a star and then wrap with Christmas lights. Ikea has some [great star shaped paper lampshades](#) which could be used with a pendant bulb or on a light stand
2. **The metallic star:** made from cardboard and paint sprayed in gold for a metallic finish.
3. **The poster star:** buy a hanging star from [Church Print Hub](#). Available in three sizes and two finishes, the packs of stars can be used as a quick and easy option. It can be placed in a window or on a noticeboard.
4. **The glowing star:** a blackout curtain with a star-shaped cut-out, with a strong light behind, will present a bright star when hung in a prominent window.
5. **The treetop star:** made with lollipop sticks and glitter and place on top of the Christmas tree.
6. **The origami star:** made with gold or yellow paper.

If you want it to tie in with the #FollowTheStar campaign, why not try and create an eight-pointed star like the logo.

*Finally, don't forget to share your photos on social media and tag any images with #FollowTheStar on Friday, 21 December.*

*Find out more about the Church of England's [#FollowTheStar Christmas campaign](#)*

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