

Page 1 - 'Shepherd', played by Tim  
Photo: Shannon Short

Page 2 - Little Girl Wearing Santa Hat  
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Page 3 - Christ is born  
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Page 4 - Barbecue  
@iStockphoto.com/thelinke

Page 5 - Traditional sport & youth  
@iStockphoto.com/SlowRunning

Page 6 - Champagne Cocktail  
@iStockphoto.com/MentalArt

Page 7 - Gingerbread men  
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Page 8 - Party crackers  
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Page 9 - Holy family with the wise men  
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Page 10 - Bucket Head  
@iStockphoto.com/RBFried

Page 11 - Candles in Stands  
@iStockphoto.com/inkastudio

Page 12 - Pig's life  
@iStockphoto.com/noltelourens

Page 13 - Happy Xmas!  
@iStockphoto.com/DoctorKan

Page 14 - Starfield with flares  
@iStockphoto.com/sololos

Page 15 - barefoot  
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Page 16 - Cherubini  
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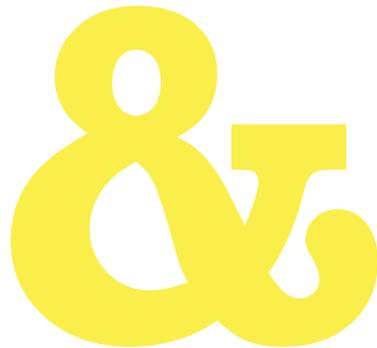
Page 17 - Sweet cherries  
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Page 18 - Christmas Balls  
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Page 19 - Origami Moldavian Stars  
@iStockphoto.com/aquaspects

Page 20 - Christmas On The Beach  
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Page 21 - Christmas baby sleeping on  
fathers shoulders  
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Graphic design: **Luke Roberts**  
For more info go to: **[unitingpeople.org.au](http://unitingpeople.org.au)**



Uniting Church. **Uniting People.**

**100 ways**  
to celebrate Christmas



Uniting Church. **Uniting People.**

**96 Adopt** an overseas family member  
People make life-long commitments to pets at Christmas time. Consider, instead, making a commitment to sponsoring a child overseas, through agencies like World Vision or Compassion.

**97 Design** a placemat  
If you have guests coming over for a Christmas meal, they'll love receiving a personalised placemat. An easy method is to put together your design on paper or cardboard, and laminate it.

**98 Go green**  
Be as "green" as you can at Christmas – use recycled wrapping paper, send e-cards, buy food and gifts locally (walk or ride to the shops!) and use your green bags for Christmas shopping.

**99 Trade** fairly  
Fair Trade gifts ensure that people get a fair price for their goods and support those living in poverty. [www.fairtrade.com.au](http://www.fairtrade.com.au) offers ways to get involved. Or, find a gift at [www.oxfam.com.au](http://www.oxfam.com.au)

**100 Take a deep breath.**  
**Repeat.**

Don't let Christmas take your breath away with stress. Take time every day to relax – even if it's just for ten minutes. Breathe in, breathe out, release and re-focus your thoughts on enjoying Christmas.





## 91 Make a **sandman**

A snowman wouldn't last an hour in our hot Australian sun. Instead, create a sandman at the beach. You can also do 'sand angels', by lying down and waving your arms and legs in the sand.

## 92 **Moonlight** Cinema

From November through to February, watch a movie under the stars in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens at the Moonlight Cinemas. You'll find session times and information at [moonlight.com.au](http://moonlight.com.au)

## 93 Go **carolling**

Put on your best singing voice and go carolling – if you don't feel like singing to strangers, visit friends and family. Or visit a nearby aged care facility. You never know – they might join in!

## 94 **Pin** the beard on Santa

Pin the tail on the donkey is a favourite party game, and easy to transform into a Christmas game. Try pinning the beard on Santa or the red nose on Rudolph.

## 95 **Smile** at a stranger

'Tis the season to be jolly – so when you're out and about, remember to smile at people. Chances are, they'll throw you a grin in return.

At the core of Christmas, we celebrate peace & joy & love.

But, where's the peace when you're bombarded with expectations and a to-do list that reaches the North Pole?

Where's the joy, when you're grieving, or unable to be with loved ones?

Where's the love, when shoppers are ready to kill for the last turkey or families are fighting?

### **Peace. Joy. Love.**

They come to us when we *celebrate* Christmas.

No matter how you celebrate Christmas – reflective, raucous or refined - you'll find 100 ideas to inspire you in this booklet. It might be reconnecting with forgotten traditions. Or trying something completely new.

The booklet isn't designed to help you have the perfect Christmas. It's an honest attempt to help you find peace, joy and love this Christmas.

This booklet has been produced by the Uniting Church SA as part of the Uniting People campaign. You can find out more at [unitingpeople.org.au](http://unitingpeople.org.au)





## 1 Spend **time** with loved ones

Don't shop for the perfect present for so long that you forget the obvious: it's your presence that really matters.

## 2 **Lower** your expectations

Give up on perfection! Your tree might be crooked and your turkey overdone but you can still have a great Christmas. Focus on what matters – peace, joy and love.

## 3 **Place** a gift under someone else's tree

Make a new friend's day - without even meeting them. UnitingCare's Operation Santa gets your gifts into the hands of those who are going without. To find out more go to [sa.unitingcare.org.au](http://sa.unitingcare.org.au)

## 4 **Put** a shrimp on the barbie, mate

Do Christmas dinner the Australian way and fire up the BBQ. Explore Christmas BBQ recipes at [lifestylefood.com.au](http://lifestylefood.com.au) and give your turkey the sizzle treatment this year.

## 5 **See** the light

Light up your Christmas, or enjoy someone else's. Find a suburb near you with houses decked out in Christmas lights. Some of the big displays include: Lobethal Lights [lightsoflobethal.com.au](http://lightsoflobethal.com.au) & Loxton Lights [loxtonlights.com.au](http://loxtonlights.com.au)

## 86 Go **ice-blocking**

Start freezing trays of water now and find a hill to slip and slide down. You'll need a protective layer between you and the ice – a hessian bag works well.

## 87 **Write** to Santa

Write a letter to the big man in red, outlining your Christmas wishes. Kids can address their letter to Santa, North Pole 9999, and Australia Post will make sure it's delivered. See [auspost.com.au](http://auspost.com.au) for more information and help, including letterhead you can print at home.

## 88 **Start** a tradition

Christmas celebrations can vary greatly, depending which country you live in. Spend time finding out how people in other countries celebrate Christmas: [santas.net/aroundtheworld](http://santas.net/aroundtheworld)

## 89 Get **crafty**

Its amazing what you can create with some cardboard, glitter and pipecleaners! Let the Christmas season tickle your creative spirits There's lots of ideas available on the Internet including: [enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas](http://enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas)

## 90 Fold **origami** Christmas stars

Decorate your tree or house with paper stars. If you get inspired, the [origami-resource-center.com](http://origami-resource-center.com) can also show you how to make wreaths, Christmas trees, candy canes and even a reindeer.





## 81 Make your own **baubles**

Most craft shops have simple kits with polystyrene balls that you can cover in material, sequins, or pins. These make great gifts for grandparents.

## 82 Share your Christmas **story**

Stories of hope abound in the Christmas season. If you've been given a helping hand, visit the UnitingCare Christmas Appeal site to share your story, or read someone else's.

[sa.unitingcare.org.au/christmas-appeal](http://sa.unitingcare.org.au/christmas-appeal)

## 83 Visit a **hardware** store

Bunnings run free Christmas themed kids activities during December. Contact your local store to find out times and make a booking or visit [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au) to find out more.

## 84 Pass the "**parcel**"

Play 'pass the parcel' with your Christmas gifts. As a twist to the rules, the person who wins the round can elect to keep their gift – or take the gift from the person before them!

## 85 **Cheap** as Chips Christmas

Set a challenge for your friends and family to find the best/quirkiest/funniest gift for \$5 or less.

## 6 Sing a **carol**...or few

If you want to sing out, sing out – no one can stop you! Dust off your carols CD, pull out some sheet music or just chortle away merrily. And to get those forgotten lyrics right, go online to [carols.org.uk](http://carols.org.uk)

## 7 **Wear** a tea towel

There's one occasion a year when the humble tea towel takes centre stage. Watch UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide's Nativity Procession on 4 December, 2010, in Rundle Mall and Aberfoyle Uniting's Road to Christmas on 17 -19 December, 2010 ([aberfoyle.org.au](http://aberfoyle.org.au))

## 8 Watch them **ride** by

The 2010 Toy Run is on 12 December. Get roadside with a picnic and watch the motorbikes ride by with their tinsel and teddy bears. For more information go to [mrasa.asn.au](http://mrasa.asn.au)

## 9 Be a **Scrooge**

Don't be caught by the dazzle of Christmas. There's nothing festive about Christmas debt. Set yourself a realistic budget and stick to it - that way you can celebrate Christmas without the stress.

## 10 **Celebrate** at church

Whether it's a children's nativity, a midnight service, or a traditional Christmas Day service you're after – you'll find a church to share Christmas with at [christmas.unitingpeople.org.au](http://christmas.unitingpeople.org.au)





## 11 **Host** a neighbourhood Christmas party

There's no better time to 'love your neighbour' than at Christmas. Host a neighbourhood street party at your house, or literally on the street, to meet, greet and wish each other well for the New Year.

## 12 **Plan** your Christmas

A practical way to avoid becoming overwhelmed (and over-committed), is to get a clear picture of the weeks ahead. Knowing what events you have planned, and scheduling a 'to do list' will help.

## 13 **Send** an e-card

Save on stamps and paper – send an electronic Christmas greeting. Hallmark has plenty of options at [hallmark.com.au](http://hallmark.com.au)

## 14 **Make** your own gift

Store-bought gifts can be lovely – but nothing shows more thought and effort than a home-made gift. For an extra challenge: create a gift that 1. can't be paid for and 2. can't be held. (Hint: it could include things like a song, play, dance or poem).

## 15 **Deck** the halls

Take the Christmas carol literally. Don't just keep the Christmas spirit in one room of the house – see how much of your home you can decorate without buying new decorations.

## 76 **Go** to a **pageant**

Everyone loves a pageant. The big one - [cupageant.com.au](http://cupageant.com.au) – comes to town in November and there are plenty of others in local communities around the state.

## 77 **Sip** some egg nog

Egg nog is a popular Christmas tradition in England and America. For a recipe go to [eggnogrecipe.net](http://eggnogrecipe.net)

## 78 **Make** an **advent calendar**

Make the countdown to Christmas fun with an Advent Calendar. Calendars can be made as wall charts, collections of boxes or envelopes, or covered egg cartons each hiding a daily treat.

## 79 **Good deed** a day

Teach your kids to think about others by creating a calendar that provides a chocolate treat and a good deed each day. They can brainstorm the ideas and write them on little bits of paper. Ideas include: Give a hug. Tidy my room. Make my bed. Ring my Nan.

## 80 **A cheery cherry** Christmas

Cherry season runs from November – January – so Christmas is the perfect time to get into the sun and pick some of your own. Visit [cherriessa.com.au](http://cherriessa.com.au) for more information about SA's own "Cherry Trail!"





## 71 Make an **angel**

Top your Christmas tree with your own handcrafted angel. All you need is some card (or paper plates), doilies, foam ball for a head, sheer fabric, glitter... and some imagination.

## 72 Visit the Magic **Cave**

The Magic Cave, at David Jones (Rundle Mall) is firmly etched in memories everywhere. Kids can meet Santa, watch the elves at work and be astounded by the talking tree – and lots more.

## 73 **Babysit** for a friend

Give someone you know the gift of some child-free Christmas time. Experiencing Christmas through a child's eyes can lift your own enjoyment of the season.

## 74 Bah **humbug**

Remember to respect those who are grieving, facing illness or are separated from loved ones. Don't expect them to fake festive – that's not healthy. Perhaps take a quiet moment to ask them what's the most helpful thing that you can do to support them.

## 75 **Plant** a Christmas Tree

Do your bit for the environment and plant a tree. Maybe start with a potted tree for Christmas and then plant it outside when the festivities are over. Why not consider a native?

## 16 **Remember** when?

What are your 'ghosts of Christmas past'? Reminisce over past Christmases, rediscover old photos and retell the stories that make you laugh or cry.

## 17 **Serve** some brunch

Every Christmas morning, Byron Place Community Centre, run by UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide, serves brunch to homeless people. You're welcome to assist them. Call 8217 9600 to find out more.

## 18 **Try** something new

Make a pact to cook all new recipes for Christmas this year. You never know, you might have some all new favourites that people will want to come back for next year.

## 19 Play your **cards** right

A homemade card is fun to make and can be customised for each recipient. Great ideas and patterns are available on [familyfun.go.com/christmas](http://familyfun.go.com/christmas)

## 20 **Batter** up

Assemble the bat, the wickets and ball and get into a game of backyard cricket. Common household rules include "six and out" and "one hand one bounce – you're out."





## 21 **Drink** Christmas mocktails

Don't let the teetotalers have all the fun! Have a go at making some chilled mocktails, in the spirit of celebration. Go online to [mocktail-recipes.com](http://mocktail-recipes.com) for some great ideas.

## 22 **Make** your own Christmas tree

Buck the overspend trend. Use recycled materials to create your Christmas tree, your way.

## 23 **Give** a Kris-Kringle

If your Christmas gift shopping list is outweighing your bank balance, try a Kris Kringle with your friends and family instead. Agree on a \$\$ value that works for all those in the gift loop.

## 24 **Plan** Santa's **supper**

Get your kids planning a special menu for Santa, and help them make whatever it is that 'Santa' might want this year...

## 25 **Lend** a hand

Give charity the gift of your time. There are many opportunities including sorting, packing and distributing hampers. Contact UnitingCare for more details (08) 8236 4255.

## 66 **Starry edible** Christmas tree

Bake a whole bunch of varying size star-shaped biscuits. Use icing to "glue" into a stack, to make a tree shape. As well as looking great on your table (and tasting delicious!) these also make great gifts.

## 67 **Read** The Magic Pudding

A classic Australian book about a classic Christmas dessert, written and illustrated by Norman Lindsay. Find it at a good bookstore near you and enjoy.

## 68 **Give up your socks and jocks**

You're probably sick of receiving them for Christmas, but Byron Place Community Centre, run by UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide, is always in need of men's clothes, socks and jocks and shoes, so hand them on to people in need. Call 8217 9600 to find out more.

## 69 **Sing** with Peter **Combe**

You probably enjoyed Peter Combe's music when you were a child. Relive the magic by playing a copy of his Christmas album – available from Middle Eight Music - [www.middle8.com](http://www.middle8.com)

## 70 **Head** for the **beach**

Find a beach near you to celebrate Christmas in true Aussie fashion. Don't forget your sunscreen and hat!





## 61 Look to the stars

Camp in your backyard and spend some time star gazing. Use it as a time to talk to your kids about the Wise Men following the star to Bethlehem.

## 62 Head to the river

Take time to wander down to the Christmas Riverbank Display (next to the West End Brewery, at Thebarton) and take in the lights and sights – search on [southaustralia.com](http://southaustralia.com) for more information.

## 63 Christmas scrap book

Treasure the memories this Christmas by storing them in a scrap book. There are heaps of decorations available from stores that will jazz it up and set it apart from your usual photo album.

## 64 Online play

Play some Christmas games online. There are lots of websites with fun, quick games – some of which will stretch your brain! Sites include [northpole.com](http://northpole.com), [merry-christmas.com](http://merry-christmas.com) and [freechristmasgames.com](http://freechristmasgames.com).

## 65 Write your own carol

Sick of the same carols? Have a go at writing your own. You could even record it and send it to your family and friends.

## 26 Hit the shops

The early bird gets the worm, the gift AND the carpark. To save your own time and sanity, get into your unavoidable Christmas shopping as early as you can. And hey, when else can you shop at 2am?

## 27 Friends, friends, friends

For some people, friends ARE family. Make the most of time with your extended 'family'. Take advantage of longer daylight hours to catch up in the evenings, after work or for a weekend BBQ.

## 28 Christmas karaoke

Be the star and sing the classics at a karaoke lounge near you.

## 29 Christmas around the world

Not a fan of the Ye Olde English Fare? Try a traditional Christmas recipe from another country. [taste.com.au](http://taste.com.au) offers 'Christmas around the world' recipes to get you started.

## 30 Dream of a white Christmas

White Christmas, chocolate truffles and gingerbread men are old favourites that are simple for kids to make. Why not package them up in cello bags and give them as gifts?





### 31 Make your own **bon-bons**

Cut cardboard tubes into 12cm lengths, fill with wrapped sweets or honey biscuits, small toys or other treats. Wrap with Christmas paper, cut generously with the ends of the paper extending 12cm each side of the tube. Twist the paper and tie with ribbon.

### 32 **Run** for a cause

Join the Santa Fun Run - [varietyasantafunrun.com.au](http://varietyasantafunrun.com.au) - for the Variety Children's Charity. If you missed this year's event, it's not too late to start practicing your ho ho ho on the run for next year!

### 33 Christmas **movie** marathon

There are heaps of Christmas movies out there – the trick is finding a good one! Visit [christmasflick.com](http://christmasflick.com) for a list of Christmas movies or search [IMDB.com](http://IMDB.com) (Internet Movie Data Base).

### 34 **Treasure** the moment

Get your family portrait taken, or have fun and do your own Christmas-themed photo shoot

### 35 **Play** dress-ups

Set a challenge to your family and friends to find the most glitzy, kitschy or bargain-priced Christmas apparel. Award prizes to reward ingenuity!

### 56 **Hats** ahoy

Forget the paper crowns that come with your standard bon-bons. Tailor a hat for each guest at your Christmas meal. They'll love the individual touch – and you get to decide who looks the silliest this silly season...

### 57 **Wishful** thinking

Got a wish list this Christmas? Perhaps add a prayer for the world to it. You can post your prayer online at [prayer.sa.uca.org.au](http://prayer.sa.uca.org.au)

### 58 **Create** reindeer biscuits

For a simple reindeer biscuit – ice an arrowroot biscuit. Add a jaffa for a nose and two smarties for eyes. Use upside-down tiny teddy bear biscuits for antlers. Simple and fun!

### 59 Donate **food**

Put some extra items in your shopping trolley at Christmas and donate them to UnitingCare so they can be given to a family in need. Find hamper ideas at [christmas.unitingpeople.org.au](http://christmas.unitingpeople.org.au)

### 60 **Visit** an elderly friend

Sometimes the elderly get forgotten at Christmas – especially if their family is far away. Pop around for a cup of tea and a chat. You'll brighten their day, as well as your own.





## 51 Ship a **pig**

Don't just pig out. Pigs are a great gift for struggling families overseas. UnitingWorld will make all the necessary arrangements. See [everythingincommon.com.au](http://everythingincommon.com.au) to choose your gift.

## 52 Write your Christmas **letter**

Christmas can be a great opportunity to reflect on the year that's been. Whether it's writing it as a letter to family and friends or keeping it as a record for your own sake, take time to think back on your year, and what the next one may bring.

## 53 Go for a post-lunch **amble**

Fight the afternoon snoozies by taking a leisurely walk after lunch. You might discover more about your local area – or just clear room for seconds!

## 54 **Carols** by Candlelight

Sing some Carols by Candlelight. Check with your local council or newspaper for one near you, or head to the Elder Park **Carols by Candlelight** on 19 December, 2010.

## 55 **Handprint** memory

Children grow so quickly – capture their hands at this point in time for future memories. Dip palm of each hand into finger paint and press carefully onto a tile. Write child's name, age and date on the reverse.

## 36 Get botanical

Spend a day in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens or a park near you, and soak up the sun with a picnic and some Bocce or Frisbee. Or, if the sun is not your skin's best friend, enjoy the shade of a large tree with a good book or a good dose of people-watching.

## 37 Give in to the **nap**

If you can't fight the urge to nap, find a comfy place on the couch – and don't let anyone tell you it's unChristmaslike! You deserve it.

## 38 Hang up your **stocking**

Find a place to hang a Christmas stocking in anticipation of the big day. A pillowcase (or large brown paper bag) makes a great Santa sack, and is fun to decorate.

## 39 Clear out for **charity**

Take time to get rid of quality items you no longer need or use and donate them to a charity like Goodwill.

## 40 Make a **Nativity** scene

Cardboard, wood, felt or paddlepop sticks – choose your materials and set up the Nativity Scene. You can download a simple paper template from [scrapbookscrapbook.com](http://scrapbookscrapbook.com)





## 41 Get **drenched**

Prepare for the water-fight of your life. Pit family versus family, brother versus sister. Get your buckets and super-soakers charged and at the ready! Get game ideas from [isoaker.com](http://isoaker.com)

## 42 **Blog** it

If you like writing, share your Christmas thoughts with the world on a blog. Free sites like [blogger.com](http://blogger.com) and [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com) make it easy. If you're not into blogging, keep an old-fashioned journal.

## 43 Did you **hear** the one about?

Bring out your jovial side. Hunt around for Christmas jokes to share with your family and friends. Or, see if you can make up your own.

## 44 **Invite** another

Got some extra room at your Christmas table? Invite someone along who would otherwise be alone and experience sharing the true joy of Christmas.

## 45 **Construct** a gingerbread house

The less adventurous can buy a "flatpack" kit from IKEA – stick the walls, roof and chimney together with icing and then decorate with lollies. Or start from scratch with a gingerbread recipe at [taste.com.au](http://taste.com.au)

## 46 Make a **wreath**

Wreaths are easy to make and look lovely. Purchase a foam wreath from a florist. Add snippets of greenery from the garden and flowers for colour. More detailed instructions are available from [ehow.com](http://ehow.com).

## 47 **Make** your memories stick

Purchase sheets of magnet backing to make great gifts for grandparents. Simply choose your favourite photographs and glue onto magnet backing. Cut the pics out carefully, then voila! Present sorted!

## 48 Paint **pinecones**

Nature's own miniature Christmas tree, pinecones look great with some silver paint, tinsel, glitter, or whatever else you can think of. They also make a nice gift idea or seasonal table decoration.

## 49 **Quiz**-mas

Do you think you could reign as Christmas Quiz champ? Develop a Christmas quiz for conversation starters – mix up the tough questions with some quirky ones and have a laugh.

## 50 **Light** a candle in memory

If you're missing a loved one at Christmas, light a candle in their memory. You may choose to do this as part of your Christmas day at home – or at one of the Uniting Church's 'Blue' Christmas services – find one near you at [christmas.unitingpeople.org.au](http://christmas.unitingpeople.org.au)

