

# Company at Christmas



Christmas Day each year, since 1984, has been a major working day for around fifty members of our town's churches, while most people are with their families or away. These volunteers are providing lunch, entertainment and tea to around 70 people who would otherwise be alone on this special day. The guests are inevitably mostly elderly, but in fact anyone who would otherwise be alone on this day is very welcome to participate. Many of our helpers are younger people. We also take a hot Christmas Dinner to about 40 people who are alone at home, and spend a little time with them.



## COMPANY AT CHRISTMAS 2021

Due to COVID-19, 'Company at Christmas' will once again be delivering food and gifts to our guests who might otherwise be alone at Christmas. We hope that in 2022 we will be able to return to an in-person event.

This year there are **THREE** main ways you can help:

### **1. Could you be a Delivery Driver?**

- We will need volunteers to collect goodie bags from a central location on Christmas Eve (1.30-3.00pm) and deliver them to homes in the local area on Christmas Day morning
- This will give the opportunity for a socially distanced conversation with our guests, wishing them a Happy Christmas.
- You can decide how much time to offer. One drop-off may take up to 30 minutes but you are welcome to sign up to do more than one if you have time available.
- We would provide suitable instructions to ensure helpers and guests are kept safe, following whatever national guidance is in place at the time.

### **2. Could you be a Shopper?**

- Our goody bags will contain a range of items that need to be purchased in the run up to Christmas. Could you help by sourcing and buying specific goods (all costs reimbursed)?
- This would involve being given a list of specific items to purchase (e.g. 100 packs of biscuits, 100 boxes of chocolates) and then delivering the items to a central location for packing on Christmas Eve morning (9.30-10.30am).

### **3. Could you be a Goody Bag Packer?**

- Once all the items have been purchased by our shoppers they will need to be packed into individual bags ready for collection and delivery.
- Would you be able to join a small team of volunteers who will pack the goody bags on Christmas Eve late-morning (10.30am-12.30pm)?
- We would also require a small team of volunteers to help arrange the bags for collection on Christmas Eve afternoon
- This would be arranged in line with latest Covid-19 safety protocols.

If you are interested in any of the roles above, please email

[companyatchristmas@gmail.com](mailto:companyatchristmas@gmail.com)

or contact your Church Rep: Jenny Klincke (833523) or Margaret Fox (658638)

There will be a meeting to allocate roles on Wednesday 1st December at 8pm at the Methodist Church in Bishop's Stortford. This meeting will be essential for anyone interest in being a 'shopper' or a 'packer' (roles 2 and 3 above)