

# Christmas Top Tips 2020



with TORCH TRUST

**Christmas this year will be like no other. With so much uncertainty we wanted to provide some helpful tips for being sight loss friendly, whatever your Christmas events and services look like. So, whether you are holding a Zoom Carol service, a virtual Nativity or a socially distanced Christingle we hope you find these tips helpful.**

## Welcoming people with sight loss

We know that every church wants to be a welcoming place.

### **Think**

When planning church events, services or communications think to yourself 'What can we do to include blind and partially sighted people?'

### **Ask**

Approach individuals and ask what would be best for them.

### **Act**

Make changes and use Torch resources so that everyone with sight loss feels included in your church.

This document has been produced by Sight Loss Friendly Church with Torch Trust. For all the resources mentioned and to find out how your church can be more sight loss friendly visit [sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk](http://sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk) or email [SLFC@torchtrust.org](mailto:SLFC@torchtrust.org).

## Guiding in a pandemic

If you are hosting socially distanced events you may have people attending who require a guide.

The UK

government has

confirmed that Guiding is permitted in the UK. For the latest guidance please visit [www.rnib.org.uk/coronavirus-updates](http://www.rnib.org.uk/coronavirus-updates).

We also produce a useful document called *Practical Guiding Tips*.



# Virtual Christmas

Whatever platform you are using to host your virtual Christmas events there are some key principles to follow.



## Video Background

If your background is busy, confused or cluttered, it will take attention off what you are saying. Partially sighted viewers need good contrast between the action and the background. A fairly even background will be most accessible.

## Lighting

If you have a light behind you so that your face is in silhouette or shadow, you won't be seen. Ideally have a light placed to highlight your face.

## Names

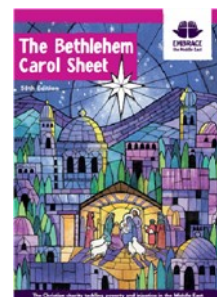
As in any situation a person with sight loss might not recognise the voice of somebody speaking. Ask people to introduce themselves if they have a section in a virtual meeting so that everyone is aware of who is speaking.

**We have a helpful document called *Virtual Church Top Tips* with lots of practical ways for your virtual events to be sight loss friendly this Christmas.**

---

## Accessible Christmas Literature

Whether you are producing your own printed material, sharing slides in a church building or at a virtual service, or buying in resources, there are ways you can be sight loss friendly. For information about preparing your own materials, both printed and projected, please see our document *Preparing Materials for People with Sight Loss*. If you are buying in resources, such as the *Bethlehem Carol Sheet*, then do get in touch with Torch to find out which accessible formats are available.



## Contact us

This resource as a PDF is accessible; however, if you do need it in braille, large print or audio CD, please ask. Our friendly team are here to help you with all your queries. You can call us on 01858 438260 from Monday to Thursday inclusive, 9am until 4pm, or email [info@torchtrust.org](mailto:info@torchtrust.org)

