

# Holding a Cookies and Carols Neighbourhood Event

In Coventry Vineyard we have found that these events are very easy to invite neighbours to and often get a good response. They involve little preparation and I have tried to cover everything here.

## Preparation:

1. Decide on a date, time and shared space (eg bit of grass on your street) where the event can be held. Try to avoid holding it on the road because of the danger of cars.
2. Invite people: If you don't know the neighbours, go and knock on their doors, asking if they would like to come and bring food/drinks, with written info on the day, date, time and what is expected (see below for sample invite). I set up a facebook event on our street page and invite everyone I can, talk about it to neighbours, invite friends and often get my life group involved so there are a few people there already when it starts.
3. Print out carol sheets (see Life Group resources page for carol sheet)
4. Decide if you need to recruit a guitar player who can play carols or get a good singer to lead the singing.
5. On the day of the event, I start about 1 hour beforehand hanging out fairy lights or glass jars with tea lights in, and setting up a table for the cookies and drinks. I make sure there are plenty of plastic cups and some mulled wine and cookies ready and that the carol sheets and musician is ready.

## Timings

For a 4pm event (timings are approximate):

- **3pm** start setting up table, lights etc with your volunteers
- **4pm-4:15pm** encourage people to mingle and chat and eat food/drinks
- **4:15pm** briefly welcome everyone and explain that you are going to sing carols off the sheet, and it would be great if they could join in.
- **4:20-4:40pm** start with a couple of carols then take requests from those around, making sure any late people are handed a Carol Sheet. Take photos of the event if you are able.
- **4:40-5pm** Encourage people to chat and mingle, finding out what they thought and if they would like to do something like this again. If possible, try and get contact details or facebook details so it will be easier to set up the next event.

## Sample Invite:

### Cookies & Carols

At the bottom of Cottesbrook Close  
Sunday 3rd December 4pm



A Christmassy get together with home made cookies, mulled wine, hot chocolate, gingerbread stars/men and carols by candle light.

Invite friends, bring food/drinks, have a chat, munch and sing and get into the Christmas spirit.

Contact Vicki Sutton on 07545 501 080 for more info.