

Christmas Angels

BeachcomberFX and North Shields and Whitley Bay Circuit



Christmas Angels

Christmas Angels came out of seeing what others had done and then hacking the idea! Christmas Angels was born out of an idea in Edinburgh when a friend and pioneer minister made felt advent angels. I thought about it for a while and wondered about taking this a step further by finding a simple knitting pattern that people could take away and then knit them - a friend came up with a pattern and we went from there.

Once we had the pattern, the next question we thought about was what to do with them? I had seen some Yarn Bombing in other places and thought we could do that... so we did. When a new colleague David Wynd came into the circuit he gave us other ideas around a hashtag and so in December 2015 early in the morning a few of us from the fresh expression I work with, BeachcomberFX began the painstaking task of yarn bombing 2870 Christmas Angels around Tynemouth. We had conversations with people as we tied them to railings and hooked them on door handles, people were certainly surprised and it put a smile on people's faces on a damp cold December morning. The press got hold of it and we found ourselves on Look North - and so the journey has continued.

Last year we opened it up and other churches, circuits and denominations took part. Last year we had about 20 locations that took part with 20586 Angels being knitted! And the story continues to grow as it spreads throughout the UK and has also been taken up by a few places around the world. Again local press in various places got hold of it and gave some encouraging coverage. It has been an amazing opportunity to re-tell the Christmas story in a simple and subversive way.

At the time of writing we have had another 30 register on the website since Christmas 2016 and we are excited to see how this is building! People are already knitting for this Christmas... below are some of the stories as to how this has been used on social media through the hashtag.

'I was on my way home after finishing a mentally exhausting 12 hour shift as an ambulance call handler when I came across what seemed like hundreds of beautifully knitted Angels, I don't think I've seen so many people smiling! sharing the joy of your kindness I was reminded no matter how bad things seem to be, there is always hope and love.
Thank you so much.'

Thank you for my Christmas Angel which I found at Morpeth bus station when my (autistic) son and I changed buses on a trip to Alnwick.

I have my own tradition of putting a new angel on the tree for anyone important to us who has passed away during the year. This year we lost my-oldest-best-friend's mother, A friend across-the-road, my uncle's widow and our lovely welsh cousin. I found angels in our local St Oswalds Hospice Shop and today we found one for our friend across the road. My son is mostly non-verbal so going about with him can feel very lonely, and I was feeling a little sorry for myself today. Your angel cheered me up. Wishing you a happy and holy Christmas and a blessed New Year.'



#xmasangels we were lucky enough to find this lovely angel walking the dog Christmas magic

'My part of Cramlington benefited from angels all over the area this morning. Wonderful. Well done.'

Found this tied to a railing
#xmasangels #hexhamabbey
#christmas





This is an amazing photo of Christmas Angels going to South Africa! Just beautiful!! They were sent by some of the folks from Sunderland.

I found one at the green in Sunderland and I thought it was so thoughtful and it came just at the right time thank you for caring x x

I saw loads on Queen Alexandra Bridge and was lucky enough to get one I couldn't believe how many there were both sides of the bridge. It was a lovely surprise at 6.30 in the morning thanks to all involved xxx

Found ours on the railings outside the RNLI shop in Roker. My son is training to be a lifeguard. When he's older he wants to work for the RNLI. Absolutely love that we found one, but it's even more special finding it where we did



Through sharing posts like these on social media with the hashtag #xmasangels we reach more people with the Christmas story and signs of hope. If you would like to take part in Christmas Angels then why not register on-line at our website <http://www.christmasangel.net/> here you will find out all that you need to know about the project and how to get started. If you are going to do Christmas Angels in your location then please do register as we try to co-ordinate when the Angels are distributed for maximum affect. Please also check out our Facebook page Christmas Angels (@ibringyougoodnews). If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to get in touch via the website or Facebook.

God bless and happy knitting!