

🎄 CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERING 2026 🎄



Give a little time, spread a little joy, and make a big difference this Christmas!

Want to make someone's holiday brighter? Why not volunteer this Christmas?

From festive parades and Christmas card writing to helping at Santa's Grotto and supporting local charities, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved this festive season. Whether you can spare an hour or a whole day, your time can make a real difference. 🎁

⭐ New opportunities will be added to this document on the Volunteer Hub if we are notified of any additional opportunities throughout the festive period. ⭐

🎅 Find a Volunteering Opportunity

Interested in a specific date? Click the links below or scroll through the opportunities.

- 🎄 16 November - 22 November 2026
- 🎄 23 November - 29 November 2026
- 🎄 30 November - 6 December 2026
- 🎄 7 December - 13 December 2026
- 🎄 14 December - 20 December 2026
- 🎄 21 December 2026 onwards



Remember to record your time for any volunteering you do. Visit www.volunteering.chester.ac.uk

FESTIVE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES
16th NOVEMBER 2026 – 22nd NOVEMBER 2026

Name of Event	Date(s) & Time(s) required	Location	Information
❄️ 12 Days of Christmas and light Switch on – Chester Christmas Parades	Thursday 19th November 2026. Different shifts available but parade is from 7pm	Chester City Centre	The University of Chester are helping out with the Chester Christmas Parades again this year. The 12 Days of Christmas Parade and light switch on is the first of the Christmas Parades which incorporates the tree light switch on. It will be a great experience, great fun and a good chance to have a peek at what's behind the scenes and what event planners do to put on a large-scale event. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? Please go to this link to find out more about this parade as well as the other Christmas Parades and see the role that might suit you or email Iris if you have any questions s.lo@chester.ac.uk

FESTIVE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES
23rd NOVEMBER 2026 – 29th NOVEMBER 2026

Name of Event	Date(s) & Time(s) required	Location	Information

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❄️ Christmas Shopping Guides – Vision Support	Tuesday 24th November 2026 10am-2pm	Chester Christmas Markets, Chester City Centre	Vision Support are looking for volunteers on 24th November, between 10am-2pm to act as sighted guides to help take people with visual impairments to the Christmas Market in Chester. A great opportunity to help people in Chester. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? If you are interested or want to find out more, please visit the Volunteer Hub
🎁 Christmas Card Writing - UoC Volunteering Give it a Go	Tuesday 24th November 2026, 2pm-4pm	Seminar Room, Careers and Employability Building, Exton Park	Spread some Christmas cheer and write a Christmas card to an elderly person in a local care home. We also have blank cards if you feel creative and want to make your own festive design. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? If you are interested or want to find out more, please visit the Volunteer Hub or just drop in
❄️ School Children's Lantern Parade – Chester Christmas Parades	Thursday 26th November 2026. Different shifts available but parade is from 7pm	Chester City Centre	The University of Chester are helping out with the Chester Christmas Parades again this year. The next parade is the school children's lantern parade and will include approx. 600 children from 10 local schools parading the lanterns they have made at school. It will be a great experience, great fun and a good chance to have a peek at what's behind the scenes and what event planners do to put on a large-scale event. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

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			Please go to this link to find out more about this parade as well as the other Christmas Parades and see the role that might suit you or email Iris if you have any questions s.lo@chester.ac.uk
🎁 Short but Sweet Event - Cats Protection Stall	Saturday 28th November 2026	Greasby, Wirral	Help with the stall promoting the work of Cats Protection at this Christmas Fair. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? Email volunteering@nwengland.cats.org.uk
🎁 West Kirby Lights Switch On - Cats Protection	Saturday 28th November 2026	West Kirby, Wirral	Help promote the work of Cats Protection during the West Kirby Lights Switch on. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? Email volunteering@nwengland.cats.org.uk
🎅 Santa's Grotto, Hospice of the Good Shepherd – Volunteer Elf	Happening between Saturday 28th November – Wednesday 23rd December 2026 Various Dates and Shifts available.	Gordale Garden Centre	The Hospice of the Good Shepherd are looking for friendly volunteers to help create a magical experience for children and families visiting Santa's Grotto. Roles include welcoming visitors, assisting with activities, and helping the events run smoothly. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

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			To find out what slots are available and for more information please email Ellie, Ellie.Brickland@hospicegs.com
❄️ Chester Women's Aid – White Ribbon Event	Sunday 29th November 2026, 11am-3pm	Eastgate Street, Chester City Centre	Cheshire Women's Aid Annual White Ribbon Day (a day to raise awareness about preventing gender-based violence), as well as raising funds for their emergency grant programme (to help people fleeing domestic abuse). Throughout the day they will be joined by local choirs and dignitaries. At 12 noon they will be having a photo in front of a large white ribbon hoisted by the fire service. They are particularly looking for a student photographer to take photos of this. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? Email chesterwomensaid@gmail.com
🎁 Christmas Fair- Cats Protection Stall	Sunday 29th November 2026	Vale Park, New Brighton, Wirral	Help with the stall promoting the work of Cats Protection at this Christmas Fair. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? Email volunteering@nwengland.cats.org.uk

🦁 Chester Zoo Litter Pick	Sunday 29th November 2026 9:30am – 11am	Upton, Chester	Want to get outside, meet some like-minded people and take positive action for nature? Join them for a litter pick on Flag Lane Cycle path! They meet once a month (this is the November date) to pick litter on the bridle path that runs through the zoo. This is a relaxed, social session with the option to join the other volunteers in the zoo's Bembe Cafe for a hot drink afterwards. They will provide all the litter picking kit, including gloves and hand sanitiser. These events are open to young people aged 11 and over with appropriate adult supervision. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? Please complete this form. Once completed, a representative of Chester Zoo will be in touch.

FESTIVE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

30th NOVEMBER 2026 – 6th DECEMBER 2026

Name of Event	Date(s) & Time(s) required	Location	Information
🎁 Dog Toy Making - UoC	Wednesday 2nd December 2026, 2pm – 4pm	Seminar Room, Careers and Employability	Make some DIY dog toys out of old t-shirts to donate to our paw pals in local dog shelters. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

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Volunteering Give it a Go		Building, Exton Park	If you are interested or want to find out more, please visit the Volunteer Hub or just drop in
🎁 **Here & Now Chester – Intergenerational activity with members and local school children**	Thursday 3rd December 2026 9:30am-2:15pm	United Reformed Church, Blacon, Chester CH15ET	Here and Now is a social enterprise based in Blacon. It aims to bring socially isolated people together in a friendly and relaxed environment. Help set up session: chairs & tables ready for people to arrive. Help with refreshments on arrival. Sit and chat with members and host a Christmas bingo game or Christmas activity. After lunch. Intergenerational craft activity with local school children and older members, assist with crafts Christmas tree decorations. Clear up after session. ✅ **HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?** Email hereandnowchester@gmail.com
🎅 **Santa's Grotto, Hospice of the Good Shepherd – Volunteer Elf**	Happening between Saturday 28th November – Wednesday 23rd December 2026 Various Dates and Shifts available.	Gordale Garden Centre	The Hospice of the Good Shepherd are looking for friendly volunteers to help create a magical experience for children and families visiting Santa's Grotto. Roles include welcoming visitors, assisting with activities, and helping the events run smoothly. ✅ **HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?** To find out what slots are available and for more information please email Ellie, Ellie.Brickland@hospicegs.com

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🎁 Christmas Fair- Cats Protection Stall	Saturday 5th December 2026	Hope CIC	Help with the stall promoting the work of Cats Protection at this Christmas Fair. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? Email volunteering@nwengland.cats.org.uk
❄️ Chester Santa Dash (for Hospice of the Good Shepherd) – Volunteer	Sunday 6th December 2026	Chester City Centre	The annual Santa Dash is one of the highlights of the festive season, and The Hospice of the Good Shepherd need enthusiastic volunteers to help welcome participants across the finish line, hand out medals, and support event operations. All proceeds from the Santa Dash will go towards the amazing work the Hospice does. Visit the website to find out more about what this great event is. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? Email emily.gould@hospicegs.com

FESTIVE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

7th DECEMBER 2026 – 13th DECEMBER 2026

Name of Event	Date(s) & Time(s) required	Location	Information
🎅 Santa's Grotto, Hospice of the Good	Happening between Saturday 28th November – Wednesday 23rd December 2026	Gordale Garden Centre	The Hospice of the Good Shepherd are looking for friendly volunteers to help create a magical experience for children and families visiting Santa's Grotto. Roles include welcoming visitors, assisting with activities, and helping the events run smoothly.

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Shepherd – Volunteer Elf	Various Dates and Shifts available.		**HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?** To find out what slots are available and for more information please email Ellie, Ellie.Brickland@hospicegs.com
🎁 UoC Photo Shoot	Wednesday 9th December 2026. Afternoon	Chester	Fancy being the face of the University of Chester? We're looking for outgoing, friendly students to volunteer for a city centre marketing photo shoot. It's a great chance to have fun, meet new people and gain volunteering hours towards the UCV Awards **HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?** If you're interested and are available for a few hours on the afternoon of 9th December, please email j.lingwood@chester.ac.uk and send a head and shoulders photo of yourself'.
Winter Watch Parade & Saturnalia Parade – Chester Christmas Parades	Thursday 10th December 2026. Different shifts available but parade is from 7pm	Chester City Centre	The University of Chester are helping out with the Chester Christmas Parades again this year. The final parade is the Winter Watch and Saturnalia Parades celebrating Chesters Roman Heritage and the Roman festival of Saturnalia **HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?** Please go to this link to find out more about this parade as well as the other Christmas Parades and see the role that might suit you or email Iris if you have any questions s.lo@chester.ac.uk

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Here & Now Chester – Christmas Sing-a-Long	Thursday 10th December 2026 9:30am-2:15pm	United Reformed Church, Blacon, Chester CH15ET	Here and Now is a social enterprise based in Blacon. It aims to bring socially isolated people together in a friendly and relaxed environment. Help set up session: chairs & tables ready for people to arrive. Help with refreshments on arrival. Hand out Christmas Carol/music sheets for sing-a long. Help the arrival of Father Christmas to hand out a gift to the members and for volunteers. After lunch there will be a sing a long on screen. Help clear up after session. **HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?** Email hereandnowchester@gmail.com

FESTIVE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

14th DECEMBER 2026 – 20th December 2026

Name of Event	Date(s) & Time(s) required	Location	Information
🎅 **Santa's Grotto, Hospice of the Good Shepherd – Volunteer Elf**	Happening between Saturday 28th November – Wednesday 23rd December 2026	Gordale Garden Centre	The Hospice of the Good Shepherd are looking for friendly volunteers to help create a magical experience for children and families visiting Santa's Grotto. Roles include welcoming visitors, assisting with activities, and helping the events run smoothly. **HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?**

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	Various Dates and Shifts available.		To find out what slots are available and for more information please email Ellie, Ellie.Brickland@hospicegs.com
🎁 Christmas Bucket Collections and Christmas Wrapping – Hospice of the Good Shepherd	Monday 14th December 2026 - Sunday 20th December 2026	Eastgate Square, Chester	Help the Hospice pf the Good Shepherd raise vital funds by joining their festive bucket collections in Chester city centre. Volunteers will wrap presents, engage with the public, spread awareness of the Hospice, and collect donations. HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? To find out what slots are available and for more information please email Ellie, Ellie.Brickland@hospicegs.com
🎁 Here & Now Chester – Christmas Get together & Quiz	Thursday 17th December 2026 9:30am-2:15pm	United Reformed Church, Blacon, Chester CH15ET	Here and Now is a social enterprise based in Blacon. It aims to bring socially isolated people together in a friendly and relaxed environment. Help set up session: chairs & tables ready for people to arrive. Help with refreshments on arrival. Help deliver/take part in a 10 minute Christmas Quiz. Buffet lunch which is free to all, so you are welcome to join in the festivities. 1pm live festive music. HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? Email hereandnowchester@gmail.com

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FESTIVE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES
21st DECEMBER 2026 - ONWARDS

Name of Event	Date(s) & Time(s) required	Location	Information
🎅 **Santa's Grotto, Hospice of the Good Shepherd – Volunteer Elf**	Happening between Saturday 28th November – Wednesday 23rd December 2026 Various Dates and Shifts available.	Gordale Garden Centre	The Hospice of the Good Shepherd are looking for friendly volunteers to help create a magical experience for children and families visiting Santa's Grotto. Roles include welcoming visitors, assisting with activities, and helping the events run smoothly. **HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?** To find out what slots are available and for more information please email Ellie, Ellie.Brickland@hospicegs.com
🦁 **Chester Zoo Litter Pick**	Wednesday 30th December 2026 9:30am – 11am	Upton, Chester	Want to get outside, meet some like-minded people and take positive action for nature? Join Chester Zoo for a litter pick on Flag Lane Cycle path! They meet once a month (this is the December date) to pick litter on the bridle path that runs through the zoo. This is a relaxed, social session with the option to join the other in the zoo's Bembe Cafe for a hot drink afterwards. They will provide all the litter picking kit, including gloves and hand sanitiser.

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			These events are open to young people aged 11 and over with appropriate adult supervision. ✅ HOW DO I GET INVOLVED? Please complete this form. Once completed, a representative of Chester Zoo will be in touch.

🎄 Thank You for Spreading Festive Cheer! 🎄

Every opportunity listed in this guide relies on the support of volunteers. Whether you're helping at a Christmas parade, supporting local charities, creating festive crafts, or bringing joy to members of the community, every contribution matters.

Your time, enthusiasm and kindness help make Christmas brighter for people across Chester and beyond.

⭐ Remember! ⭐



🎅 If you email any provider to check your "junk" emails for replies

❄️ Any volunteering you complete can be recorded towards the UCV Awards

🎁 Don't forget to record your volunteering hours on the Volunteer Hub.



🌟 Thank you for making a difference this Christmas! 🌟

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