



FUNDRAISING IDEAS

1. Ideas for you to do

Ask for sponsorship for your birthday

Instead of presents, ask your friends and family to sponsor you! You can organise a birthday party, so they don't forget.

Busking

Use your musical gifts on the street, but don't forget to ask for council permission first.

Email footer/Facebook posts

A great way of reaching people you wouldn't necessarily contact directly for sponsorship, or for reaching your friends en masse, is through a simple email footer or Facebook post. You never know, your message might strike a chord with them!

Give up... Your car, mobile phone, Facebook, or something else

You can get sponsored to give things up. It may take some willpower, but you may find you enjoy it so much that you continue your abstinence even after your Challenge Event has finished.

Haircut

A classic! The more drastic and crazy the better – and the more sponsorship you will likely get. If you go really crazy, people might ask why you did it and you could continue raking in the donations after the event!

Matched giving

Many businesses like to do their bit for charity. Try to speak to some bosses to see if they will match your fundraising efforts. This means that if you raise £5,000, they will make it up to £10,000. Job done!

Purple day

At Open Doors, we have a bit of a thing for the colour purple. Try dressing head to toe in purple one day – people are bound to notice and ask why you are doing it!

Speak at church

Inform your church about what you're doing - don't forget to speak at other churches, too. Christians love to hear that people are stepping out in faith. Those who couldn't take on a Challenge Event may be very happy to support you.

2. Event ideas for your family and friends

Burns Night

Serve a traditional Burns supper as close to 25 January as possible and charge entry.

Dinner Party

Invite your friends and family over for dinner and you could be the keynote speaker.

International day/evening

Whether you've travelled the world or just love a particular culture, an international theme is a great way to get people excited about raising money. Choose your country – or go 'around the world' – and charge people an entry fee. Have a think about dress code, food and music. Entertainment such as quizzes can be a great way to raise extra funds.

Murder mystery evening

This is an excellent way of getting friends and family together, and you can tell them about the challenge you are doing.

Quiz

Put on a quiz and charge an entry fee.

Wine Tasting

Organise your own event and get your friends to bring friends. Many local clubs will help run the event for you.

3. Ideas for youth groups/Christian Unions/Small groups

Bag-packing at a supermarket

Head to your local supermarket and ask the manager whether he would be happy for your group to offer to pack customers bags. You can also offer to carry the bags to their cars!

Bob a job

Think back to those days in the Scouts and Brownies. Your group can offer to do jobs for those at church, such as tidying the garden, washing the car, walking the dog, washing up etc.

Car boot sale

Get the youth group to donate their unwanted items and sell at a car boot sale. Proceeds go to your challenge.

Enterprise day

A little like The Apprentice, set the group an enterprising task. The winner is the one who makes the greatest profit – but the real winners are our persecuted family as all the profits will go to them.

Film screening

You could even charge for snacks as another way to fundraise.

Games night

Popular with all the board gamers out there and doesn't need much organising. The group can bring their own snacks

and games to play. You now have your willing audience.

Karaoke

This can be a fun event, if your group likes a singsong. You may be able to use your church hall, or some pubs will allow you to use a function room for free if it's for charity.

Treasure hunt

Hide some clues around your local area so that the group have to use their skills to solve the clues and find the 'treasure'. Ask for donations.

Shakespeare marathon

Get your group to read through either as many Shakespeare plays or as much of the Bible as possible – in a fixed time period.

4. Ideas for the whole church

Art exhibition

Are you a keen artist? Do you belong to an art club? Why not put on an exhibition and charge people to come along and take a look? You could auction off the pictures if the artists are willing.

Auction

If you don't have items to bid for, hold an 'Auction of Promises'. Folk offer their skills/time for others to bid for. It could include babysitting vouchers, cooking a meal for a dinner party, an afternoon's gardening, walking the dog, cleaning, ironing etc.

Barn Dance

You don't need to go to town on this – unless you want to! It's a good opportunity to get folk together to hear about what you are doing. Charge entry.

BBQ

Always popular at church. You can organise some games for the kids.

Book sale

Ask people to bring along their unwanted books and run a book sale. All proceeds go to your cause!

Bring and buy sale

Like the book sale, but with any old items! Easy to organise and popular.

Cake sale

Everyone loves cake! You could also hold one at your children's school, or at work.

Carol concert/Carol singing

This is probably something your church does anyway. Ask if a collection can be taken towards your challenge.

Coffee mornings

Easy to organise and always popular.

Collections

If you are speaking at other churches, you could ask that the offering goes to support the persecuted church.

Concert

This could be an organ recital, a jazz group or even a 'Songs of Praise' evening. You can sell tickets, and charge for snacks in the interval.

Craft sale

Crafting is very popular at the moment. Ask folk to donate their handmade cards, jewellery, knitted/crocheted items and patchwork. This is great for holding in the run up to Christmas.

Easter egg hunt

You could get the church to help organise this. Hide egg 'tokens' which can then be exchanged for eggs at the end.

Fashion show and sale

Ask people to donate good quality clothing. Organise a fashion show, using 'willing volunteers' as models. Sell all the clothes off afterwards.

'Live like a refugee' lunch

Throw a church lunch, where all the food on offer is similar to that which refugees have – we have some menu ideas, should you need some. This lunch should get people to understand how little refugees have and heighten awareness of the needs of the persecuted church.

Photography

Get the photographers among you snapping away. Pick a theme like 'persecution' or 'challenge' and charge photographers to enter. You will need a prize, perhaps you could get a donated one.

Plant sale

Green fingered? Always got lots of spare cuttings or plants you don't need? Why not sell them to others and donate the money.

Quiz night

Don't forget to throw in a round about the persecution of Christians. This is a great opportunity to educate your friends on the suffering many Christians face in their day-to-day life.

Talent evening

Put on 'a church has talent' evening you can get adults and kids involved. Sell tickets and snacks. Have a slot to talk about what you are doing.

Tournament

This can be anything that you think will work well, a five-a-side competition or It's a Knockout, to a Bake Off competition. Charge for entry and ask spectators for donations.

Unwanted present sale

It's sad but true – sometimes the gifts we receive are not quite what we were after, or are duplicates of what we've already got. Arrange a post-Christmas sale of unwanted gifts.

5. Ideas for the office

Bad tie day

This is a fun idea and it is super simple to do! If you don't own a bad tie then you could always check out a local charity shop, or endeavour to make one of your own.

Bake sales

Always goes down well at the office!

Dress down day

Get your work colleagues to donate in order to be able to come to work in their most comfy clothes.

Guess the baby (from photos)

Ask your colleagues to bring in baby photos and then charge people to enter and guess who is who. The one who guesses the most right wins a prize. In the event of a draw, add the names to a hat.