

# SURVIVING CHRISTMAS



*Useful tips and crisis contacts*

## THE TWELVE DO'S OF CHRISTMAS

### **Plan ahead:**

Break down bigger jobs into a smaller more manageable size such as buying one or two presents at a time or cooking some food in advance and freezing it. Don't try to do everything at once.

### **Share your worries about Christmas:**

The chances are that you will know other people who are going to find it stressful. Why not agree to meet or talk on the phone? Sharing problems often helps, and you'll be assured that what you're feeling is perfectly normal.

### **Avoid spending money you don't have:**

Avoiding overloading yourself with debt will prevent money worries and associated stress into the New Year. Remember Gifts of time and love are the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas.

### **Help Someone**

Go make someone else's life better, and watch what happens to yours. Small random acts of kindness like wishing those waiting in long queues a "Merry Christmas" can add smiles to tired faces – and chase away any lurking Christmas blues.

### **Hold on to your sense of humour**

Don't take it all too seriously, loosen up and enjoy the wellbeing effects that lots of laughter brings.

### **Get enough sleep**

Lack of sleep is one sure way of becoming grumpy and in a bad mood. Try to maintain a good sleep routine and you will feel miles better for it.

### **Make the most of your extra time at home to de-clutter:**

De-cluttering tends to have a therapeutic effect on the brain. Why not use any excess time you have to get rid of clutter and make yourself feel good at the same time.

### **Get Up, Get Dressed, Get Out!**

Oversleeping, staying in bed, undressed, un-showered can cause you to feel down and lethargic. So stop the cycle. Get up. Clean up, go somewhere and do something. Anything. (Maybe allow yourself one pyjama day!)

### **Remember things change**

If you are having a difficult time tell yourself that things change and will not always be as hard as they are right now.

### **Celebrate the Season with Forgiveness**

Give the gift of forgiveness. And here's the surprise: You will likely benefit the most from forgiving than the person you forgive.

### **Drink in Moderation:**

Drinking too much alcohol at Christmas to deal with problems will only make things worse. It's best to drink in moderation and avoid binges.

### **Remember the message of Christmas is one of hope:**

Try to observe the season and the spirituality. Take each day as it comes and try to focus on the real meaning of Christmas, the season of Goodwill.

**tel: 01738 626242**

**www.plusperth.co.uk**



*A local charity improving the lives of people experiencing mental distress.*

**Created by PLUS Perth**

# Christmas Message from the Samaritans

"Dark mornings, long winter evenings and the approach of the holiday season can make life hard to cope with when you are feeling low. If you are going through a difficult time and need to talk to someone, call Samaritans. We are available round the clock, every single day of the year, for anyone who is struggling to cope. You can call us for free from any phone on 116 123, email us at [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) or visit [samaritans.org](http://samaritans.org) to find details of your nearest branch."

Tel: **116 123**

## Money Worries? Help is at hand

Christmas and New Year is a time when money worries are at an all time high. If you are in financial difficulty don't struggle on your own, there is help out there.

**National Debtline:** **0808 808 4000**

**P&K Crisis Grant (take a while to answer):** **01738 476900**

At the end of your tether? The free Crisis Help app will direct you to the right sources of help for your situation. Search for 'Money Worries? Find the right help in a crisis' on the Apple or Google app stores.

## Fire Safety at Christmas time

Christmas is a special time for celebration and should not end in tragedy because of the extra hazards that are present at this time of year.

Visit [www.fireservice.co.uk/safety/christmas](http://www.fireservice.co.uk/safety/christmas) for advice from the Fire Service on how to stay safe in the festive season.

For a free home fire safety visit contact **Perth fire station** on **01738 452103**.

## CRISIS NUMBERS - OPEN 24/7

P&K Access team for crisis:	<b>0345 30 111 20</b>
P&K Emergency Homelessness:	<b>0800 917 0708</b>
NHS24:	<b>111</b>
National Domestic Abuse Helpline:	<b>0808 2000 247</b>
Emergency Services:	<b>999</b>
Alcoholics Anonymous	<b>0800 9177 650</b>

## HELPLINE CONTACTS - OPEN VARIOUS TIMES

Breathing Space confidential helpline: <i>6pm-2am every day</i>	<b>0800 83 85 87</b>
Parent Line Helpline: <i>10am -1pm</i>	<b>0800 0282 233</b>
Drinkline Helpline:	<b>0800 7314 314</b>
LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline: <i>Mon - Fri 10am-5pm, Wed &amp; Thurs Web Chat 5pm - 8pm <a href="http://galop.org.uk">galop.org.uk</a></i>	<b>0800 999 5428</b>
National Rape Crisis Helpline: <i>6pm -12 midnight</i>	<b>0808 8010 302</b>

## OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Chemist Opening Hours: <i><a href="http://www.nhsinform.scot">www.nhsinform.scot</a></i>	<b>0800 22 44 88</b>
Perth Citizens Advice Bureau:	<b>01738 450580</b>
Police Scotland (non emergency):	<b>101</b>

Visit [mentalwealthperthshire.org.uk](http://mentalwealthperthshire.org.uk)  
for other helpful resources at Christmas.